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# Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women  
Aotearoa NZ

**September 2018**

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

PWANZ Executive are bringing a series of **regional gatherings** to you over 2018, supported by CWM 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:

**Southern** on Saturday 22 September, at St Andrews Community Hall, Manse Street, Invercargill. Lunch will be provided, and Dr Mavis Duncanson, PWANZ UN Convenor will accompany Dr Deborah Bower. Hear an update on Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ.

Time: 10.30am - 1.30pm

## **PLUS**

**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.

<b>Administrator</b> Sandra Waldrom PO Box 17427, Karori Wellington 6147 Mobile: 027 702 9386 <a href="mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com">pwanz2016@gmail.com</a>	<b>Human Rights Convenor</b> Tausala Iosefa Palmerston North Mobile: 021 2080 857 <a href="mailto:tausala.iosefa@gmail.com">tausala.iosefa@gmail.com</a>	<b>Missions Convenor</b> Sally Russell Havelock North Mobile: 021 129 9608 <a href="mailto:sallyrussell@xtra.co.nz">sallyrussell@xtra.co.nz</a>	<b>United Nations Convenors</b> AnneMarie Tangney Mobile: 021 069 6953 <a href="mailto:am.tangney@gmail.com">am.tangney@gmail.com</a> Mavis Duncanson Mobile: 022 028 7005 <a href="mailto:mavisj.duncanson@gmail.com">mavisj.duncanson@gmail.com</a> Both Dunedin
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**St David's in the Field  
Hillsborough  
Auckland**

**The incoming Methodist Women's Fellowship executive joined us.**

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

Is your Group organising an event to share celebrations for 125 years of Suffrage? The 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...

**Advance Notice: Presbyterian Women and Methodist Women of Wellington area** invite you to join them for a celebration of 125 years since women in New Zealand won the right to vote.

Where: St Andrew's on the Terrace

When: Sunday 25th November 2018

When: 2pm until 4:30pm

Contact: Judith Dunlop 04 4785 252 or [dunlop-bjf@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dunlop-bjf@xtra.co.nz)

Please send your email contact to Judith so you can be kept advised of details closer to the event. We would like to share memorabilia about relating to the Suffrage time so look it out now ready to bring.

**Please note:** PWANZ has received a short story of **Phyllis Aspinall's** amazing life. Copies are available by email [pwanz2016@gmail.com](mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com), she had a long-term commitment to the Presbyterian Church, including teaching Sunday School and playing the organ, both as a young woman and again after she retired from the Mt Aspiring Station... "Phyl was awarded a New Zealand Women's Suffrage Centennial Award for her outstanding contribution to rural life."

## ***Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ Executive Report***

### **Annual General Meeting 2018**

**Date:** Saturday 15 September

**Place:** St Alban's, 339 Albert Street Palmerston North

**Time:** Registration opens from 9am

Included under the Agenda is the opportunity for members to discuss our PWANZ Submissions to Select Committee process – the Executive will lead a discussion on establishing “position papers” on critical social issues that have been raised through the CEDAW held in July in Geneva. Have your say on access to health, discriminatory data collection, amongst others.

Meeting close: 1pm for lunch

2pm: workshops celebrating 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Suffrage, led by: the Very Reverend Pamela Tankersley, past Moderator of the General Assembly, and Penny Mudford, Chair of Rural Women NZ and member of the PWANZ 2018 delegation to United Nations HQ in New York.

**Close:** 4pm

For more information, including Names for Remembrance Candle, Apologies, Annual Report 2018 (including annual accounts 2017/2018) or meeting papers email [pwanz2016@gmail.com](mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com)

Please note details in your diary and make travel arrangements.

**BushFire** - Ensure Presbyterian women receive their copy of your monthly newsletter – BushFire, forward email addresses to [pwanz2016@gmail.com](mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com), or request a hard copy with a postal address. Remember Group Contacts to provide a list of each of your members as we recognise individual membership.

### ***Presbyterian Women – Membership***

Join Presbyterian Women for just \$10 per year?

#### **Membership includes:**

- 11 copies of the 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);
- PWANZ can comment directly to the United Nations on Government policy and write alternative or shadow reports.

### ***UN Report***

#### **Is New York calling you?**

Please spread the word that Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand welcomes expressions of interest to join the delegation to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63). This gathering is held at the United Nations headquarters in New York from 9-22 March 2019.

The priority theme for CSW63 is “Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”.

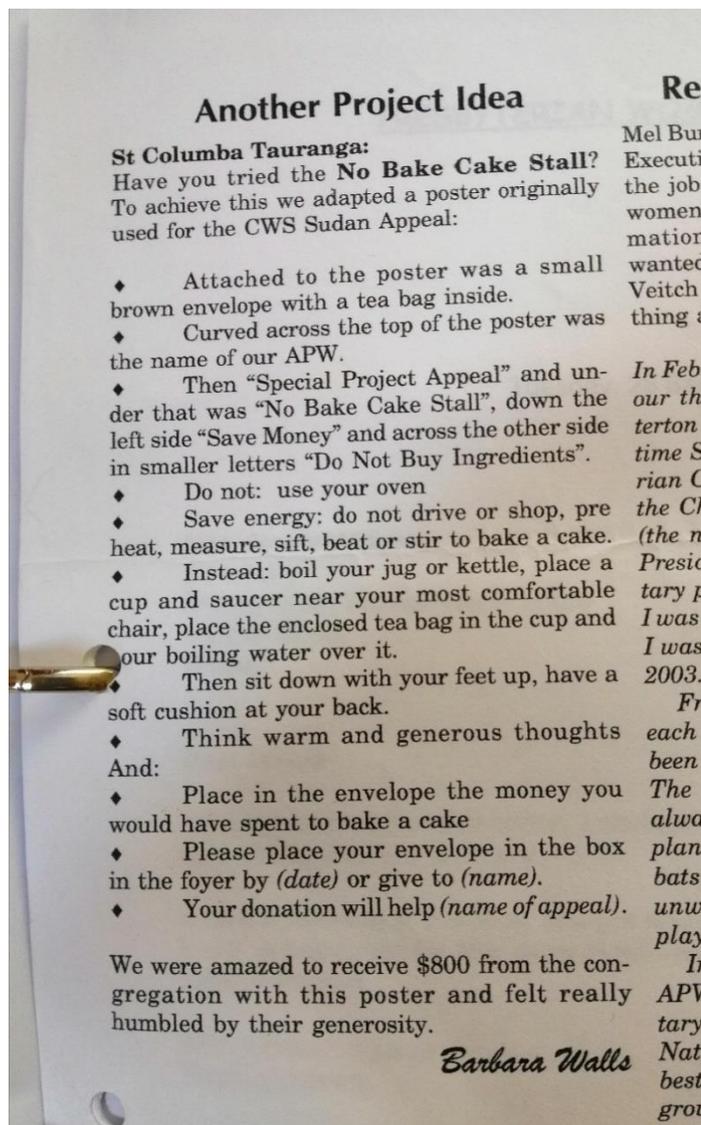
Women of all ages with a passion for social justice and the empowerment of women and girls are welcome to contact the joint UN Convenors for further information: email [mavis.duncanson@gmail.com](mailto:mavis.duncanson@gmail.com) or [am.tangney@gmail.com](mailto:am.tangney@gmail.com). The trip is self-funding and costs are estimated at around \$5000-\$6000 per person.

Congregations and individuals may like to consider how to encourage and support applications from their community. **Who do you know in your church or wider community that you can ask to go?** You can help with some fundraising – sausage sizzles at popular shopping sites work well, have a dinner and ask a cultural group from within your community to perform.

To read about the experience of women who have attended past CSW meetings go to <https://bit.ly/2KjkrUz>

Mavis Duncanson, Joint UN Convenor

## From the Archives



## Stewardship

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

This is a proposal Presbytery Central are taking to General Assembly 2018, and we'd love your support! Our prayer is that Presbytery Central will 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.

Discuss this at your next meeting: are you willing to commit to these three small and simple changes; what do you already do; and what else can your congregation do?