

Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand

October 2016

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About us

Coordinator

Rev Erin Pendreigh
22 Naish St, Balclutha 9230
Mobile: 027 774 1457
Phone: 0800 335948
Email: missionadvisor@synod.org.nz

Administrator

Sandra Waldrom
PO Box 17427, Karori
Wellington 6147
Mobile: 027 702 9386
Email: pwanz2016@gmail.com

Missions Convenor

Sally Russell
35 Breadalbane Road
Havelock North 4130
Home: 06 877 6027
Mobile: 021 129 9608
Email: sallyrussell@xtra.co.nz

United Nations Convenor

Rev Carol Grant
35 Sutcliffe Street, St Clair
Dunedin 9012
Home: 03 425 8865
Mobile: 027 296 2011
Email: nandcg@clear.net.nz

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

Fifty-one attendees from as far north as Brown's Bay in Auckland, Waikato, Hawkes Bay, Wanganui, Manawatu, Wellington and in the south from Nelson, Christchurch, Central Otago to Dunedin gathered at St John's in the City, Wellington on Saturday 24 September. Discussions followed the presentation of Officers' reports, election of the Executive and passing of new Terms of Reference. More news on future action plans to be released.

The afternoon programme included exercising of our preconceptions, drama talent and dance step co-ordination with presentations by:

Mira Karunanidhi, a year-12 student from Queen Margaret College on the topic "Stand Up for Racial Unity,

Dr Mavis Duncanson, a member of the March 2016 delegation to New York, and

Ani Prasad, licensed Zumba instructor.





STOP PRESS – PWANZ Call for Nominations to the Executive

At the AGM a motion was put and agreed that: a call for nominations for up to three people to join the Executive be advertised by the end of October 2016, at least one of whom will be a Pacific Island (PI) representative.

We are looking for people with the passion and skills to help us as we move forward and seek to add diversity to the team, and complement the skills of the current members. We require women who:

- have good communication skills
- will commit to four meetings a year
- are able to liaise with our different and diverse members eg Maori/Asian/rural/co-operating parishes/ younger women
- will liaise with the PI community and represent their viewpoint
- who can help develop our new digital communications such as website
- can assist the Mission Convenor with projects focusing on the Pacific
- can develop a PI scholarship
- have the organisational ability to manage a portfolio of work
- who will contribute to our goals
- who support promoting a woman's voice in the church and community in support of our Mission Statement: "Serving God locally and globally with love."

Do you know someone who can contribute with some of these or other skills? The person can be from the wider Presbyterian family so please think widely and creatively.

Nominations/applications have to be made by 31 October 2016 to Sandra Waldrom, PWANZ Administrator at pwazn2016@gmail.com

Please provide the nominated person's name, contact details, CV and letter to include their relevant skills and church involvement.

United Nations CSW61 Delegation in March 2017

Letters of application with your CV are now due from those who have already expressed an interest, or those who still wish to join the PWANZ delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women CSW 61 in New York from the 13 to 24 March 2017.

The CSW61 registration process at the UN begins in November. PWANZ are entitled to take a delegation of twenty but may be asked to limit numbers.

PWANZ were the largest NGO delegation from NZ last year.

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.

Main costs for delegation members are flights, accommodation and a daily allowance. I negotiate a contract for hotel rooms near the UN for delegation members only. Enjoying New York sights, winter sales, or a show on Broadway are entirely optional!

Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from all regions of the world attend the session.

The CSW61 **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 google these web sites they will give you a good insight into the Commission.

www.unwomen.org

www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016

www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw61-2017

[www. https://ecumenicalwomen.org](http://www.https://ecumenicalwomen.org)

If you have already expressed interest, thank you. I will contact you directly.

For more information please email Carol Grant: nandcg@clear.net.nz

Full letters of application and CV's to be emailed by Monday 14th November 2016.



At the AGM Dr Mavis Duncanson led a discussion on the UN sustainable development goals. Mavis was a member of the 2016 delegation to the UN.

Recent Facebook Postings

Sometimes we find out about interesting speakers or events late and the quickest way to advertise them is on our facebook page, or we have video footage which is very interesting and the only way to see them is on our computers/tablets/phones.

Mira Karunanidhi Runner up Schools Poetry Award 2016 with *The Universe* - Sept 13

Napier mother says raising a fetal alcohol spectrum disorder child is a 'life sentence' in a video interview Sept 14 – from stuff.co.nz

UNHCR the UN's refugee agency's DVD - Cate Blanchett performs the rhythmic poem 'What They Took With Them' alongside fellow actors Keira Knightley, Juliet Stevenson, Peter Capaldi, Stanley Tucci, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Kit Harington, Douglas Booth, Jesse Eisenberg and Neil Gaiman. – Sept 21

WCC General Secretary, Rev Dr Olav Fyske Tveit visits Dunedin, Christchurch and Auckland - Oct 5

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Mission Update

Change Makers Refugee Forum in Wellington provides volunteers to teach driving skills to refugee woman. The programme came from discussions from women who said that getting their drivers licence was their top priority towards living their lives like other New Zealand women. The volunteer is trained in guiding a learner driver and working with a woman who is from a non-English speaking background. The project has been operating for the last three years and supports 21 women each year. PWANZ will provide the fees and costs for one of these women to gain her full drivers licence.

Listen to Radio New Zealand's coverage on the programme [here](#).



Presbyterian Women – Funding Update

As at 30 September 2016, the end of the first quarter of the new financial year ended 30 June 2017; over two hundred members have paid their affiliation fees. These contributions to PWANZ accounting now for over \$1,500 in membership plus almost \$9,500 gifted to mission. Contributions have been recorded from eighteen groups, two Presbyteries and twelve individual members.

Membership of Presbyterian Women

Do you know a member of your congregation who would like to join Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand for just \$10 per year?

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