

Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ

July 2017

In this Issue

- Thoughts Looking Forward
- Look Who's at the Well
- PWANZ Executive Update
- Mission Update
- United Nations Comment

Like us on Facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/presbyterianwomenaotearoanewzealand/>

About us

President

Rev Erin Pendreigh
Balclutha
Mobile: 027 774 1457
Phone: 0800 335948
Email: missionadvisor@synod.org.nz

Administrator

Sandra Waldrom
PO Box 17427, Karori
Wellington 6147
Mobile: 027 702 9386
Email: pwanz2016@gmail.com

Human Rights Convenor

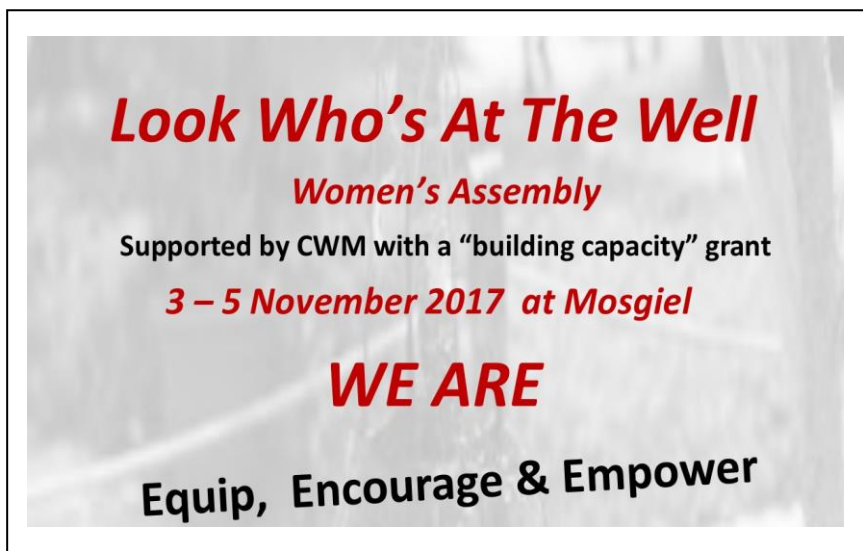
Tausala Ioefa
Palmerston North
Mobile: 021 2080 857
Email: tausala.iosefa@gmail.com

Missions Convenor

Sally Russell
Havelock North
Mobile: 021 129 9608
Email: sallyrussell@xtra.co.nz

United Nations Convenor

Rev Carol Grant
Dunedin
Mobile: 027 296 2011
Email: nandcg@clear.net.nz



Look Who's At The Well
Women's Assembly
Supported by CWM with a "building capacity" grant
3 - 5 November 2017 at Mosgiel
WE ARE
Equip, Encourage & Empower

Thoughts Looking Forward from Erin

I write this particular letter to you while attending a conference in a rather chilly Melbourne. The conference is entitled 'Re-imagining Home' a gathering with several keynote speakers and interactive electives. A place where we are reminded of the changing nature of our lands due to migration, and the challenging questions that seek a reply from us all. Questions which ask... How do we all experience 'home' in our place of being? What do people need to belong? And how as Christians will we respond? I am attending the conference in my role as Mission Advisor for the Synod of Otago and Southland, but Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ has been at the forefront of my thinking.

At yesterday's chapel time, we went on a quick journey using a map of the all towns mentioned in the Gospels, and interestingly the towns not mentioned. One particular comment caught my attention as we travelled across the mapped landscape. While somewhat less geographical, nonetheless it was an important point! That being, the only ones to serve (or minister) in the Gospels were the angels, the women and Jesus – the disciples hadn't quite worked out that their role was to serve.

Over these few days there have been stories of how migrants, refugees, asylum seekers have been welcomed into urban and rural settings. Often with the lead taken by women meeting women and very practically helping each other. PWANZ's involvement with the United Nations, and the awareness this relationship provides, have been (and continue to be) vital in our ministering to women. Over the next month, you will see invitations for expressions of interest in the role of PWANZ United Nations Convener. A suitable applicant is sought to continue the good work of Rev Carol Grant. Please prayerfully consider this role and pray for the right woman to arise.

As an Executive, we have been discussing our desire to better communicate the PWANZ vision; along with all the work we and all the other groups are involved. So likewise, you will see calls for Expressions of Interest for someone to fill a Communications Portfolio on the Executive. Are you (or do you know someone) passionate about communication and modern methods of getting the message out there? Can you help us reach the wider church by conveying and sharing in the work of PWANZ? If so, please consider this portfolio, or encourage others who are suitable to apply. Details for both portfolios are available from Sandra.

And lastly, I would like to mention the PWANZ Women's Assembly (details are within this Bushfire). Registrations are slowly trickling in. As previously mentioned, I'm writing this while attending a conference. Before I flew across the Tasman, the logistics and time frames had combined to make my enthusiasm for this event a little less than it should have been. However, being with a group of people who are learning together, eating together, and sharing stories together is a powerful thing! It has been extremely inspiring as we learn from older and younger alike. I believe that as we encourage each other, we too are growing and actually kingdom building. Before going to Melbourne, I received a phone call from a young woman who had heard about the upcoming Women's Assembly. She was so excited about it, so looking forward to being in a space with women of all ages. She said that this doesn't happen very often and she's eagerly awaiting November 3rd-5th to come around. The question is, Will YOU be one of the Women she talks with at the Assembly? Will You be one to encourage her, or perhaps receive encouragement from her? Obviously to do so, one must first enrol to attend!

Many Blessings, Erin

Look Who's At The Well ARE YOU ?

STOP PRESS – the Early Bird registration fee has been extended to 31 July 2017, get your Group to sponsor an attendee or two. Remember this is the opportunity to ensure the baton is passed to millennials.

To be there:

- Step One - organise your travel to Mosgiel, 15 minutes' drive from Dunedin airport, to arrive by 3pm on Friday 3 Nov. Women's Assembly closes at 11am on Sunday 5 Nov.
- Step Two – book your accommodation, Burns Lodge at Holy Cross Centre.
www.burnslodge.nz Email clinton@burnslodge.nz limited single rooms available, or arrange to share with a friend at \$80 per twin room per night
- Step Three – register your place now (includes all meal/ plus activities):
Early Bird @ \$100 for 3 days, closes 31 July 2017
Standard registration @ \$125 for 3 days Email: pwanz2016@gmail.com

Your opportunity to contribute to the celebration of our membership diversity:

- honouring our taonga of Presbyterian Women – Passing on the Baton,
- and to share our hope for the future – local, regional and global ministry,
- Your voice is valued and your company welcome, if not in person support another to join us..

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ Executive Report

PWANZ Executive

The Executive seeks expressions of interest for two voluntary positions to join our small team.

Communications Convenor, a new portfolio for an applicant with:

- an ability to use social media channels, digital tools and multi-media for marketing PWANZ; and
- the skills to initiate fundraising, including content and resources to be distributed nationally.

United Nations Convenor, will become vacate at the AGM in November 2017:

The United Nations Convenor supports ongoing advocacy for the role of PWANZ locally, regionally, as well as representing Presbyterian Women at the annual Commission on the Status of Women each March at the United Nations. The UN Convenor has responsibility for maintaining PWANZ Special Consultative Status at the UN (through ECOSOC), including compiling the UN audit report every four years on PWANZ's involvement with women in Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally.

For more information and job descriptions, email pwanz2016@gmail.com

Applications close on 18 August 2017.

BushFire

Ensure Presbyterian women receive their copy of your monthly newsletter – BushFire, forward email addresses to pwanz2016@gmail.com, or request a hard copy with a postal address. Remember Group Contacts to provide a list of each of your members as we recognise individual membership.

Presbyterian Women – Funding Update

As at the end of the current financial year, 30 June 2017 (unaudited), 640 members have contributed nearly \$31,000 in donations to mission. Plus in June, Levin Uniting donated \$200 to forward to the CWS South Sudan Famine Appeal, and our PWANZ Mission Convenor topped this with \$300 from the Emergency Aid funds collected over the year. Yes, your Group's \$10 applied to the Emergency Aid counts.

Presbyterian Women – Membership

Do you know a member of your congregation who would like to join Presbyterian Women for just \$10 per year? \$10 per annum provides 11 copies of the BushFire newsletter and a vote at the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Friday 3 November 2017 in Mosgiel. Terms of Reference 2016 and Minutes of Meetings of your Executive are available on request to pwanz2016@gmail.com

Annual General Meeting – 3 November 2017

Remits: are called for the PWANZ Annual General Meeting to be held at Mosgiel on Friday 3 November at 4pm. The next Executive meeting is to be held on Saturday, 26 August 2017 and remits will close on 19 August 2017, to be included in the Annual General Meeting agenda to be distributed to members by 1 September 2017.

United Nations Women NZ – update

On Monday 3 July 2017, our PWANZ Central Ambassador, Ola Leasi with Sandra Waldrom attended a presentation in Wellington on Gender Equality. You may have read the recent article in the NZ Women's Weekly featuring one of the presenters – care and support worker, Tamara Baddeley. Also, Camilla Bellich outlined the significant changes proposed to the current Equal Pay Act.

Presbytery Gatherings

Support PWANZ at your local Presbytery meeting. Executive are seeking representatives for the following Presbytery: Kaimai, Alpine, and Southern. Since General Assembly 2016 affirmed our resolution "that membership of church courts, committees and other formal groups reflect the gender balance within the Church".

The PWANZ representatives are part of decision making, need to attend typically two Presbytery meeting a year, share in discussion and workshops. If you would like more information regarding these roles contact:

Central Ambassador – Faaolataga (Ola) Leasi

Northern Ambassador – Rae Simpson

Put your name forward or suggest another's to pwanz2016@gmail.com

Missions

Thank you for all your work and support
Sally Missions Convenor

The **Hawkes Bay Presbyterial** recently heard from Lisa, one of the FASD-CAN mothers, who explained with good humor about his life and difficulties. Alcohol damages the developing foetus at all stages of pregnancy and results in brain damage. Lack of concentration, impulsivity and lack of memory affect these children and place great stress on families.

Lisa said there are things we can do: Pressure our MPs to provide adequate funding for teacher aides in schools. This is a good question for any upcoming election debates you may attend.

Drinking alcohol any time in pregnancy affects the developing foetus so our young women need to be aware of this. The alcohol consumption rates for women generally have risen and the damage may be done before a woman realizes she is pregnant.



Lisa explaining Fetal Alcohol Syndrome to Hawkes Bay PWANZ

Thanks to all the groups and people who have raised funds for the projects, which focus on families and prevention of gender based violence, in Nicaragua and in NZ.

United Nations Comment

One of the delights I have discovered after leading the various delegations to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on behalf of PWANZ, is seeing the ripples circling out from delegation members on their return into the church and wider community. Since I became UN Convenor more than thirty talented ordained and lay women and girls have accompanied me to New York to the UN Commission on the Status of Women. Leading delegations takes heaps of organisational time, individual contact with those who first express interest, and finally those who make the commitment to be a self-funded member of each successive PWANZ delegation. Detailed planning before leaving, whilst at the UN Commission, and after returning home is vital to make sure the delegation goes safely and successfully from planning stage to final completion.

I am very grateful for the amazing support I have received during my term for this and the ongoing national and international work from PW women and others around New Zealand. The encouraging phone calls and emails of each time I write an article in Bush Fire or Bush Telegraph have meant a great deal.

To be a member of the PWANZ delegation costs each of us our own savings, may involve fundraising, and annual leave allowances, unless specifically funded as one person was by their employer. I deeply appreciate the financial support I have received from the PWANZ special funds set aside by wise and faithful women of the past for this national and international work - it is the taonga of our organisation.



PWANZ does not receive any funding support from PCANZ for our UN work as an NGO with Special Consultative Status so during my term as UN Convenor I have worked hard to raise our UN profile within the PCANZ, other NZ women's networks, with Government departments, and local authorities as well as the UN bodies with whom we are associated. I have also endeavoured to find alternative ways of increasing our funds for this work and hope these efforts will help PWANZ maintain its status in the future.

It is good to hear our UN work mentioned in casual conversations in the courts of the Church, about presentations our members have given, UN focussed worship services, the extensive networking developing, and the ways in which this experience has given members a global perspective, more confidence and knowledge when speaking about issues or challenging gender inequality or on the myriad issues affecting the lives of women around the world, here in NZ and the Pacific.

Another aspect arising from each delegation is the deep friendships that form between delegation members through the shared experiences at the UN Commission, the challenges of learning about the plight of women and girls at home and abroad, and the inner educative processes that occurs in an ongoing way on returning home. After time to reflect the changes personal opinion and attitudes can be acknowledged. Each delegation member comes from a different career background, different life experiences, different church and community networks and these individual experiences feed into church and community loops.

I am very grateful, too, to the teams of women with past UN experience I have worked with each year. Their wisdom and their own experiences at the UN and new insights gained have been invaluable as the next delegation preparations are made and when quick feedback on issues has been required by the ECOSOC networks at the UN.

Carol Grant, PWANZ United Nations Convenor

Remittance Form: direct credit PWANZ account – ASB 12 3011 0117101 00.

Send to: Administrator
PO Box 17 427 Karori
Wellington 6147

Member Name / s _____	Membership@ \$10 \$ _____
Congregation / Group _____	Special Project \$ _____
Postal Address _____	MissionBirthdayGifts \$ _____
_____	UN Mission \$ _____
Email _____	Other (please specify) \$ _____
Phone _____	TOTAL \$ _____