

# Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ

May 2017

## In this Issue

- Look Who's at the Well
- Thoughts Looking Forward
- Details of the Women's Assembly
- PWANZ Executive Update
- In Praise of Caregivers
- Mission Update
- Global Day of Prayer to End Famine
- FASD-CAN Inc
- Sustainable Development Goal #2 Prayer for No Hunger

Like us on Facebook



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

## About us

### President

Rev Erin Pendreigh  
Balclutha  
Mobile: 027 774 1457  
Phone: 0800 335948  
Email: [missionadvisor@synod.org.nz](mailto:missionadvisor@synod.org.nz)

### Administrator

Sandra Waldrom  
PO Box 17427, Karori  
Wellington 6147  
Mobile: 027 702 9386  
Email: [pwanz2016@gmail.com](mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com)

### Human Rights Convenor

Tausala Ioefa  
Palmerston North  
Mobile: 021 2080 857  
Email: [tausala.iosefa@gmail.com](mailto:tausala.iosefa@gmail.com)

### Missions Convenor

Sally Russell  
Havelock North  
Mobile: 021 129 9608  
Email: [sallyrussell@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sallyrussell@xtra.co.nz)

### United Nations Convenor

Rev Carol Grant  
Dunedin  
Mobile: 027 296 2011  
Email: [nandcg@clear.net.nz](mailto:nandcg@clear.net.nz)

## **Look Who Will Be At The Well**

### **Women's Assembly (incorporating AGM)**

Supported by CWM with a "building capacity" grant

**3 – 5 November 2017**



**Are you?**

## ***Thoughts Looking Forward from Erin***

This month's reflection is one of contrast.

Two weeks ago, I had the privilege of leading a service of celebration for the life of Margaret Booth. Margaret was 92 and the Mother of one of my best friends. I would like to share one the life stories I gathered in preparation for Margaret's service.

Margaret had attended church from the time she was 5 years old. She went to Sunday schools, bible classes and Sunday worship regularly and faithfully. Yet Margaret wrote in her diary that she knew she was missing something regarding her faith. She didn't know what it was, but as she wrote she noted that she felt she was 'doing Christianity' rather than 'being' a Christian. In 1958, as secretary of her local PWMU group Margaret attended the National Conference, held that year in Palmerston North. This gathering took place immediately prior to the Presbyterian General Assembly. Margaret records in her diary that during the General Assembly's Communion Service she gave her life to the Lord, this after an amazing PWMU conference! Her life was changed forever, as from that time onward she purposefully walked with Lord as her Saviour.

I have been reflecting on what must have been happening in that time and place within both PWMU and the wider church with Salvation commitments occurring as part of gathering together. For myself, this testimony of Margaret's was inspirational. Margaret herself was inspirational but so was the environment of PWMU in providing opportunity for people to come to the Lord.

In contrast – in preparation for writing this piece for Bushfire I re-read the article I wrote last month. In doing so, the following sentence jumped out at me.

*'...but again, younger women aren't going to just join – we are in a season where OUR passion, OUR belief in a future of PWANZ is what will draw new members'.*

I emphasise those previous sentences as I had just finished a phone conversation with Sandra our PWANZ Administrator. Within this call was shared the reality that our groups have decreased from 89 to 59 in one year! Likewise, to date only one person has registered for the Women's Assembly in November. And now because of less groups and many other groups choosing to pay less in affiliation fees, Sandra is no longer drawing an administrator wage for herself. This is regardless of the fact that at the last years AGM there was a 100% commitment to continue to financially support her role. *With a dramatic decrease in groups, certain groups withholding levies (or simply choosing to pay an amount they choose) there now looms a financial situation of concern.*

As an Executive, we are still in transition – discerning the way forward, indeed discerning if in fact there is a way forward? We can 'want' to find a way forward as an Executive but I'm unsure if that is enough. For regardless of the passion within the Executive, the reality is that it won't be enough to sustain PWANZ. If the baton of responsibility for this organisation cannot be held by the existing membership long enough for PWANZ to renew itself, then no amount of 'wanting' will be enough.

Please pray for us at the Executive meeting being held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May. It will not be a normal meeting but one where the cards of 'reality' will be back on the table. We will report back to all members as soon as possible with the deck in hand.

Shalom,  
Erin

## ***Look Who's At The Well***

### ***WE ARE***

**Jin Sook Kim** - Ordained minister of the Waikouaiti Presbyterian Parish, and member of PWANZ 2017 delegation to United Nations in New York.

**Alofa Lale** - Pasifika Practitioner with an extensive history as a minister, teacher and Pacific supporter in communities, schools and universities in New Zealand.

**Deborah Bower** - Doctorate in Theology from Otago University, Church Leadership Support Advisor at Southern Presbytery & Presbyterian Synod of Otago and Southland.

**Metiria Turei** – MP and Co-leader Greens Party, spokesperson for Inequality, Building and Housing and Justice and Electoral Issues.

**Anna Dean** and **Angela Meyer** – Double Denim, PR and Marketing Agency directors, based in Wellington.

**Joy Cowley** - visits schools, and runs writing workshops for people whose culture has not been adequately represented in their children's books.

### **To be there:**

Step One - organise your travel to Mosgiel.

Step Two – book your accommodation at Burns Lodge at Holy Cross Centre. Email [clinton@burnslodge.nz](mailto:clinton@burnslodge.nz) less than 20 single rooms available now, or arrange to share with a friend at \$80 per twin room per night i.e. only \$80 for your accommodation.

Step Three – register your place. Early Bird registration @ \$100 for 3 days, closes 30 June 2017 Email: [pwanz2016@gmail.com](mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com)

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday from 4pm to 6pm. Saturday will be a mix of presentations / workshops / reflection and networking opportunities.

Accommodation in a combination of single rooms, twin rooms and ensuite rooms is available on a first booked basis. Included in your registration are all meals plus activities which will be hosted in Burns Lodge at Holy Cross Centre, Mosgiel [www.burnslodge.nz](http://www.burnslodge.nz)

Your opportunity to contribute to the celebration of our membership diversity, honouring our taonga of Presbyterian Women, and to share our hope for the future, is available now as we are planning the weekend programme. Submit your inspirational ideas to [pwanz2016@gmail.com](mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com) Your voice is valued and your company welcome, if not in person support another to join us. More details will follow in your June Bushfire.

Sandra Waldrom

## ***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](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 – Funding Update**

As at 30 April 2017 of the current financial year which ends 30 June 2017, 319 members have contributed \$4,300 in affiliation fees either from their Fellowship Group or as an Individual Member. Plus \$14,000 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.

### **National Council of Women - update**

- Member of Parliament, Jan Logie, discussed her two Member's Bills - the Domestic Violence-Victims' Protection Bill and the Equal Pay Amendment Bill - and what she hopes these will achieve for New Zealand women at a meeting in Wellington on 13 April 2017.
- A Special Meeting will be held in Wellington on 20 May 2017 to discuss proposed changes to NCW governance - the President of PWANZ holds the vote in the ballot (and they cannot nominate a proxy). The ballot will open on 12 May and close on 29 May. PWANZ will send a representative (or two) to the Members Meeting on 20 May.

### **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 Leasi

Northern Ambassador – Rae Simpson

Put your name forward or suggest another's to [pwanz2016@gmail.com](mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com)

## ***In Praise of Caregivers***

On 18 April, the government announced a \$2 billion package to address the pay inequity in the aged care sector, an industry predominantly staffed by women. The proposed deal will see the hourly rate of more than 55,000 workers being lifted from the minimum wage of \$15.75 to between \$19 and \$23.50 from July 1, with an additional rise in July 2021. It will affect about 55,000 staff in government-funded sectors involving aged care, home support and disability services.



The Union representing age care workers E tū on their www says: While low pay is the most significant issue that needs addressing, E tū is also focused on safe staffing levels and proper training opportunities for the care and support staff across the sector.

Along with our successes in the Equal Pay campaign we've already secured in-between travel time payments for home support workers and later this year guaranteed hours will be under the spotlight.

Caregivers are vital in all our lives, either personally caring for us or our family, friends and our communities. *In 2012 after a car accident 'Pauline' came every morning for five months with an occasional weekend away to help me wash, get dressed and ready for the day. She was always friendly and professional and helped me recover my health and my wellbeing as I processed what had happened and healed. I know she was paid poorly and rejoice in the new wage settlement. Sally Russell*

## **Mission Update**



The World Council of Churches and the All Africa Conference of Churches have set aside Sunday 21 May for a **Global Day of Prayer to End Famine**.

In February, the United Nations declared famine for 100,000 people in two states of South Sudan. **Wadalla Peter** from our partner the Maridi Service Agency (MSA) in South Sudan says, "Many people are going without a meal in a day. Government employees have not been paid for four months. The people survive the hard way. They struggle to find a little to feed their families". With a 50 kilogram bag of maize meal now costing \$107, MSA can only provide two meals a week at the two nursery schools they run.

Alongside prayer, we are asking for support to help our partners get food to families surviving on wild leaves and little else. Christian World Service is focusing fundraising efforts on South Sudan where it has responded for many years. MSA is assisting mothers displaced by drought and violence with livelihood support, and the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) is responding in many areas with food, water, sanitation, cash vouchers, tools and seeds, education, and psychosocial support. Please join us in praying for peace and for the sharing of enough food and water to keep people alive.

In supporting this day, CWS is asking churches to hold an offering for the [South Sudan Famine Appeal](#). Funds raised will provide emergency food, commodity vouchers and tools for agriculture as well as livelihood support to displaced people. If you can, please help save lives by promoting this appeal. Thank you.

**Look at the website for more information:** [www.cws.org.nz](http://www.cws.org.nz)

## **Special project**

Thanks to all the groups and people who are raising funds for this year's projects.

Dear Ms Pendreigh

I am the Chairperson of FASD-CAN Inc, a non-profit, charitable organisation established in 2013 by a very small group of parents and professionals. Our purpose is very simple; "to unite caregivers, strengthen families, support individuals and educate about FASD across our communities".

To date, we have set up a web-site, initiated an on-line support group through Facebook, held parent workshops, provided financial assistance to enable families to travel to workshops, and engaged with Government policy advisors in both Health and Education in order to have FASD recognised and supported.

Our goals in the next 12 months, pending finance, include;

- Hosting parent workshop and networking events/opportunities
- Develop a 'welcome / information pack' to provide parents/caregivers
- Up-grade our web site
- Develop NZ based resources (both written and visual).

As we move on, we have ambitions to:

- Offer scholarships so that young people with FASD can be funded into various training and social activities.
- Offer an 0800 number so that advice is 'on-tap' for parents/caregivers
- Engage in training service providers about FASD, particularly those able to offer respite care.

As for me, I was propelled into the world of FASD in 2012 when my son, then 14, was diagnosed. From that point, I resolved to educate myself about a condition that I really

had no knowledge of. In 2013 I travelled to an international FASD Conference in Canada where I learned about other support groups established around the world. I came home and rallied the support needed for formalising a national support network. Our logo is a bone carving made by my husband, Paul. It is based on traditional Maori designs of the Manaia and Koru. Their combined meaning is fitting for us; strength, guidance and wisdom with the elements of hope, harmony and new beginnings.

FASD is a life-long neurological disability that often goes unseen. This brain damage is played out mostly through behaviours – being impulsive, socially inappropriate, emotionally over-reactive, poor judgements, vulnerable to negative peer influences with an inability to plan, predict and organise themselves routinely. Because of this, parents and caregivers can feel very isolated and judged as it calls into question their parenting techniques. Part of our role is to validate them.

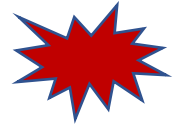
However, it is equally important for us to remind ourselves and others that, with the right level of support, those with FASD can live happy and fulfilled lives. Our aim is to ensure that parents and caregivers are encouraged in their support and that professionals in Health, Education, Justice, Employment and Social Services are equipped to help these parents and caregivers and provide meaningful assistance.

We are very grateful that Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand have chosen to support FASD-CAN. A number of our members have been giving talks to various church

groups around the country. To date, there has not been a co-ordinated approach to this. We are endeavouring to provide speakers when asked, although this may not always be possible depending on availability of parents who are willing and able to speak publically.

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for supporting our families. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.

Claire Gyde  
Chairperson



**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.

## **United Nations News**



**Sustainable Development Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**



- Globally, one in nine people in the world today (795 million) are undernourished
- Poor nutrition causes nearly half (45 per cent) of deaths in children under five – 3.1 million children each year.
- 66 million primary school-age children attend classes hungry across the developing world, with 23 million in Africa alone.

Prayer of Support for Sustainable Development Goal #2 NO HUNGER



Lord, You are the source of all life. In You will live and move and have our being. When You created this world, You blessed it in abundance so that we would have enough to eat. We come before you today, however, recognizing our thoughtlessness and propensity towards selfishness. So many in this world, especially the vulnerable, infants, children, and the elderly, suffer from insatiable hunger, dying daily of starvation and malnutrition. We confess this disgrace, Lord, please forgive us.

We ask You also to expose the unjust actions of individuals and nations who perpetuate hunger in this world. Please, Lord, convict them. And show them and us creatively how to achieve food security and promote sustainable agricultural systems for those who live in insecure places, especially where thievery and corruption destroy their work and productivity. Move in the plans of national leaders, Lord, and rouse our minds. Help us not to look away from the man or the woman or the child in need.

Give us all a heart of compassion and action to bring life to others and work to eradicate hunger from this world. We put our hope in You, Jesus, and pray this in Your life-giving Name. Amen.

Written by the Rev. Meg Saunders © 2015.  
Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic Anglican Church, USA