

Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ

June 2019

Hui Wairua Wahine – Women of Faith gatherings:

**at Te Maungarongo Marae,
Ohope with Te Aka Puaho**



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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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Kia ora, Talofa, Malo e lelei & Greetings!

*Wonder where God hides in winter? I asked my 9 yr old son PJ. "He hides nowhere to keep us warm" he replied. Thus God is nowhere but somewhere as we're everywhere. The more often we get together and share our stories in the **space** of the Lord, the warmer we are in spirit, faith and hope through this chilly season.*

*'**Being in the story**' was so motivating and inspiring. A retreat run by Women's in Ministry in May, which Sally and I attended and shared challenging stories, histories and journeys of women of the burning bush. Presenters and panel sharing were powerful and inspirational. It maximised my leadership and faith skills in a unique code in relation to who we are as women of God, leading other women to Him, via diversity approach. Indeed I had the honour to meet retired women ministers of PCANZA.*



l-r Hana, Feiloaiga (Fei), Saifaleupolu (Sa), Faaolataga (Ola) & Linda

Ola & Marg

Speaking and celebrating Samoan Language Week in mid May was another highlight. Followed by a cultural and a colourful Pentecost last Sunday. Vainetine; Cook Islands Women's Fellowship of the 4 PIPC churches, Porirua, Newtown, Petone and CIPC were on fire. Implementing the stories of the Rahab, Delilah, Abigail and Zipporah. I was blown away with the marvellous production of items in Cook Island Reo/language. Associated with fresh tiare/flowers and the sound of ukulele. A product of their Biblical research, exploring how these women in the Bible experienced and engaged with God in their own unique ways. It was a huge turn up.



I led the service with Mama Marina Mani and the singing was angelic. Finally, we concluded the celebration with a typical Pentecost feast, of island cuisine that night. The increased growth of Pacifica women young and old in engaging with PWANZ is fundamental.



Zipporah



I then believed that if we could managed to reinstate fellowship with groups that were longed due, to be visited, then the visit to Kaimai/Whakatane for a Hui with our Maori sisters would be possible. Iif members are brave enough to have faith to join us. Like God says to Moses “Now go! Get on your way....I will send an angel ahead of you...” (Exo 33). Looking forward to your response.

Last but not least, a big thanks to our exec team, especially Sandra for organising all meetings and venue bookings. God bless. Ola



L – R Tausala, Sandra, Ola & Sally (after the previous exec meeting) at St Johns.

Missing: Mavis had left early to catch her flight back to Dunedin.

More images on PWANZ fb page

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 by 1 September 2019 and we will vote at the AGM on Saturday 14 September.

***EVENT* 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.

Hui Wairua Wahine – Women of Faith gatherings:

at **Te Maungarongo Marae, Ohope** with **Te Aka Puaho** - 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 or plan to enjoy the hospitality over the full weekend.



The Reverend John (Hoani) Laughton speaking during the Māori Synod in front of the whare whakairo Te Maungarongo at Te Aka Puahi (then Ōhope) marae in 1965.

Ohope marae is nestled between two ancient Pa sites. The hill to the left of Ohope marae is called 'Pakipaki' and is a Ngati Awa Pa site and associated with the coming of Pai Marire to the Mataatua region. According to the late Te Hau Tutua of Ngati Awa, the hill that Ohope marae stands upon is the eastern boundary of an ancient Tuhoe Pa site called Mai Totara. Mai Totara Pa is associated with a battle between Tuhoe and Whakatohea and some of those who died in this battle are buried in an urupa at the top of the hill. All the land in this area was confiscated by the Government from Ngati Awa Hāpu Ngāti Hokopu and Wharepaia as part of their confiscated policies of the 1860s.

Gilbert Mair after marrying Elizabeth from Ngati Hokopu lodged an application to partition part of the Ohope Reserve and sold some of his interests to his lawyers Thomas Wilson James and Leonard Buddle. In 1932 Leonard Buddle sold 4 acres (the current property) to the Presbyterian Church for a Christian Camp.

In 1934 the Presbyterian Maori Missions become involved in the Ohope Christian Camp. In 1945 the Presbyterian Maori Synod (Te Hinota) concluded negotiations for the back section of the Ohope property to build a Marae as their Turangawaewae. In 1947 Te Maungarongo I Wharenuī is opened. The carvers of Te Maungarongo I are: Te Pairi Tuterangi of Omuriwaka assisted by Tete Te Amoroa. Te Pairi Tuterangi refused payment for carving the Wharenuī and says that this is his koha or thank you to the Presbyterian Church for looking after his people and establishing schools for Tuhoe children in the Urewera. The name of the Wharenuī 'Te Maungarongo' was suggested by the Very Rev John Laughton CMG and the Rev Kihoro Te Puawhe who was the senior leader of Waimana at that time.

Te Maungarongo Wharenuī was rebuilt in 1977. The carvers of this Wharenuī are: Te Ahinamu Te Hira of Ruatahuna assisted by Clarke Takao and John Rua both of Waimana. The Tukutuku panels in Te Maungarongo are weaved by parishes from throughout Te Hinota that also included kuia from Waimana and Ruatahuna (Mumu, waewae pakura and purapurawhetu panels).

As with Maori tradition a Marae must have a Tangata Whenua. The Tangata Whenua of Ohope marae are the parishes of Whakatane, Kawerau and Waimana.

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.

UN Delegation March 2020

AnneMarie Tangney will be leading a delegation to CSW64 which will be held in New York 9-20 March 2020. This event will mark 25 years since the 4th World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. UN Women describe 2020 as a pivotal year for the accelerated realisation of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, everywhere. If you are interested in finding out about joining the delegation please contact us am.tangney@gmail.com and mavisj.duncanson@gmail.com

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

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Mission Update

Thank you to everyone who raises money for our special projects and for Mission Birthday gifts.

I would like to share your stories and photos of how you fundraise, what worked and what was fun.

What shall we support with our Mission gifts this year – projects overseas and at home, for women, children and whole communities, young and old? Please can you talk about this and give me any ideas and feedback.

Thanks Sally

sallyrussell@xtra.co.nz or pwanz2016@gmail.com

World Refugee Day

CWS invites parishes to mark Refugee Sunday designated as 23 June in the Methodist and Presbyterian calendar. World Refugee Day is on June 20.

This year we highlight the plight of refugees from Syria, some of whom were already Palestinian refugees.

Worship resources [“What are you doing here, Elijah?”](#) focus on the readings for 23 June.

At 75, Qasim Yahia Ali has returned home to the old city of Mosul in Iraq. His house was destroyed in 2017 when Islamic State was defeated. He had lived in the city making money by selling clandestine liquor under Islamic State rule.

Photo: ACT Alliance/Paul Jeffrey



Education, a Priority



When Bothayana first arrived from Syria, she did not go to school. In Lebanon lessons were in English or French which she could not speak. Bothayana missed years of schooling—something she found very distressing. A few years ago she was excited to find the Sidon Centre run by DSPR Lebanon taught in Arabic and followed the Syrian syllabus. Now 24, she is working hard for her final exams, which she hopes to sit next month. She is talented and keen to make a name for herself as an artist. For the last six years DSPR Lebanon has taken groups of refugee students back to Damascus for the few weeks it takes to sit the Baccalaureate and Brevet exams. DSPR organises the trip ensuring visas, accommodation, and their safe return. It is the only opportunity Syrian refugees have to get these qualifications, vital for their future.

Photo: CWS/Trish Murray

A New Start for Omar



One of the students was Omar who had been thrown out of school for laziness and bad behaviour. His father brought him to DSPR Lebanon and asked to enrol him in a vocational training programme. The director told them that he would have to change his behaviour before he could join anything. Under the guidance of the teachers in the drop out programme, he started to understand the lessons and learn how to think. His behaviour improved and he asked to return to his old school. The teachers could not believe his transformation. He is now doing well and shared his story with the whole school at graduation.

Photo: CWS/Trish Murray