



Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ

April 2017

In this Issue

- Look Who's at the Well
- Thoughts Looking Forward
- PWANZ Executive Update
- Presbytery Gatherings
- 2018 New Year Honours list
- *Mission Update*
- Operation Refugee
- Syrian Young Women in Dunedin
- Our legacy missions in India

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Look Who Will Be At The Well Women's Assembly (incorporating AGM)

Supported by CWM with a "building capacity" grant

3 – 5 November 2017

WE ARE

Deborah Bower - Doctorate in Theology from Otago University, is a Church Leadership Support Advisor at Southern Presbytery & Presbyterian Synod of Otago and Southland. Soulscape is her platform to facilitate her work in Bible teaching, mentoring, spiritual formation and life coaching.

Metiria Turei – MP and Co-leader Greens Party, is spokesperson for Inequality, Building and Housing and Justice and Electoral Issues. She put herself through law school, graduating in 1999 from Auckland University and going on to work as a commercial lawyer at Simpson Grierson. Her passion is building a more equitable society; reducing unemployment, ending child poverty, ensuring all Kiwis live in warm, healthy homes and protecting our rivers and oceans for future generations.

Anna Dean and **Angela Meyer** – Double Denim, PR and Marketing Agency directors, based in Wellington. These two make an unlikely team. They are united in their love of women and their passion for anything creative, and encourage others to 'do what you love'.

Joy Cowley - lives in Featherston, Wairarapa, but still has a house in the Marlborough Sounds where they lived for many years. For almost three decades, Joy has travelled, visiting schools, and running writing workshops for people whose culture has not been adequately represented in their children's books. She believes that children need to see themselves and their own culture in their literature.

Look Who's At The Well – WE ARE

To be there:

Step One - organise your travel to Mosgiel.

Step Two – book your accommodation at Burns Lodge at Holy Cross Centre. Email clinton@burnslodge.nz

Step Three – register your place. Early Bird registration @ \$100 for 3 days, closes 30 June 2017 Email: pwanz2016@gmail.com

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday from 4pm to 6pm. Saturday will be a mix of presentations / workshops / reflection and networking opportunities.

Accommodation in a combination of single rooms, twin rooms and ensuite rooms is available on a first booked basis. Included in your registration are all meals plus activities which will be hosted in Burns Lodge at Holy Cross Centre, Mosgiel www.burnslodge.nz

Your opportunity to contribute to the celebration of our membership diversity, honouring our taonga of Presbyterian Women, and to share our hope for the future, is available now as we are planning the weekend programme. Submit your inspirational ideas to pwanz2016@gmail.com Your voice is valued and your company welcome, if not in person support another to join us. More details will follow in May Bushfire.

Sandra Waldrom

Thoughts Looking Forward from Erin

Two weekends ago I attended the Bravegirl one day conference in Gore. Bravegirl is a movement gathering women both young and old – existing to inspire, equip and encourage women to live with strength, authenticity, and purpose. With their yearly conference Bravegirl use blogs, Instagram, and Facebook to connect with a community of women from all walks of faith. What's exciting is the inspiration and motivation behind Bravegirl, Steph Redhead – a Presbyterian woman.

So, I went to the conference to be inspired and to support this fledging ministry. During the day, I spoke with several young women and we talked about PWANZ. Boy, have we got work to do! In most cases, they had not heard of PWANZ, or if they had they lacked much idea of what our movement is about. However, there was an obvious enthusiasm, as I spoke about who we are and what we do, noting the upcoming Assembly in November, and the list of speakers for the event. As they listened, their excitement grew and they gave me email addresses in order to receive membership forms. Many are now looking forward to attending Assembly!

No Bushfire, nor any newsletter was enough for them to understand that there's a place for them in PWANZ. It took a conversation about the foundations of our movement, about our hopes, the mission, the advocacy, and the voice we grow, to speak into women's issues. It took a conversation, to say 'there is a place for you' it took the extending an invitation. It took clarification, to say 'you don't have to go to afternoon meetings to be part of PWANZ'. This is the ongoing task before us, as we ask 'what other vehicles or means might we establish in order for women to join with us, and to gather in unity?'

Because in reality, younger women aren't just going to join – we are in a season where OUR passion, OUR belief in the future of PWANZ and the way we convey such things is what will make the biggest difference in drawing new members.

My encouragement to our readers is to talk about PWANZ to those around you. Share what we are about and all we do, and if you aren't really sure, please contact Sandra and ask. Also, think about coming to Assembly and inviting someone to come with you. It will be a time of encouragement, inspiration and empowerment, much like the recent Bravegirl gathering it will be a weekend not to be missed!

In anticipation of things to come
Erin

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ Executive Report

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.

Gift Cards

PWANZ has produced a series of 5 cards using photos taken in 1907 to 1926 from Presbyterian Research Centre (Archives), which we are selling to help cover administration costs. Email pwanz2016@gmail.com for an order form.

Presbyterian Women – Funding Update

As at 31 March 2017, we end the ninth month of the current financial year (June 2017), members' affiliation fees have contributed \$3,600 plus \$13,000 gifted to mission. Our subscriptions are less than half of our 2016 collection, even though we are now three quarters through our financial year.

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. Group treasurer / secretary may make subscription payment for their members and provide separate list of names / email contact.

Presbytery Gatherings

Central Presbytery Gathering – 25 March

Faaolataga Leasi reports “I'm inspired and blessed with the tremendous sharing in the workshops, guest speakers, the worship and so forth. It was also great to meet the PWNZA sisters from Taranaki...Anyway, when it was time for notices and acknowledgement, the response was 'No, a representative of PWNZ is not officially being part of the Presbytery' - hopefully our exec will sort that out.”

Note: Presbytery Central are in the process of settling in the new structure and are working with PWANZ to clarify how many representatives there are.

Northern Presbytery

Rae Simpson reports “Northern Presbytery has voted -

- That the proposed strategic realignment of Northern Presbytery Governance of staffing structure be adopted.
- That the Council of Northern Presbytery be tasked with establishing the proposed new structure by July 2017.

The motions were carried, so now Presbytery council has to make sure that the 5 regions, which includes CTN (Northland) are up and running by July.”

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 reps are part of decision making, need to attend typically two Presbytery meeting a year, share in discussion and workshops. Put your name forward or suggest another's to pwanz2016@gmail.com

2018 New Year Honours list

“The Honours Unit at the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet is now receiving nominations for the 2018 New Year Honours list. As Minister for Women I am keen to see more New Zealand women recognised for their achievements.

Every day we meet exceptional women who use their energy and talents to help others, and who go beyond the normal requirements of duty or office. I encourage you to think about these women and nominate them for the upcoming honours round. You may also like to share this opportunity through your networks to encourage others to nominate deserving women.

Nominations may be made by any person or organisation by completing a nomination form. This is available on the Honours Unit website (<http://www.dpmc.govt.nz/honours/overview>).

Completed nomination forms need to be submitted to the Honours Unit by 30 June 2017.

Thank you for taking the time to celebrate and honour New Zealand women.

Paula Bennett, Minister for Women”

email 4 April



Join Operation Refugee and challenge yourself to live off refugee rations for 5 days.

CWS supply the food box, you survive the experience, and all funds raised go to Syrian refugee families.

Operation Refugee will see you put yourself in the shoes of Syrian refugees for 5 days (or 2 days for our Operation Lite participants). It's going to be tough, it's going to be eye opening and it's going to give hope to Syrian refugees living in Lebanon and Jordan.

Register today for the 5 Day Operation Refugee! Friday 16th to Tuesday 20th June 2017

Register today for the 2 Day Operation Refugee Lite for Students! (You choose the 2 days)

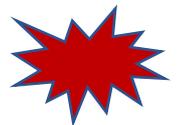
Go to Refugee Kete for all the information you need to know about the challenge and register at www.cwsoperationrefugee.nz

Special project

Thanks to all the groups and people who are raising funds for this year's projects, which focus on families and prevention of gender based violence, in Nicaragua and in NZ.



We want to hear from you – what are you doing, any tips for a fun, friendly and profitable fundraiser and a photo or two. If you have some event to advertise please send us the details as we can put it up on our Facebook page.



News from Carol Grant, PWANZ United Nations Convenor.

Two new Dunedin residents, Nadeen and Dareen Saleen formerly from Damascus in Syria, were recently awarded a PWANZ Educational Scholarship each of \$1,000 from the special PWANZ funds set aside to assist new arrivals coming into Dunedin and Wellington.

The girls submitted written applications applied and their applications were approved at the Executive meeting in February. The girls are twins and since they have arrived in Dunedin both have passed the basic and advanced English requirements needed to be able to study at the University of Otago. They completed their first year successfully last year, and this year both are doing second year studies in pharmacy. Neither are yet eligible for student loans so the education scholarships mean a great deal not only to the girls but also to their wider family.



Extract from Nadeen's thank you letter . . .

When I first heard that we can have the scholarship I did not know if I should cry or laugh, it meant the world to me after what we have been through. Getting help from you has pushed me a step closer to achieve one of my goals in life, which is completing my studies at university. I don't know how I should thank you and thank everyone who was part of it, but I know that I will repay this by gratitude, and by studying harder to become successful to help anyone in need.

And from Dureen's letter of thanks. . .

I am writing to thank you for the scholarship. I am honoured to be one of those who you considered and helped. I, as a new resident in New Zealand appreciate every simple gesture you did to help me, as small gestures can have life changing influence. I am touched by New Zealand people's kindness and their consideration of others and I hope that one day I would be able to repay your kindness and prove that I deserve it. My education is one of the most important aspects in my life, and this scholarship pushed me a step towards it.

Our legacy missions in India

A PWANZ Group writes: "*.....still try to send money for Kathryn McDaniel, Ludiana and Jagadhri....the last two places is now self-supporting. We would appreciate some info on the financial situation of Ludiana and Jagadhri.*"

Phil King, PCANZ Mission Coordinator has sent an update.

Ludhiana Christian Medical College and Hospital (CMC) has been fully independent for a long time now and no longer receives any financial support from PCANZ. In fact, it is difficult to forward any donations on because communication is very limited. On the few occasions I have been sent funds to pass on, it is difficult to get a response from CMC.

Jagadhri

St. Thomas School has also been self-supporting for quite a while now and no longer requires financial support. Funds in the Doreen Riddell Scholarship Fund which were previously set aside for scholarships there have been applied towards nursing scholarships at the Christian Hospital School of Nursing, also in Jagadhri.

Christian Hospital and School of Nursing – with the improvements in Government hospitals, the demand for the hospital is greatly reduced these days and there is little activity to support. Our emphasis is now largely centred on providing scholarships for students at

the School of Nursing, and occasionally for equipment to support the teaching. We have most recently been funding eight students with half-fee scholarships at a cost of just over \$9,000 per annum. The students are members of the Church of North India and recommended by their bishops as being worthy candidates. The number will probably reduce to six this year as the course is restructured. I am still waiting to be advised of this. Late in 2015 we also sent funds to complete the student flats (electrical and plumbing work) that had been built several years ago with PCANZ funds. This was about \$12,500.

Funding

There are two funds available for these projects. The Doreen Riddell Scholarship account funds the scholarships for the nursing students. This is largely funded by capital as donations and interest do not cover the amount required. I envisage that this fund will gradually diminish as time goes by, but there is still enough capital to provide several years' worth of scholarships at current levels. Donations are always welcome to continue supporting these scholarships. Unfortunately it has been difficult getting regular updates on the progress of the students and this is something we need to keep working on.

The Friends of Jagadhri account funds any requested expenses at Christian Hospital and the School of Nursing. As mentioned, it is largely centred on the School of Nursing these days. There is a healthy balance in this account. If significant requests for these funds are not forthcoming in the next few years, we will discuss with the Church of North India the best use of these funds for the future of their work in Jagadhri.

Kathryn McDaniel

Kathryn turned 65 this year. She is still unsure whether she will return to new Zealand or remain in Thailand. However, whether she returns or remains in Thailand, Global Mission will offer her a generous retiring gift, and will then be discontinuing support for her as of June 30, 2016.

I hope this information is helpful. Thanks always to the members of PWANZ for their long-standing and generous support for the Global Mission ministries of the PCANZ. Please feel free to contact me for any points of clarification.

Warm regards,

Phil King phil@presbyterian.org.nz

In addition, you can look at the [Global Mission – India](#) page on the PCANZ website.

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 _____	Mission Birthday Gifts \$ _____
_____	UN Mission \$ _____
Email _____	Other (please specify) \$ _____
Phone _____	TOTAL \$ _____