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## Our Book is Launched!!!

By Archdeacon Carole Hughes



*The Anglican Women's Studies Centre Council welcomed members of the Steering Group for the International Anglican Women's Network to New Zealand*

*Our Place, Our Voice* was launched a few days before the commencement of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) Meeting in Auckland, with representatives from the International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN) at Vaughan Park on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2012. It was a significant occasion to launch our book in the presence of women from around the world, whose main purpose is to *enable and empower all women to be influential and equal participants throughout the entire Anglican Communion*. This occasion gathered those who celebrated with us in the launching of this book, and also acknowledged many more women who were unable to attend. It captured the significance of sharing women's stories.

Prior to the book launch the Council for Anglican Women's Studies spent a couple of hours with the IAWN. Essentially we sat around and listened

to one another's joys and struggles. We learnt about who we are, and the journeys we have travelled. I came out of that experience feeling richer and more connected with women from around the world, and more significantly recognising that all our stories have commonalities and shared experiences. It heightened our intentions in launching *Our Place, Our Voice* as we recognised our shared experiences and the importance of telling our stories.

The book launch included poetry, prayers, blessings, bubbly, laughter, hugs, food, song, photos and much conversation. We hope that *Our Place, Our Voice* will be launched again and again around our province and that we can all celebrate in this achievement. In saying that, may it also be an inspiration for many other women to write and publish. I look forward to more publications from women in our midst!



## Our Book is Launched *(continued from page 1)*

*Our Place, Our Voice* embraces who we are as women in the Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. It is an example of contextual theology at its best! The book is a selection of essays by women across our province who have undertaken post graduate work. It is significant that in each essay the contributor tells a story of 'their place' and within that context speaks about theology, and more particularly reflects on praxis in 'their place'. The voices we hear are of our local women who contribute hugely to the life of our church. It takes serious our context. Contextual theology cannot be an optional extra in church life. It assists us in making sense of our world. It enables our ideals to be spoken, and our context to feed us in our relationship with God and with one another. *Our Place, Our Voice* contributes extensively to contextual theology, and is a treasure for our church.

It is with much credit and thanks to all our contributors – Wendy Scott, Eseta Mateiviti-Tulavu, Numia Tomoana, Amy Chambers, Jenny Dawson, Carole Hughes, Rosemary Dewerse, Eleanor Sanderson, Moeawa Callaghan, Nyasha Gumbeze, Jenny Chalmers, Helen Jacobi, Brenda Reed Lamositele Sio, Erice Fairbrother, Margaret Bedggood, and Jenny Plane Te Paa. A special tribute goes to Erice Fairbrother and Jocelyn Armstrong for the collating and publishing, and to Jenny Plane Te Paa and Erice Fairbrother for being editors and initiatives of this pro-

ject, as well as to the Council for Anglican Women's Studies and link women who have supported the birthing of this book.



*Jenny Te Paa, Amy Chambers and Carole Hughes listen to Erice Fairbrother introduce the book to those gathered.*

As Convenor of the General Synod Council for Anglican Women's Studies it is a pleasure and a privilege to offer this treasure to you.



*Many of the contributors to "Our Place, Our Voice" were able to join the Council at Vaughan Park to help launch the book. The Council was grateful to benefit from either their writing or their publishing expertise that they offered.*

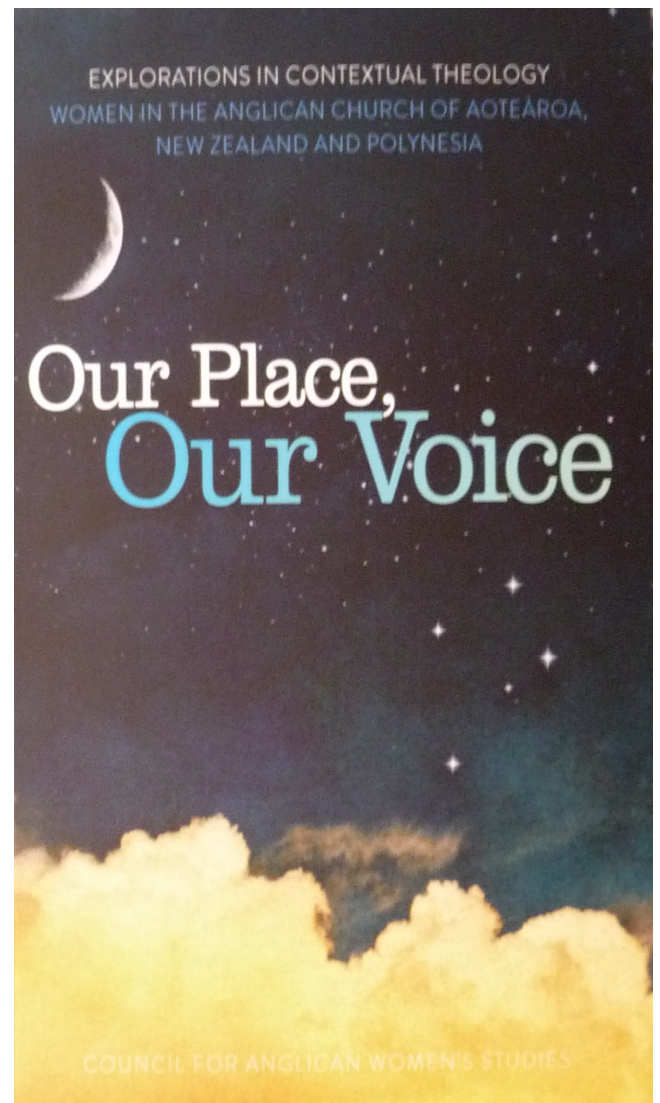
*From Left: Jocelyn Armstrong, Nyasha Gumbeze, Jenny Te Paa, Amy Chambers, Brenda Sio, Carole Hughes, Margaret Bedggood, Jenny Chalmers, Suzanna Shelton, Ellie Sanderson and Erice Fairbrother*

## Poem: Concerning the matter of the hermeneutic of experience for a preacher

In this evening after eating out  
You serve us nightcaps as we talk  
Noting our lazy hermeneutics, how we cross  
Long sentences like little rivers winding  
    between  
Precipices and over rocky underbellies  
Shifting light stones and leaving the heavy  
To curve our sheer flow into rapids.

Tomorrow you will lead your congregation  
Our stories will fill your gospel  
Our rivers will run clear,  
You will lead them to precipices  
They will curve with you into rapids  
They will find they are walking on water  
In the morning you will show them  
    what they always knew.

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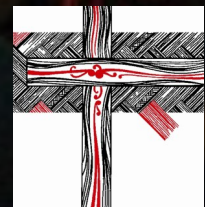
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*For All Hui Enquiries & Registration Please Contact:*

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## The Centre for Anglican Women's Studies

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The Centre for Anglican Women's Studies, commonly known as the **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 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.



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- [No current appointment—Contact the Hui Amorangi administrator](#)

#### Hui Amorangi o te Waipounamu

- [No current appointment—Contact Mere Wallace \(see above\)](#)

**EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER:** *The 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 WSC does not exercise editorial control, rather we welcome as many voices as are willing to contribute.*