

BushFire

The Panui of
Presbyterian Women
Aotearoa NZ

February 2021



Tena kotou! Shalom! Talofa lava! Bula vinaka and Welcome to our first Panui edition of 2021. We arrived safe at this recovery level of covid impact which hit us with immense changes whilst being engaged in serving God as women of faith. We discern the spirit of your prayers, thank you for sending messages of hope and of course, acknowledging your vast roles in serving God in parishes and Presbyterian communities.

It is with hope that this year's calendar would bring us good tidings to empower us to a fresh start. Since Christmas and over the holiday I had met up with some senior members (APW then) and meeting new/young mothers willing to join PWANZ. Drawing near to Lent season of *giving up in* order to recognise our need for repentance to God.

Coming up in March, is the World Day of Prayer (WDoP) on Fridayth5 and the IWD (International Women's Day) on Mon 8th – I will attend this event at parliament on your behalf and will also be on live streaming. More news and information coming up in our next monthly panui once again; *'We cannot do anything on our strength, only the Grace of God is sufficient'* (2Cor 12:9).

Faaolataga-Ola Lea

National President



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United Nations update

The sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65) will take place from 15-26 March 2021 and will consider the priority theme of "Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls". The session will also review the agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session, "Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development".

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CSW65 is scheduled to take place on a virtual platform (including the general discussion, ministerial round tables and interactive events). There is no expectation of travel to UNHQ in New York. All side events and parallel events will take place fully virtually.

Registration is open until 22 February 2021. Registration on the Indico platform will enable participants to receive information about preparatory activities as well as information about virtual formal and informal meetings and opportunities for interaction, including social media mobilization, directly to their registered email addresses.

Our sisters in Ecumenical Women are organising several related events. Because these will be led by women around the globe, all time zones will be included.

You can follow CSW65 on Twitter and Facebook: https://twitter.com/UN_CSW and <https://facebook.com/UNCSW>

For more information please email mavisj.duncanson@gmail.com



Introducing The Rubbish Challenge

10 Steps to Less Waste in 10 Months

A resource for churches and whanau. Please copy and share (free copyright).

More material and videos at: www.conversations.net.nz/rubbish-challenge.html

Written by Silvia Purdie

The 'Why?'

We all know that we make too much rubbish. Too much goes in the red bin, off to landfill. Too much stuff is only made for one use before getting chucked. Too much recycling gets contaminated and dumped. Not enough stuff gets composted.

This is not just a problem for our city councils. It is a problem for God's creation, and so it is a problem for God and God's people. We all add to landfill waste and so we all get to share in solving the problem. Could this even be a way of serving God? Could it be a face of mission in 2021?

The 'How?'

How? By taking small steps.

To cut down on our rubbish, we think about what we use and where it goes. We make choices, about what to buy and how to dispose of what we don't want any more.

The Rubbish Challenge is a series of little actions, one each month. Together they add up to a big impact.

The Rubbish Challenge is a brief resource for churches, groups, families and individuals, designed to fit into a newsletter. Each month there'll be thought, a verse, a prayer, and a practical task to do. Plus links to more material.

Please copy and share on your newsletter, website and facebook page, and encourage it to be copied into parish newsletters.

10 Steps over 10 Months:

- Step 1) February: Consider
- Step 2) March: Measure
- Step 3) April: Recycling
- Step 4) May: Disposables
- Step 5) June: Food
- Step 6) July: Paper Towels
- Step 7) August: Office
- Step 8) September: Kids
- Step 9) October: Cleaning
- Step 10) November: Celebrate

Step 1) February: Consider

Bible verse: *Ephesians 1:22*

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything.

'Big Idea': *Mission is Gospel in Context*

Christ is Lord of everything and the Gospel of Christ is good news for every-where.

Mission happens at the points of connection between the eternal truth of salvation and the messy specifics of human life. In our time we face huge environmental issues. Following Jesus takes us where ever he leads, even into the rubbish dumps of the world.

Questions - *for reflection & discussion*

Whose problem is our rubbish? Is it a problem for God?

It's great to throw things in the bin and someone else takes it away ... but where does it go? What impact does it have on the environment? Is it our responsibility?

Is this something our church/group/home would like to address this year?

Action Steps *for February*

1. Download the 'Waste' study guide from A Rocha's 'Rich Living' series:
www.arochoa.org.nz/resources/rich-living-series
2. Read and talk about with others
3. Watch Silvia's short video at: www.conversations.net.nz/rubbish-challenge.html
4. Decide to do the Rubbish Challenge 10 Steps this year.
For a church this could involve taking a formal proposal to the leadership/Council.

Prayer

Almighty Creator, all things come from you. You call us to be responsible stewards.
Jesus Christ, you are in all the world. You call us into mission to all the world.
Life-giving Spirit, give us strength to follow Christ, in the little things and in the big things.
Amen.



Information from the World Council of Churches

Dear Colleagues, Friends and Partners in Ministry

Blessings to you, your family and your constituency. I pray you all are well in body mind and spirit. There is time-sensitive information being shared with you, and so we ask that you bear with us for sending this update so quickly after the previous month's.

Covid-19

The ravages of Covid-19 continue globally, leaving a swathe of unemployment, domestic abuse, violence and trauma in its wake in addition to the deterioration of physical health. We urge you to practice every safety measure recommended by reputable sources, and to be considerate of those who are vulnerable.

- Week of Prayers to commemorate Covid-19 Lockdown

Although Covid-19 entered human space in 2019, the global impact spread in March 2020. Subsequently, the WCC will commemorate the first anniversary of Covid-19's global impact with a week of prayer March 22 to 26, 2021. We will share liturgies and supporting materials for your consideration and appropriation. More details will follow soon.

- Covid-19 Support Team

Please be reminded that the WCC has a Covid-19 support team available to share/receive updates, information and best practices from your contexts. More information may be found via <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/covid-19> and questions or best practices may be shared via covid19support@wcc-coe.org

- Thursdays in Black

Our Thursdays in Black campaign continues to gain momentum globally and we look forward to engaging you in various ways this year. Please continue to upload your pictures and stories to social media.

- Thursdays in Black Waterfall Exhibit

With the deferral of the WCC assembly to 2022, the deadline for the quilt pieces has also been extended. For more details on the dimensions of the quilt pieces, you may refer to <https://www.oikoumene.org/news/contribute-to-a-thursdays-in-black-global-exhibit-waterfall-of-solidarity-and-resistance>

Please join us for our Third Thursdays webinar series on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace. For more details visit <https://www.oikoumene.org/events/pan-african-women-of-faith-third-thursdays-webinar-series-on-the-pilgrimage-of-justice-and-peace>

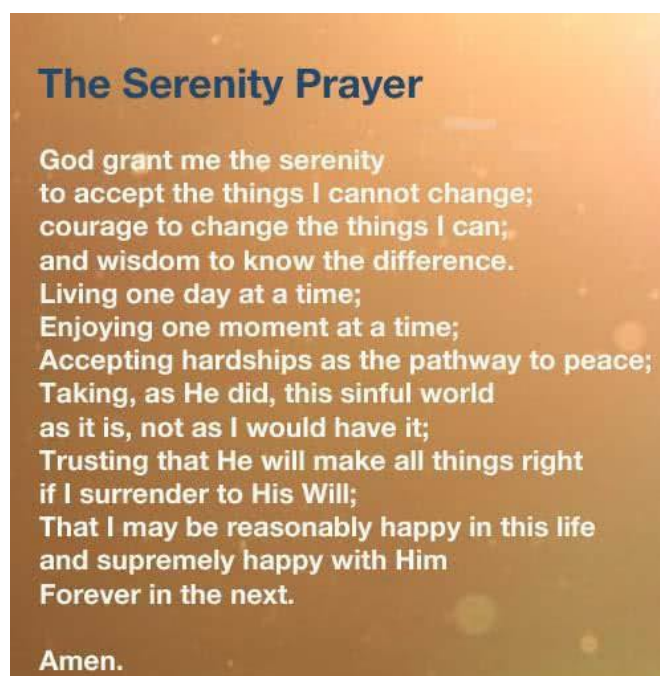
Thursdays in Black Valentine's Day Campaign - February 14, 2021

Valentine's Day has just passed but, our message against violence remains current. Please join us in the Love Heals, Not Hurts campaign by posting via social media your own reflections on positive acts of love or adopting any of the images from <https://seafile.ecucenter.org/d/383513c2689a45caac7d/> using the hashtags [#ThursdaysinBlack](#) [#LoveHealsNotHurts](#) for your message.

UN CSW65 March 15 to 29, 2021

This year, the 65th UN Commission on the Status of Women will reopen to the wider community. Non-government participants are encouraged to register before February 22 for this first virtual CSW. If you wish to join us in the WCC delegation, please communicate with your Regional Ecumenical representative (PWANZ – see above) and/or the WCC programme staff before February 18, to facilitate your Indico and CSW65 registration. We look forward to participating with a global delegation.

In closing, I offer the prayer for each of us



Rev. Nicqi Ashwood Feb 4, 2021