

Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ

August 2017

In this Issue

- Thoughts Looking Forward
- Look Who's at the Well
- PWANZ Executive Update
- Mission Update
- General Elections
- United Nations Comment

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

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Methodist and Presbyterian Women
Special Project
2016 / 17



Children are our Hope and our Future



Centre for Community Solidarity in Uganda
assists 25 local associations of caregivers to
HIV and AIDs orphans



Pillars
Ka Pou Whakahou

Working for children of prisoners
supporting positive crime free futures



Look Who's At The Well

Women's Assembly

Supported by CWM with a "building capacity" grant

3 – 5 November 2017 at Mosgiel

WE ARE

Equip, Encourage & Empower

Thoughts Looking Forward from Erin

Whatever your opinion regarding the Greens Co-leader Metiria Turei and her decisions as a beneficiary 20 odd years ago, events over these last few weeks have been a catalyst for much discussion. In my office, there has also been much to talk about around the questions of children, that were asked of the new Labour leader Jacinda Ardern.

As we discussed and debated, I couldn't help being pleased that PWANZ is hosting a Women's Assembly (details further in this Bushfire) later this year. Part of being able to participate in discussion brought about by social events around us is knowing who we are in Christ. We get to explore that at Women's Assembly with a focus on Who is at the Well. Several the aims of the Women's Assembly are to encourage, equip and enable us to be women of influence in the communities we reside in.

The history of PWANZ has always to provide opportunity for women to reach their potential. At a time when women had no leadership pathways in church, PWANZ provided leadership opportunities. PWANZ also continues to work hard to equip and empower women in communities around the world. It would be nice to think there would be an end to this work. But we are in part, a reflection of society around us. And as evidenced in the public square over the past few weeks all is not equal in gender, in race, in age. PWANZ role to provide opportunities for gathering, for equipping, for empowering is still of value.

So, I invite you to join with all of those who have enrolled already for the Women's Assembly. Although the early bird registration has closed, there is still ample opportunity to sign up, to come and participate in a gathering for this time and for this place of Aotearoa, NZ.

Shalom
Erin

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ Executive Report

PWANZ Executive

The Executive seeks expressions of interest for two voluntary positions to join our small team.

Communications Convenor, a new portfolio for an applicant with:

- an ability to use social media channels, digital tools and multi-media for marketing PWANZ; and
- the skills to initiate fundraising, including content and resources to be distributed nationally.

United Nations Convenor, will become vacate at the AGM in November 2017:

The United Nations Convenor supports ongoing advocacy for the role of PWANZ locally, regionally, as well as representing Presbyterian Women at the annual Commission on the Status of Women each March at the United Nations. The UN Convenor has responsibility for maintaining PWANZ Special Consultative Status at the UN (through ECOSOC), including compiling the UN audit report every four years on PWANZ's involvement with women in Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally.

For more information and job descriptions, email pwanz2016@gmail.com

Applications close on 18 August 2017.

Look Who's At The Well - ARE YOU?

Michelle Elder is a gifted worship leader who is passionate about leading people into the presence of God in a gentle and very real way. She desires to see people intimately connect with God and respond to Him as He gently draws them on, deeper into relationship with Him.

Michelle also has a heart for woman's ministry and is passionate to see woman walking boldly and confidently in their God-given purpose. She is committed to journeying intentionally with woman to discover the truth about 'who they are' and be set free from areas in their life that are preventing them from living life to it's very fullest.



Michelle is married to Jonathan. They are currently raising their 5 children on their sheep and beef farm in Northern Southland. Together they are actively involved in the Balfour Presbyterian Church and their wider community.

To be there:

- Step One - organise your travel to Mosgiel, 15 minutes' drive from Dunedin airport, to arrive by 3pm on Friday 3 November. Women's Assembly closes at 11am on Sunday 5 November.
- Step Two – book your accommodation, Burns Lodge at Holy Cross Centre.
 - www.burnslodge.nz Email clinton@burnslodge.nz limited single rooms available, or arrange to share with a friend at \$80 per twin room per night,
- Step Three – register your place now (includes all meal/ plus activities):
Saturday only @ \$80
Standard registration @ \$125 for 3 days Email: pwanz2016@gmail.com

Your opportunity to contribute to the celebration of our membership diversity:

- honouring our taonga of Presbyterian Women – Passing on the Baton,
- and to share our hope for the future – local, regional and global ministry,
- Your voice is valued and your company welcome, if not in person support another to join us.

Support young women to journey to Mosgiel, if you are unable to attend the gathering consider donating to the travel fund of those who we are equipping, encouraging, and empowering.

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ Executive Report

BushFire

Ensure Presbyterian women receive their copy of your monthly newsletter – BushFire, forward email addresses to 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 – Funding Update

In the first month of the current financial year to 30 June 2018, 63 members have contributed nearly \$7,000 in donations to mission.

Presbyterian Women – Membership

Do you know a member of your congregation who would like to join Presbyterian Women for just \$10 per year? \$10 per annum provides 11 copies of the BushFire newsletter and a vote at the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Friday 3 November 2017 in Mosgiel. Terms of Reference 2016 and Minutes of Meetings of your Executive are available on request to pwanz2016@gmail.com

Annual General Meeting – 3 November 2017

Remits: are called for the PWANZ Annual General Meeting to be held at Mosgiel on Friday 3 November at 4pm. The next Executive meeting is to be held on Saturday, 26 August 2017 and remits will close on 19 August 2017, to be included in the Annual General Meeting agenda to be distributed to members by 1 September 2017.

Northern Ambassador

Our thoughts are with Rae Simpson, who is nursing a broken shoulder. Rae suggests fund-raising to support younger women with the high cost of travel from the northern regions to attend the Women's Assembly in Mosgiel.

Rae writes "members should advertise Women's Assembly in their churches, then have a special morning tea / Devonshire tea with a gold coin donation after a morning service. That should provide more than enough funding, even enough for 2 women."

N.B. Posters are available for your Parish noticeboard, email: pwanz2016@gmail.com

Presbytery Gatherings

Support PWANZ at your local Presbytery meeting.

Northern Presbytery has been split into 5 regions to do local work, with regional names, North / East / West / South Auckland and CTN.

Our Northern Ambassador, Rae Simpson will continue in her role attending the North Region meetings. We would like representatives to attend the other 4 region Presbytery meetings. Are you able to support PWANZ with a commitment to attending these meetings?

PWANZ Executive are also seeking representatives for the Kaimai, and Alpine Presbytery. Since General Assembly 2016 affirmed our resolution "that membership of church courts, committees and other formal groups reflect the gender balance within the Church".

The PWANZ representatives are part of decision making, need to attend typically two Presbytery meeting a year, share in discussion and workshops. If you would like more information regarding these roles contact:

Central Ambassador – Faaolataga (Ola) Leasi

Northern Ambassador – Rae Simpson

Put your name forward or suggest another's to pwanz2016@gmail.com

Missions

Thank you for all your work and support
Sally Missions Convenor

Special Project 2016 / 17

Thank you to all our groups, individuals and parishes who fund raised and donated for our special project. The accounts have not yet been audited but the amount raised is \$20,600 split \$14,420 (70%) to the overseas project in Nicaragua and \$6,180 (30%) to FASD-CAN in New Zealand.

The **2017/18 special project** has the theme of Children are our Hope and our Future. PILLARS exists to create positive futures for the children of prisoners in New Zealand supporting them to cope with their parent's imprisonment and helps to break the cycle of inter-generational crime.

Our Christian World Service South Uganda Project supports the Centre for Community Solidarity assisting local associations of care-givers of HIV and AIDs orphans with developing local plans, organising the building of new water tanks, and training in hygiene, sanitation, agricultural and financial planning.

I'm working on getting the packs out now.

General Election 23 September 2017

We are 'lucky' or 'fortunate' to be able to vote in fair elections in New Zealand. Around the world women don't have the vote, or face intimidation by men as to who they cast their vote for, or have to walk long distances to the polling booth and then queue for many hours.

In New Zealand we should be honouring these women and making sure that everyone is involved. Enrolment comes first and voting is available for everyone starting two weeks from election day. To be eligible to vote in an election, you need to be enrolled by the Friday before Election Day.

Have you read the **Justice in Action: We Say Yes!** Statement that was endorsed at the General Assembly 2016

<http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/speaking-out/what-we-believe/we-say-yes-statement>

In the upcoming 2017 General Election and beyond we say yes to policies that deliver greater social equality.

We say no to tax cuts that do not meet the needs of the most vulnerable.

Therefore we seek any government proposal on tax cuts be redirected towards the needs of the most vulnerable AND a review of our taxation policies to reflect an equitable society.

Have a look at the full text and decide what is important as we engage with the policies and debates of the election.



Fourteen leading New Zealand aid agencies, including CWS, the PCANZ's official emergency aid, justice and development agency, have launched a campaign to demand political action which will see New Zealand reduce its carbon emissions to zero by 2050.

Six weeks out from the General Election, Back the Plan: Back to Zero was launched with an open letter to political parties calling on all parties to follow the lead of countries like the UK and Denmark to put in place binding climate legislation, not only to safeguard New Zealand's future, but that of communities in the developing world who are already on the frontline of climate change.

For more information go to:

<https://www.cws.org.nz/get-involved/campaign/climate-justice/back-the-plan-zero-carbon-act>

United Nations Comment - Carol Grant, PWANZ UN Convenor

Over the last four years I have been very grateful for the support and encouragement from the many faithful long standing members of Presbyterian Women who have delighted in the higher profile of PWANZ at the United Nations and the numbers of ordained and lay women and girls in each delegation whose lives have been enriched by their participation and experiences at the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

It has meant a great deal to me as the current UN convenor to receive messages of support from women such as Jane Pritchard, the first UN Convenor, whilst I was at the Commission in New York, and others around the regions such as Phyllis Varcoe of Dunedin Presbyterian who passed away this month. Phyllis was a very faithful member of Knox Church, Dunedin, former Moderator of Dunedin Presbytery, long time President of Dunedin Presbyterian as well as leader of the Knox Church afternoon APW group. She was small in stature but held strong views on issues affecting women in the Church. Phyllis was born in Lawrence and came to Dunedin as a primary school teacher. She was a member of the National Council of Women and worked tirelessly in every church and community forum to promote the empowerment of women and girls. A life time of faithful service to the women of the PCANZ especially here in Dunedin.

I hope everyone will take the opportunity to see the documentary film by Gaylene Preston about Helen Clark's work as UN Administrator of the [United Nations Development Programme](#) from 2009 to 2017. As the documentary advertising states "The film conveys how tough it is to break the remaining glass ceilings. May it motivate future generations of women to keep at it! By any measure, Helen Clark is an exceptional woman. Her journey from one of four children on a remote New Zealand farm to becoming New Zealand's first elected female Prime Minister forms an outstanding and inspirational life story.

In 2016, she added an even more ambitious chapter, as she attempted to become the United Nations' first ever female Secretary-General. **MY YEAR WITH HELEN** gives a closely observed view of Helen's bid for the top job, as the UN turns itself inside out in an effort to deliver unprecedented transparency in an historic year.



Gaylene Preston's cameras follow Helen Clark campaigning for Secretary-General while also carrying out her work as Administrator of UNDP, filming Clark in Botswana, Britain, Spain and Ukraine as well as the UN's New York headquarters." By the way, Helen Clark's mother, Margaret Clark, was another faithful Presbyterian Woman. Our delegation this year had an appointment to meet with Helen but the huge snow storm that closed New York and the United Nations saw us all confined to our Manhattan hotel and Helen Clark stranded at another airport in the US.

If you come to the PWANZ Women's Assembly in November you will have the opportunity to hear the Rev Jin Sook Kim talk about her experiences as a member of the 2017 delegation and the Rev Alofa Lale, another of the guest speakers, will be there. She attended the Commission as a delegation member in 2016. They have so much to share.

Carol Grant, PWANZ United Nations Convenor