

Our 17<sup>th</sup> birthday was a joyful celebration, honouring what has gone before, and looking forward to what is ahead.

Although the winter ills and chills kept the attendance lower than expected it was encouraging to have several new women, plus our Chaplain and Advisor join us for this special occasion.

The hall was decorated with a gold and white theme, with tables arranged in a semi-circle and set with yellow orchid flowers and candles, sparkling grape juice and chocolates, which added a festive touch to the occasion.

After the welcome and notices, Bev shared a brief reflection, leading into a time of very anointed praise and worship. Then it was time to cut the beautiful (and very large) cake, generously provided and decorated by Team member, Christine. Two members of the original Formation Team - Ann Jackson and Val Klay, and former President Lisa Anderson, were present and invited to come forward to cut the cake.



With the assistance of several willing helpers, generous portions of the cake, along with fresh grapes, were passed around as we relaxed and enjoyed the DVD 'Bad Women of the Bible'. This hilarious presentation by Liz Curtis Higgs was a perfect way to round off the afternoon, and we were very thankful that Fr John stayed to celebrate with us - and sort out the hitches with the computer equipment!

The Shalom Blessing provided a fitting conclusion to a lovely afternoon of fellowship and fun.

All praise, honour and glory to God, and grateful thanks to all His precious women who have "*Freely received and freely given*" so generously to Dove Northland Tai Tokerau. We look forward to all God has planned for our future. Blessed be His Name.