



# The Murupara Angels

*Stories & Photos reprinted with kind permission by  
The Venerable Dr Te Waaka Melbourne*



The Three Angels of Murupara from left, Revd Libya Heke-Huata, Revd Pare Tamepo and Revd Canon Minnie Pouwhare

Locally known as the 'Three Angels' of Murupara, these Minita-a-iwi received their certificate for 25 years of wonderful Ministry within the Rohe of Waiwhakaari, in the Hui Amorangi ki te Manawa o te Wheke.

The three ladies, The Revd Canon Minnie Pouwhare, The Revd Pare Tamepo and The Revd Libya Heke-Huata began their ministry in 1989 as Kai Karakia under their tutorage of The Ven Dr Te Waaka Melbourne and were ordained by Bishop Whakahuihui Vercoe in 1995. After completing their degree, Te Poumanawa Awhi Whanau (Social Services), they then went on with their part-time studies with the Te Pihopatanaga o Aotearoa Whare Wananga and completed an equivalent Ministry diploma and an Atuatanga (Theology) Diploma.

One of the most difficult areas they had to encounter was the position of women on the marae.

Women were not permitted to speak on the marae. It was the role of the men. But what can one do when no men were available as Ministers within Mihinaretanga (Anglicanism).

Mr Pem Bird, the local kaumatua and Principal of the Murupara High School remembered those days well and how difficult it was for the ladies concerned. They faced the challenges of the people's prejudices and sexist comments but eventually care and love won the day. The Three Angels were accepted by all on the marae by attending, guiding and leading families in grieving for their deceased with prayers and preaching the love of God. He went on to praise the Ladies for their wonderful response to the cry of human suffering, isolation and need within the Murupara District of Ngati Whare, Ngati Manawa, Ngati Patuheuheu of Ngati Tuho.



Get Ready For The Annual International Campaign  
**16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM**  
**AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**  
**November 25—December 10**

SHOW YOU'RE  
 AGAINST VIOLENCE  
 TOWARDS WOMEN



White Ribbon Day  
 25 November  
[www.whiteribbon.org.nz](http://www.whiteribbon.org.nz)

Mr Porima, another local kaumatua, also praised the 'three Angels' for their stability and in response to their pastoral caring for the whanau, hapu and in their work for the community. They are also part of the St John's volunteers, in preparing meals on wheels as well as travelling to Rotorua when required. That is beside the running of the Holy Trinity Church Services on a weekly basis along with the teaching of the children and the young people.

not increasing in numbers. As the Maori proverb points out, 'Kua pu te ruha—kua hao te rangatahi' (the old net is cast aside and the young sweeps clean).

The Archdeacon made a call for people to come forward, especially men—we need more kai karakia, deacons and priests.

The 'three Angels' were then questioned by the Archdeacon on their ministry journey for the last 25 years from the time of

their becoming Anglicans, to the people who influenced them and their decision to become a priest within the Church, to the most memorable part of their ministry and what would they like to see happen in the Church in Murupara.

What was clear was their hope for more people to become disciples of Christ in the Church in Murupara. In particular for the young ones to be nurtured and fed within the church. They paid tribute to the small group of helpers who support them and without whose help they could not have achieved their ministry. In particular, they were loud in praise for their secretary and treasurer, Isobel.



The Ven Dr Te Waaka Melbourne presented Revd Libya Heke-Huata with her certificate while Revd Pare Tamepo (centre) and Revd Canon Minie Pouwhare (right) and proud mokopuna look on.

The Venerable Dr Te Waaka Melbourne in his sermon compared what the first disciples of Jesus did, to the kind of activities the 'three angels' have been doing these past 25 years and in his estimation it is quite comparable.

The 'three angels' have raised the dead, metaphorically speaking about the church congregation—they have helped people with their diseases, and they have spoken about the Kingdom of God on the many marae around the district. The past 25 years of ministry education and ministry formation in Te Pihopatanga o Aotearoa has been a history of innovation and creativity. The demand from our people is great and it will become greater. Our Minita-a-iwi are growing older but we are

A large number of friends and whanau attended and enjoyed a feast as part of the celebrations along with cutting of the cake and receiving their Certificates of 25 Years of Service to the Church of Holy Trinity in Murupara (with the hope of another 25 years ahead of them).

What topped the day off were that three men offered their services to become Kai Karakia for Murupara Rohe. Mr Pem Bird, Mr Porima and a young man Byron Rangiwai, who has just completed his PhD. Byron is hoping to go to St John's Theological College to study theology next year in 2016. Ministry still takes place every day, even in Murupara.



## The Centre for Anglican Women's Studies (AWSC)

Karena de Pont, Administrator

Email: [anglicanwomenstudies@gmail.com](mailto:anglicanwomenstudies@gmail.com) or [anglican.wsc@clear.net.nz](mailto:anglican.wsc@clear.net.nz)

Home Office Phone: + 64 9 422-0102 Cell Phone: 027 631-3083

General Synod Office Phone: + 64 9 521-4439 [www.anglican.org.nz](http://www.anglican.org.nz)

Postal: General Synod Office, P O Box 87-188, Meadowbank, Auckland 1742, New Zealand



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 — 2015

### TIKANGA MAORI -

- The Ven Mere Wallace  
[mere.wallace@westcoastdwb.org.nz](mailto:mere.wallace@westcoastdwb.org.nz)
- Revd Numia Tomoana  
[numia\\_5@hotmail.com](mailto:numia_5@hotmail.com)

### TIKANGA POLYNESIA -

- Revd C. Amy Chambers  
[mumsy@connect.com.fj](mailto:mumsy@connect.com.fj)
- Revd Evelini Langi  
[evelini\\_langi@yahoo.com](mailto:evelini_langi@yahoo.com)

### TIKANGA PAKEHA

- Revd Erice Fairbrother  
[ecfairbrother@waiapu.com](mailto:ecfairbrother@waiapu.com)
- The Ven Carole Hughes (Convenor)  
[carolesunrise@xtra.co.nz](mailto:carolesunrise@xtra.co.nz)

## Anglican Women's Studies Centre Diocesan & Hui Amorangi Link Representatives

### Diocese of Auckland

- Revd Nyasha Gumbeze  
[tamarisk1999@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:tamarisk1999@yahoo.co.nz)

### Diocese of Christchurch

- Revd Jenni Carter  
[jenni.carter@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jenni.carter@xtra.co.nz)

### Diocese of Dunedin

- Jenny Campbell  
[jennycam@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jennycam@xtra.co.nz)

### Diocese of Nelson

- Kaye Dyer  
[kaye@mightymessage.com](mailto:kaye@mightymessage.com)

### Diocese of Waiapu

- *No representative at present*  
*Please contact Diocesan Office*

### Diocese of Waikato & Taranaki

- The Ven Val Riches  
[vjriches@outlook.com](mailto:vjriches@outlook.com)

### Diocese of Wellington

- Revd Jenny Chalmers  
[jenny@clear.net.nz](mailto:jenny@clear.net.nz)

### Diocese of Polynesia

- *Refer to Tikanga Polynesia Councilors*  
*(see above)*

### Hui Amorangi o te Tairawhiti

- Ruihana Paenga  
[ruihanaapaenga@gmail.com](mailto:ruihanaapaenga@gmail.com)

### Hui Amorangi o te Tai Tokerau

- Revd Jenny Quince  
[quincemail@xtra.co.nz](mailto:quincemail@xtra.co.nz)

### Hui Amorangi o te Manawa o te Wheke

- Rahera Biddle  
[R.biddle@pirirakauhauora.org.nz](mailto:R.biddle@pirirakauhauora.org.nz)

### Hui Amorangi o te Upoko o te Ika

- Revd Leonie Joseph  
[raulee04@xtra.co.nz](mailto:raulee04@xtra.co.nz)

### Hui Amorangi o te Waipounamu

- The Ven Mabel Grennell  
[mabel.tekorowai@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mabel.tekorowai@xtra.co.nz)

**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.*