

# Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ

July 2019

## **Hui Wairua Wahine – Women of Faith gatherings:**

at Te Maungarongo Marae,  
Ohope with Te Aka Puaho



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Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/presbyterianwomenaotearoanewzealand/>

Join the Executive of PWANZ over the weekend of 26 to 28 July 2019 at Te Maungarongo Ohope Marae, set in a beautiful backdrop of hills and native bush with ocean views. This is a chance to listen and learn from Te Aka Puaho in discussion and fellowship, attend a day programme on Saturday 27 July focusing on PWANZ and our activities or plan to enjoy the hospitality over the full weekend.



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## ***Hui Wairua Wahine – Women of Faith gatherings:***

at **Christ the King, Porirua** on **Saturday, August 17** from 10am to 4pm. Dr Deborah Bower will be a keynote presenter along with a programme of workshops, and the opportunity for networking and fellowship.

## ***Annual General Meeting 2019***

Whakatu Presbyterian Church in Songer Street Stoke, Nelson will host PWANZ over the weekend of 13 to 15 September 2019.

Meet and Greet with a light meal from 4pm – 6pm on Friday night.

Annual General Meeting 9.30am – 12pm on Saturday with an afternoon of workshops, followed by dinner.

The programme, and meeting papers will be available closer to the time, put the date in your diary, book your travel and organise your accommodation.

## ***EVENTS*** organised by the **UN Women's Empowerment (WEPs) committee for New Zealand**

**Stepping up to implement the 7 WEPs principles:** Making Gender Equity a Reality in the Workplace:

- AUCKLAND: Wednesday 19th June, 7.30 am to 9.00 am, at Westpac NZ Britomart | Te Ara Tahuu Walkway | Auckland Central.
- WELLINGTON: Wednesday 26th June, 7.30 am to 9.00 am at Westpac NZ | Lambton Quay | Wellington.
- CHRISTCHURCH: Friday 21st June, 7.30 am to 9.00 am at Westpac NZ | The Terrace | Christchurch.

Registration is required for these events. Watch out for the invitations coming shortly.

## **NZ WEPs Hamilton lunch event on: “Managing a Flexible Workforce”**

Thursday August 8th 12.00 to 1.30pm

**To be held at: KPMG, Level 10, KPMG Centre, 85 Alexandra Street, Hamilton**

**RSVP by 5 August - [admin@weps.org.nz](mailto:admin@weps.org.nz)**

## ***Have Your Say – Let's Change Your Newsletter's Name...***

BushFire has been the name of the monthly Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ newsletter for the last four years and at the suggestion of our member Groups, the Executive is thinking of a name change.

What would be a snappy name encompassing who we are, a range of Presbyterian women, diverse in age, culture and experiences ?

Send your suggestions to [pwanz2016@gmail.com](mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com) by 1 September 2019 and we will vote at the AGM on Saturday 14 September.

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

PWANZ needs your support and contributions to enable our administration and activities to continue over the next twelve months. These funds expand the work we do – we send delegations to the UN. We are frugal, however it all costs. We get no funds from PCANZ and ask you to support us. Join Presbyterian Women: 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;

Direct Credit: ASB 12 3011 0117101 00

Name of Account: PWANZ

Reference: Your Name

Code: Subs2019

**Global  
Ecumenical  
Initiative**



WAKING  
THE  
GIANT

Churches and the Sustainable  
Development Goals

One of the parallel events that I attended at CSW63 in New York in March was 'Waking the Giant' - a global ecumenical initiative of the Lutheran World Federation. This initiative has recently launched a new 'toolbox' to help churches and church-related groups to build their capacity to contribute effectively to the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development. Using the toolbox will help churches to recognise existing links between the work that we do and the sustainable development goals. It also provides ideas for new ways to get involved.

The self-assessment tool also serves a broader purpose in making visible the variety of ways that Christians are actively working for justice and equity. The questions are not all relevant to our context in Aotearoa, but I think they would be useful discussion starters at a local level. Questionnaires can be completed online or (possibly easier) in printed out hardcopy (pdf). If you want to read more go to <https://wakingthegiant.lutheranworld.org/content/sdg-toolbox-151>

Mavis Duncanson UN Convenor

***The 2020 Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa NZ Delegation to the United Nations***

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 from 9-20<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Do you have a passion for social justice, gender equity and the empowerment of women? Applications to be a self-funded member of the delegation to attend CSW are now open.

2020 will be a critical year for the gender equality and women's rights agenda, marking not only the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action but also the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security; the 5-year milestone of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs; the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of UN Women – all this in the context of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations.

If you are interested at this late stage in applying to be a self-funded member of the delegation, 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?

Email your CV and cover letter to PWANZ United Nations Convenors:

AnneMarie Tangney: ph 0210696953 Email [am.tangney@gmail.com](mailto:am.tangney@gmail.com)

Mavis Duncanson : ph 022 028 7005 Email [mavisj.duncanson@gmail.com](mailto:mavisj.duncanson@gmail.com)

## **Mission Update**

### **Pacific Conference of Churches Secretariat**



PWANZ supports the works of the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC).

#### **CHURCHES can and must help stop gender-based violence in the region.**

You may have heard the General Secretary, Reverend James Bhagwan, speaking to Christine Ravoio of RNZ on a study by New Zealand academics urging the church to help stop violence against women in Samoa.

The leader of the project, Mercy Ah-Siu Maliko of Otago University, says more than 60 percent of Samoan women are victims of domestic violence. Dr Maliko, who has Samoan heritage, says the root of violence against women or family violence is gender inequality. But she says in order for women to achieve gender equality in Samoa, they must first be given leadership roles in the church. "Theology in the Pacific are mostly the interpretations of male - the patriarchy interpretations. This is the time for the church to be open to allowing women to be students, to be candidates in the ministry."

Rev Bhagwan says PCC has been working with Pacific theological schools to find ways to question violent social norms. "Gender-based violence is a multi-layered issue. We're not only talking about physical violence, we're talking about emotional, economic, structural violence as well. Within our different Pacific island communities and cultures, there are various different responses to the issue of gender-based violence, attitudes towards gender-based violence."

Dr Maliko says as 99 percent of Samoans attend church, it can become an agent for healing. "Within Samoa, the church is located within the centre of Samoan society. It is the conscience of Samoan society and it's time that the church is be reminded of their prophetic role to help in preventing this problem."

Rev Bhagwan says the bible needs to be reinterpreted by communities with domestic violence problems. "The key response to gender-based violence is a theological approach because some communities tend to use the scriptures to justify their positions. But by relooking at the scriptures that many people use to justify...we are able to deconstruct some of that." PCC is looking at establishing a Commission on the Status of Women in Pacific churches, which can hopefully be launched next year.

In February, Samoa's ombudsman Maiava Iulai Toma told a Pacific Fono in Auckland that a national inquiry established that family violence is real and dangerous as it affects most women.

Maiava warns this is the inheritance Samoans are leaving "or rather breeding for their future generations" if they do not change.

"We have become very much at home with violence. As a result, our children grow up desensitised and accustomed to violence as a viable ready response in situations of everyday life."

Maiava says traditional leaders, church leaders and parents need to do more.



### **Colonisation is a crime**

PACIFIC churches have called for an end to colonisation, deeming it a crime. , Rev Taaroari Marae, said the United Nations must pay attention to the call for independence in Ma'ohi-Nui/French Polynesia.

THE United Nations' silence on the implementation of decolonisation mandates is deafening, says Pacific Conference of Churches General Secretary, Reverend James Bhagwan.

Speaking at the UN in New York, Bhagwan said there was a clear lack of accountability vis-à-vis implementation of decolonization resolutions on territories including Maohi Nui (French Polynesia).

"Recalling that the third International Decade was supposed to focus on small island Territories, the Special Committee's silence on the implementation of decolonization mandates is deafening,". He suggested that a work programme would give member states valuable insight into the situation and separate fact from fiction, he said, recommending that such an approach be initiated without the participation of the administering power.

The PCC accompanied the Maohi Nui delegation to the UN to show the solidarity of Pacific churches with the decolonisation movement in the French-held territory.

Richard Tuheiava of the Tavini Huirratira Group said that the political status of Ma'ohi-Nui had not changed since 2013 despite cosmetic adjustments to France's Autonomy Statute which attempted to avoid a true self-determination process.

In his statement to the Special Committee on Decolonization (C-24) United Nations, New York, N.Y. 27th June 2019 Reverend Taaroarii Maraea, President of the Ma'ohi Protestant Church mentioned:

- 30 years of French nuclear testing in our territory and the 2018 submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Implications for Human Rights of the Environmentally Sound Management and Disposal of Hazardous Substances and Wastes
- That the 2019 Working Paper on Ma'ohi-Nui/French Polynesia makes only a short reference to both ICC and Human Rights Committee complaints while the draft resolution on Ma'ohi-Nui/French Polynesia omits any reference to it altogether. We continue to pose the question as to why these developments are not worthy of UN consideration, or whether there is undue pressure exerted by the administering Power behind the scenes to censor such references.
- As a presidential candidate, Emmanuel Macron stated that: ***"Colonization is a crime. It's a crime against humanity. It's truly barbarous and it's part of a past that we need to confront by apologizing to those against whom we committed these acts... At the same time, we must not sweep this past under the rug"*** We hold the now-French President to this commitment. However, the actions of a UN member State France, is that of a contemporary colonial power utterly dismissive of Article 73 of the U.N. Charter, reflecting the opposite of his earlier lofty words. It is, in fact, doing its best to "sweep the issue under the rug" by seeking to persecute those who have stood bravely in the face of the colonial power.
- The bilateral Organic Law regarding Ma'ohi-Nui/French Polynesia within the French Parliament has been recently revised and now reflects a so-called "positive contribution" provided by the territory of Ma'ohi-Nui/French Polynesia in favour of the colonial nuclear programme implemented by France. This provocative language currently being adopted by the French Parliament is an outrageous "mis-interpretation" of the painful history and the sufferings that the Ma'ohi People went through without its consent.

## **Turakina girls update**

I had the privilege to attend the Ngati Kahungunu official welcome to Jacinda Ardern as our Prime Minister. Ngati Kahungunu Iwi has the second largest land area stretching down the east coast from Mahia to the Wairarapa at Cape Palliser and the third largest population.

I met up with Kerehoma Mihaere, now teaching at Hukarere Girls College, who transferred with the students from Turakina. He said that all the Turakina girls have progressed through school and now are all at university or other study.

Sally Russell



MPs Meka Whaitiri, Jacinda Ardern and Louisa Wall and Mei Whaitiri



Hukarere students support their principal



CWS is pleased to announce a new initiative with Trade Aid which will benefit Trade Aid producers and CWS partners. Donors will have the opportunity to buy direct from [Trade Aid](#) from July 1, and enter a special promotional code. **ChristianWorldServiceFundraiser19** in the box

**marked Promo Code when ordering.**

When you use the Promo Code, CWS will automatically receive 20% of the sale price. That money will go straight to CWS partners, reaching more communities. Trade Aid offers free shipping for orders over \$100 – terms and conditions apply.

Buying online will suit donors who cannot get to a Trade Aid shop or want to explore the full range of Trade Aid goods, including food items. Trade Aid is offering this opportunity for a limited period only.

CWS has supported Trade Aid since it was founded in 1973 and has promoted fair trade as a means to achieving better outcomes for producers and challenge unfair trade practices.

You can always shop [Trade Aid](#) with a fair conscience, knowing the producers and any employees are treated fairly and a percentage of the profits returns to the community.

30 June 2019

## ***What messages do our toys give?***

The toy manufacturer Mattel is crushing the stereotype that Barbie dolls promote unrealistic body image and lack diversity.

The company launches the first black Barbie who is a wheelchair user, and she's already a hit. Mattel announced the new Barbie during the New York Toy Fair in February 2019 and officially released her in June as part of its Fashionistas Line, which includes 40 dolls with a range of body types, hair color, skin tone, and eye color. On Thursday, a photo of the doll went viral on Twitter — and the doll has since received majority positive support.



Consulting firm Global Disability Inclusion is excited to see Mattel introduce a Barbie that is a wheelchair user and a person of color, President Meg O'Connell said. "Representation matters," O'Connell told Global Citizen. "Everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, and ability wants to see themselves represented, and more importantly included in the world around them. Disability is diversity."

Mattel designed her with real girls and wheelchairs in mind — her wheelchair is for everyday use rather than a model usually found in hospitals. The new doll also comes with a ramp so that she can access the Barbie Dreamhouse. Mattel received backlash after it discontinued the first Barbies who used wheelchairs because they didn't fit into the Barbie Dreamhouse.

Creating toys like the Barbie who is a wheelchair user doesn't only benefit children with disabilities — it normalizes disabilities to create a more inclusive society for all. **By Leah Rodriguez - July 2, 2019**

[https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/first-black-barbie-who-uses-wheelchair/?](https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/first-black-barbie-who-uses-wheelchair/)