

Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ

June 2017

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

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world
refugee
day

The United Nations' (UN) **World Refugee Day** is observed on June 20 each year. This event honours the courage, strength and determination of women, men and children who are forced to flee their homeland under threat of persecution, conflict and violence.

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

Joy Cowley

Story Telling

Deborah Bower

Metiria Turei

Jin Sook Kim

Anna Dean
Angela Meyer
Double Denim

Alofa Lale

Craft & Culture

Women's Spirituality

Details: Email Sandra Waldrom pwanz2016@gmail.com

Thoughts Looking Forward from Erin

Thank you for your prayers

Last month I was honest about the issues the executive of PWANZ are facing. The reality is that the executive's issues are our member's issues.

We had a productive May meeting (the minutes are available after our meetings. Just get in touch with Sandra if you would like a copy emailed to you). Issues were discussed and for the most part a way was found to address them. I would like to thank those who are contacting us. Whether the contact is to say that it is time for us to close, or the contact is to contribute ideas for the Women's Assembly, or it is to say they appreciated a contribution read in Bush Fire; all are considered and in their light, we ask ourselves what is it that PWANZ is to respond to.

In some ways, I sense we are on a train track – it is a route we know and understand. But we have instructions to pick the next generation up. In order to fulfil this command, we need to change tracks. A number of years ago I took the train from Dunedin to visit a friend in Christchurch. It was late November and I thought – great I can write my Christmas letters to people while on the 7 hour train ride. What a joy not having to drive. Ha! What did I know! Trains are not the most gentle mode of transport. Writing was a total fail. Especially the couple of times we had to change tracks. Rocky, and bumpy, and jolting all at the same time as we went up and down and left and right. I think PWANZ are in this process. Changing tracks. The mode of transport is the same. Women are women. We like to gather and we are passionate about the things we are passionate about.

But to gather younger women PWANZ is faced with several options. And can respond in several ways. One option is that we close. But at an AGM previously it was decided not to. Another option was to transition – in effect to take the train that is PWANZ and endeavour to change tracks. One of the ways we are attempting this is with the Women's Assembly. We are hoping that with the mix of speakers we may have something for everyone. Please look at the advertising thus far and consider registering and bringing someone of a different generation to you.

What I am encouraged by (and why I am still here) is whenever I talk to young women about PWANZ and what we do and who we are – well they enrol as individual members. They believe in the history of us, and in the power of us, and in the future of us.

Exciting times
Erin

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

As at 31 May 2017 of the current financial year which ends 30 June 2017, 606 members have contributed nearly \$7,000 in affiliation fees (i.e. nearly 80% of 2016 contribution) either

from their Fellowship Group or as an Individual Member. Plus \$24,000 has been gifted 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.

National Council of Women – update

On Saturday, 20 May 2017, our PWANZ Central Ambassador, Ola Leasi attended a Members' Meeting in Wellington about the proposed NCW governance changes. Our President, Erin Pendreigh voted in the postal ballot and the results will be announced on Friday 2 June.

Presbytery Gatherings

Support PWANZ at your local Presbytery meeting. Executive are seeking representatives for the following Presbytery: Kaimai, Alpine, and Southern. 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

Look Who's At The Well – WE ARE

The preparations for the Women's Assembly are going well with exciting, knowledgeable and stimulating speakers confirmed.

Attached to the email with this is the registration pack, information about Burns Lodge and a poster. Please can you get the poster printed and put up in your church.

CWM (Council for World Mission) is a worldwide partnership of 32 churches, with the head office in Singapore whose mission statement says: *called to partnership in Christ to mutually challenge, encourage and equip churches to share God's mission*. Thanks to a CWM grant which we are to use for this event we are able to keep the costs low.

If you're in the south join together and car pool, further north how about holding a cake stall outside the supermarket and sending some of the younger women of your church. They don't have to be part of any existing group.

Now we need you to register.

Sandra Waldrom

Golden Jubilee Quilt



Back in 2014 Dellwyn Moylan, Ashburton came up with the idea of doing something collectively to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of APW. She reports: *I had the idea of a Quilt and put the idea out there. I am sure you are aware it was picked up and as a result we have an amazing quilt assembled by Natalie Watkin and contributed to by many women from around the country.*

When we started we needed to find a place for it to be hung as we didn't want it just put in a cupboard or lost. We approached Knox College who were unable to have the quilt there and the Hewitson Library and they initially agreed but then said no when they learned it was a quilt and they didn't think they would have the space for it.

As the Quilt is still on its road trip around New Zealand but is now in the southern part of the South Island Natalie and I realised that we did need to find a permanent home. I went back to Hewitson Library who thought they may be able to hang it depending on the size. After giving the measurement to Hewitson Library they have agreed to permanently house the APW 50th Jubilee quilt which is wonderful news.

Mission Update

Thank you for all your work and support
Sally Missions Convenor

What does your group do?

Beth Campbell (soon to be retired) President writes....."On Saturday night **Whakatu Presbyterian Friendship Group (Nelson)** hosted dinner for fifty-two. Ticket sales and donations raised around \$1400 for our mission project. We were entertained by Ian Davidson on banjo and Julie Saraswati on harp and guitar. An evening of great chatter, great food and great entertainment."



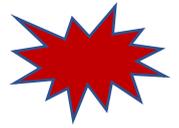
The Fellowship Group at **St John's in the City, Wellington** has taken up the journey to the Women's Assembly in November with devotions around "Water in the Bible". In May, we reflected on John 2, 1 - 11 the Cana wedding scene with the transformation of water into wine. A local member of the FASD-CAN organisation, then provided an informative and personal message of the struggles that care-givers deal with daily as their families live with FASD. Following this powerful presentation, discussion continued over lunch, as it is dismaying to hear the consequences of alcohol in our community whether violence, or more subtle forms that we may not see or be aware of.



The Syrian twins, Nadeen and Dareen Saleem were presented with their PWANZ Educational Scholarships at a special **Knox (Dunedin)** Women's meeting. It was a cold Dunedin night in the middle of the school holidays but those who could come on the night were delighted to meet the girls, and learn more about Damascus, life as it was in Syria and what it is like to begin a new life and study in Dunedin



We want to hear from you – what are you doing, any tips for a fun, friendly and profitable fundraiser and a photo or two. If you have some event to advertise please send us the details as we can put it up on our Facebook page.



News from Carol Grant, PWANZ United Nations Convenor.



Members of the delegation have been very proactive speaking to church and community groups since their return. I have been at some of the presentations and these have been as diverse as the presenters! Various articles have been published in church magazines and national newspapers. As a delegation, we certainly made the most of the opportunities to be interactive, follow our interest areas, and participate in the discussions at CSW61. I will include as many individual comments as I can in my final report to the next annual meeting.

The 2017 PWANZ UN Delegation at the NZ Mission Breakfast in New York

The members of the PWANZ delegation to CSW61 in March were the Rev's Jin Sook Kim, Dunedin; Saifaleupolu Siitia, Auckland; Carol Grant, UN Convenor, Dunedin; Lynette Heine, Lay Minister and Occupational Therapist, Westland; Mira Karunanidhi, Year 13 Secondary School Student, St Margaret's College, Wellington; Dr Chitra Karunanidhi, Medical Practitioner, Wellington; Chiquita Holden, Victim Support, Homicide Trauma, Wellington; Kate Saxton, Police Sergeant, Initial Training Instructor, Royal NZ Police College, Wellington; Rebekah Kitto Police Constable, Tactical Crime Unit, Dunedin; Rachel Tombs Youth leader - Knox Church Dunedin - Otago University Student, Dr Sue Bidrose, CEO, Dunedin City Council, Dunedin; and Helen Speirs - Editorial writer/ Opinion page editor/Books editor, Otago Daily times, Dunedin.

All these interactions help to raise the profile of our UN involvement - although this sometimes seems to be much easier to achieve in the wider community than the church! Since returning from the UN I have been heavily involved in responses, feedback loops and internet questionnaires associated with the Commission CSW61. The Agreed Conclusions can now be found at www.unwomen.org/en/csw/outcomes and one of the best analysis papers from UN Women can be found at <https://www.awid.org/news-and-.../csw61-report-and-analysis-agreed-conclusions>. Here is the link to Helen Speirs' UN package on the ODT website <https://www.odt.co.nz/lifestyle/magazine/women-united> Part 1 and <https://www.odt.co.nz/lifestyle/magazine/women-united-part-2>



World Refugee Day marks the founding of the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) on 20 June 1950. Refugee Sunday is designated as the following Sunday in the Methodist/Presbyterian Churches, this year 25 June or in the Anglican tradition on 2 July.

**Type UN Refugee in your search engine and find out more about this global problem.
Amnesty International NZ has information about our refugee quota.
CWS will put up worship resources on their website after 14 June**

Child of Syria - Katia's story

From [Voices](#), 3:00 pm on 24 April 2017

Lynda Chanwai-Earle, Producer

(Lynda is my step-daughter and we're all very proud of her work - Sally)

A deep hush sits over the library at Island Bay School in Wellington. A group of children sit quietly as they each take turns to read from five children's books newly published by the [Make Foundation](#). They've been practising hard because these books are special and the children have a deep connection to them. Each is a refugee story, retold and illustrated by the students of the school.



Hannah Stark is eight years old. She's holding [Child of Syria](#) by Katia Rostem Agha. Katia fled Syria with her parents in 2012 after attending a demonstration that prompted government security forces to look for her. She was just 13 years old.

Katia says the secret police came to her school to arrest her and six of her friends but the principal told them they weren't there. Then she called the parents and warned them to flee. In that moment all the children and their families became refugees. One of Katia's school friends didn't make it out. The girl was caught by government forces and disappeared forever. "I went to hide at my grandmother's, then my uncle's."

Katia spent 10 days hidden under a stairwell, waiting to be reunited with her parents. The neighbourhood was shelled in the fighting between the government forces and rebels.

"We were crying. We sat under the stairs. No one can come to this area."

The family fled to Egypt by car. That was the last time Katia saw her grandmother.

For the full article and podcast go to:

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/voices/audio/201841393/child-of-syria-katia's-story>



Join Operation Refugee and challenge yourself to live off refugee rations for 5 days. Go to [Refugee Kete](#) for all the information you need. See the April Bushfire

