

The New Christian Church Newsletter

October-November 2018



New Zealand Celebrates 125 years of Women's Suffrage.

There were many New Church women in New Zealand influencing social and political decisions of the new colony at that time.

Kate Edger 1857-1936 was one of them. She is recognised as a trail blazing N.Z. woman. See more below.

We send Richard and Gill Keyworth our good wishes as they sell their home of over 30 years, in Panmure and move to their new home on Waiheke Is. We hope that they enjoy a well-earned happy retirement.

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From the President's Chair

Kate Edger One of New Zealand's Significant Women

Recently our country celebrated 125 years of Women's Rights. In the New Zealand Herald of September 16th, an article about Kate Edger wrote of her as a trailblazer for women. She was born in 1857 in England and came here in 1862 with her father Rev. Samuel Edger and the rest of his family. He became the first pastor to the Albertlanders, until a disastrous house fire saw the family move to Auckland. Here he preached in a public hall to a non-sectarian congregation. His published sermons show that he was familiar with the teachings of Swedenborg. In 1874 one of his daughters returned to England and when people there heard that her father had lost all his books in the house fire, they sent a consignment of new books to him. Many New Church people gathered around him as he preached and spoke, using Swedenborgian teachings. Sadly he became ill and in 1882 returned to England for treatment but died four days after arriving. Rev J Presland, of Argyle Square New Church, conducted his funeral service.

However, through his children he had left a legacy in New Zealand. In the General Conference Year Book for 1888, Miss Kate Edger's name appears under New Church people in Auckland. She was 31 years old by then and had marked up some remarkable milestones. She had been home schooled but as a teenager she was allowed by Mr F Macrae to study with the top class of boys at Auckland Grammar as there were no girls secondary schools. She applied for a scholarship to attend the University of New Zealand without indicating her gender and was accepted. In July 1877 she was awarded her B.A. She became the first woman in New Zealand and the Empire to get this degree. At her graduation, the Bishop of Auckland presented her with a white camellia which he said represented 'unpretending excellence'. I can only assume that this was the origin of its association with women's suffrage. She was an active feminist. Her father had spoken publicly about many social issues of which women's suffrage was one. After teaching at Christchurch Girls High, and being the first principal of Nelson College for Girls, she married and moved to Wellington and had three sons. Here we find her presiding over suffrage meetings and giving public speeches. She remained active in Women's organisations and led the women graduates at the golden jubilee of Canterbury College in 1923. In 1935 shortly before her death in Dunedin, she was awarded the King's Silver Jubilee Medal. Beryl Hugh's article ends with this eulogy. "Although small and slightly

built, with a quiet and reserved manner, she showed throughout her life remarkable stamina and a determination to achieve her ends.”

{Sources:- The New Church in New Zealand (Edith Jarmin); Samuel Edger, Te Ara Encyclopedia Peter Lineham); Kate Edger, Te Ara Encyclopedia: (Beryl Hughes.) }

With Best Wishes,
John.



Men and Women are created to see life from Complementary Points of View



They are like the two eyes in our face which see the world slightly differently but together make a complete view.

Jesus answering, said, Have you not read, that he who made them from the beginning made them male, and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they two shall be one flesh? Matthew 19

A man is born to act from the understanding, but a woman from affection. The intention is that the understanding with men is the understanding of truth and good, and the affection with women is the affection for truth and good.

All understanding derives its life from affection, therefore the man and woman are joined just as affection which is of the will is joined with a corresponding thought belonging to the understanding. Apocalypse Explained 710:25

Our Building

We are planning a working bee during the next two months. This will be on October 20th. Do come and lend a hand.

Events

Please note the date of our Annual General Meeting Nov 4th following morning worship.

People. We hope Lis and Denis enjoy their delayed holiday.

Calendar

7 th October	Worship/ Holy Supper service
14 th October	Shared Inspiration from the Word
20 th October	Working Bee date 10am onwards
21 st October	Worship / Sunday School/ followed by Church Committee
4 th November	Worship/ Sunday school/ Followed by Church AGM
11 th November	Shared Inspiration from the Word
18 th November	Worship / Sunday School/ followed by Church Committee

Rosters

October	GREETERS	FLOWERS	REFRESHMENTS
7th	Lesley	Jenny S	Jenny S
14th	John		Jenny K
21st	Ray	Jenny K	Lis
November			
4th	Jonathan	Sharon	Lis
11th	John		Jenny K
18th	David	Lis	Jenny S