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# Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women  
Aotearoa NZ

**November 2018**

## ***Talofa from our President - Faaolataga Leasi reports from General Assembly 2018...***

"Forgiveness and Reconnecting" (through enhancing relationships) is what I captured from the Gatherings! God's message to my presidential role is challenging us to welcome on board the new generations on to our waka, so we can paddle together. I am extremely humbled for the opportunity given by the Moderator and the Assembly to officially welcome myself and my colleague Amber Parry Strong when presenting the Recommendations.

Our Recommendations 55 and 56 as follow:

**55: That the General Assembly support and actively encourage each Presbytery to Institute a quick and agile process to facilitate participation in civil democracy through submission on public issues including Parliamentary Bills and statutory enquiries"**

**56: That the General Assembly request the Book of Order Committee to review regulations 8.9f to take account of the changing structures of Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa NZ.**

- were all agreed and passed by the Assembly.

It was an incredible gathering and was such a wonderful GA with the opportunity to connect and reconnect with women and colleagues in the ministry, and with so many awesome people and delegates. Great to meet Rev Erin again and some honoured members of AWP (then) sharing their memories and inspiring stories and experiences of being APW's.

Again, Pasifika Presbytery is now officially recommended, thus a great opportunity to reconnect with our Pasifika sisters, our Maori sisters of Te Aka Puaho and our sisters in the various Presbyteries. The spiritual strength I gained prior and through the GA was a result of being engaged in singing, laughing, fellowshiping, worshipping and meditating! Faafetai tele, thank you Moderator, Rev Kaio and the The Rev. Andrew Norton, Rev. Pamela Tankersley and Mary Gibbs for supporting us. To you PWANZ thank you for your prayers. To read more - <https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/publications/bush-telegraph/2018/november-2018#PYM>

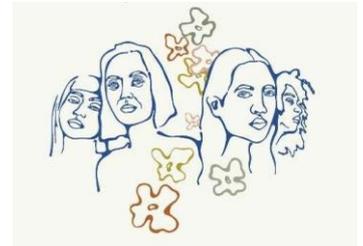
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## ***Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ At GA18 - Amber Parry Strong reports..***

The archives report mentioned the lack of women's stories of the past especially Ministers' wives and Sunday school teachers. Perhaps PWANZ could encourage women to undertake to find these stories from their own churches and send them to archives. The nomination committee lamented the lack of women being put forward for committees. I think this is something PWANZ could remedy – put together a list of women who could serve on different committees and make this available to the nominating committee and presbyteries. Note: *Amber's full report will be tabled at next Executive meeting on 17 November 2018.*

## ***2018 WE ARE...at the Well***

PWANZ Executive has completed a series of regional gatherings over 2018, supported by Christian World Mission with a "building capacity" grant. Thank you to all those who supported this initiative from Rev Erin Pendreigh and to Dr Deborah Bower. News from Kaimai in our December newsletter. Send your feedback to [pwanz2016@gmail.com](mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com) and it will be included in our report to CWM (photos are welcome too).



## ***WE ARE celebrating 125 years of Suffrage***

Is your Group organising an event to share celebrations for 125 years of Suffrage? PWANZ Executive has agreed to provide some funding to assist in your Group's hospitality. Apply for support for your event with a brief outline of the details planned, to [pwanz2016@gmail.com](mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com). Requests for funds are open till 30 November or they run out...check our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/presbyterianwomenaotearoanewzealand/](http://www.facebook.com/presbyterianwomenaotearoanewzealand/) to see more...

## ***SUFFRAGE CELEBRATION AT FIRST CHURCH OF OTAGO***



Nan Rickard writes..."On Tuesday 21st August First Church of Otago Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa New Zealand, held a meeting to honour the women who raised the issue of women's suffrage, especially those who ran the Dunedin Campaign.

We were very privileged to have as our Guest Speaker, Dr Dorothy Page MBE (pictured with Dorothy Sinclair our Convenor), who is a retired historian. She was an Associate Professor of History at the University of Otago for 30 years, and Head of the Department for five years. Her address was titled "Votes for Women - The Dunedin Campaign" and stated that nowhere was the debate more heated than in Dunedin, the largest, richest and most industrialised city in NZ. The suffrage leaders were outstandingly energetic and capable, and they faced an implacable opponent in Henry Smith

Fish, long-serving City Council member, sometime mayor and MP, popular with working men but an example of boorish anti-feminism women could love to hate.

Opposition to the Women's Christian Temperance Union was led by men in the liquor trade, who believed that women's suffrage was a temperance plot, in alliance with traditionalists who believed that women would 'unsex' themselves by participating in public life. Several Bills or amendments to introduce votes for women were foiled by this combination, as well as the complexities of party politics - after all, no one knew how women would vote and both main parties were nervous. From 1890, and especially in 1892-93, the debate raged with the utmost intensity. As we all know now, Kate Sheppard led the campaign with the first petition, signed by 350 women, being presented to Parliament in 1887.

## ***SUFFRAGE CELEBRATION AT WAIKANAE***

Otaki-Waikanae Presbyterian Women hosted an inter-church gathering on October 12 honouring 125 years of Women's Suffrage, with over 40 attending. The Very Rev. Pamela Tankersley presented her 'Women of Influence' study, based on the story of Abigail in 1 Samuel 25, and some interesting discussions ensued.



## ***Wellington Suffrage Celebration 2018***

You are cordially invited to join Presbyterian Women and Methodist Women of the greater Wellington area to celebrate 125 years since women in New Zealand earned the right to vote.

When: Sunday 25th November 2018

Where: St Ninian's Uniting Church – Karori

Time: 2:00 to 4:30pm

Afternoon tea will be provided.

Please bring memorabilia to share. There will be an offering for Girls' Brigade. Enquiries /approximate numbers coming to: Judith Dunlop – 478 5252 or [dunlop-bjf@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dunlop-bjf@xtra.co.nz)

## ***Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ – Northern Ambassador***

The PWANZ Executive welcome Mi Song from North Shore Korean Church as our new Northern Ambassador joining Rae Simpson in representing PWANZ at Presbytery and sister organisation events. Mi Song is a young mother and supports her husband in his ministry.

Mi Song attended the Pacific Women's Watch conference at the St Columba Centre in Ponsonby, Auckland on Saturday 3 November, the key topic was on United Nations and human rights.



where

## ***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);

## ***Group News Updates:***



Valerie Anderson from Alexandra reminds us that "The Wall hanging is now in Riverton." It will be available from 2019 to travel. Does your Group wish to host the wall hanging?

Back in 2014 Dellwyn Moylan, Ashburton came up with the idea of doing something collectively to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of APW. She reports: I had the idea of a Quilt and put the idea out there. I am sure you are aware it was picked up and as a result we have an amazing quilt assembled by Natalie Watkin and contributed to by many women from around the country.

## ***UN Women sponsored Women Empowerment Principle Breakfasts***

MANAGING A FLEXIBLE WORKFORCE

RSVP by 3rd December: Genevieve Brown WEPs Administrator [admin@weeps.org.nz](mailto:admin@weeps.org.nz)

Please share this invitation with your organisation

**CHRISTCHURCH:** Wednesday 5th December 7.30am to 9.00am

To be held at: [KPMG](#) Level 5, 79 Cashel St Christchurch

RSVP by 21 November: Genevieve Brown WEPs Administrator [admin@weeps.org.nz](mailto:admin@weeps.org.nz)

**AUCKLAND:** Friday 23rd November 7.30am to 9.00am

To be held at: [KPMG](#) 18 Viaduct Harbour Avenue, Auckland CBD

## ***UN Report***



Presbyterian Women will have a delegation attending the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March 2019. We look forward to the support and interest of members throughout the country as we seek to learn and contribute to the worldwide movement to hold governments accountable for women's wellbeing in societies. The priority theme for 2019 is social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The review theme is women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development: this theme links back to the agreed conclusions of CSW60 in 2016 when the Rev Carol Grant led the PW delegation. A [recent report from UN women](#) shows that women are still experiencing discrimination and disadvantage in relation to many of the sustainable development goals. While in New York we will be involved in activities with women of faith through the Ecumenical Women at the UN network. You can get a taste of the liveliness of Ecumenical Women in this video from 2016 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ruSLo6Mhz\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ruSLo6Mhz_Y)

UN Women are also **CALLING ALL DESIGNERS** to submit artwork for the cover of the CSW63 Handbook. This is a great opportunity to participate from Aotearoa even if not travelling to New York yourself. Your artwork should incorporate the CSW63 Priority Theme: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. To have your artwork considered submit by 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The winning design will be prominently featured at the largest annual NGO Forum held at the United Nations.

## ***Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy***

Mavis Duncanson has forwarded a request from the Ministry for Women "Kia ora Koutou,

You may be aware that a Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy is being developed which will set out actions the Government will take to improve the wellbeing of all New Zealand children and young people. From now until December, the Government wants to hear from as many people as possible to help ensure New Zealand is the best place to be a child. The Prime Minister and her Government have made this one of their top priorities.

You can find out more and how to have your say [here](#). There are a number of options, including online surveys and formal submissions. And there's a really simple online [postcard to the PM](#) option. There's also a couple of video messages from the PM – one for [general audiences](#) and one specially for [kids and young people](#).

Please contribute to the conversation – every voice counts, particularly those of our children and young people.

## Mission News – Special Project



CWS says: Thank you for working so hard to support the Special Project and remembering Christian World Service in your prayers. We value our special relationship with you.

From the Centre for Community Solidarity in south Uganda, our 2017/18 project: *“The caregivers of orphans and vulnerable children wish to extend their heartfelt gratitude to Methodist and Presbyterian women who have generous and compassionate hearts like that of Christ. The work of loving our children is one that lasts a lifetime. It was the case 10 years ago when we started, and it continues today as we help caregivers construct rainwater tanks. We remain, incredibly grateful to CWS and their supporters in New Zealand more especially Methodist and Presbyterian women for their love, kindness, compassion, generous and invaluable contribution.*

*May God bless you all, Best Regards, Charles Rwabambari*



This year the Special Project is raising funds for the Go Organic! Grow Organic! Project of Christian World Service partner, Social Empowerment Education Programme (SEEP) in Fiji. SEEP began life as a programme of the Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy but went on its own in 2009.

The work of SEEP in a community begins in conversation. Staff take time to get to know the people. They work with the women and young people to make sure they are part of discussions. Mai Democracy as they call it starts from the grassroots and grows up.

Working this way, trust is developed and harmonious relations maintained in a way that enables everyone to participate. Together the community identifies its own priority needs. In this new phase, SEEP wants to draw on the traditional understanding of land as the centre of family and village life. In their Go Organic! Grow Organic! Programme they will build on this knowledge to encourage more effective agriculture and better protection from natural disaster for communities.

Climate change is having a significant effect on Fiji. Already some villages threatened by rising seas have moved further inland. SEEP will help rural communities become more resilient using a combination of traditional and new disaster preparedness strategies.





Bellyful provides free meals to families with new born babies, and families with young children who are struggling with serious illness, particularly those where there is limited family or social support. Our branches cook the same meals about once a month in a Cookathon, where a group of volunteers get together in a community kitchen and cook somewhere between 60 and 300 meals depending on the branch size.

We receive referrals from health professionals like Plunket nurses, midwives, social workers, friends and family members and from the family themselves. There is no means testing and our meals are appreciated by mothers from all walks of life. Meals are delivered to the family's door by Bellyful volunteers. We have 520 volunteers spread across NZ. You can see where our branches are located <http://www.bellyful.org.nz/branches/>



**Methodist and Presbyterian Women**  
Special Project  
2018/ 19



## Let the Children Live



Bellyful provides meals to families with newborn babies, and families with young children who are struggling with illness.



Fiji partners SEEP (Social Empowerment Education Programme) is founded on Social Justice and promotes people centred development.



## **Honours Unit – notification for Queen’s Honours 2019**

Nominations are sort for Queen’s Birthday Honours 2019 - to be included applications must be received by 24 December 2018.

Who has made a difference in your community? What makes their service or achievements stand out above and beyond others.

For more information and nomination guidelines refer to:

<https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/new-zealand-royal-honours>