

Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand

July 2016

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Special project 2016/17

The special projects for this year are supporting CWS's Nicaraguan partner CEPAD in their work addressing gender based violence in the home and community. The statistics in Nicaragua are shocking, approximately one third of women experience violence from their partners and femicide is rising. When a society thinks its OK for this to occur then women don't have the energy or enthusiasm to take part in a productive community

Gender equality, centred in human rights, is recognised both as a development goal on its own and as vital to accelerating sustainable development.



Methodist and Presbyterian Women

Special Project

2016 / 17



Let God's Light Shine

Prevent Gender Based Violence around the Pacific Rim



Consejo de Iglesias Evangelicas Pro Alianza Denominacional



CEPAD
COUNCIL OF PROTESTANT CHURCHES OF NICARAGUA

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder - Care Action Network

FASD-Care Action Network
www.fasd-can.org.nz



Unless women and girls are able to fully realize their rights in all spheres of life, human development will not be advanced.

The New Zealand based project is with FASD-CAN to assist families support their members with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Their vision for the future is to develop more practical support, education and other resources to meet the needs of their members. We will particularly be supporting the development of an emergency respite care fund.

The information packs will be sent to groups at the end of July. Thanks for all your support.

Sally Russell Missions Convenor

Thoughts

Part of the role of any transition team is to try and understand the past in order to plot a course to the future. After only a couple of months in my role I have been trying to understand the Presbyterian Women structures as they are (or were in APW times) and ponder what structures into the future are needed to allow Presbyterian Women to tread nimbly. Amongst this research I was reminded very recently in a daily devotion that 'we are called to be encouragers of each other in the church. It is one of the ancient marks of discipleship in Christ. In Colossians 1:1-14 Paul demonstrates what it means to be an encourager. He is careful that the Colossians hear how he is thankful for them, and to remind them that their faith is genuine and is doing good work.

In a world where the default seems always to be on pointing out what someone has been doing wrong, it would be easy to default to this during Presbyterian Women's time of transition. I believe this passage is like gold for our transition journey.

So here it is: You, Presbyterian Women (both older and younger) are a gift to others. God has given you the Holy Spirit and granted you the gift of faith and I know you have blessed many and lifted up the gospel of God's love in your words and deeds. I'm glad to be your sister in Christ!

I am thankful for the gatherings around the country recently that have invited women outside the PWANZ network to ask what their needs are today and into the future. I am thankful for the positive turnout to the dessert and coffee evening in Palmerston North. I am thankful for the emails I have received from women who are sharing their hopes and dreams for this season. I am thankful for those who are asking the hard questions. These questions make me want to theologically discern answers for questions posed such as 'why do we gather as women? why do we gather as Presbyterian women? and what positive thing does this all bring to the wider church?

So in thankfulness we continue our work of transition.

Erin Pendreigh Co-Ordinator of the Transition Team

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Sowing Seeds
Saturday 24 September, St John's in the City Wellington

The annual general meeting for Presbyterian Women will be held on Saturday 24 September. Make your travel plans for a 9am start. The Transition Team will report on Mission, United Nations, and as the theme for the day is "Sowing Seeds for the Future" outline our focus for 2017. We look forward to your input and sharing of ideas through workshops during the afternoon. The day's programme will close at 4pm.

All Presbyterian women are welcome to attend, financial members get to vote, ensure your membership is up to date.

Presbyterian Women – Funding Update

In the financial year ended 30 June 2016, more than eight hundred and seventy members have paid their affiliation fees, including some with “freewill” donations. These contributions to PWANZ accounting now for \$9,026 compared to \$9,772 for the year ended 30 June 2015. Contributions have been recorded from 70 groups, six Presbyterials and individual members.

Membership of Presbyterian Women

Do you know a member of your congregation who would like to join Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand?

Women and girls participate in a variety of ways in the church. Individuals are welcome to become members of PWANZ too and membership is \$10 per year which can be direct credited.

Email: pwanz2016@gmail.com for an individual membership form.

We are seeking to update the database and have everyone’s email address as well as postal address to help with communication and individual membership helps with that.

Oral Histories

The Rev Isobel Probert recorded an oral history of Marg Schrader in 1992, along with many other women. **Do any old copies of these oral histories exist?** And does anyone know where the originals are? As the cassette tapes are very scratchy and hard to hear, Marg would like to be able to transfer them onto a CD or onto a computer, so that her family can listen and perhaps learn something of her and of the way of the world and the church in those days. Marg suggests the series could be very useful for someone doing research on the place of women in the church. Isobel was a very good interviewer. We need someone with the technical expertise to do the transfer. Contact pwanz2016@gmail.com if you have any of the tapes or if you can help with the transfer.

Presbyterian Women – Study Grant Update

As one of many forms of support to women in Aotearoa New Zealand, PWANZ allocate study grants. The most recent were awarded to Adair Oosterbroek, Brianna Oosterbroek, Shelley Gilmore and Ropeta Mene-Tulia. Dellwyn Moylan from Ashburton received notification in August 2014, after being held over from the 2013 round of applications.

from Brianna - I want to thank you for assisting me to be a part of Headspace for 2015. It has been a whirlwind of a year! I’ve learned much about mission and seen it in action in New Zealand and Thailand.....I’m really glad that I chose a programme with a focus on mission as the way I wanted to spend my year between high school and university study. Through Headspace, I’ve been equipped with the foundational knowledge and tools to further God’s kingdom, both in New Zealand and throughout the world...the cross-cultural and strategical aspects and roles within mission has been hugely increased through the Perspectives course we did...Next year I want to find ways to use the knowledge and skills I have developed to further God’s kingdom. I will be looking [for] ways to be actively involved on my church’s mission team and be engaged with the young people on my campus...Next year, I will be moving to the North Shore in Auckland to study a Bachelor of Speech and Language Therapy through Massey University. Thank you for your support that helped me be a part of the Headspace gap-year programme!

from Ropeta - Talofa lava...I was very fortunate to receive the study grant in 2015 while I was studying at Vision College in Christchurch. I wanted to let you know that I have completed the Diploma in Ministry and graduated studies this year in March 2016. At the same time I was studying full time last year, I was also undertook an internship with NZ Church Mission Society headquarters in Christchurch. It was a pretty full-on year and it was a definite year of growing and stepping out in faith. I am very passionate about mission, women and youth. I currently co-lead the Women's Ministry at St Paul's Trinity Pacific Presbyterian Church and strongly believe in supporting and empowering women to develop their passion and gifting to strengthen themselves and in doing so supporting their families and communities. Since completing my diploma I have gained some great skills and tools and have started utilising this within church. At the end of last year NZCMS and the women's ministry got together to explore the possibility of sending a team on an encounter trip...We head to the Philippines in Jan 2017 but there is still much to learn and do before the encounter trip heads away. After much prayer, reflection and because I loved Vision College and growth I experienced, I have now been accepted and enrolled at Laidlaw College in the Bachelor of Ministry (Year 2). I am looking forward to this new part of the journey as I step more into God's calling and using this to extend his kingdom...just wanted to thank you and the Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ committee again for supporting my study in 2015. Fa'afetai, fa'afetai tele lava ma ia manuia



(Ropeta earlier this year receiving her diploma)

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women CSW61

Are you passionate about gender equality and the empowerment of women?
Do you network within your faith community to improve the lives of women and girls?

Expressions of interest are already being received for the PW delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) in New York in 2017.

The sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 13 to 24 March 2017. Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from all regions of the world are invited to attend the session.

Priority theme:

Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work

Review theme:

Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls.

If you are interested in being a self-funded member of the Presbyterian Women's delegation next year in March please email Carol Grant: nandcg@clear.net.nz

Full applications and CV's will be called for later in the year.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The sustainable development goals seek to change the course of the 21st century, addressing key challenges such as poverty, inequality, and violence against women.

Women's empowerment is a pre-condition for this.

While the world has achieved progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment under the Millennium Development Goals (including equal access to primary education between girls and boys), women and girls continue to suffer discrimination and violence in every part of the world.

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large.

Targets

End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life.

Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

Carol Grant PWANZ UN Convenor

