

Otari Catholic Women's League Annual General Meeting Wednesday 20 October 2021

Minutes

The League Prayer

Present: Ethne Wyndham-Smith, Karen Saunders, Judith Dickson, Adriann Smith, Anne Lumb, Delia McCaffrey, Margaret West, Diane Glynan, Catherine Keating, Vonnie Nunns

Apologies: Maria Anderson, Penny Dravitsky, Gemma Pereira.

Minutes of the 2020 AGM: Were taken as read. Anne Lumb/Margaret West

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

President's Report

Ethne read her report, which was received with acclamation. Karen/Judith

Mission Report

Anne reported that we did apply for various national funds last year – one of our suggestions was taken up for the Conference collection. See report below.

Treasurer's Report

Moved that this be accepted Diane Glynan/Anne Lumb

Election of Officers: No new nominations were received.

General Business:

Christmas cards & Columbian calendars on sale soon. However, Karen to contact the parish office to be sure this can go ahead.

Friday **12 November** Day of Reflection with Joy Cowley 10.30am – 2.00pm at Our Lady of Kapiti Parish, Paraparaumu. Level 2 restrictions, mask, fully vaccinated, need to have registered with Karen, and bring own lunch and drink bottle. Unfortunately, no community bus is available.

Wednesday **17 November** Social Evening with Fr Tikoua and Ethne will present him with a Zealandia subscription.

Wednesday **1 December** Christmas Potluck dinner at Diane's Home

2022 Archdiocesan Conference will take place in New Plymouth, Wednesday 16th 1pm – Thursday 17th March, Noon. St Joseph's Social Centre, Devon St West. Large group booking has been made at the Brougham Heights Motel (around the corner) and Anne Lumb has applied for a grant to compensate bus travel. Trip to Parihaka on the way home on Thursday afternoon.

Catherine Keating also recommended Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom a multi-cultural, multi-purpose visitor and community hub in Foxton. <https://www.teawahou.com/Plan-Your-Visit/Things-To-Do/Visitor-Community-Hub>

Meeting closed with supper and reminiscing discussion led by Anne Lumb, on 'Memories of Some Priests in Karori' and also Memorial Leaflet, 2021 lockdown effort from initial research in 2016.

Mission Report to CWL Otari AGM

The application for the Mission Project Fund to renovate Our Lady's Church at Nabala (made on behalf of the local CWL) was unsuccessful.

At the start of this year Sr Laniana was in charge at the Nabala Convent. Correspondence was slow but we learned that they were doing renovations and would appreciate funds for carpet square which would cost less than \$300. We agreed to send the funds but in the meantime Hurricane Yasa came ashore very near Nabala and we were anxious to learn if the convent had been damaged. There had been a relocation of nuns and it was Sr Ana Vuka who wrote to us in March. Sr had been at Nabala before and then transferred to help at an old peoples' home. Back now, her letter arrived just before the Archdiocesan Conference, where, as usual, Branches were expressing concern at the lack of letters from Mission Communities. One person at the Conference was a nun who had worked in the Pacific who explained to us that the locals preferred to talk rather than write and suggested that the phone would provide better communications. When I replied to Sr Ana Vuka I included my phone number, email address and photos of our branch members doing things such as making Mother's Day Flowers or at the garage sale. Since then, we have used the phone. She has to ring when she is in Labasa as there's no reliable cell phone coverage at Nabala. She visits Labasa to see her mother and for banking/shopping. I have learned that there are 50 girls in the boarding hostel and another Sister at the convent. The roof was damaged by Hurricane Yasa. I was trying to get details so we could apply to the Mission Project Fund. We sent \$600. Then covid intervened. There is no covid cases reported on Vanua Levu but as a precaution the schools have been closed and the girls sent home. I have sent emails to the School and to Sekolo Somilolo (the local CWL President) asking them to get Sr Ana Vuka to phone me, but so far no response.

As part of last year's At Home Appeal (Days for Girls) St Teresa's and Cardinal McKeefry Schools were contacted. Three packets of reusable pads were given to St Teresa's. Funds were raised for this year's appeal (Down's Syndrome) via the Winter Warmers raffle as our Treasurer's Financial Statement shows.

The Branch has sponsored, or taken part, in three external charitable initiatives: - collecting used shoes for Mike Scrivener's "Shoes for Planet Earth" (speaker at last year's AGM), toy collection for the Vinnies Pop-up Christmas Store in Newtown, and, the BNZ Grace Millane Handbag Appeal for the Women's Refuge (25 handbags stuffed with useful and feminine items). For all three collections (and for our Winter Warmers Raffle) we have been able to work with the three churches in our current Parish cluster i.e., St Teresa's, St Thomas More and Cathedral Parish.

Covid alert levels have restricted our activities and the opportunities for fund raising and collective action, (except for the three members who went to the National Conference in Rotorua, in July). As a demonstration of using a project to involve members and others in an activity that promotes the League (in addition to the objective itself) we were involved in a knitting workshop for squares, to form a blanket to be presented to the speakers from The Family Focus group in Rotorua who try to alleviate family violence and abuse. Six blankets were produced and the point made about the value of practical action.

The new National Mission Secretary, Joan Lawn, was introduced at the Conference. She will be using the generic CWLANZ email address.

Otari Catholic Women's League President's AGM Report October 2021

So Covid-19 has continued to make life unpredictable though not to the same extent as in 2020, in fact the first half of this year continued somewhat normally though still in Level 1. We were able to celebrate Lent, Easter and Sunday Masses and the Committee was able to meet in person February, April and July but had to use Zoom in September.

In February Otari League led the Stations of the Cross six Wednesdays after the 6.00pm Mass. On Tuesday 23 we joined Onslow for a well-attended **Regional Meeting** at St Benedict's welcomed by Stan Walker [Regional Rep], followed by a reflection on Lent led by Christine [Chaplain]. Susan [Archdiocesan President] told us about the work the Council has done in working with *Days for Girls*, to provide recyclable kits for girls in Years 7 & 8 in Catholic schools in the Hutt Valley.

Over 50 members attended the **Annual Archdiocesan Conference and AGM** held in Our Lady of Kapiti Church Hall on 18th March – Kia Kaha – Courage, Take Heart. Susan Lloyd welcomed all members including National President Susan Dickson. Reflections lead by Chaplain Christine focussed on role models in our Faith, for their lives of courage and following the will of God, St Margaret Clitherow, St Josephine Bakhita, Suzanne Aubert, and in the present frontline workers and parents caring for disabled and sick children.

For Otari's April meeting Vonnie spoke on the history of the **Stations of the Cross**. Stations originated in pilgrimages to Jerusalem with a longing to reproduce the Via Dolorosa, a walk that allows for reflection of Jesus' final journey carrying His cross, to Golgotha the place of crucifixion. The Franciscans were allowed back into the Holy Land mid 11th century and were officially proclaimed custodians. During the 15th and 16th centuries the Franciscans began to build a series of outdoor shrines in Europe to duplicate their counterparts in the Holy Land.

May saw us happily making flower posies [180] for Mother's Day, to be given out at St Teresa's, St Thomas More and the Cathedral on Sunday 9th May. On May 25th we gathered once again with Onslow for the **WUCWO** prayer Liturgy this year, which was prepared by the North American Region. We WUCWO women, who through various means can change the world and spread the Faith, were reminded of the four resolutions: a healthy planet depends on us; care of family in difficult situations; eliminating discrimination and violence against women; responding to the call to holiness.

First Communion cards were given out in June. We managed the June 10.00am session with Susan [Spiritual Director] on **Experience of Prayer**, in the Church Foyer. The second session was delayed until 28 July because three members were off to the **League National Conference** in Rotorua.

At Conference, National Board Chaplain Sr Clare Murphy [Rosemary Arbuckle's' sister] gave the reflections. The Keynote Speaker was Annah Stretton speaking on her foundation [RAW] which works within and outside prisons to help women regain their lives with dignity and financial assistance. The Conference Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Lowe and two local priests. A Guest speaker from Down Syndrome NZ [our At Home Appeal] encouraged members to lobby against termination of pregnancies where the baby is shown to have the syndrome. We listened to two Speakers from a local group called Family Focus, who work to mitigate the effects of family violence – much to their delight they were presented with six blankets from Peggy squares made by members. The Wellington remit against fireworks was passed. Ethne gave a report on NCW

and the PanPacificSouthEastAsianWomen's Association [PPSEAWA]. To end, we were reminded that the next National Conference will be held in Invercargill July 2023.

There was no Gifting Sunday this year. Level 3 Lockdown commenced 18th August and ended on the 30th so St Margaret Clitherow celebrations on 27th August were cancelled. We reverted to Level 2 on 8th September. Masses were cancelled as was Fr Tikoua's talk and the school Fair. Fortunately there have been successful social actions during these times. An excellent **Winter Warming Raffle** which raised \$584 – the well-knitted contents were really appreciated. The **Grace Millane Handbag Appeal** [put together by Anne/Karen] and an article written by Karen was accepted by Women's Voice the WUCWO magazine and also mentioned in WelCom. Open to our three churches, resulting in contents worth over \$2000, these filled handbags were given to those seeking safety in Women's Refuge; the Refuge was delighted to receive them. Then of course the **Archdiocesan Calendar** of Branch photographs with thanks to Diane for making the calendar possible. National President and Anne Joyce were presented copies at the Conference. Karen keeps the **webpage** up-to-date. The **Re-dedication** of New Zealand to Mary, Mother of God Assumed into Heaven, took place on 15th August in St Mary of the Angels, where Catherine Keating represented League, reading one of the Prayers of the Faithful.

We now have a signed Agreement between CWLANZ and **Talitha Kum** [re-named from ANZRATH], an international organisation of Religious Orders committed to fighting against the trafficking and exploitation of humans. This Agreement means that we will support their work whenever possible. Hence National President sending out a walking/running challenge this October to raise money for **Hagar**. Hagar works with the women and children survivors due to this trafficking in Afghanistan, Vietnam and Cambodia and now this country where such exploitation of humans is expanding. Diane and Ethne are taking part in the challenge in the name of Otari CWL and receiving sponsorship for this good cause thereby.

We have again sent two large parcels of stamps for the Missions care of Tui Moto Dunedin but have never received an acknowledgement from the nuns.

Come November: - Gum Boot Friday ***I am Hope*** [a mental help charity/counselling for children founded by Mike King] is celebrated on the 5th November. On Friday 12 November the Archdiocesan Council is hosting a **Day of Reflection** with Joy Cowley in Paraparaumu.

Wednesday 17 November will be a social evening when we host **Fr Tikoua** who will tell us about himself, his family and his country Kiribati. **Our Christmas Party** this year will be a Potluck Dinner on Wednesday 1st December at Diane's home

Father's Day Chocolates, sitting in Karen's lounge, will be given out when possible.

Please note that next year's **Annual Archdiocesan Conference** will take place in New Plymouth, Wednesday 16th 1pm – Thursday 17th March, Noon. St Joseph's Social Centre, Devon St West. Large group booking has been made at the Brougham Heights Motel (around the corner) and Anne Lumb has applied for a grant to compensate bus travel.

Remember, what we have done this year would not have been done at all without us.

Ethne Wyndham-Smith October 2021