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Bush Fire

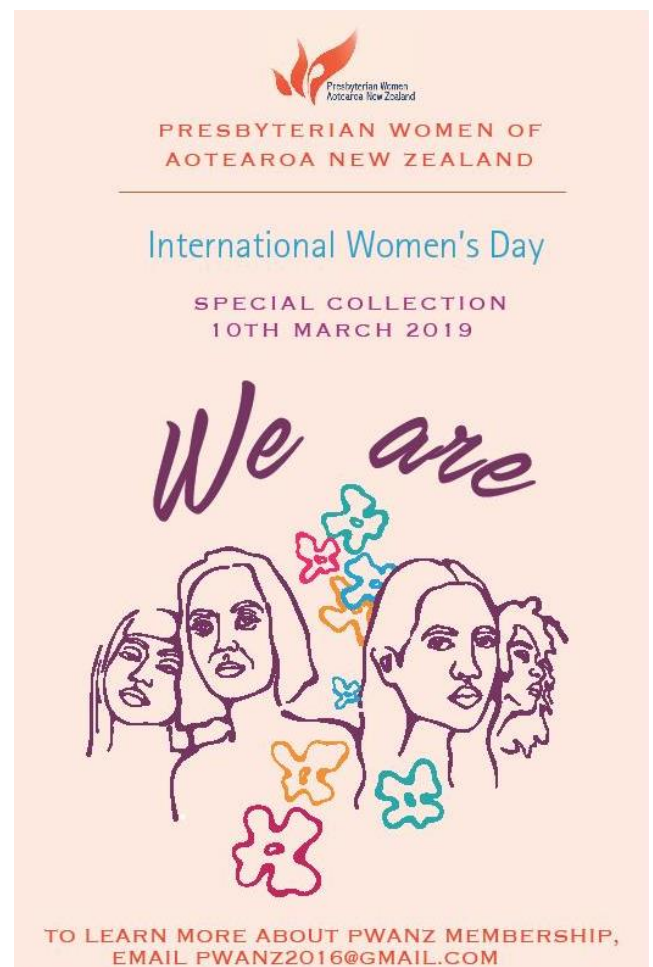
Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ
February 2019

PWANZ Special Collection 10 March 2019

International Women’s Day on 8 March 2019 celebrates the social, cultural, economic and political achievements of women across the globe.

The Executive team of PWANZ promote the activities of Presbyterian women, and focus on building capacity for women and girls in the Church. Particular emphasis is placed upon the roles of women to promote their voice and leadership within the Church and the wider community.

PWANZ need your support, and ask that a retiring collection be taken on Sunday 10 March 2019 as contributions will enable our administration and activities to continue over the next twelve months. Thank you for your generous support of the PWANZ Executive in your contribution to our mission.



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PWANZ Special Collection 10 March 2019

International Women's Day on 8 March 2019 celebrates the social, cultural, economic and political achievements of women across the globe. But far from singling out women, the day focuses on unity, equality and advocacy – especially in a world where the differences and injustices between women and men are as great as ever.

The first International Women's Day was celebrated in 1911 and belongs to all communities everywhere, enabling us to play a purposeful part in pressing for gender parity

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa reminds you that the General Assembly 2016 recommended: *That a PWANZ Special Collection be taken on the Sunday nearest to International Women's Day each March to support the ongoing advocacy role of Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand locally, regionally, internationally, as well as at the United Nations.*

We need funds to expand the work we do – we send delegations to the UN, we held inspiring gatherings around the country with more events planned this year – we all have lots of ideas and even though we are frugal it all costs. We get no funds from PCANZ and we are asking parishes to support us.

Please help – talk to your Minister, Session Clerk and Church Council and ask them for a direct donation. Talk to your congregation and ask them to support the special collection. Be enthusiastic.

Notice has been sent out to your Parish Session Clerk with a Poster and information for Treasurers to process donations to PWANZ. For more information email: pwanz2016@gmail.com

2019 Executive News

PWANZ Executive regret that we have cancelled our Gathering at St John's in the City, Wellington on Saturday 23 March 2019, as this clashed with the Central presbytery Gathering.

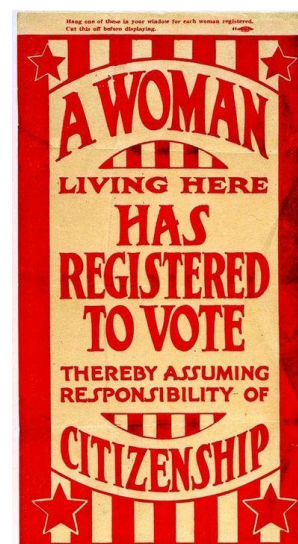
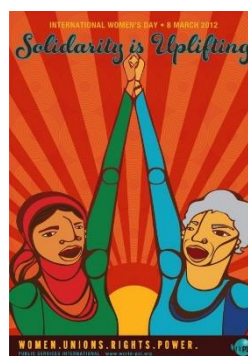
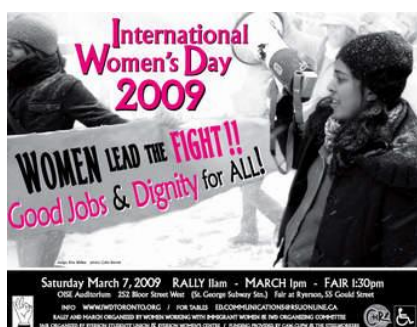
The Women's Assembly programme (with funding from CWM) will be available soon. Watch for more details about a Gathering in Kaimai and Central Presbyteries.

International Women's Day Breakfast at Parliament

Tickets are available for the Grand Hall where large screens will be set up, and you'll be able to participate in the event via the livestreaming. Tickets for the Grand Hall can be purchased through [Events Pronto link](#) (no direct credit or cash) for \$40 each.

Keynote speakers for this year's event are:

The Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Hon Julie Anne Genter, Minister for Women and leading employment rights lawyer and Wellingtonian of the year Steph Dyhrberg. The breakfast is hosted by the Hon Julie Anne Genter, Minister for Women



Being in the Story

Presbyterian Women in Ministry Retreat

22nd-23rd May 2019 in Wellington



PCANZ released research on ordained women in ministry entitled 'Women of the Burning Bush: Still Burning 25 Years On' by Dr Vivienne Adair, last year. The research gives the overall impression of a highly committed, strong and resilient group of women who are passionate about the ministry path that we have been called to. However, there is still dissatisfaction with the status of women in the church, that there are still significant leadership areas where women are not visible. In response, at GA18 35 women - both lay and ordained (plus 2 men) shared some of their own experiences of being women in ministry in PCANZ. There is a strong appetite to do something about gender inequality in our church.

Date and Time: Wednesday 22 May 1pm – Thursday 23 May 2pm

Venue: Our Lady's Home of Compassion, 2 Rhine St, Island Bay Wellington

Cost: \$150 if you want to stay in (there are 25 rooms available at \$70 and 1 at \$110 - among the 25 rooms there are 6 twin rooms which could be shared at \$50 per person). Includes breakfast
\$70 if you stay elsewhere

Please register your expression of interest to jill@standrewshastings.org.nz indicating whether you seek accommodation or not. You will be notified of payment arrangements and programme once this is finally confirmed.

Central News – Waitangi Day



Faaolataga Leasi, President PWANZ (on the right) and Sandra Waldrom, Administrator PWANZ were privileged to attend a reception at Government House in Wellington on Waitangi Day, 2019 hosted by Her Excellency Dame Patsy Reddy.

Many people from all over Aotearoa NZ enjoyed an afternoon of entertainment, and hospitality including high school students (and their teacher), early childhood teachers, plus charitable trust volunteers, on the lawn in the sun.

Northern Ambassador – Mi Song

The Executive received with mixed feelings notice from our Northern Ambassador – Mi Song: "I have a big change next year. I decided to go to Korea with all my family next year for over 6 months from mid of February 2019. I couldn't visit Korea in the last 10 years and all my children (except my elder daughter when her age was 2 years old) didn't visit Korea before. I am so happy to do the role of Ambassador in PWANZ. So please let me know anything I can before mid of February next year."

We wish Mi Song and her family all the best in their travels and look forward to their return to Aotearoa. If you would like to support Rae Simpson, Northern Ambassador at Northern Presbytery meetings and events in the Auckland region on behalf of PWANZ, contact pwanz2016@gmail.com

Petition – Abortion in New Zealand

If you or your Group wish to participate in the current discussion on the proposed changes to “Abortion in New Zealand” access the following web-site for more information.

https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/petitions/document/PET_82721/petition-of-kate-cormack-for-we-deserve-better-address?signed=true

Presbyterian Women – Membership

Join Presbyterian Women for just \$10 per year? Join now at this reduced rate till 30 June 2019. NB: Following the recommendation at the AGM 2018, individual membership will increase to \$20 per annum from 1 July 2019. Membership includes:

- BushFire newsletter;
- a vote at the Annual General Meeting;
- participation in PWANZ's submissions to Parliamentary Select Committees;
- a voice advocating for women and women's rights in the wider church;
- joining an organisation with Special Consultative Status at the United Nations and sends an annual delegation to the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW);

Annual General Meeting 2019

Whakatu in Songer Street Stoke, Nelson will host the AGM of PWANZ over the weekend of 13 and 14 September 2019. The programme, and meeting papers will be available closer to the time, but this is early notice to put the date in your diary, book travel and organise accommodation.

Mission News

Special Project

I have posted out the special project package to many groups but need your name and address as our database is not up to date. Email pwanz2016@gmail.com for your group's copy.



Zimbabwe Rural Schools Libraries Trust is helping children in rural Zimbabwe to change their world by providing reading materials to establish libraries in rural Zimbabwe - helping the nation's next generation of change makers to improve their literacy and hence employment prospects - enabling them to create a sustainable future for themselves. Zimbabwean rural schools usually have very few or no school library books. PWANZ made a donation last year towards sending a container of

donated books from Rotorua and the Waikato to Zimbabwe.

8th January 2019

Dear Sally,

Compliments of the new season from the Zimbabwe Rural Schools Library Trust. We don't forget the support you gave us at our hour of need with the ending of the year.

Just a quick update - the books were cleared after some delays, but schools had closed when we finally got possession of the books and computers. The books have now all be allocated to the benefiting schools, and a handover of the books by the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education is being planned for towards the end of January 2019. We will certainly share images from the handover ceremony.

The Zimbabwe Rural Schools Library Trust wishes Presbyterian Women Association a successful 2019.

Driden Kunaka

Chair A

Zimbabwe Rural Schools Library Trust New Zealand

UN Women urges leaders and advocates to “Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change” on International Women’s Day

The United Nations’ gender equality entity puts spotlight on public services, income security, safe spaces and technology to advance progress for women and girls

(New York)— In celebration of International Women’s Day on 8 March, UN Women is celebrating its 2019 theme of “[Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change](#)”, along with hosting hundreds of festivities around the world through the organization’s global network. An official commemoration event is also being held at the UN Headquarters in New York that features UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and other senior UN officials as well as innovation leaders and gender experts.

“When we approach planning with an innovative, ‘think equal’ mindset that takes the needs of women and girls into account right from inception, it is remarkable how different those plans can look, whether it is urban planning that designs for commuter safety, rural daycare centres that offer workers positive solutions for childcare, or the use of biometrics as ID to replace formal registration documents that many women may not have or control,” commented UN Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. “We look to industry leaders, game-changing start-ups, social entrepreneurs, gender equality activists and women innovators to find the ways in which innovation can remove barriers and accelerate progress for gender equality,” she said.

UN Women research indicates that 740 million women currently make their living in the informal economy with limited access to social protection, public services and infrastructure that could increase their productivity and income security.

For example, women do [2.6 times](#) more unpaid care and domestic work than men, with only 41 per cent of the world’s mothers with newborns receiving maternity benefits. One in three women are likely to face violence in their lifetimes, yet public services, urban planning and transport systems are rarely planned with women’s safety and mobility in mind. Therefore, this year’s focus brings innovation to the centre stage and leverages it for gender equality and women’s empowerment globally.

“Because current trajectories show existing interventions do not suffice to achieve a planet 50-50 by 2030, the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), the UN’s road map for a sustainable future by 2030, requires transformative shifts, integrated approaches and new solutions. This is particularly true when it comes to [SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls](#),” continued Mlambo-Ngcuka.

Immediately following International Women’s Day is the [63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#), being held 11-22 March and focusing its priority theme on “social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.”

Presbyterian Women delegation to 63rd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63)



Ten women will be delegates from Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand to CSW63 from 11-22 March 2019. We will be among at least 20 other New Zealand women attending with UN accredited NGOs and among over 6000 women from around the world in New York at this time. Many of us will attend the Ecumenical Women orientation day on Saturday 9th March.

On Monday 11th March we will be presenting a parallel event which aims to raise awareness of gender equity across the life course. **You can contribute by sending examples of older women who bring life to your community** to mavisj.duncanson@gmail.com We will also appreciate examples of ways that Presbyterian Women are active in civil society addressing age and gender-based discrimination.

All readers of Bushfire can follow events at CSW63 via social media (Twitter #CSW63 #EcumenicalWomen, or follow on Facebook Ecumenical Women, United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and of course our own Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand). We have also had warm greetings from Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church USA who also have a Facebook page. To read about the experience of women who have attended past CSW meetings see the UN CSW reports at <https://bit.ly/2KjkrUz>

It is not too early to be thinking about CSW64. In 2020, the global community will mark the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The main focus of CSW64 in March 2020 will be a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and assessment of progress toward the achievement of gender equality in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Please encourage women of all ages to consider being part of our 2020 delegation and to contact the joint UN Convenors for further information am.tangney@gmail.com mavisj.duncanson@gmail.com



CWS stands with Tribal and Dalit girls and young women on Valentine's Day. With [One Billion Rising](#) we stand firm against violence and demand space for women's voices. Well done EKTA - one of our partners working for gender justice in South India.