



# National Newsletter Feb 2021

## TE RŌPŪ WĀHINE KATORIKA



Dear Members

[cwlanz.nat.president@gmail.com](mailto:cwlanz.nat.president@gmail.com)

In the words of the song, I've "Got a feeling '21 is going to be a good, good year!"

I have borrowed my New Year's resolution from the Dalai Lama, "Choose to be optimistic, it feels better."

The National Board had a very productive meeting to begin the year. We all were inspired by the work being done by our members across the country. Congratulations to you all. Our efforts don't have to be great to make a difference. (See Colleen's whakataūki)

We are excited looking ahead to the National Conference in July. The theme of our conference is Kia Kaha—Courage Take heart but it will also focus on WUCWO Resolution 3, "LET US ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN"

It would be wonderful to have a great turnout in Rotorua. Perhaps your branch could have a fundraiser to help everyone get to conference. Keep a look out for the conference newsletter.

The National Board has accepted the Palmerston North Diocesan Council's request to go into recess. The members will work with the Wellington Archdiocesan Council. We all hope this will be a temporary measure. This arrangement will be reviewed in a year.

Is it time to be looking at a different structure for CWLANZ?

NCW is currently reviewing all aspects of the organisation. One of the recommendations is to use horizontal communications. I have suggested to the diocesan presidents that we too could adopt this style of working. For example, Special officers such as mission secretaries having a zoom meeting with those in the other dioceses to share ideas and information.

Dawn Mullins, National Social Issues Convenor, is currently preparing a submission on the Support of Children in the Family Court



Bill. She would welcome any comments. Email me for her email address. Submissions close 28 February.

The Board has concluded the *Review of Mission into the Pacific*. A new policy document will be shared with members at your diocesan AGMS. The main changes give options for branches to choose their own mission communities to support and for branches to have the opportunity to join with other branches to support a mission project.

I am about to begin my round of Diocesan Conference visits. Looking forward to spending time with you all. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. Please send me lots of photos for the next issue. Don't forget to join up to the CWL Facebook Group.

God bless and keep you safe, Susan

Stephane Swann (Dunedin), Kathy Bell (Nat Treasurer), Sylvia Melish (CHCH) Susan Dickson, Susan Llyod (Welgtn Archdio.), Colleen McMurchy (Int. Sec), Jenny Muschamp (National Mission Sec), Sr Clare Murphy RNDM (Nat Bd Chaplain), Zella McGirr (Nat sec.) absent; Colleen Petricevich (Auck), Dawn Mullins (Nat Soc.Issues), Margaret Brownsy (Ham) Anne McRandle, (Dunedin Pres)

Māori Proverb **Ahakoā iti, he pounamu.** *Although it is small, it is of greenstone.*

**Ahakoā he iti kete, he iti nā te aroha** *Although the basket is small it is given with affection*

These Māori whakataūki (dialectical variations with the same theme) focus on our giving to others, something we as CWL members are good at. The underlying message of the proverb is that it is not so important what is given or how small the gift or service, it is the spirit or the intent of the giving or action that is significant. Something small given to or done for another is valued as much as something large and expensive. There are links here to *aroha* (love and caring) and *manaaki* (generosity). "... remember the words of the Lord Jesus how he said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive' " (Acts 20:35), and in Galatians 5:13 we are urged to serve one another humbly in love. We can feel the synergy of the whakataūki with our CWL motto **Faith and Service**. We give or do what we can, with generosity and humbleness of spirit.

# 2021 Mission at Home Appeal

New Zealand Down Syndrome Association Over 18 yrs. Camp

*Who are they and what do they do*

Info. <https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/>



The NZ Down Syndrome Association is a family/whānau driven organization.

## VISION

People with Down syndrome are valued and equal members of their community, fulfilling their goals.

## MISSION

To work alongside families, whānau and carers to support and empower people with Down syndrome to realise their potential and aspirations through all life stages and within all communities.

## ESSENCE

Accept, understand, connect.

### Primary aims:

- To inform and support families/whanau
- To promote and advocate for positive attitudes
- To promote the rights and inclusion of people with Down syndrome
- To review policies and lobby government, and other agencies

### The NZDSA offers:

- new parent support - through trained support parents
  - national coordinator
  - regional groups - activities throughout thirteen centres in New Zealand including coffee mornings, family events, guest speakers and individual support and advocacy
  - newsletter - a quarterly update of news, information and stories, sent to all members
  - information packs - for schools, professionals, family and friends
  - website [www.nzdsa.org.nz](http://www.nzdsa.org.nz)
- freephone number 0800 NZDSAI - so parents and professionals can easily be linked to

## Special Funds: 2021

~ National Mission Project—\$1,785, SIA, *Solomon Islands Association of Vocational Rural Training Centre.* \*

~ Jubilee Fund of \$500—*Fuel he Need Hutt Valley*—lunches for needy school children

~ Mission at Home 2020— *Days for Girls*, \$7850.70

\* See the photo of students on the Week one Caritas Lent Appeal

## Archdiocesan Positive Puberty Project.

So far 94 DfGs kits have been distributed to Catholic Intermediates in The Hutt Valley and still growing. The enthusiasm of principals and teachers has been very rewarding for the CWL members. Wonderful ladies! At least one new member inspired by your efforts.

## Looking back, from CWL Annual Report— 31 May 1985

“Silver Jubilee Fund: This year’s interest from this fund was allocated to Vincentian Home, Dunedin \$400 for the purchase of a dryer, and \$315 to St Vincent de Paul, Auckland to assist their Night Patrol work being done with the youth of Auckland Diocese.” Fund balance was \$5900. Interest rates obviously considerably higher than in 2020

# CWLANZ National Conference

## Rotorua 22—24 July 2021

### Celebrating who we are and what we do



## “I want to be open to the graces of this Lenten season.”

How do you [prepare for Lent](#)? How have you prepared in the past?

We have the traditional Catholic practices of praying, fasting, and almsgiving. We give more of our resources or give them specifically to special works of mercy during Lent. Prayer, fasting, and charitable giving continue to be quite good practices during Lent or at any time.

*But, you might think, how do I prepare myself for this season? What needs to happen*

*within so that I can practice with more integrity and intention whatever I'm doing on the outside? It's good to have a plan for doing. It's also good to have a plan for being.*

How do I want to *be* during Lent this year? Can I make time to be quiet and thoughtful? Can I be more open to God's will? Can I be better able to sit with people who need company? Will I aim to be more [attentive to sacred readings](#), whether in church or in private? Do I need to be more compassionate toward my own fears and failings? Do I need to become more courageous about using the gifts God has given me?

Try one or more of these suggestions –

Ask God, every day, “**What does my soul need?**”

Ask God, every day, “**What about my life makes you happy?**”

Tell God, and yourself, every day, “**I want to be open to the graces of this Lenten season.**”

Maybe you're not open right now, or you're not as open and willing as you'd like to be or think you should be. What else is new? We can always open our lives a bit more, let go of more stuff, listen better, and do more quickly and passionately what we know helps nurture God's kingdom on earth.

This is a beginning: three short and simple prayer starters to ready yourself for the holy season.

**Wishing you all a happy and holy Easter! Christine Paterson – Chaplain, Wellington Archdiocese**



### World Union of Catholic Women's Organisation

#### WUCWO Prayers

It is exciting news that Pope Francis has chosen February to focus his praying for women who are victims of violence. This is in line with one of WUCWO's third resolution for the next four years *Let us eliminate discrimination and violence against women*. You will already have received a copy of the online marathon prayer against human trafficking and International Day of Prayer and Awareness of Human trafficking for February 8<sup>th</sup> which included the beautiful prayer to St Josephine Bakhita who was sold into slavery as a child. I also sent out WUCWO's Prayer Intention for 2021 related to eliminating violence and discrimination against women. If these did not reach you in time it does not matter if you say the prayer at different times. Certainly the 2021 WUCWO Prayer Intention could be said at the end of each of your meetings this year.

#### WUCWO DAY – May

WUCWO Day prayers for May 2021 have arrived and they have been prepared by the women of the Northern American Region. I will send these out by the end of the month to give branches time to begin their year's activities.

#### WUCWO 110 years

WUCWO began in 1910 and we are in the process of celebrating our 110 years (extended from last year because of the pandemic). I would like to introduce and signal to you NZ *Solidarity September* whereby we in Aotearoa NZ join together at our branch meetings and have a small fundraising activity for eliminating discrimination against women. Put aside your September meeting or part of the meeting to celebrate 110 years of WUCWO. The idea is to have a fun activity that reminds us of 100 years or so and raise a bit of money that we can donate to a worthy cause in NZ related to WUCWO's resolution three. For example, remember how women used to wear hats to mass? Maybe have a competition whereby members wear a hat to

your meeting – charge \$3 or \$5 entry and have 50cent votes for the best hat, funniest hat, elegant etc! Please put Solidarity September into your planning and begin thinking of an activity. I have some further ideas and will send out more information over the next few months including the women's cause we as CWLANZ will donate to. If you too have any further ideas, I would love to hear them.

#### Collaboration in the Pope Francis' 7 year plan

As a Catholic NGO (Non-Government Organisation) WUCWO members have been invited as a grassroots group by *The Ecology and Creation Sector of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development of the Holy See* to collaborate in the launch of a 7-year plan by Pope Francis to achieve the 7 Sustainable Goals of *Laudato si*. You may have seen a posting about this on our CWL Facebook page and notification of a webinar on 18<sup>th</sup> February exclusively for WUCWO women. If you are interested you need to register on [info@wucwo.org](mailto:info@wucwo.org) giving your preferred time (NZ time is 10pm on 18<sup>th</sup> February), your name, organisation and country by 17<sup>th</sup> February. For further information on the 7 sustainable goals you can go to <https://www.wucwo.org/index.php/en/training/formation/1627-webinar-on-laudato-si>

**Finally**, I would like to thank Diocesan WUCWO Officers and branches for their WUCWO support. I apologise also in advance for the late notice of some events. It is frustrating to receive emails from Rome that only give a few day's notice of some event or response we are asked to give. I try to send any notifications as soon as I can to Diocesan WUCWO Officers but sometimes the notice we are given by Rome or Asia Pacific is very short.

If you are keen to receive WUCWO information directly you can make contact with me and I can put you on my mailing list.

Kia kaha Courage Take Heart

Colleen McMurphy [colleenmcmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:colleenmcmurphy@gmail.com)

## Dunedin Diocesan CWL

St Patrick's and Sacred Heart joined at Gore with Fr Jaewoo Lee, Dunedin Diocesan Chaplain for the opening Mass in Gore. Following Mass, Margaret Wilson asked us to participate with our reflection and memories of different experiences with an "open question" 'A wide response was shared with 23 women who attended.

Next weekend a group are heading to Queenstown from St Patrick's branch to join the Queenstown CWL women.



## From a widow's book of lamentations - another journey of faith.

Last night we held our CWL diocesan opening Mass in Christchurch. The opening hymn was 'Christ be our Light, shine in the night, shine in the darkness...' - must have been some sort of sign for what was to follow!

As I started off on my way home after Mass, it was raining. Then it began to really rain! The lights reflecting off the road were terrible. There were cones everywhere and it was darn near impossible to see - even with the windscreen wipers working flat out.

When I left home it was 24° and fine! The main south road which had been clear three hours ago, was now down to one lane with cones and lights from work vehicles reflecting and blinding as they shone on the wet road in the unrelenting heavy rain.

Did you know the road workers now have lights on their hats?

Not just one but a row of twinkling lights adding to the already bright, pyrotechnic light show they provide.

The speed limit was down to 50kph. Why am I the only motorist who obeys the speed limit at these times? Why does every other motorist come right up to your boot - their car lights adding to the glare in your rear vision mirror.

I crept along at 50 trying to see something on the road that looked even vaguely familiar, to let me know where approximately I was. - I turned the radio off so that I might see better. What? Christ be my light I thought.

Suddenly an exit sign zoomed up in front of me and before I knew it, I had taken it. I then realised that I was now in total darkness. I had absolutely no idea where I was. I couldn't turn around as the exit was one way only. Oh dear - pray I thought. Christ be my light, I thought. No such luck.

I drove for about ten to fifteen minutes and finally saw some lights in the distance. That must be Rolleston I thought hopefully. It was! But the road I was on, came to a sudden dead end! A great big round end with grass and a large fence between me and the main road!! I was starting to panic a little but reassured myself that I had plenty of petrol .. and my phone! Aha lightbulb moment - my GPS. I had not even the remotest idea of my 'current location' but plugged in 'Rakaia' to the destination space. Siri proceeded to tell me to go straight ahead! Sure! Great idea! Right through the paddock and the fence!!

Thanks for that Siri.

I decided to retrace my steps. There must be a left turn somewhere. I drove for another 10 minutes or so, but there were no side roads. Now what? I could ring home but no one is there - only Jett, (my little black dog) and he would probably bury the phone if it rang - it has happened before! I drove a few more kilometres. Ah lights in the distance -coming up a side road? Ok I will turn left there. So I did. Oh no. A gravel road leading to God knows where. I did a three point turn, no easy feat on a narrow gravel road with probable ditches on either side.

Christ be my light I thought! So, on I go for another few Ks. Thank God, at last lights in the distance. I drove towards them only to discover that I was now on one of the new over ramps. Great I thought, until I realised that I was right back, actually further back thanks to the new road layout, from where I started. Back to the lights, cones, trucks with flashing lights, workers with disco hats, a single lane and a fifty kph limit that I was the only one driving to. This time though, I managed to stay on the main road and avoid the exit.. Christ be my light!

Finally, I arrived home - to a warm welcome from my little black dog - an hour and a half after I had left Christchurch, (usually only a forty five minute drive), pretty much the worse for wear but safe and sound - sort of!

Moral of the story: Old ladies should not drive long distances at night, especially when it's raining and they are on their own.

Note to road workers: Christmas is over fellas!!! *Sylvia Mellish*

