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Venturing to Hawkes Bay

By Karena de Pont



The AWSC Council outside the Napier Cathedral. From Left: The Venerable Mere Wallace, The Venerable Archdeacon Carole Hughes, Revd Numia Tomoana, Revd Erice Fairbrother and Revd Amy Chambers.

We gathered at Auckland airport on an extremely wet Monday morning, the New Zealand effect from the horrendous cyclone that had hit Fiji a few days beforehand. This was the AWSC Council's much anticipated four day trip to the Hawkes Bay to visit the territory of our fellow Councillors, Reverends Erice Fairbrother based in Napier and Numia Tomoana in Waipatu on the fringe of Hastings. Unfortunately, the weather followed us and what was supposed to be sunny Hawkes Bay, was unseasonably cold and wet. But this didn't dampen our spirits as it was good to see the Council together again, Archdeacon Mere Wallace from Hokitika, Revd Amy Chambers from Suva and Archdeacon Carole Hughes from Auckland along with our hosts Reverends Erice Fairbrother and Numia Tomoana.

We were warmly welcomed by the Diocesan Reg-

istrar, Colleen Kaye and Administrator, Belinda Barnhill when the Council began our business meeting that afternoon in the boardroom of the Diocese of Waiapu. As always it is nice to put faces to names and see the places that are just addresses in the Clerical Directory as they are never as you've imagined. Having a better understanding of the variety of context that makes this three tikanga a unique constitutional structure within the Anglican Communion is helpful in a respectful and empathetic decision making process. With the growing reliance of email communication for day-to-day decision making for the various projects that Council oversee, scheduling face-to-face time together has become extremely important to ensure that a high level of trust and understanding in relationships is formed that email alone cannot foster. Once we got going



Mere Wallace and Numia Tomoana with Revd Barbara Walker, Co-ordinating Chaplain at the Fallen Soldiers Memorial Hospital, Hawkes Bay.

empathy towards mentoring people and this has evolved into her weekly support gatherings for budding poets at Napier's Community Art Centre where she is a Trustee. We were introduced to those who support and nurture this creative hub which is very near the Anglican Cathedral. Before retiring to bed, we took the opportunity to enjoy a soak in the hot water of the Napier Ocean Spa Pools on the shoreline. Swimming in the sea at Napier's Ocean Beach is discouraged as the shoreline is not safe due to the steepness of the coastline as a result of the 1931 earthquake that reshaped Napier and the strong currents and freak waves which claim too many unwary swimmers and beach-goers. Fortunately, the city boasts a fantastic walkway and jetty along Marine Parade which is well used by locals and tourists alike.

with our business we found it difficult to stop and before long we realised that it was well and truly past dinner time!

The following day we picked up our rental van and drove to visit with Revd Barbara Walker, Co-ordinating Chaplain for The Fallen Soldiers Memorial Hospital in the Hawkes Bay. I strongly recommend that you read Barbara's story from our June 2012 AWSC newsletter which can be found on our webpage on www.anglican.org.nz. Both Revd Numia Tomoana and Rosemary Carey the new Waiapu Diocese AWSC Link Representative are Locum Chaplains here. Hospital Chaplaincy is a demanding pastoral ministry that requires a particular skill set to meet an ever changing landscape of humanity at its most often vulnerable. The continuation of this ministry and the form it is presented under the governance of each Hospital Board within New Zealand is currently under review. We therefore ask that you pray that this excellent service continues and for all those who provide it.

The Hawkes Bay region is one of many contrasts, from craggy mountain ranges and grasses bleached from the summers sun to lush fruit orchards and countless vineyards, our visit followed the Art Deco festival the previous week and there were many people still out and about enjoying the aftermath of these annual celebrations. It was also a time for us to appreciate the additional activities that our two hosts involve themselves in their respective home towns. Erice has a natural

We began our Wednesday with karakia and communion in the St Matthews Chapel at Waipatu. Waipatu Marae is the home of Revd Numia Tomoana's Vicarage and Chapel. For the past year, Numia has been Kaiwhakaako Te Amorangi o



Above: A few of the Gospel Weavers Group who meet each Wednesday at the Waipatu Vicarage. From Left: Revd Marie McDonald, Pixie Tuhiwai & Ann Rarere. **Below:** Carole Hughes with Revd Helen Wilderspin and Amy Chambers.



Tairawhiti (Mission Enabler in the Diocese of Tairawhiti). This beautiful chapel was restored in 2010 and it now boasts a new belfry and stain glass window by Artisan Jacob Scott above the altar with one of the Beatitudes "Sermon on the Mount" painted around walls by Numia's brother who has since past away, the artist Mahea Tomoana and exquisite lamp shades made by another local artist.

After karakia we each shared our stories, the Council did a brief introduction of our work and kaupapa and in return we heard the rich history and stories of those gathered as well. Manu Vercoe explained the plaque on the chapel wall commemorating her late father Revd Wiremu Te Tau Huata, Padre in the 28th Maori Battalion. Then the Council joined with the Gospel Weavers Women's Group who meet each Wednesday in the Vicarage to do raranga, pray, laugh and chat together. We were fortunate to also have former General Secretary and supporter of AWSC, Jackie Pearse and Vicar of St Matthews in Hastings, Revd Helen Wilderspin join the gathering in the Vicarage. Helen was one of the women along with Numia, who attended the two day meeting in October 2007 at St John's Theological College to set the kaupapa of the Anglican

The AWSC Council making their way to service in the Chapel of St Matthews at Waipatu.



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Women's Studies Centre. We always endeavour and hope to honour those who have had a hand in shaping this virtual 'Centre' along the way.

Leaving their laughter and bountiful table the Council ad-



The Tomoana Whanau entertaining us with Gospel Himene kapa haka after dinner. From Left: Waiora, Te Whetu, Mere, Numia, Te Ao Marama and Ngahiwi on guitar.



Top: The Council with some of the Ministry Team at the Waiapu Cathedral, Napier. Middle: The Council in the restored Chapel of St Matthew's, Waipatu. Bottom: Councillors, Erice, Mere, Numia and Amy in the Waiapu Diocesan Boardroom.

journed to the neighbouring room to continue the business of our Council meeting. We welcomed the visit of Revd Jenny Chalmers, AWSC Wellington Diocese Link Representative and Co-Editor of our latest publishing project Vashti's Banquet with Revd Erice Fairbrother. Jenny took a 'slight' detour from her trip home to Carterton from Auckland to give the Council a first-hand report on the status of this much anticipated book which we greatly appreciated.

That evening the Council appreciated being welcomed into the home of Numia's brother and Ngati Kahungunu Iwi Leader, Ngahiwi Tomoana along with his talented artist wife Mere and their son Te Ao Marama and his partner Waiora and their very cute daughter Tristan. It was also wonderful to have the Waiapu Link Representative, Revd Rosemary Carey, her husband Bri-

an and son Kenneth joined us as well and it was truly a great evening with much laughter and joy. We were very fortunate to be given a gospel himene kapa haka performance by all the Tomoana whanau present.

The following morning the sun decided to shine for the first time during our stay and of course, it coincided with our leaving this little piece of paradise. Before we went to the airport though, we joined with some of the members of the Diocese of Waiapu Cathedral team for the weekly service in Te Reo led by Revd Graham Pilgrim. It was also nice to meet one of the ancestors of William Williams, John Williams and be reminded of the legacy that the William Williams Trust has had in the Hawkes Bay region and overseas missions over the years. We exchanged gifts and we gave prints of the 'Six Sisters'* to both Numia and Erice as a reminder of our visit to their homes. For myself I will treasure the carved stone that now sits alongside the stone given by Archdeacon Mere Wallace when the Council visited Hokitika last February and the stone I collected from the beach at Gallipoli last year.

**The Six Sisters refers to six wooden houses along Marine Parade in Napier that survived the Napier Earthquake and subsequent fire in 1931. Six Sisters can also refer to the six women who form the AWSC Council.*

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The Centre for Anglican Women's Studies, commonly known as the **Anglican Women's Studies Centre** was set up to serve and to advance the interests and needs of the women of this Church particularly those undertaking Theological training.



The Link Representatives from each Diocese and Hui Amorangi have been chosen for their leadership ability to identify, gather, facilitate, resource and encourage women in their educational preparation for ministry whether lay or ordained. It is hoped that the Anglican Women's Studies Centre can continue to enjoy the support of each Diocese and Hui Amorangi in this endeavour.

The issue of increasing numbers of women in representative positions across the councils and committees of the Church is seen as a high priority and the practice of intentional mentoring by those already in national and international representative roles is seen as a good way to expose women of this church to fulfill their potential as leaders.

Ensuring that women's voices and stories are heard now and in the future is also one of our continued aims whether it be by traditional methods of publication or using more contemporary technologies like website publication. We remain optimistic that through continued support, the needs of women throughout this Province will be valued and recognized.



Council for Anglican Women's Studies — 2016

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EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER: The Anglican Women's Studies Centre is committed to encouraging and enabling women's voices and perspectives from across the diversity of the Church to be shared more widely. We acknowledge that women's experiences of church differ considerably and that resultant theological perspectives also differ considerably. In general the AWSC does not exercise editorial control, rather we welcome as many voices as are willing to contribute.