

Bush Fire

June 2023

PWANZ UPDATE

Greetings to you all and thank you for your kind regards and encouragement.

We all thought (hoped) that with a couple of meetings we would have PWANZ sorted. Well, that is not so! We have been meeting very regularly, but we are making progress!

This is some of what we've been doing.

CLOSURE LITURGY

Rev Rose Luxford, Moderator Designate, has agreed to prepare a programme with prayer, hymn, and a message on the closure of PWANZ.

We hope all groups (and parishes) will have a special time when they use this material. You could also set up a display of PWANZ literature, photos, badges etc.

FINANCES

Sandra Waldrom and Ruth Stevens are working on our finances. There are a number of invoices to pay before the bank account is closed on 30 June.

There will be some funds to distribute. Let us know who you think we should consider for receiving these.

NOTIFICATIONS AND REPORTS

We are sending *BushFire* to all Presbyteries and notifying all groups of our closure.

We have requested that changes are made to the Book of Order.

Katherine Sutherland is notifying the Charities Commission and collecting all material needed to advise them of our closure.

Mary Gibbs and Mavis Duncanson (our appointed attendees to GA23) will report on the winding up of PWANZ and lead the Devotion prepared by Rose Luxford.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Send us a brief outline and any photos of your PWANZ celebrations to feature in future editions of *BushFire*.

We would like to set up a display at Assembly. Do you have any mementos we could use showcasing our history?

We're also collecting material to send to the Presbyterian Church Archives.

PWANZ had a commercially made banner with a stand. Does anyone know where it is?

Please continue to pray for us as we work through the outstanding items to close down PWANZ.

YOUR WORKING GROUP

Chair

Mary Gibbs

Finance

Ruth Steven
Sandra Waldrom
Katherine Sutherland

Communications Lois Robertson

Mission

Judith Dunlop
Carolyn Goudswaard

Mary Gibbs and Mavis Duncanson will be our two PWANZ delegates to attend the General Assembly 2023 and present our final reports.

KNOX FEILDING PWANZ CELEBRATION

The women's group at Knox Church, Feilding recognised the national closure of PWANZ by holding a meeting to formally close our affiliated group, with an afternoon of 'Memories'. It was a time to look back on 59 years of a PWANZ group here at Knox.

The President opened the meeting with Devotions from the APW Book of Devotions 'From PWANZ to APW to PWANZ'.

We sang two hymns 'Come Celebrate the Women' and 'God gives us a future' from the Triennial Business & Study Conference held in Feilding in 2003.

Time was spent with members reminiscing about their experiences in APW/PWANZ.

A history of PWANZ was read.

Rev Judy Bedford formally closed the PWANZ group at Knox and led the prayer for the future of the new group which will continue to meet monthly as 'Knox Women's Fellowship'. The meeting also closed with prayer.

Members were able to view photographs and memorabilia while they shared afternoon tea.

Jill Little (President)

Editor's Note: We'd love to hear from other groups about how you marked this occasion. Send us your photos and tell us what you did.



MY TIME AT PWANZ

***May the Lord repay you for what you have done!* (Ruth 2:12)**

Women you have served your God well and have never stopped, you good humble women of faith. From the beginning to now, you have provided spiritual and pastoral care. You have led by example on how to speak, how to act and you continue to be role models for young women.

Some of my highlights...

- Communications Convenor (2004)
- National Coordinator of Association Presbyterian Women, with Leautuli Sauvao as Deputy Convenor (2013)
- Attending the first APW conference in Feilding and enjoying the fellowship and programmes (2004)
- The many Christ the King and PIPC Church Newtown gatherings showcasing Pacific culture dressed in colourful wear, singing, dancing, cooking and cultural workshops
- Attending 50th Jubilee celebrations held around New Zealand and presenting the 50th Jubilee Quilt to General Assembly (2014)
- Attending the *Gender Justice Workshop (Pacific)* in Fiji (2015)
- Working with Methodist Women's Fellowship

- Visiting Turakina Maori Girls College with final bursary scholarships – bittersweet, knowing it was closing
- Writing a song *Celebrating Women of Faith*, with music by Fepuleai Tupai.

It was good to see more Pacific ladies in leadership and joining APW. Thank you women for the sacrifices you made; those who have passed and those still present.

We will all miss conferences, devotions, speakers, mission projects, Bible studies, the travel, making new friends and having fun.

We need to keep speaking up for women's issues. We need to be strong in the areas of family and social justice and to step up to leadership roles. When women are supported by the Church, everyone benefits.

***Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.* (Gal 6:9)**

May we continue to be a blessing to others and let Jesus' love shine for all to see through our words and actions.

Lafulafu Vanilla Ekenasio



STAMPS

Collecting stamps for fundraising was something done by many of our groups. Over the years, this has become less viable, with the rise of standardised stamps and digital communications.

However, the Pathways Presbyterian Church in Palmerston North are still collecting stamps and are happy to receive any you may have.

Send your old stamps to:

Pathways Presbyterian Church
PO Box 1485
Palmerston North 4440



WHAT IS PRAYER?

Is it measured words that are memorised
Forcefully said and dramatised
Offered with pomp and with arrogant pride
In words unmatched to the feelings inside?
No ... prayer is so often just words unspoken
Whispered in tears by a heart that is broken ...
For God is already deeply aware
Of the burdens we find too heavy to bear
All we need do is to seek Him in prayer
And without a word He will help us to bear
Our trials and troubles – our sickness and sorrow
And show us the way to a brighter tomorrow ...
There's no need at all for impressive prayer
For the minute we seek God, He is already there!

Source Unknown



THANKS

To all those who have taken the time to contribute to this edition of *BushFire*, including Elizabeth Gibbs for the editing and layout.

If you'd like to contribute to future editions, please contact Lois Robertson on lois.robertson@outlook.com