



Council for Anglican Women's Studies

2026 GSTHW Report

Convenor

Kelera Oli

Diocese of Polynesia

Administrator

Serena Williams

Te Pihopatanga o

Te Tai Tokerau

“WHICH BINDS TOGETHER”



E kilai ga na waqa ena volau e ta mai kina | A canoe is known by the shed it was built in. Fiji

Pikipiki hama kae vaevae manava | No matter how weak or tired you are, use all your effort until your last breath. Tonga

Ole aso ma le filiga, o le aso foi ma le mata'igatila | Keep patient, and

trust the process with confidence that the right tools and opportunities will appear when it's your season to succeed. Samoa

Ena yalo vakarokoroko kei na veidokai, au sa kidavaki kemuni kina na i liuliu ni Matabose, kei kemuni kece na lewe ni Matabose Levu ni General Synod.

Sa rokovi ka dokai talega na vei delani yavu tabu vakaturaga, na vei ucu ni vatu qaqa, kei na vei doka ni bure tabu vakaturaga ni dui cavu mai kina.

E ka marautaki dina vei au meu vakarautaka na iVola Tukutuku oqo me baleta na veiqaravi ni Council for Anglican Women's Studies. Na ripote oqo e wasea eso na veika sa vakayacori, na veika sa vulici, kei na veiqaravi sa qaravi tiko ena kena tokoni na nodra bufa, nodra vuli, kei na nodra cau na marama ena loma ni Lotu.

I am reminded of the words “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.” 1 Corinthians 12:12.

CAWS continues to exemplify unity, working hand in hand to serve our community and nurture our spiritual growth. The exciting journey continues, building upon our shared mission and deepening our bonds. May we continue to inspire and uplift one another in the spirit of Christ.

FAREWELL CERIDWYN PARR

Vinaka vaka levu, malo au pito, fa'afetai tele lava, and a big nga mihi nui ki a koe e te Whaea.



Ceridwyn was a unique and dynamic person. She was a gem, a perfectionist who was almost always excellent at organising and coordinating events at all levels. She would be greatly missed, and we are mindful of her need to prioritise her family, personal and other interests." - Kelera Oli

After years of dedicated service and unwavering commitment, trusting in God's faithfulness, Ceridwyn carefully guided the church through times of uncertainty, sickness, grief or trouble. Ceridwyn's skills, creativity, and professionalism have enabled the women in our church to have a sense of belonging. The countless hours, thoughtful details, and high standards she consistently upheld helped to shape the success of CAWS and the transformation of others.

Thank you for sharing your contributions to the wider church. Your fellow sisters have deeply remembered it with gratitude. May God continue to bless you and your whanau in this next chapter of your journey.



2024

VIRTUAL THEOLOGY CHAT

You may know that the Anglican Women's Studies Centre has a mandate to encourage women into theology and higher learning, and to bring forward women's research and interests.

Virtual Theology Chats are an innovative opportunity to share leadership journeys, research projects, publications, reflections, and interests with a wide and diverse audience of women

associated with the Anglican Women's Studies Centre. The aim is for a balance of lay and ordained, across all three tikanga- Maori, Pakeha and Polynesia. Virtual Theology audiences consist of women and men from Aotearoa, New Zealand, Australia and beyond. With permission, presentations are shared to our social channels. You can find most of our recorded chats on Youtube @ Anglican Womens Studies.

21 March Rev Deb Cole, tikanga Maori. *Nick Cave, Marcella Althaus Reid and the readings of the day*

18 April Ms Jess Hall, tikanga Pakeha. *How then shall we bleed: a positive dialogue between menstruation and theology.*

16 May Dr Jane Simpson, tikanga Pakeha. *'Shaking the Apple Tree'*

20 June Mrs Quandolita Reid Enari, tikanga Polynesia. *O Lo'u Valaauina*

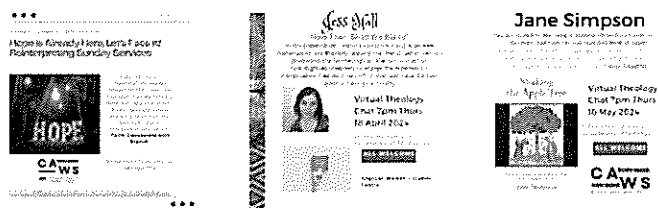
18 July Ven Ruihana Paenga, tikanga Maori. *Leadership*

15 August Ms Tilly Flood, tikanga Pakeha. *Mentored to deliver a paper at the Canadian Theological Society.*

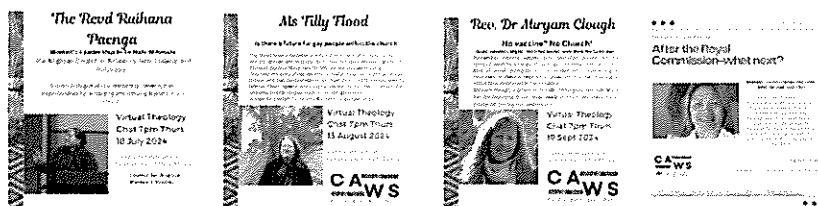
19 Sept Rev Dr Miryam Clough, tikanga Pakeha. *'How NZ Churches responded to the Covid protection Framework'.*

17 October Tekweni Nyamukachi, tikanga Pakeha on her Ph.D research

21 November Ms Cassandra Burton-Wood, tikanga Pakeha mentored to deliver a paper in Adelaide



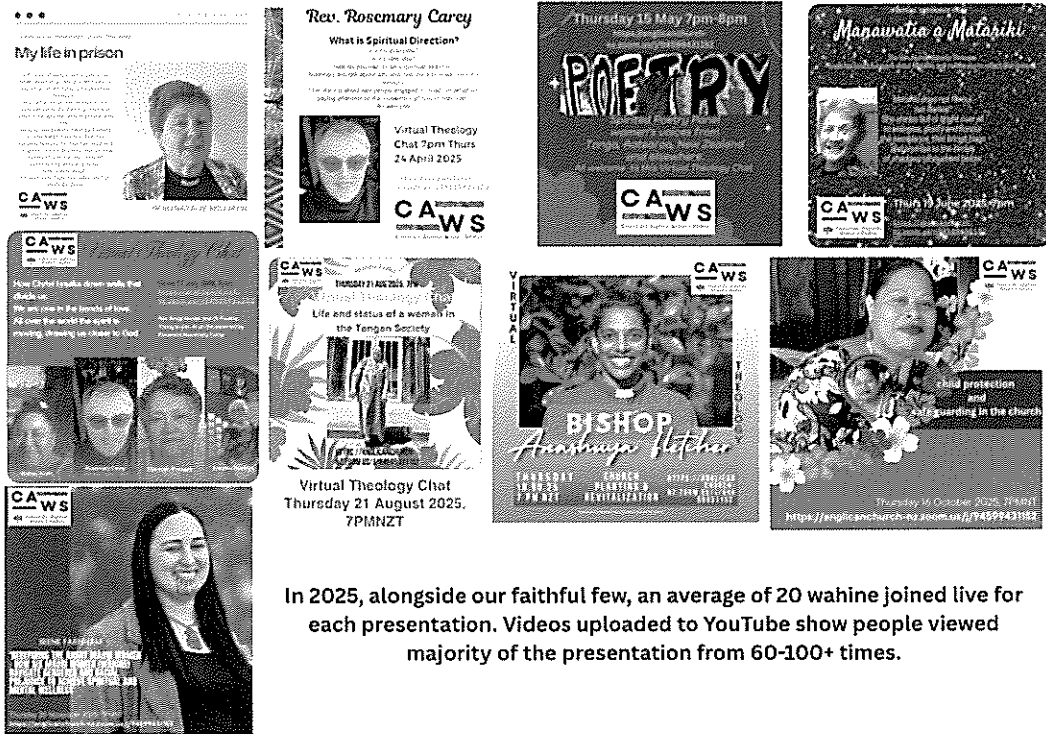
In 2024, each presentation had an average of 20 women join live on Zoom. Videos uploaded to Youtube show people viewed majority of the presentation from 60-100+ times.



2025

These theological presentations invite powerful, thought-provoking reflections. It is a space where diverse conversations can be discussed. Acts of compassion, deep interest, and a spark to engage in something new are shown. This encourages and/or challenges the women in their calling among their homes and communities.

A key highlight for the year has seen more younger lay wahine be encouraged to participate in or host a Virtual Theology Chat. Members of CAWS continue to enjoy the opportunity to engage in whanaungatanga with old and new faces from across the moana. The hope is that this online gathering can enhance a natural pathway for wahine to go from youth spaces and be welcomed as young adults, and for women new to our faith to be welcomed just as they are.



In 2025, alongside our faithful few, an average of 20 wahine joined live for each presentation. Videos uploaded to YouTube show people viewed majority of the presentation from 60-100+ times.

2024
WHANAUNGATANGA

At the beginning of each year, our council and links gather in retreat at St. Francis Retreat Centre, Auckland, to pray and discern how we can serve our fellow sisters in Christ with equity and equality. It's a time for us to reflect on the sacred responsibility of our roles as we walk hand in hand. These four-day retreats usually involve extensive planning for the year, improving our programmes, equipping one another with health and safety resources, and coordinating logistics.



Council Members 2024-2026

Archdeacon Bettina Maxwell
Reverend Ruihana Paenga
Reverend Natalie Milliken
Bridie Marsden Boyd
Zita Reid
Kelera Oli
Ceridwyn Parr

Links

Reverend Tapita Ching
Reverend Raumiria McRoberts
Reverend Merekaraka Te Whitu
Reverend Kura Andrews
Reverend Deb Cole
Serena Williams
Reverend Kaye Dyer
Reverend Steph Clay
Reverend Annette Cater
Reverend Nyasha Gumbeze
Ms. Jenny Campbell
Heather Riches
Adi Tuidama
Akanesi Folau
Quandolita Reid-Enari

Rohe

Te Manawa o te Wheke (Torere)
Te Tairāwhiti (Gisborne)
Diocese of Dunedin
Diocese of Christchurch
Diocese of Polynesia (Samoa)
Diocese of Polynesia (Fiji)
Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki (Cambridge)

Rohe

Te Waipounamu
Te Manawa o te Wheke
Te Tairāwhiti
Te Upoko o te Ika
Te Tai Tokerau
Te Tai Tokerau
Diocese of Nelson
Diocese of Christchurch
Diocese of Wellington
Diocese of Auckland
Diocese of Dunedin
Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki
Diocese of Polynesia (Fiji)
Diocese of Polynesia (Tonga)
Diocese of Polynesia (Samoa)

maintaining whanaungatanga and inclusivity

DUNEDIN POP-UP HUI

The aim was to gather together local women for networking, engaging in theology, and building



leadership skills by hosting various Pop-up Hui around the province. This allowed those in our wider aiga who can't get to our bi-annual provincial hui for either health reasons or other commitments to attend and be spiritually, mentally, and emotionally encouraged in their ministry and calling.



For \$60 NZD per person, a very successful one-night hui was hosted by the Vicar and CAWS Councillor, Reverend Natalie Milliken, and the family of St Peter's Caversham, Dunedin.

"After a generous meal of local fish and chips with bowls of organic salads from the garden of Jenny Campbell, we welcomed The Revd Lois Warburton to speak on Being Church in Times of Crisis and Disaster."

The next day, Revd Ruihana Paenga presented a very engaging and informative session on Leadership, based on her considerable reading and training and experience. We were all able to share our experience and to connect our new learning with our own context.

Attendees appreciated the well-balanced program; it was wonderful, time to network, could have gone on for another day. They valued the three tikanga attendance and the feeling of being supported and in a safe space; the opportunity to hug and connect; loved having younger women there; learning more leadership skills. One comment: 'As a very new priest, it is invaluable to be able to share with other more experienced women'.

"Anyway- wanted to thank you most sincerely for ensuring members of the Council came down to see us! A FIRST!!! It has gathered our women in and given them energy & purpose! Some new blood & now Tikanga Māori picking up the baton!! Te Ata has got wisdom, energy & enthusiasm. Tumeke! It has re- sparked my energy & enthusiasm. I will put more energy in to getting women from Murihiku to go up to Ōtepoti for the event Te Ata is organising. It can be quite isolating down here as I am sure you understand." - Jenny D.

2025

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY OF HOPE

2025 has seen new whanau members join CAWS as council members or links due to new roles in their respective communities.

Hera Dancer joined as a councillor in place of Rev Ruihana Paenga.

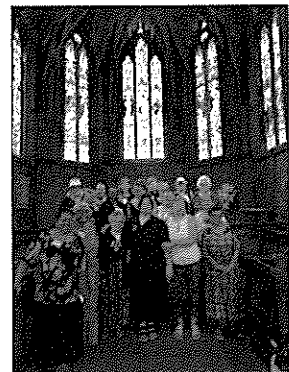
Quandolita Reid-Enari joined as a councillor in place of Zita Reid.

Bridgette Te Awe-Awe joined as a link for Te Upoko o te Ika.

Rev Jacynthia Murphy joined as link for Te Tai Tokerau.

Rev Watiri Maina joined as link for Nelson.

Rev Sonya Lewthwaite joined as link for Wellington.



Elisa Lesi joined as link for Diocese of Polynesia (New Zealand).

Isadora Betham joined as link for Diocese of Polynesia (Samoa).

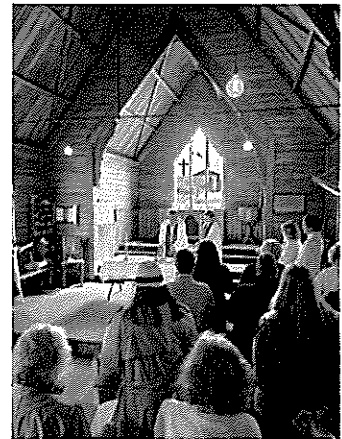


Jenny Campbell was presented with a pikorua in appreciation for her decades of contribution to the work of AWSC, and to her community

Kaye Dyer was presented with a pikorua, in gratitude for her ten YEARS' contribution to CAWS.

bi-annual provincial hui
HOPE IN DIVERSITY

Ngā tumanakotanga i te tumatawhānui
Faamoemoe mo le manuia lautele
Nuinui vakakawatamata Vividhata mein aasha
'Amanaki lelei neongo hotau kehekehe



El Rancho, Waikanae 30 October 2025 - 2 November 2025

"For many new tikanga pakeha attendees, I got the impression it was a first to be able to join in with the other tikanga in such a fun setting."

"I am continually amazed at what Hera is doing in her work and grateful for the opportunity to be able to catch up with where that is at."

"I left with a feeling that new life was emerging among the women of our church."



2024 & 2025

LEADERSHIP

In 2024, ten and 2025 eight wahine were granted mentoring funds to contribute to their spiritual growth to better themselves and their communities. These ladies got to attend writing retreats, short courses or contribute to existing studies. They continue to learn and grow with CAWS, practising leadership by leading in one of our VTCs or in a session at our Provincial Hui.

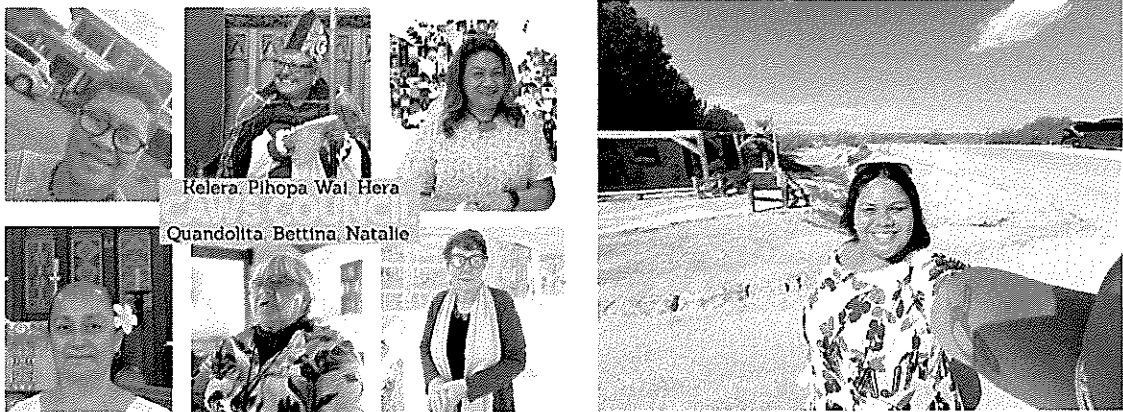
Thank you to those who donated resources to our Hope in Diversity Provincial Hui. We were able to help a few delegates with costs.

It is the first time for Tikanga Pasefika to hold the Convenor's role. Over the past two years, we have seen Kelera Oli lead our whanau alongside Quandolita Reid. We are very blessed to have their God-given gifts and talents enriching the wider church. In June 2025 we welcomed Serena Williams from Te Pihopatanga o Te Tai Tokerau to our whanau as the administrator.

CAWS vuvale would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to you all for the unwavering support, love, and commitment shown in serving God and His people. Your faithfulness does not go unnoticed. Words alone feel insufficient to fully capture our appreciation; and where our words fall short, we pray that God will bless each of you and your families richly for the generosity, sacrifice, and love you continue to pour into this ministry.

As we reflect on these past months, we give thanks to God for His faithfulness, for the growth within our ministries, and for the strengthening of our community in love and service.

“Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” — Galatians 6:9



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