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Presbyterian Women
Aotearoa NZ

October 2019



PWANZ Annual General Meeting “Reconnect & Build Capacity”

Te Kotahitanga a Hinengaro a tinana a Wairua

President's Column

Kia ora! Bula vinaka! Warm Greetings in the mighty name of Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

AGM at Nelson; 13th – 15th Sept. *Sometimes the simplest things mean the most,* we wish to thank the Whakatū Presbyterian Women's Fellowship and the Nelson Presbyterial for hosting this AGM. For some of us this was our first time in Nelson.

At the conclusion of the AGM, we acknowledged the outstanding skills and tireless service of Sandra Waldrom as the administrator, with the loving support of husband David Ensor. Sandra, we are in awe of your productive commitment thus we truly appreciate all you have done to help us get to the next level. We'll continue to seek your advice and guidance towards our work forward. In addition, we also acknowledged the vast experiences of Sally Russell; former Mission Convenor; who produced and organized missions and funds to donate to a number of special projects nationwide. We understand how much you wish to continue on fulfilling the role since you're blessed with mission mind with mission action, thus your mission input is mostly needed to guide the next level of our work.

On the same note, we welcomed on board Ruth Steven (Administrator), Tracey Sa (Mission Convenor) and Ida Faiumu-Isaako (Communication Convenor).

Lastly, I wish to add on to AnneMarie's list of 'honoring women' Lafulafu Ikenasio, being the Executive Convener at the time, who hosted exec meetings and a AGM at their church and drove us in times of struggle and trials with Rev. Shona Bethan until settlement platform has merged as where we are now.

President Faaoletaga (Ola) Leasi Porirua 021 083 70303 perfaaleasi@gmail.com	Administrator Ruth Steven pwanz2016@gmail.com	Human Rights Convenor Tausala Iosefa Palmerston North 021 2080 857 tausala.iosefa@gmail.com	United Nations Convenors AnneMarie Tangney 021 069 6953 am.tangney@gmail.com Mavis Duncanson 022 028 7005 mavisj.duncanson@gmail.com Both Dunedin	Missions Convenor Tracey Sa	Communications Ida Faiumu-Isaako
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President's Column



White Camellia Awards 2019 - 17th Sept at Parliament. An invitation from the Honorable Julie Anne Genter Minister for Women to *honor business, promoting gender equity through the Women's Empowerment Principles*. Traci Houpapa (Award winning company Director) and Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit was the keynote speaker. Afoga Saunoamaalii Dr. Karanina Sumeo; EEO Commissioner presented the Awards. Vicky Mee, Chair, with Sue Kedgley of the NZ WEPs Committee (Women Empowerment Principles) welcomed us and announced the Awards. Finally, the supreme winner went to AIA New Zealand, for its commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment. This was the result of surveys undertaken by NZ Work Research Institute of AUT University, on behalf of NZ WEPs, to uncover policies and practices of NZ's largest organisations in the application of the 7 UN WEPs. The hosts/sponsors were UN Women Aotearoa New Zealand, HR Commission, BPW NZ and ZONTA Inc. Joining with me at this event was Judith Dunlop.



Central Presbytery – Hastings 20th to 21st September

I supported a presentation by Sally Russell and Rizwaana Latiff on "**Welcoming the Others**" - '*Diversity creates dimension. It's our differences, not our similarities that bring us together!*' Rizwaana is a midwife, community leader and President of the Multicultural Association Hawkes Bay, and a leader in their Women's Wellbeing Framework. Our Sally Russell, who worked as a rural development advisor in Zimbabwe and China, on the board of Christian World Service and is a previous secretary and treasurer of the Multicultural Association Hawke. The highlight was our responses to the presenters' question '**Why did March 15th rock the very core of New Zealand?**'



I observed a significant silence as we reflected back on the shocking news and emotions that rocked the whole nation of faith communities – and whether or not *safety in worshiping* primarily considered by our Presbyteries Gatherings.

NZMWF National Council Meeting – “Chosen and called to proclaim life and hope for women and children” 27TH – 29TH Sept, at Kings College; South Auckland. It was such a blessing to be invited to this gathering by President; Siniva Vaitohi. I was thrilled by the massive attendance of council members nationally and it was a full on gathering with praise & worship, prayers, Bible studies, choral singing and so forth. For SP Special Project 2019-2020, the council came to an agreement to the 50/50 split (as per recommendations by the SP Group with Sally our rep) being distributed to St. John Ambulance Service as the National Project and Palestinian Women & Children (International project). Eric Park; Relational Co-ordinator, CWS (Christian World Service) accepted these donations from both NZMWF & PWANZ. As well as a printed message (on a circular) from Dr. Bernard Sabella; Executive secretary DSPR central office in Jerusalem; “*Although you are all at the furthest distance from the Holy Land, yet your caring, payers and overall support have always been with us [DSPR]... thank you to Methodist and Presbyterian Women (NZ) intent on making differences in our world...*” on behalf of DSPR (Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees) of the Middle East Council of Churches, on a distributed circular. I honoured Rev. Dr. Mary Elizabeth Caygill, for an impressive Bible study, *The story of the 2 sisters from Bethany, Mary and Martha*; which randomly illustrate how Pasifika women prefer mostly to serve from the kitchen regardless, as a sign of respect and humility. Again, I humbly accepted the opportunity to speak, emphasizing that if Leaders can Reconnect, we would then be able to Embrace stories and visions so we can Embrace members and future missions – REE. Being in the entire council meeting/gatherings, had significantly strengthen my leadership experiences and to believe that we can learn from each other and discuss ways to improve collaboration across Women of Faith sector.

I am in awe of the angelic singing of the Tongan Women’s Choirs at the concluding service, led by NZMC President Rt Rev. Setaita Veikune QSM with an encouraging sermon. Indeed, I acknowledged the President elect Tuituivao Salevao; *la manua lou tulai mai i le tofi*. More often, the regularity of fellowshiping and gathering of PWANZ and NZMWF will enhance spirit of sisterhood. Not only embracing the past but taking on board the contributions and the talents of our young women/daughters, to lead the way forward. *Malo ‘aupito, Vinaka vaka levu, Faafetai tele lava*, Siniva Vaitohi, our Mother Hilila Kilikiti and your Executive Team.



Missions Convenor

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. (Psalms 139:14)

Greetings in the Name of our precious Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! Born and bred in Wellington and a proud parishioner of the Pacific Island Presbyterian Church, Newtown, Wellington. I am excited to be part of the PWANZ Executive Team as the new Missions Convenor. My prayer is to create a new journey of prosperity and create empowerment for all women in Aotearoa. I hope to meet you soon in the future.

Blessings

Tracey Sa

Thanks from our Special Project Partners

Thank you for working so faithfully to support the Special Project and remembering Christian World Service in your prayers. We value our special relationship with you. Much has happened in Uganda and in Fiji thanks to your donations and hard work. In 2017-8 you raised \$20,095 for rainwater tanks in South Uganda. It was enough to pay for half of 54 rainwater tanks, the rest is paid for by the caregiver of the children orphaned by HIV and AIDS. The Centre for Community Solidarity is most grateful for your hard work. Now with rainwater tanks, the children will be clean and able to go to school. Instead of spending hours each day on trips to collect water, they have more time to help in the family garden and do other chores. The families value your support that makes this possible.

You have just completed your fundraising efforts for SEEP, the Social Empowerment Education Programme in Fiji. On July 1, they began a new cycle of work with some initial funding from CWS. The newly trained Community Graduates and Community Facilitators have begun visiting the 36 communities with whom they will work in the coming years. They have spent two weeks in Bua, Tailevu and Naitasiri developing community profiles and maps. It is early days yet.

2019-2020 Special Project

The project with our Methodist sisters this year focuses on the St John Ambulance service (note: in Wellington the funds will go to the Wellington Free Ambulance) and the work with refugees in Palestine.



The women pictured are learning to read and write. Girls and women young and old sit side by side. The parents of the young Palestinian women on the left kept her home from school for the last five years concerned for her safety. The programme run by DSPR has opened new opportunities for them – something that makes them very happy.

This year the Special Project is raising funds for the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees' (DSPR) work with women and children. In 1948, an estimated 700,000 Palestinians fled or were forced from their homes when Israel declared independence. They look back and call the time Nakba or catastrophe.

Local churches gave help, expecting it to be for a short time. Instead they have never been able to return home. Many of the older Palestinians remember times when they lived in villages together as Christians, Muslims and Jews. The population has grown and now more than 5 million are refugees. DSPR grew out of the work the churches began. They have made education, medical care and support for their people – Christian and Muslim. They are well respected for the work they do.

The region has changed a lot since the Bible was written, but there is much that is familiar – places like Bethlehem and Nazareth, Jerusalem and the Jordan river. Who has been there? What is it like?

DSPR works through local committees in Galilee (working with Arab and Palestinian displaced people), Gaza, Lebanon, Jordan and the West Bank.

It is important to remember there have been Christians living there since the time of Jesus. Their voice is not always heard, and they like all Palestinians have been facing more discrimination under Israeli Occupation. However, 10 years ago, they gathered to write a document they called Kairos Palestine. They asked the international community to stand with them:

"We proclaim our word based on our Christian faith and our sense of Palestinian belonging – a word of faith, hope and love.

We declare that the military occupation of Palestinian land constitutes a sin against God and humanity. Any theology that legitimizes the occupation and justifies crimes perpetrated against the Palestinian people lies far from Christian teachings.

We urge the international community to stand with the Palestinian people in their struggle against oppression, displacement, and apartheid."



Here for Life

Ambulance services

24 hours a day, seven days a week

St John operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We use ambulances, four-wheel drive vehicles, rapid response units, motorcycles and other specialist vehicles to ensure we can reach people at any hour of the day in almost any terrain, weather or situation.



United Nations Commission on the Status of Women - CSW64 2020



The sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in March 9-20th 2020. Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from all regions of the world will attend the session.

Priority theme:

This event will mark 25 years since the 4th World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. UN Women describe 2020 as a pivotal year for the accelerated realisation of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,

PWANZ Delegate Attributes

You will:

- have passion for social justice, gender equity and the empowerment of women
- Personal independence, self-motivation, an acceptance of diversity and passion for gender justice.
- Ability to self-fund travel, accommodation, food, transportation, sightseeing for the 2 weeks (often this is approx. 5-6 thousand dollars)
- have the willingness to share what you have learnt when you return.

Expectations of Delegates

This opportunity is not a conference with prepared papers or a guided tour. It is a focused UN Commission where Governments are held to account, policy decisions are made, and progress is reviewed. As a PWANZ delegate to CSW64 you will be able to fully participate in all aspects of the Commission, pre-event orientation, advocacy sessions, formal sessions at the United Nations, panel discussions/workshops, briefings and receptions.

Daily activities of CSW64 delegates are supplemented with parallel events of civil society and side events of UN entities, where delegates may have extraordinary access to senior policy makers, diplomats, legislators, journalists and leaders of non-governmental and ecumenical organisations and opportunities to network with representative from all around the world

Please send a brief CV and cover letter with answers to the following:

1 Why you hope to be a member of the 2020 Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa New Zealand delegation?

2 What aspects of gender justice, gender equality or the empowerment of women and girls are you particularly interested in?

3 On your return how do you intend to share the knowledge gained in practical ways with other women and girls and the good men who support the empowerment of women?

4. Do you have any ties to the Presbyterian Church? Are you a woman of faith?

**It is helpful to know one's background faith-wise and if one's views/faiths align with that of the Presbyterian Church.

Email your CV and cover letter to PWANZ UN co-convenors:

AnneMarie Tangney: am.tangney@gmail.com and Mavis Duncanson: mavisi.duncanson@gmail.com