

In this Issue

- Thoughts Looking Forward
- Look Who's at the Well
- PWANZ Executive Update
- International Women's Day
- WANTED – stories for Bushfire
- Call for 2018 UN Delegates
- International Women's Day live streaming
- CWS Christmas Appeal
- Pacific Conference of Churches



Like us on Facebook

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

Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ

December 2017

Away and in Danger (Carol of the Refugee Children)

Away and in danger,
no hope of a bed,
the refugee children,
no tears left to shed

look up at the night sky
for someone to know
that refugee children
have no place to go.

The babies are crying,
their hunger awakes,
the boat is too loaded,
it shudders and breaks;
humanity's wreckage
is thrown out to die,
the refugee children
will never know why.

Come close, little children,
we hold out our hand
in rescue and welcome
to shores of our land -
in aroha, touching
your fear and your pain,
with dreams for your future
when peace comes again.

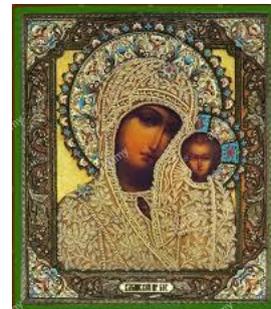
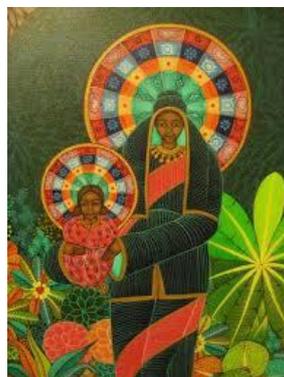
Shirley Erena Murray
Words © 2016 Hope Publishing Company
Tune Away in a Manger



Wellington Regional PWANZ Christmas event



St Columba's Havelock North Women's Advent Service



<p>President Rev Erin Pendreigh Balclutha Mobile: 027 774 1457 Phone: 0800 335948 Email: missionadvisor@synod.org.nz</p>	<p>Administrator Sandra Waldrom PO Box 17427, Karori Wellington 6147 Mobile: 027 702 9386 pwanz2016@gmail.com</p>	<p>Human Rights Convenor Tausala Ioefa Palmerston North Mobile: 021 2080 857 tausala.iosefa@gmail.com</p>	<p>Missions Convenor Sally Russell Havelock North Mobile: 021 129 9608 sallyrussell@xtra.co.nz</p>	<p>United Nations Convenors AnneMarie Tangney Mobile: 021 069 6953 am.tangney@gmail.com Mavis Duncanson Mobile: 022 028 7005 mavisj.duncanson@gmail.com Both Dunedin</p>
--	---	--	--	---

Thoughts Looking Forward from Erin

As we gather together our final thoughts as part of Decembers Bushfire it is a good time to send an expression of thanks to all who are involved in the running of Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ. The chairpeople, the treasurers, the secretaries, those who organise the fellowship groups, those who print the Bushfire so it can be easily read, those who collect stamps, monies for mission and all of you who continue to gather – thank you.

A highlight among all the things to happen this past year was a request from the PWANZ groups in the Nelson area for an executive member to present at their Annual Meeting. Sally Russell our Mission Convenor attended on the Executives behalf and found it a very heartening experience.

I want to thank my fellow Executive members. We are a small committee, and for most of us we juggle our role with the PWANZ Executive with full time jobs or other roles with local activities. This gives us good perspective and the ability to share our heart for PWANZ. Juggling these roles also brings challenge as we acknowledge the perception of PWANZ.

A big thank you to Council of World Mission for the grant that enabled us to hold the Women's Assembly in November. I also want to acknowledge and thank the Synod of Otago and Southland who gift my time and expenses in undertaking this role within PWANZ.

The Executives first meeting for 2018 is in February – we will be looking at the Women's Assembly feedback as we plan how to use the next grant from CWM, the AGM date and place will be set, and from this meeting the Executive will share some plans for 2018.

On that note, I want to wish Christmas blessings to all who see themselves as Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ. May you know the love of Christ, and live out the hope of the gospel wherever you may be.

In Christ, together

Erin

Look Who's At The Well - ARE YOU?

The Executive is busy reporting to CWM and some interesting statistics have come out of this

Presbytery Representation:

Southern 51%
Central 40%

Age Range:

Under 50 65%
Over 50 35%

Pacific Women – Maori 2 %
 Samoaan 22 %
 Kiribati 4 %
 Tokelau 2 %
 Pakeha 67 %
Asian Women Korean 4 %

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ Executive Report

Central Ambassador, Faaolataga Leasi and Sandra Waldrom attended a panel discussion hosted by NZ UN Women. Dr Jackie Blue, Equal Opportunities Commissioner with the Human Rights Commission, Jo Copeland, Human Rights Director at Simpson Grierson, Sue O'Shea, Equal Pay Campaign Manager NZ Council of Trade Unions, and Gina McJarrow, Senior HR Business manager ANZ Bank highlighted effective strategies from their work experiences.

International Women's Day 2018

Put the date in your calendar – Thursday 8 March 2018. PWANZ Executive will provide material to support the retiring collection on the Sunday following, as agreed at GA16. Two of our Presbyterian Women members will join the Breakfast hosted at Parliament in Wellington – how will your Group celebrate...share your ideas and inspiration.

PWANZ Executive seeks an enthusiastic person to join their small team of six. **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 promotions for our mission projects, including content and resources to be distributed nationally.

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

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.

WANTED – stories for Bushfire

At the Well in Mosgiel we talked and shared stories, found out what other groups do and thought what a good idea. **Please** send us your stories and a photo or two for Bushfire and our Facebook page so we can share that enthusiasm. We can also advertise upcoming events on Facebook. Send to Sandy pwanz2016@gmail.com or the Bushfire editor Sally sallyrussell@xtra.co.nz Deadlines below in the Calendar

Presbyterian Women – Funding Update

To 30th November 2017, the fifth month of the current financial year to 30 June 2018, 287 financial members have contributed over \$12,000 in donations to mission.

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. Terms of Reference 2016 and Minutes of Meetings of your Executive are available on request to pwanz2016@gmail.com

2018 UN Delegation

Presbyterian Women invites applications from those wishing to be a self-funded member of the 2018 Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa NZ Delegation to the United Nations.

Do you have a passion for social justice, gender equity and the empowerment of women? CSW62 (2018) the sixty second session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 12 to 23 March 2018. See the UN Comment on page 6.

Calendar

February 2018

- 5 – Deadline for Bushfire material
- 9 - Bushfire release
- 17 – Executive meeting in Wellington

March 2018

- 5 – Deadline for Bushfire material
- 8 – International Women’s Day
- 9 - BushFire release

International Women’s Day live streaming



UN Women National Committee Aotearoa New Zealand and the Zonta Club of Wellington invite you and your group to participate in a very special breakfast to celebrate International Women’s Day, Thursday, 8 March 2018, by participating in a free live streaming event.

The event itself will be held at Parliament, hosted by the Minister for Women, the Honourable Julie-Anne Genter. The keynote speakers will be the Governor General, the Right Honourable Her Excellency Dame Patsy Reddy, and the Right Honourable Helen Clark, formerly Administrator of the United Nations Fund for Development and Prime Minister of New Zealand, in a conversation with Dr Gill Greer, Chief Executive of the National Council for Women.

Live streaming will commence from 7-9am New Zealand time. It will be an opportunity for women’s groups and schools around New Zealand and in the Pacific to participate in the event, wherever they may be.

Women’s groups may wish to hold their own International Women’s Day breakfast at the same time, and live stream the parliamentary event, while schools may wish to show the broadcast later, to coincide with school schedules.

We would appreciate it if groups and schools would indicate their interest in participating in the live streaming of this celebratory event by Thursday, 18 February 2018, so that we can advise them of the technical details of how to access the live stream, and provide other information about the event.

For more information please contact Noeline Holt noeline.holt@icloud.com or Sue Kedgley sue@suekedgley.com



Each year Christian World Service chooses five stories to [showcase](#) the work done by the annual [Christmas Appeal](#). The money you donate helps people in many different ways. Some may not survive without this help. Many escape the misery of poverty by building a rainwater tank or growing more and better food for their families. Others learn skills that will help them find a job and some can make changes that make life better for the whole village or perhaps for us all. These are good things happening in our world thanks to your support.

In a classroom in Lebanon, a young Syrian refugee is anxious to answer a maths problem. She enjoys the daily opportunity to learn and meet up with friends. Home is cramped and her family is finding it harder to manage on the reduced rations. At school, she can forget about the hardship and learn the basic skills she will need no matter what the future holds.

More than six years of war have left a terrible toll on Syria, but much more tragically on the lives of its people. In countries hosting the majority of the refugees, the United Nations has cut services and rations because of the lack of support. Refugee children beg on the street, are married off at a very young age or work for very low wages.

But if you were to wander inside the bleak walls of the Sabra Centre on the edge of the United Nations' Shatila refugee camp, you would find the opposite: very young children in a bright preschool class and young men watching intently as their teacher shows them how to mend electrical systems. There is much more happening inside these walls because it is a place where Palestinian and Syrian refugees come to learn and talk. With your support, the [Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees Lebanon](#) runs four centres for refugees.

At Christmas, we invite you to share the message of hope with the people who need it most. You can find [posters](#) in 10 languages, [resources](#) to share or make a donation [online](#). Gifts can be placed in the envelope in the church offering.

Please give generously to the 2017 Christmas Appeal.

WORKING TOGETHER WITH PEOPLE FROM THESE COMMUNITIES, WE CAN MAKE THE HOPE OF CHRISTMAS OUR STORY.

Pacific Conference of Churches – one of PWANZ's Mission B'day partners

Speaking in Germany for the 2017 climate change negotiation, Frances Namoumou from Pacific Conference of Churches [said](#), "This is a matter of survival. Losing our land to the sea means losing our identity as a people".



It is important that people affected can make the decisions about their future and are given adequate resources to retain their livelihoods and dignity in the process.

*PCC's Frances Namoumou meets Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon at the 2017 Climate Change Conference
Photo: WCC/Sean Hawkey*

At meeting after meeting, Pacific peoples have raised their fears for the future. They have found ways to share stories of danger and offer the world a path out of destruction. Church leaders have united in their concern for families who are losing land and livelihoods and fear for the future of their culture and tradition. They worry about what is happening to their *moana* and are exploring ways to support the rights of climate migrants, people who have lost their homes.

Those living close to the water are doing all they can: planting sea resistant crops, organising evacuation procedures and protecting their homes and livelihoods. Long term they need food, water and safety that comes with climate justice. Only global action can stop the rising temperatures, make sure those who must be resettled flourish, and provide funds needed to help the most vulnerable families. PCC stands between the local and the global. When it speaks for the climate, it advocates for us all.

ADVENT FOUR – LOVE

24 DECEMBER

Read the Partner Story from the Pacific: Our story is more than survival

Pacific peoples look out on a sea that is creeping closer. King tides and salt water are claiming crops and safe water supplies. At every level, Pacific peoples are seeking allies in their campaign to stop global warming with its threats to their homes and their land. By doing all we can to stop the rising global temperature, we can share the hope of survival.

Lighting the Advent Candle of Love

In the lighting of this third Advent candle we make space within ourselves to hear and engage with the voices of those we might otherwise miss but with whom we are connected by our common humanity. We remember also the voice of God's messenger – Mary, the mother of Jesus calling us to be bearers of love in a troubled world.

**We light the candle of love.
May it light the way for us
as we make hope our story.**

Thanks to Rev Dr Mary Caygill, Methodist Presbyterian for preparing these resources.

Go to: <http://christmasappeal.org.nz/for-churches/>

for more advent prayers