



Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand

September 2016

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

Register and have your say?

Date: Saturday 24 September

Where: St John's in the City, corner Dixon & Willis Street, Wellington

Time: 9am to 4pm

Theme: Sowing Seeds for the Future

Learn more about your PWANZ operations, mission, United Nations and finances. The Annual Report will be available at the meeting and includes the reviewed year-end financial statements.

Registration is open to all Presbyterian women, and financial members will be asked to vote to:

- Accept the minutes of the 2015 meeting.
- Accept the annual reports for the Co-ordinator, Administrator, Mission, United Nations and Advisory Group.
- Accept the reviewer's report.
- Accept the annual financial statements.
- Appoint an auditor.
- Accept Terms of Reference 2016, (replacing TOR 2015)
- Elect Executive members for 2016 - 2017.

The Agenda, and previous meeting Minutes (with additions) have been distributed and to obtain your copy please email Sandra on pwanz2016@gmail.com

Email: lois.robertson@clear.net.nz to register, only \$20 for the day including lunch and tea / coffee.

Names for the Remembrance Candle are now being called. Send to pwanz2016@gmail.com by 15 September 2016 to ensure all are recorded at our meeting.

The afternoon programme includes presentations by:

Award winning year-12 student from Queen Margaret College Mira Karunanidhi is using her talent for public speaking to highlight an issue close to her heart, race relations. She has spoken at the Regional Race Unity Speech Competition, held at the National Police Headquarters in Wellington, and after winning the regional United Nations Association Secondary Schools Speech competition went on to represent Wellington in the finals.



Her entry *The Universe* was a runner up in the 2016 National Schools Poetry Award.

Dr Mavis Duncanson reports back on Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand at the United Nations.

Dr Duncanson was a member of the March 2016 delegation to the 60th Commission on the Status of Women. Through this participation she gained new appreciation of the ways in which gender equity is integral and essential to achieving the 2030 agenda for sustainable development: "to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources" as well as "to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all ..." (Agenda 2030 Clause 3). She was also impressed by the affirmation right from the start of the event, and right from the top of the UN hierarchy, of the important role of faith communities in achieving gender equality.



Wellington Presbyterian Women - Come for lunch and the afternoon speakers

The programme is not yet complete so watch our facebook page

Come and meet our National team.

On the 24th September from 9.15-3.00pm PWANZ holds its National Business Meeting at St Johns in the City, Wellington

I invite, no I urge you to join with myself, the Transition team and the Advisory board as we attend to the business of the day and together sow seeds for the future.

Meeting together as women cannot be optional; it is part of our DNA, our reality, our fabric. Whether like Elizabeth and Mary sharing their joyful news together, like Miriam celebrating Israel's escape by leading women with singing, dancing and with timbrels, like the lament of the women recorded in Jeremiah 9, the frustration of Martha as she wanted Mary to join in her toil, whether it was the group of women who joined together at the well, wailed at the Cross, or who found the empty tomb, as women we travel through life better when others are alongside.

'Why Presbyterian Women'? It's a question being asked a lot lately. Why meet at all? Is our time done? Is there a future? And if there is, what is God calling, indeed inviting us in to?

The Transition Team of PW have been busy attending to the tasks at hand but have also been in a time of discernment, considering what we are about. What are our strengths and what are our weaknesses? For me a strength of the PWANZ is evident in its fellowship. Gathering and fellowship are a vital part of (delete 'in') our experience as women. Saturday the 24th September will be a wonderful example of this!

Our fellowships and this meeting together is of value for both young and older. Providing opportunities (for us to care about each other, to celebrate our commonality while working together to help others both locally and globally.)

It is a transitional reality which dictates that the ways we meet may change over time. How we fellowship may differ according to our age and location Our future gathering and fellowship may be dependent upon the time we have, and even our past experiences of APW. This time last year PWANZ took up the challenge of establishing a Transition Team to work on its future. Saturday the 24th is a continuation of the task at hand, one of real importance as we walk this challenging road together.

I want to assure you that Saturday the 24th of September is not solely about business, much of our day together is about inspiration as we welcome three guest speakers focused on the days theme, 'SOWING SEEDS'.

So please join us, register your attendance with the team, bring a car load to Wellington, and let's join together in fellowship, to be inspired with what may happen next

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible on the day.

Erin



Rev Erin Pendreigh
Transition Team Co-Ordinator

PWANZ Capacity Building Retreat

The retreat was prayer focused, interactive, practical and encouraging. It was initiated, organised and facilitated by Carol Grant, a member of the Transition Team. All members of the Transition Team participated which will ensure any decisions are implemented. Sessions included in depth reflection, the use of symbols representing the ministry of Presbyterian women today, visioning and individual and group responses, strategic ways to build capacity for the future, planning for a Woman's Assembly, and putting in place the next steps. The immediate action following a successful AGM in September is to enable the planned new avenues for communication, the creation of a new web site, and to hold a Women's Assembly in Dunedin in late 2017. Teams have been allocated to enable these to become a reality. Other women will be co-opted as planning progresses. We are very grateful for the funding from the Council for World Mission which made this retreat possible.



United Nations CSW61 Delegation

Calling all interested women from the North and South Islands to join the PWANZ delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women CSW 61 in New York from the 13th to 24th March 2017.

Delegates must be fully self funded and have the ability to cope in the challenging environment at the UN as well as to have the maturity to deal with the often confronting issues affecting women and girls around the world. Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from all regions of the world attend the session. Last year 9,000 women came to present issues and contribute to the decision making. PW were the largest NGO delegation from NZ.



The Priority theme is 'Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work' and the Review theme is 'Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls.'

**If you are interested please email Carol Grant: nandcg@clear.net.nz
If you have already expressed interest, thank you.**

Presbyterian Women – Funding Update

As at 31 August 2016, the second month of the new financial year ended 30 June 2017, nearly two hundred members have paid their affiliation fees. These contributions to PWANZ accounting now for \$1,400 in membership plus almost \$8,600 gifted to mission. Contributions have been recorded from fourteen groups, one Presbyterian and six 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 to ASB 12 3011 0117101 00.

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.

Mission Update

At the last transitional team meeting held on August 4th the following distribution of our general Mission funds was approved. In no particular order:

- ✘ mainly music in Lebanon \$3,000 to support the establishment of a group for Syrian families. mainly music is well supported by our women who run the weekly sessions in many of our churches. The young parents/caregivers who attend would also be interested in what PWANZ is doing with this gift.
- ✘ Palm Project in Vanuatu \$5,000
This is example of excellent development empowering women in small isolated islands, Soap they produce is now available at Trade Aid outlets so PW women can feel personally connected
- ✘ Pacific Conference of Churches (through CWS) \$5,000
A part of their work is educating church leaders to address gender violence in their nations and communities.

Mission Gifts 2014/15 year:

- Global Mission Rice Bowl appeal in Myanmar \$2,500
- Waitaki Tongan community (Eveline parish) NOTE project \$2,500
- Syrian refugee resettlement in Dunedin / Wellington \$10,000.
 - ✘ In Wellington provide fees and costs up to \$1200 for one refugee woman, of the 21 supported each year in to gain her drivers licence through Change Makers Refugee Forum.



Presbyterian Women

Don't they raise money for mission?

YES we do!

FRIENDS OF TURAKINA HIKOI TO HUKARERE

On Sunday 14 August 2016, nine members of *Friends of Turakina* from Feilding and Marton, travelled to Hukarere Girls' College at Eskdale out of Napier, where we were joined by two more *Friends* from Taradale and Sally Russell (Missions Convenor for Presbyterian Women) and her husband from Havelock North.

It was a beautiful Hawkes Bay day, and after being welcomed by Kerehoma Mihaere (deputy principal from TMGC) we were ushered into the Chapel for a church service led by the Chaplain of the school. In the unavoidable absence of the Hukarere Principal, her Deputy accompanied the whole school at the service. Following the service, at which a number of the girls took part, presentations were made.

Nineteen girls who would have attended Turakina Maori Girls' College this year had it still been open, are now attending Hukarere, and the purpose of our visit was to offer a scholarship of \$1000 to the 14 of those girls, who were not already recipients of a Government scholarship. As mentioned in the last issue of *Bush Fire* PWANZ has also provided a \$1000 scholarship to Jemau Bell, to be available for extra-curricular school activities and items which will help in her aim to study at Otago University.

In addition to the scholarships, *Friends* has also been able to set aside \$50,000, to be called *The Friends of Turakina Endowment Fund*, to be used by Hukarere "For scholarships and/or personal development programmes, while at Hukarere Girls' College, to enrich or enhance the lives of potential leaders".

Following the service we were invited to lunch with the ex-Turakina girls, at which acknowledgements were made and the girls sang some of their Turakina songs, finishing with the Turakina Vesper.

Jan Thomson
Secretary/Treasurer *Friends of Turakina*



Turakina girls now at Hukarere



**Nick and Jan Thompson
Friends of Turakina**



**Friends of Turakina - Marton, Feilding and Hawke's Bay
Sally Russell, PWANZ, Rev. Win George, Hukarere
Chaplain and Kerehoma Mihaere**