

# Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women  
Aotearoa NZ

**October 2018**

## ***Annual General Meeting held at St Alban's, Palmerston North***

Thank you to Ann Smith and her team for hosting a successful day for more than 60 attendees, providing lunch plus goodies bags to take away. Members travelled from Auckland in the north, and as far south as Dunedin to add their voice to the decisions being made. The Executive welcome Faaolataga (Ola) Leasi as President of Presbyterian Women Aotearoa.



Jasmin Vanderwerff, the Young people, Youth and Family Minister at St Andrew's Church in Marton led devotions with a challenge for us all to connect with young women. The lesson was read from Romans 12.



Highlights from the business meeting include:

- Review of the PWANZ Terms of Reference 2016 to be scheduled and reported back at our Annual General Meeting in 2019.
- Position Papers to be prepared with a focus on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, as members rate the importance of the issues.

Workshops in the afternoon were led by:

- the Very Reverend Pamela Tankersley on Abigail with her calmness in facing David and his men, a woman of significance from the Book of Samuel, and
- Penny Mudford (Chair Rural Women NZ) on what has changed since 1893? A lot..with women Prime Ministers, church ministers, positions in employment such as engineers and electricians plus leadership of organisations. Still a ways to go with choices and activism...

## Talofa from our President

*"Always give thanks to God the Father, for everything..."* Ephesians 5:20.

Tena koutou, Greetings and Talofa lava. I am humbled to be your president and indeed it is my pleasure to honour all of you sisters (past and present) in Christ who journeyed with us this far.



The story of Abigail means a lot to me, in terms of women taking risks in order to break through the barriers in women's ministry.

I wish to acknowledge our delegates / members who gathered, shared and served our mission at the AGM. It was overwhelmed with spiritual and cultural gifts and being delighted with the marvellous hospitality of the host (St Albans) and the respected executive members. We praised, we laughed, we sang, we cried, we ate, we created, we built then we....farewell – memories will remain of this outstanding AGM.



We are blessed with the Biblical, Spiritual and Advisory gifts of the Very Reverend Pamela Tankersley, and thank you also to Penny Mudford, a descendent of a signatory as we honoured the 125th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage.

I attended a parliamentary breakfast, which celebrated Pasifika Women's work and the recipients of the Queen's Honours, on Tuesday 18th September, hosted by Carmel Sepuloni and Anahila Kanongata'a-Suisuiki at Parliament.

Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban blasted us with a moving story of the warrior goddess of Nafanua, who prophesied a kingdom from heaven. She will be also speaking to our special Suffrage service (Wellington Region) on Sunday 25th November, 2018.



Looking forward to our first executive meeting in November and will update you all with upcoming events so, you pray and we pray for you.

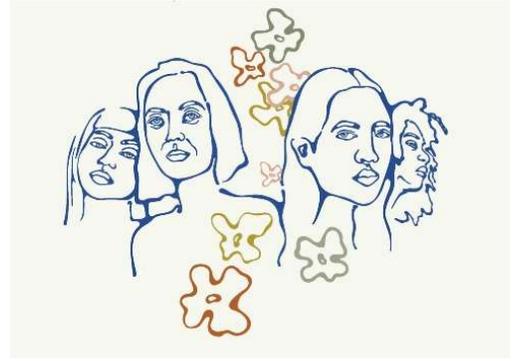
Haere ra! Tofa Soifua! Farewell.  
Faaolataga (Ola) Leasi

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

PWANZ Executive continue a series of **regional gatherings** to you over 2018, supported by Christian World Mission with a “building capacity” grant.

Reduce your carbon footprint and attend your nearest Gathering... **A new generation of Presbyterian Women.** Come meet with us at the well for nourishment, engagement, inspiration and connection. **MAKE A DATE IN YOUR DIARY** at the venue nearest you (see below) and organise to bring others too.



Load up the car and join us at:

**Kaimai** Presbytery in November...with a choice of two venues, either:

Chartwell Co-operating Parish, Hamilton on Thursday 8 November 7pm – 9pm, with refreshments or

St John's, Rotorua on Friday 9 November 11.30am - 1.30pm, lunch included.

### ***Invercargill on Saturday 22 September***

We would like to make a big shout out to Raylene Henry and her team at St Andrew's, Invercargill for hosting our Gathering – thank you. Intern Minister Teina Marie led devotion and 30 attendees travelled from all over the Southern Presbytery, including Winton, and Central Otago to share the fellowship. Vilma Cocker was there, a tireless and dedicated member of APW for over 40 years.. “We are proud of her faithfulness here at St Andrews”.



Dr Mavis Duncanson represented the PWANZ Executive and Dr Deborah Bower gave her presentation on the encounter at the Well (John's Gospel Chapter 4).

## ***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 to



see more on an ecumenical Church service held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September at the Plains Railway Museum in a church attended by some of the local women who signed the original petition [www.facebook.com/presbyterianwomenaotearoanewzealand/](http://www.facebook.com/presbyterianwomenaotearoanewzealand/)

### ***Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ At GA18***

Our Recommendations to the General Assembly 2018 at St Andrew's College in Christchurch, will be presented by Amber Parry Strong and Faaolataga Leasi - our prayers are with them over this time. News from the General Assembly in BushFire November 2018.

### ***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:***

**Kapiti** Evening Fellowship Group has decided to meet in the mornings from now on, and consequently have agreed to rename to **Raumati** Morning Women's Fellowship.

Faaolataga Leasi reports from Christ the King **Porirua** – “invited to the Pasifica breakfast this morning (19 September) to celebrate 125 years of suffrage, and to honour Pacific women for their service to the community and the recipients of the NZ Order of Merit - Dame L Winnie Laban was the guest speaker and the attendees were overwhelmed with the story of the journey of our Pacific women in 100 years being the servant to NZ and Samoa.”

### ***Stewardship - 'A Commitment to Responsible Stewardship of God's Creation'***

**UPDATE** on a proposal Presbytery Central are taking to General Assembly 2018, lead the way

to collectively reduce our impact on the environment through these three achievable and measurable steps:

- Eliminating the use of single-use plastic items and encouraging the use of what we already have available to us in our kitchens.
- Making recycling bins readily available, clearly labelled with what can and cannot be recycled.
- Adopting the use of environmentally friendly cleaning products, soaps and dishwashing liquids. We have contacted Ecostore and they are willing for individual churches to become whole-sale buyers of their products to reduce the cost.

**Greymouth Uniting Church Women's Fellowship reports:**

"At our meeting on 12 September your article on Stewardship was discussed and all agreed with your comments. We are already acting on reducing one-use plastic bags and do use recycling wherever possible (have bins at our church and privately). It was decided to change to eco-friendly cleaning products when purchasing for our church and also on a personal level."

## ***UN Report***

### **#CSW63 hashtag now live on Twitter**

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand will be well represented at the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63) which will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in March 2019. Ten women from throughout New Zealand have begun planning to travel to New York as part of the PW delegation. They will have opportunity to meet with women from all regions of the world and learn together about successes and challenges in the pathway to women's empowerment and gender equality.

The themes for 2019 are social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, together with a review of progress made by each government on previously agreed actions in relation to women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development.

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. This international coalition of church denominations and ecumenical organisations envisions a human community where the participation of each and every one is valued, where no one is excluded on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, age, religion or cultural practice, and where diversity is celebrated as God's gift to the world.



From now on we will be sharing information about CSW63 through Bushfire, and on the Presbyterian Women Facebook page. The hashtag #CSW63 is now live on Twitter, so if you use that social media platform you can watch the plan unfold internationally.

*Ecumenical Women at the UN CSW60 2016*

Mavis Duncanson  
AnneMarie Tangney  
Joint UN Convenors

### ***Mission News:***

Sally Russell, Mission Convenor reports that packs for our partnership with Methodist Women's Fellowship Special Project 2018 / 2019 will be available to be distributed late October.

#### **Tatalo o le Alii** (Lord's Prayer in Samoan – edited version)

Lo matou Tamā e, o i le lagi  
la pa'ia lou Suafa  
la o'o mai lou Mālō  
la faia lou finagalo  
I le lalolagi  
E pei ona faia i le lagi.  
la ē foa'i mai ia te i matou  
i le aso nei  
O ā matou meaa e tatau ma le aso  
la ē fa'amagalo, i ā te i matou i ā matou agasala  
E pei o i matou fo'i ona matou fa'amagaloina atu  
I ē ua agaleaga mai ia te i matou  
'Aua fo'i le ta'ita'i'ina i matou I le tofotofoga  
A ia e lavea'i ia te i matou, ai le leaga  
Auā e ōu Mālō ma le Mana  
Atoa ma le viiaga e fa'avavaum fa'avavau lava  
Amene.

### ***PWANZ Submission to Select Committee: update***

The Social Services and Community Committee has presented its report to the New Zealand House of Representatives on the Child Poverty Reduction Bill.

[Read the report](#)

[Read the Evidence and Advice that the committee received](#)

#### **What happens next**

The next step is for the committee's recommendations to be debated by the New Zealand House of Representatives in a debate. Learn more about how a bill becomes law  
Thank you for taking the time to participate in an important part of New Zealand's democracy.  
If you would like to submit on another topic, you can have a look at what is currently open for submissions <https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/>  
Parliament website [www.parliament.nz](http://www.parliament.nz).

### ***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>