

In this Issue

- Thoughts Looking Forward
- Look Who's at the Well
- PWANZ AGM 2017
- PWANZ Executive Update
- WANTED – stories for Bushfire
- Mission Update
- United Nations Comment
- Call for 2018 UN Delegates

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Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ

November 2017



WE ARE at the Women's Assembly 3 - 5 November 2017, the Gathering at Burns Lodge where we shared our stories, sang and worshipped together. Our women journeyed to Mosgiel, some enabled to attend the gathering through donation and fund-raising to their travel fund. We were equipped, encouraged, and empowered.



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Thoughts Looking Forward from Erin

Dear Friends,

Women's Assembly has come and gone. I would like to take this opportunity to share a few reflections of the weekend we spent at the well.

Three of our speakers conveyed to me that they were not sure what they were coming to, with it being a PWANZ gathering. But that their involvement and the time spent in fellowship far exceeded their expectations. Comments from women who attended, well they were blown away by the calibre of the speakers we managed to attract for the weekend. Women gathering at the well.

There was a moment in the Saturday evening program where I turned and saw a group of four women in deep conversation. The group consisted of a year 12 student who attends a local girls school, a couple of very senior women and a young professional who attends a rural church. They were animated, and passionate as they talked and listened to each other crossing the generational divide. They were women at the well going on a journey together over the weekend – equipping, empowering and enabling each other.

Joy Cowley spoke twice and as her time concluded I asked Deborah Bower (our Keynote speaker) to pray for Joy. They connected at a spiritual level and then Joy asked if our Pasifika Women would gift her with song. Women gathering at the well

Over lunch on Saturday someone whispered in my ear that it was Gaye's birthday. So, at the start of the next session I mentioned it was someone's birthday. But this person stayed still and hid. But later that afternoon I spotted her. And before we broke for afternoon I asked everyone to sing happy birthday to Gaye. Happy Birthday is a commercial song made up for a movie. But when we sung it felt like we were joining with the angels as we blessed Gaye. I had shivers running down my spine. Later she said she had never had that many people sing to her. Women gathering at the well.

Thank you to Sandra who did the lion's share of the organising of the Women's Assembly. Thank you to the staff at Burns Lodge in Mosgiel for hosting us in such a special place. Thank you to our speakers who gave of themselves in such a deep and personal way. Thank you to Chel who led us to real places in worship. Thank you to those who came and joined us at the well. Many you travelled a long way at much expense. My prayer is that you met with God over the weekend and that you deepened your relationships with sisters in Christ at the Well.

Shalom

Erin

Look Who's At The Well - ARE YOU?

After the AGM we received a southern welcome and were piped into the venue and dinner which set the tone for the rest of the weekend with good food and company, laughter and learning and a feeling of solidarity as Presbyterian Women.

Right Rev. Richard Dawson braved the "all women" environment to talk on the early Christians and the pivotal role of women, Chel's lilting voice and piano playing led the singing in the Chapel. We sponsored 4 young women to join with us on Saturday to share the programme which included Joy Cowley, Lauren Harrigan, Deborah Bell and Karen Lister. We give thanks to Deborah Bower for her leadership and the lesson of the "Well", Jill McDonald for her sensitivity, Alofa Lale bringing her expertise and Pasifika treasure and Jin Sook Kim sharing her experience at United Nations in New York. We will remember too, the waiata sung by our sisters from PIC Porirua at a poignant moment to lift our spirit.

PWANZ AGM 2017

The Annual General Meeting held at Burns Lodge, Mosgiel in the Holy Cross Community Hall began at 4pm on Friday 3 November 2017. There were 48 attending, representing either themselves or their group which brought the quorum to over 200. Minutes 2017 (draft), and the Annual Report 2017 (including Financial Statements) are available from our PCANZ webpage, plus will be sent by email to members. If you require a hard-copy there will be a \$5 fee to cover printing and postage.

A question at the AGM was: where is the interest from tagged accounts of \$6,095 applied?

Bequests: \$3,771 interest from ASB accounts 81 & 83

Savings: \$2,324 interest from ASB accounts 72, 80, 82, 84 and Christian Savings account

The interest from our bank accounts is used as below.

ASB 72 account (\$5,530) - interest is applied to administration account each year.

ASB 80 account (\$15,000) - interest is applied to administration account each year.

ASB 81 Trust account (\$100,000) - interest is applied to UN travel account each year.

ASB 82 account (\$25,000) - interest is applied to administration account each year.

ASB 83 Trust account (\$10,000) - interest is applied to administration account each year.

ASB 84 account (\$16,500) - interest is applied to administration account each year

Christian Savings account (\$10,650) - interest is applied to administration account each year.

Administration includes all Executive expenses, travel, conferences and publications.

Please note that all funds received from members for mission (including sale of stamps, Mission Birthday Gifts, Emergency Aid, and Special Projects) are held in dedicated bank account for mission distribution only.

Remits The five remits put to the meeting were passed.

Clause 4.4 now reads: To set annual subscription rates subject to approval at the next Annual General Meeting, and other payments as necessary.

Clause 5.2 now reads: A member of PWANZ pays the annual subscription as set by the Executive and as agreed by the members at the Annual General Meeting.

Section 12: Financial arrangements

Clause 12.3.4 New clause now reads: That there will be three cheque signatories and any two of the three signatories will be needed to sign cheques.

This makes very clear the requirements for checks and balances over the finances.

Section 5 of the Terms of Reference 2016 be re-numbered to remove the double 5.2.

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ Executive Report

PWANZ Executive seeks an enthusiastic person to join their small team of six. ***Communications Convenor***, a new portfolio for an applicant with:

- an ability to use social media channels, digital tools and multi-media for marketing PWANZ; and
- the skills to initiate promotions for our mission projects, including content and resources to be distributed nationally.

For more information and job description, email pwanz2016@gmail.com

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.

WANTED – stories for Bushfire

At the Well in Mosgiel we talked and shared stories, found out what other groups do and thought what a good idea. **Please** send us your stories and a photo or two for Bushfire and our Facebook page so we can share that enthusiasm. We can also advertise upcoming events on Facebook. Send to Sandy pwanz2016@gmail.com or the Bushfire editor Sally sallyrussell@xtra.co.nz Deadlines below in the Calendar

Presbyterian Women – Funding Update

To the 31st October 2017, the fourth month of the current financial year to 30 June 2018, 286 financial members have contributed nearly \$12,000 in donations to mission.

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. Terms of Reference 2016 and Minutes of Meetings of your Executive are available on request to pwanz2016@gmail.com

2018 UN Delegation

Presbyterian Women invites applications from those wishing to be a self-funded member of the 2018 Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa NZ Delegation to the United Nations.

Do you have a passion for social justice, gender equity and the empowerment of women? CSW62 (2018) the sixty second session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 12 to 23 March 2018. See the UN Comment on page 6.

Calendar

December 2017

11 – Deadline for Bushfire material
15 -Bushfire release

February 2018

5 – Deadline for Bushfire material
9 -Bushfire release
17 – Executive meeting in Wellington

March 2018

5 – Deadline for Bushfire material
8 – International Women’s Day
9 - BushFire release

Missions

Sally Missions Convenor

“We Do” raise money for mission! Thank you, all our members and supporters who work hard to raise this money.

I try and report in Bushfire as I receive reports and information.

The focus of our fund raising each year is the Special Project which is a joint initiative with the Methodist Women’s Fellowship. Traditionally an overseas and a NZ projects have been selected with an alternating 70/30 split of funds. At the AGM we discussed a 50/50 split and there was overwhelming support for this, so I will talk over that with our Methodist partners.

It was a pleasure to have Dianne Claughton, President Methodist Women’s Federation at the AGM and for the entire weekend.

Last year we raised \$20,630 for the 2016/17 Special Project

- CWS and their partner Council of Protestant Churches (CEPAD) in Nicaragua, will fund more training programmes so young people and families can tackle the violence that is damaging their lives. \$14,441



Pauline McKay, Director CWS visited Nicaragua 28 – 30 August 2017 and reports: During my time I had a meeting with CEPAD staff and visited two projects. The focus of their programme is food security. CEPAD's horticulturalists have adapted their growing techniques to cope with the changing climate. Multi-cropping, careful water management and organic inputs are central to their conservation farming approach. Last year they built 57 micro dams in the 40 communities where they are currently working. CEPAD has a special focus on women. It has sent some up in small businesses selling handmade crafts like hair decorations, cards, and snacks. CEPAD trains young people to provide community counselling. Young women are particularly at risk. Abortion is illegal in Nicaragua, which also has a high rate of domestic and sexual violence and unwanted pregnancies. CEPAD staff told me there is a high rate of suicide among young women who find themselves pregnant.

- FASD-CAN works with families affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), a term that describes adverse development that can occur when a person is exposed to alcohol whilst in the womb. \$6,189

Last year we raised \$16,200 for Mission gifts.

- ✘ Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) through CWS \$5,000
- ✘ Hamlin Fistula NZ \$5,000 Working in Ethiopia has moved to primarily supporting midwifery centres.
- ✘ SAMOA VICTIM SUPPORT GROUP TOOMAGA MO E PUAPUAGATIA \$5,000
Their mission is to provide integrated, personalised, professional service to all survivors of crime.

United Nations Comment

Kia ora koutou

We thank Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand for appointing us as United Nations Co-convenors at the Annual General meeting in Mosgiel early in November.



From left: Mavis Duncanson, AnneMarie Tangney and Erin Pendreigh

In this first comment for Bushfire we would like to acknowledge the work done by the former Convenor, the Rev. Carol Grant and note our thanks for her support as we take on these responsibilities.

We are currently welcoming expressions of interest for Presbyterian Women to join a delegation led by AnneMarie to the 62nd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York next year (12-23 March 2018). The priority theme is 'Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls' with the review theme 'Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women.' Women of all ages with an interest or experience in one of these areas, a passion for social justice and the empowerment of women are welcome to contact us for further information am.tangney@googlemail.com mavis.duncanson@gmail.com Presbyterian women who cannot attend themselves may like to consider how to encourage and support someone in their community or congregation to consider the invitation.

We were privileged to meet some of you at the Women's Assembly in Mosgiel. For those we have yet to meet here is a little introduction:

Dr AnneMarie Tangney has been working in the primary health care sector since 1994 as a GP, medical forensic examiner of victims of sexual assault, medical officer in sexual health and police medical officer. She is a woman of faith and congregational member of Maori Hill Presbyterian Church's B@tch. As part of the church family over the years she has been involved with children's work, Pacific mission (Vanuatu 2016), and more recently in the music worship group and leading prayers for others. AnneMarie attended CSW59 in 2015 and has shared the information and observations she made through that valuable experience with a variety of groups.

Dr Mavis Duncanson has been working in public health research and policy in New Zealand for several years. Her work includes producing the NZ Child Poverty Monitor technical report. Much of her work aligns well with the UN goals for sustainable development call to action in every nation to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Mavis is a member of Knox Church Dunedin. Since returning from CSW60 last year, she has enjoyed meeting with several Presbyterian congregations and women's groups to share the experience.

We look forward to serving Presbyterian Women in this role and to working together for the empowerment of women and girls within our church, in New Zealand and around the world.

AnneMarie Tangney
Mavis Duncanson
November 2017