



National Newsletter Aug 2020

TE RŌPŪ WAHINE KATORIKA O AOTEAROA.

Kia Kaha Courage – Take Heart



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Wellington: Susan Lloyd

Christchurch: Sylvia Mellish

Dunedin: Anne McRandle

National Board Chaplain:

Clare Murphy RNDM

Dear Members

Your National Board has broken new ground holding two online Zoom meetings in July. Once we all got the hang of logging in and managing the discussion, we ended up with a couple of good, productive meetings.

We set ourselves two primary goals for the next six months: to complete the Mission to the Pacific Review and for CWL to be more visible at all levels of the organisation.

The Mass readings for twenty second Sunday in ordinary time teach us that to be Christian in the context of the Gospel is to embrace life on the margins. All the readings are a “call to action.” (Carol J. Dempsey, Dominican Sister, Oregon)

The prophet Jeramiah needs the Spirit to give him the strength and knowledge to confront the injustices of his day. St Paul calls for a renewal of the mind. In the gospel, Jesus is the one who will give up his life for his people. To be a follower of Jesus demands an understanding and acceptance of this fact, and a willingness to take up the cross as Jesus did. (<https://www.salforditury.org.uk/>)

Covid 19 is having a dramatic, often negative impact on our communities both to mental wellbeing and financial health.

Around 90% of those who have lost jobs in the current covid 19 crises are women.

The Children’s Commissioner has reported teenagers are leaving school early to work to help support their families. Food banks and other social services are overwhelmed. This situation is projected to worsen. What cross can we take up? What can we do to make a difference?

Taking Action October 2020 - Faith and Service

Aim: to make a difference in response to increased poverty while connecting with other women in our parish.

Some ideas:

Restock the Food bank - Tins for tummies, Cereal for ..., Pasta for ...,

Blankets for babies

Fidgets for friends/ forgetters – fidget/ touch / sensory quilts for dementia patients

Shirts/ shoes/ socks/ sweatshirts for school kids

Care packs for women's refuge – personal hygiene, face cleanser, moisturiser – tinted, shaver ...

Hats for the homeless

Connect for community - host morning tea, real or virtual online

Meals for mums

Learn to sew / mend and repair / upcycle.

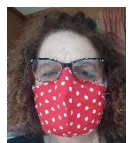
Find those unused sewing machines in cupboards and set them up in a drop-in centre for people to use, a room in your parish centre perhaps

Hold a workshop open to the community – ask non-members to help

Phone a friend

And lots more ...

Branches already have amazing activities underway. Look for ways to extend these to include other non-members. Tap women on the shoulder and ask them to help with a job. Invite the whole parish to join in your project. Whatever you can think of that will do good and promote CWL. Be visible. In Faith and Service, **Susan D**

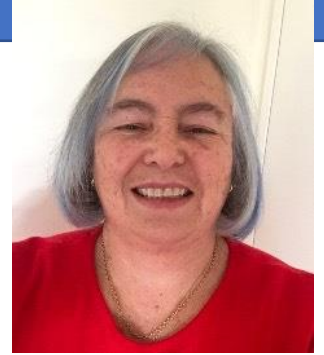


CWLANZ Board appoints Tikanga Māori Adviser

CWLANZ recognises the role of Tangata Whenua of Aotearoa and the importance of whānau, hapu, and Iwi within Aotearoa. As a national board the goal of CWLANZ is to establish collaborative relationships with Māori as Tangata Whenua of Aotearoa and to align our organisation to reflect aspirations and equity within it, working together in a bi-cultural partnership.

The role of the Tikanga Māori adviser is to provide support, guidance, resources, and leadership within CWLANZ, on Tikanga Māori, as it relates to any procedures or protocols within the organisation.

Enhancing our bicultural practices with tāngata whenua can support our engagement and growth in multicultural settings. - It is important to note that within our changing world we now have much pleasure in welcoming into CWLANZ, women from the Pacific regions, the Philippines and other parts of the world, who already are bringing a multi cultural dimension to CWLANZ and a new strength to our organisation.



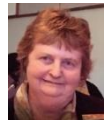
The Board has approached Dr Colleen McMurchy, of Auckland, to fulfil the role of Tikanga Māori adviser and we are delighted to report that she has accepted the appointment.

Colleen is of Ngati Pikiao, Ngati Rongomai descent. She is a trustee at her local marae in Rotoiti. Colleen spent 20 years working in Teacher Education at the University of Auckland, retiring after three years as Head of the School of Māori Studies at the Faculty.

Colleen's strong links to CWL are significant as a Māori and as a Leaguer. She earned her PhD in 2004. She has papers in Māori theology, (Bac.Theol) and was an executive member of the Māori CWL (a group of Māori women leaguers), for over 12 years. She is a council member of the Auckland Diocese, and is presently CWLANZ international officer. Colleen is also a Justice of the Peace.

With such an impressive CV, Colleen easily meets all attributes and requirements of the position of Tikanga Māori Adviser as defined by the 'terms of reference' set out by the CWLANZ board.

Colleen believes the purpose of a Tikanga Māori adviser is a mentoring, advisory and support role so that as an organisation we are better able to manage our relationships with the indigenous people of Aotearoa. She says "'Best Practice' ought to be inclusive of having a Māori perspective on what we do".



As our Tikanga Māori Adviser, Colleen will be totally supported by the CWLANZ Board and members and we thank her sincerely, for accepting this role. *Sylvia Mellish Christchurch Diocesan President*

Vote NO! This referendum is definitely winnable!

"The EOLC Act is badly drafted and seriously flawed. Whatever one's views about the idea of euthanasia, it is not 'compassion' to vote for a dangerous law." Nathaniel Centre

The more people know about the Act, the less they like it. As it stands, many people know next to nothing about the Act and many confuse it with what is already legal such as DNR Orders and ceasing treatment.

The focus is no longer on the IDEA or CONCEPT or rightness/wrongness of euthanasia but on a particular piece of law – the End of Life Choice Act. Ask people: 'Do you really want an Act like this?'

Share the votesafe quiz. <https://www.votesafe.nz/quiz> - 10 quick questions



that test people's knowledge about the EOLC Act and, at the same time, alert people to the key risks and inadequacies.

I shared this and several people commented that they were surprised at how many questions they got wrong. It is a powerful tool.

Share the message on social media

One of the ways in which we can effectively get our message about Voting 'NO' is to share material using our personal and group social media pages.

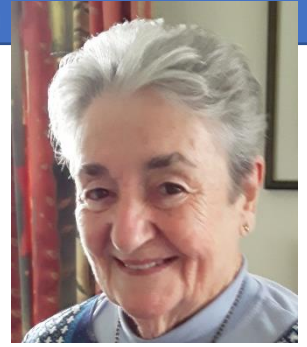
The organisations running public campaigns all have their own social media pages – follow these and share as widely as you can. There is good material on both of these websites.

www.riskylaw.nz
www.votesafe.nz

Welcome to our new National Board Chaplain

The National Board is pleased to have Sister Clare Murphy join us as National Board Chaplain.

Sr Clare brings a strong skill set to this position. In the past she has been the order's novice mistress, worked in the Philippines for 11 years, and served as the Province Leader. Currently Clare works in parish ministry in Christchurch and is a busy spiritual director. Clare's role is to support the National President and the board members in our spiritual journey and to advise on board decisions in matters of faith and theology. We hope her time with us is a time of growth and joy for both the board and Clare.



Whakataukī /Proverb: Ko te rourou mā tenā, mā tēna, ka ora te manuhiri
[With your basket and my basket, the visitors/other will be looked after]

This proverb brings out the strong Māori concept manaakitanga which translates as hospitality, generosity, giving, support, respect, and it emphasises unity: families or groups of people working and contributing together to show caring and kindness for visitors or others in need.

Catholic Women's League members strongly demonstrate this proverb and the concept of manaakitanga as we care for and support others in our communities and beyond. We generously support local and national causes (CWL At Home Appeal); we provide cups of tea and food at funerals, after mass, parish functions; we bake, knit and sew for others; we visit the sick and support those in need; we fundraise for our mission stations; during lockdown we have supported each other and those who may need support through a caring call or a donation for food parcels. What other branch examples of this whakataukī can you think of?

Tino pai rawa (excellent) CWL our manaakitanga during this pandemic aligns with WUCWO resolution No 2 "taking care of family in difficult situations, especially its most vulnerable members".

(Note the wording of this proverb may differ according to the iwi or tribal area)



Colleen McMurchy
Tikanga Māori Advisor

Social Justice Week 2020 6-12 September.



The theme of the Caritas Social Justice Week resources is "Easy as CST: Unlocking the Church's Potential" / "Māmā Noa, Pēnei i te CST: Te Tuku i ngā Pūmanawa o te Hāhi kia Whai Hua." They focus on Catholic social teaching (CST), which provides a moral framework to guide our decisions and actions.

Find some great resources on

<https://caritas.org.nz/parishes/social-justice-week>

- **Message from the National Treasurer.** To all CWLANZ Inc. Branches and Diocese.

Recently we have had some Donation Receipts issued by branches, rejected by the IRD of NZ as "not a charity".

(I am not sure why the IRD seems to be focusing on us - or it may be coincidental.)

Of course, we are a Registered Charity. The National Incorporated body the "parent" body with many Branches. However, we are, maybe, not identifying ourselves properly.

After investigating this I offer the following advice.

Please advise me if anyone has any more problems. Kia Kaha
Kathy Bell



Please name our National Body then the Charities number and then your Branch name on all of your donation receipts. For example:-

C.W.L.A.N.Z. Inc.
CC44037

eg. - Rotorua Branch.

Maybe a stamp made for this will help writing it many times?

How might we, CWLANZ, rejuvenate and grow stronger?



Te Puāwaitanga is a booklet designed to help members breathe new life into their branches. Here is an extract from the beginning section of the booklet to give you an idea of what the booklet is designed to do. *Te Puāwaitanga* pages three and four.

Meetings lost their Pizazz?

Worried about Membership shrinking?

Running out of ideas for interesting meetings?

Hard to find branch officers?

Our branches are taonga, a treasure that has been passed down to us since 1931 from a long line of devoted and committed Catholic women. If a branch is lost, we are all weakened and are lessened not just in number but in spirit. Once lost our branches may prove irreplaceable.

We are all responsible for the rejuvenation and growth of CWLANZ and need to do all we can to support each member and each branch. Branches should ask for help early from their Regional Representative or Diocesan President if they are considering their future, and not wait until they reach a crisis point.

A branch of CWLANZ should only be closed by a Diocesan President with the approval of their Diocesan Council, and after a robust process has been followed. This process must give all members and parties concerned the opportunity to participate and explore all options¹. Closure of a branch should be a last resort and only after an open process of review. HOWEVER first consider the ideas suggested in this Rejuvenating Kit in the following pages.

How might we energise ourselves and our branches before we reach this stage? How can we rejuvenate or renew our branch meetings so that we blossom – *Te Puāwaitanga*?

CWLANZ Board Chaplain Sr Patricia Stevenson, 2018 -2020, suggests all renewal of groups has two parts - *Inner renewal and Outward renewal*.



Inner renewal

If a group is to be attractive it needs to look at the original “dream” of the founder.

The founder of the English CWL, Margaret Fletcher, aimed 'to unite Catholic women in a bond of common fellowship for the promotion of religious, intellectual and social work'. This theme of outward good works guided by spiritual belief, represented in the CWL motto, 'Faith and Service', was fostered by Bishop Liston and other founders of the league in New Zealand (in 1931). There was a strong emphasis on social work and social reform from an ostensibly politically neutral basis. League activities included raising money for mission stations in the Pacific, and for Māori missions in New Zealand. ²

Are we therefore following Margaret Fletcher’s aim for the League?

Do we live our CWLANZ Motto “Faith and Service”?

How do we see ourselves as a group?

What do we do to meet our aims and to live our motto?

How do we organise ourselves?

What do we do well?

What might we need to change about ourselves?

Outward renewal

How do other people see us? Are they clear about our purpose? Remember other groups do similar things to us.

All these questions can be answered by asking people: members, people in the parish, other women’s groups perhaps. The replies will tell us where we might need to develop. What activities might we carry out as a branch to encourage ‘others’ to notice us as CWL, to see us as exciting and as a lively **Faith and Service** group within the Parish?

Let’s look at ourselves, what we believe and what we do.
Firstly, revisit our Catholic Women’s League Motto: **Faith and Service**

Copies of *Te Puāwaitanga* will be given to members at workshops over the coming months, Covid 19 notwithstanding

- Next newsletter Christmas theme. Send stories and photos to cwlanz.nat.president@gmail.com I would love to do a photo page to share what you have been up to. Deadline: Oct 26th.

¹ CWLANZ National President Susan Dickson (2019)

² Refer to <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/women-together/catholic-womens-league-aotearoa-new-zealand>