



Inner Wheel
New Zealand



Dear Inner Wheel Friends,

It is at this time; we are thinking about our communities in the **North Island of Aotearoa New Zealand** as the massive loss reeks across our beautiful lands. Visual images and videos of the devastation with the weather events of **unexpected flooding** followed by **Cyclone Gabrielle** as she has blown her way across 'Our Nation' in the North – Districts NZ291 and NZ294. Many cities, small towns and rural areas are greatly affected with many now in need. Just a few days ago, thousands of people became uncontactable and displaced from their homes. At the moment, there are 'grave concerns' for missing people as the death toll begins to rise, and we extend our deepest condolences and sympathies for those families affected.

Survivors report how waters dramatically rose in the dark, early morning hours while many were asleep. The displacement of people scrambling onto rooftops waiting to be rescued is a common story. Many houses are submerged to rooftops or are below waters. The shock of the vast damage is seen on our people's faces across our land. The positive gratitude pours out of **Our Survivors** as their resilience shines through these difficult times.

As the waters are retreating, **Our People** are realising the loss of their personal possessions, massive home destruction, and livelihoods. The loss of future food supplies nationwide is becoming apparent for so many in need. In many areas, there is **no electricity, limited food supplies, no safe drinking water, no communication networks**, and many are cut off from family and friends worldwide. Engineers and road crews are scrambling to check and give clearance to bridges and roadways in many regions of our **North Island Communities**.

As the National Team stand together, we extend our deepest sympathy with the huge losses and are now asking for your help for **Our Members, Our Communities, and Our Great Land**. To facilitate this, we have set up a GiveALittle page <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/iwnz-cyclone-gabrielle-appeal> who accepts New Zealand and International donations and provides a tax receipt.

Donations collected will be distributed to IWNZ Members, whānau/families, and community groups in need of support due to the **unexpected flooding** followed by **Cyclone Gabrielle**. This will be done by a committee of Inner Wheel members from the affected regions.

On behalf of Inner Wheel New Zealand, I 'Thank You' for your generosity and support.
Ngā mihi nui, Many thanks,

Alyssandra Skerrett
Inner Wheel New Zealand President

