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Correction - it has been pointed out to the Executive by Mary Gibbs from Wellington, that the title for our PWANZ Co-ordinator and Administrator were updated without reference to membership approval. Please note that the Co-ordinator is now referred to as President and we will seek a Rule Change from members at the AGM in November 2017.

# Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ

**March 2017**

## ***Look Who's At The Well – WE ARE***

### ***Women's Assembly (incorporating AGM) 3 – 5 November 2017***

Supported by CWM with a "building capacity" grant

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](mailto:clinton@burnslodge.nz)

Step Three – register your place. Early Bird registration closes 30 June 2017 Email [pwanz2016@gmail.com](mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com)

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday from 4pm to 6pm with an evening programme following dinner. 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](http://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](mailto: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 April Bushfire.

Sandra Waldrom

## ***Thoughts Looking Forward from Erin***

Over the past few weeks a colleague and I have been discussing sports analogies, in regard to church leadership. I wonder if it is just an excuse to talk sport at work? It did get me thinking when considering where we're at as Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ. One particular analogy that we bantered about resonated with me, so hopefully you don't mind a bit of sports talk. I have been thinking about the Silver Ferns netball team. A group of 7 women – younger women than most of us it must be said, women who play netball at an elite level. But when we watch a Silver Ferns game it's not only the group of players getting involved. On the sidelines sit the "wise heads". The coaches who help guide and encourage, who use knowledge from the past to help the team of the present go forward. The team need the coaches to help improve their game! The coaches need the team in order to share the knowledge that they have accumulated over their lifetime in the sport.

As Presbyterian Women this is where we find ourselves. For there are many wise women filled with the accumulated knowledge of a lifetime, full of rich experiences to impart. Yet our reality is that we haven't quite recruited our fresh young team of players to take the court. For us to do so, in order to 'field a side' we first must make some plans. Perhaps that begins by being proactive, in looking for conferences, for learning opportunities and for inspirational events that we can invite (and even sponsor) younger women to attend. Is this a way PWANZ can work to empower, encourage and lovingly guide a generation of younger women? Our UN Convenor Rev Carol Grant has made huge inroads in this area by leading three separate self-funded delegations of women to New York. This is a wonderful example which says to our younger generations that PW is a relevant organisation for them to be aligned and involved... so, 'get on court'!

Of course, our younger women aren't here yet, so the task to continue remains, in doing so we as the Executive ask for your help and your Prayers.

Please consider your groups subscription fees, as we can't exist without the admin budget (agreed to at the AGM) being met. Please look around for younger women and have a conversation, ask "What are they passionate about"? "What is it that concerns them"? Think about the ways we as a national organisation could help connect them to other like-minded people. Perhaps even ask ourselves "Why did I join APW"? Perhaps your reasons will resonate with our younger women? Ask them what type of organisation they would like to join? And then, most importantly...pass on your insights to us.

My hearts cry is that we would desire to do all we can to see a new generation amongst us, a new vibrant energy filled team on court for Christ!

In His service,  
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](mailto: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](mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com) for an order form.

## Presbyterian Women – Funding Update

As at 28 February 2017, we enter the ninth month of the current financial year (June 2017), members' affiliation fees have contributed \$2,974 plus \$10,857 gifted to mission. Our subscriptions are less than one third of our 2016 collection, even though we are now two thirds 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.

**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 \$ _____

## ***International Women's Day March 8th***

The earliest Women's Day observance was held on February 28, 1909, in New York and in 1911 International Women's Day was marked for the first time, by over a million people in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. In the Austro-Hungarian Empire alone, there were 300 demonstrations. Women demanded that they be given the right to vote and to hold public office. They also protested against employment sex discrimination. In London there was a march in support of women's suffrage on March 8, 1914. Sylvia Pankhurst was arrested in front of Charing Cross station on her way to speak in Trafalgar Square. On March 8, 1917, in the capital of the Russian Empire, Petrograd, a demonstration of women textile workers began, covering the whole city and this was the beginning of the Russian Revolution.

The United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day in 1975, the International Women's Year. The theme for International Women's Day 2017 is "Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030".



## ***UN Delegation CSW61 (2017)***

**United Nations Convenor - February 2017**  
**Carol Grant, PWANZ UN Convenor**

Twelve members form the PWANZ delegation to the UN this year. All are very involved in issues affecting women and girls here in NZ. Our youngest member will also be attending the UN Youth Forum.

I have been impressed and heartened with their engagement with CSW61 information and the UN processes and they will arrive ready to be fully involved. I am delighted that Lynnette Heine from Westland is coming again before she goes to visit relatives for a family wedding in Washington following CSW61. She is a talented person who has given me her full support whilst at the UN. Three women are staying with family in New York and the rest of the delegation have taken advantage of the PWANZ contract arrangements I made with the hotel in Manhattan which is very near the UN.

All members are self-funded. I hope the women will follow their individual interests whilst at the Commission, network with women from around the world, and return with a global perspective which will add value to their own contributions within New Zealand society. New York will be a different place now the Trump administration is in place. Many women from around the world cannot come because of Visa concerns. Some NGO's will consider boycotts, others are suggesting it be moved temporarily to a more neutral place like Geneva. The current situation is very worrying for many countries including our own.



I have appreciated having three experienced UN teams to work with during the last three years. They are an excellent sounding board with whom I can pass on background knowledge about processes, and prepare the way for future leadership.



The focus of this Commission on the Status of Women is on women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls, and the empowerment of indigenous women.

My special interests are multi-faceted. Goal 5 - Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls - of the Sustainable Development Goals which the New Zealand Government signed in September 2016 is vitally important. Among its aims are providing women and girls with equal access to education, health

care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes that will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large. In many nations, gender discrimination is enshrined through legal and social norms. Though Goal 5 is the gender equality stand-alone goal - the SDG's can only be successful if women are completely integrated into each and every goal.



Last week we heard from mainly music CEO Jo Hood who regularly updates PWANZ on the progress of the group in Lebanon we have supported through the Mission Birthday gifts. Remember if you need envelopes email me and Bev Quigley will send them to you and your group.



**Exciting news** - We're pleased to let you know that the mainly music group, funded by the Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa, is starting this week (20 February 2017) for the wives and children of Syrian concierges.

**We'd love you to pray for this new venture. Why?**

Here's a story from Lebanon, a story involving Steph (a New Zealander) who has pioneered each of the groups that provide fun, safety, education and more for Syrian mothers and their children:

The group I started in the summer hosted by a Catholic church, which is ecumenical in its teaching, is going really well. They put on a huge Christmas party for the Syrian families which was much appreciated. There are so many kids of different ages coming that they've had to split into two groups - one does the normal mainly music format and the other is more like a Sunday school for the older kids (7-14). They've also recently expanded into literacy classes as a further ministry to the Syrian mums and kids that come, some of whom are illiterate but keen to read.

*Would you pray that the volunteers who make this happen remain available and willing to help?*

*Would you pray that those who start the group you funded remain open to God's prompt as they see the needs and that they have the resources to meet what they see?*

Steph also writes, so that you get a window into the world of these families:

Sometimes we feel just totally overwhelmed by the needs in our groups - it's like everyone has problems. On Tuesday, Amira was telling us that they will become homeless at the end of the month. Her husband has a back brace and is unable to work for 6 months so they can't pay the rent on their little shack which HE built on the top of a ramshackle building. I would hardly put a dog in it but she lives there with her husband and three children aged 5, 4 and 3 months. She has no idea where they will go in two weeks' time!! She is young - got married at 14 after her mother died and she needed to leave home. She has zero parenting skills and hits the children all the time (one of the team has been working with her on this and there is some change). We've been paying their transportation costs so they can come to the mainly music group - but what's that when they're about to become homeless!

There is so much need and you are contributing to the solution. Yes, it's a small solution for these families; but to the families who will attend, it will mean a huge amount to them. When we feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the situation, know that a group of mothers and children will be blessed, every week. And that the volunteers who are making themselves available know of your incredible generosity.

Thank you for being available to pray and thank you, once again, for your giving.

Yours sincerely


Jo Hood  
INTERNATIONAL CEO

## Visit to Onesua Presbyterian College, Efate, Vanuatu

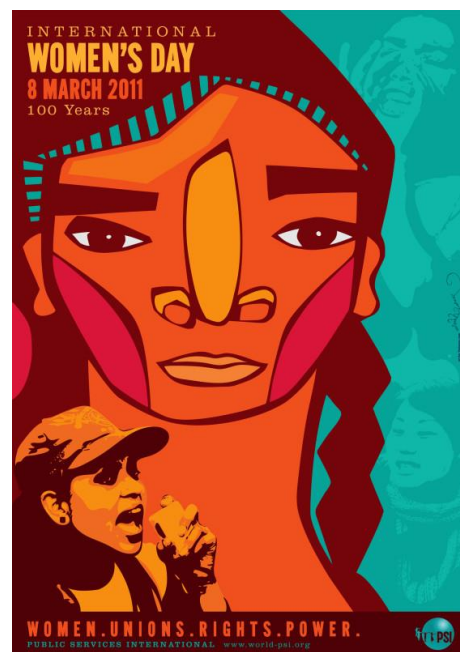
*Threads across the Pacific* originally developed as a response to the losses suffered by the Women of Vanuatu in Cyclone Pam, March 2015 and offers unemployed women of Vanuatu electric sewing machines, sewing supplies and introductory sewing workshops.

The project is primarily driven by Caroline Mason from Matamata with the voluntary assistance of others. She is about to lead the 5th trip to Vanuatu and with other NZ women take brand new electric sewing machines donated by New Zealanders, also fabric, thread, lace, zips, patterns etc. to groups of women and girls on Efate. Everything is donated and Kiwanis provide the shipping costs. Their next trip in early May is to Onesua Presbyterian College which has a sewing room and a sewing teacher and had two electric machines, both of which were destroyed in Cyclone Pam. Carolyn is in contact with the deputy principal and the sewing teacher organising their trip who say that 90 girls attend sewing and cooking classes at the college.

*Threads across the Pacific* will deliver between 20 and 24 machines, teach a 4 day workshop for 20 village women and after that the machines will remain at the school where the girls will use them in sewing classes and where the school has agreed to make them available to the community women every Saturday.

Carolyn is available in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty and says she is always keen to talk to groups of women about the project. She also would like to give the students their own sewing kit and needs cotton material, scissors suitable for fabric cutting, thread, pins, needles etc. Contact Carolyn if you'd like to know more on 07 8886647 or email [caroline@techmason.co.nz](mailto:caroline@techmason.co.nz) or  threads across the pacific

## International Women's Day Posters



German poster for International Women's Day, March 8, 1914, banned in Germany.