

Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ

October 2017

In this Issue

- PWANZ AGM
- Thoughts Looking Forward
- Look Who's at the Well
- PWANZ Executive Update
- Mission Update
- Climate Change Conference to be held in Bonn
- CWS Rohingya Refugee Appeal
- United Nations Comment
- Sustainable Development Goal 5

Like us on Facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/presbyteria/womenaotearoanewzealand/>

About us

President

Rev Erin Pendreigh
Balclutha
Mobile: 027 774 1457
Phone: 0800 335948
Email: missionadvisor@synod.org.nz

Administrator

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

Human Rights Convenor

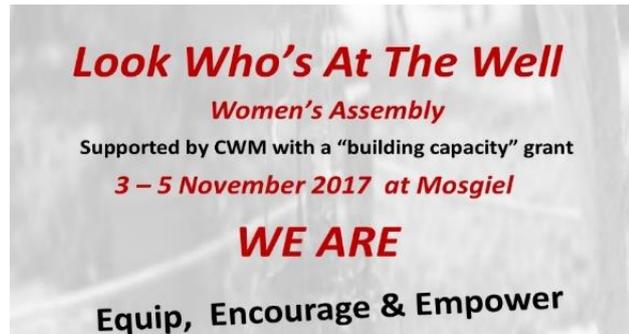
Tausala Ioefa
Palmerston North
Mobile: 021 2080 857
Email: tausala.iosefa@gmail.com

Missions Convenor

Sally Russell
Havelock North
Mobile: 021 129 9608
Email: sallyrussell@xtra.co.nz

United Nations Convenor

Rev Carol Grant
Dunedin
Mobile: 027 296 2011
Email: nandcg@clear.net.nz



Does your age or do you know someone whose age starts with a 2...no not 2 years of age but "twenty something"? Email pwanz2016@gmail.com for a SUPER offer to the Women's Assembly in Mosgiel from 3 - 5 November 2017

Don't delay, the countdown has begun... Come to the Gathering and share our stories.

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.



Thoughts Looking Forward from Erin

Dear Friends,

My news source of choice is the Stuff webpage. On this site throughout the day the headline articles change as events happen. And depending upon the interest I show; more articles of that subject nature will appear. I am a sucker for Hollywood stories (I have no idea why) and over the past few days I have been reading a lot about the fall of a prominent Hollywood movie mogul. As I followed this particular story an opinion piece appeared on my computer home page. The gist of this article was... 'When will men learn that 'women talk' - *Women talk to each other!* We do not lack for means of communication, even if we lack the substantial structural power to make changes....

One of our speakers at the upcoming Women's Assembly is exploring this in greater depth. As Women, how can we use the networks we have to make change in our communities? Double Denim initially spoke at last year's National Council for Women conference. Such was their impact they have accepted our invitation to present in Mosgiel. They have also been invited to address conferences in New York and further afield.

If you were umming and ahing about joining us in Mosgiel on the 3rd of November my suggestion is to take the plunge and register. Aside from the amazing venue, and the catered meals, the program is packed with speakers of international quality; speakers who will inspire, encourage and challenge us. One of the aims of the Women's Assembly is to build our networks, increasing our capacity as women to contribute in the communities we call home. This weekend is a wonderful time for us to communicate and uplift each other as 'women who talk', and do so much more; and what could be better than that?

I look forward to seeing you there

In friendship

Erin

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.

Look Who's At The Well - ARE YOU?



Lauren Harrigan has a special interest in the place of women in politics and the media, especially in a digital context.

After graduating with a History and International Relations major from Victoria University, Wellington Lauren interned at Double Denim and Coffee Supreme.

She has worked on the Treat her Right campaign - aimed at highlighting the gender pay gap, developed social content for various brands and is currently the Wellington editor of Concrete Playground, an international digital city guide.

As a millennial Lauren is a digital native and looks forward to sharing both Double Denim's and her own insights into engaging women.

PWANZ AGM 2017

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Burns Lodge, Mosgiel in the Holy Cross Community Hall beginning at 4pm on Friday 3 November 2017.

The Registration Desk opens at 3pm (inside the Main Entrance). Meeting papers including; the Agenda, Remits, draft Minutes 2016, Budget 2018, and the Annual Report 2017 (includes Financial Statements) will be sent by email to members on Friday 20 October. If you require a hard-copy there will be a \$5 fee to cover printing and postage.

Please forward names for the **Remembrance Candle** to pwanz2016@gmail.com or PO Box 17- 427, Karori Wellington **by Friday 27 October 2017**.

Women's Assembly at Burns Lodge, Mosgiel

The piano is being tuned in the Chapel 'cos Michelle brings her musical talent as she joins Deborah in leading our daily worship. Only one vegetarian to cater for over the weekend, are there any others with special dietary requirements attending? If you would like our "shuttle" to meet you at Dunedin airport for the trip to Mosgiel - let us know your flight's arrival time / departure...email: pwanz2016@gmail.com

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ Executive Report

PWANZ Executive seeks an enthusiastic person to join their small team of five.

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 promotions for our mission projects, including content and resources to be distributed nationally.

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

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

To the 30th September 2017, the third month of the current financial year to 30 June 2018, 227 financial members have contributed over \$11,000 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. Terms of Reference 2016 and Minutes of Meetings of your Executive are available on request to pwanz2016@gmail.com

Missions

Sally Missions Convenor

Pacific Conference of Churches – one of PWANZ’s Mission B’day partners

The Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) has called for the urgent implementation of the 2015 Paris climate agreement, and for leaders to hear the voices of Pacific Islanders – the most vulnerable people to the impacts of climate change.

The meeting comes as Fiji prepares to chair the 23rd Conference of Parties (COP23), the annual climate change conference of 196 countries to be held in Bonn, Germany in November. The [statement](#) calls on governments to increase their pledges to keep the global average temperature rise below 1.5°C, and to support local and community-based approaches to risk management and climate change resilience.

The Pacific Church leaders said: “We exercise our prophetic voice as churches and believers of the faith to amplify the cries of our people and *Moana* (ocean) who are directly or indirectly affected by climate change and encourage the spirit of stewardship among ourselves as custodians of God’s creation.”

Prime Minister (of Fiji) and incoming COP23 President’s speech at the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly. 21 Sept 2017 [Full speech](#)

It is clear, Mr President, that global warming changes our very understanding of what our national interests are. It challenges us to understand that the only way for every nation to put itself first is to lock arms with all other nations and go forward together. Anything else is self-destructive—for the world and for each nation. It may be tempting for political leaders to show that they are protecting some national industry or near-term economic goal, but at what cost? The wise leader must work hard to convince the people to embrace the path we know we must take.

There is no choice to be made between prosperity and a healthy climate.

We need to learn from each other and to use the world’s considerable resources to do the most good for the most people. We need to continue to create prosperity and to ensure the well-being of the nations and ecosystems of the world. If we view this as some sort of negotiation in which each country tries to preserve its narrow national interests, we will all lose. We will be powerless to protect our own people from the consequences of climate change. Collective action is the only way forward. Wise men and women will understand that.

CWS Rohingya Refugee Appeal

More than 420,000 people have arrived in Bangladesh seeking food, shelter and safety. Since 25 August violence has intensified in Myanmar’s Rakhine province many Rohingya have fled, others remain in the country where supplies are dwindling. Families need food, water, sanitation, temporary shelter and medical care. The majority of the refugees are women and girls who report molestation, rape and killings. They are traumatised and in need

of protection. Recent flooding around Cox's Bazaar where most are sheltering is making life hard.

The Bangladeshi government and aid agencies are struggling to cope with the desperate and immediate need. The Bangladesh government has allocated about 2,000 acres for refugee camps.

ACT Alliance is responding but they need more funds to help in this desperate situation. **\$58 could provide a family with food for 15 days.**
\$31 could provide a family with shelter.



Please donate to the Rohingya Refugee Appeal now.



The PCANZ has a mission partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar, called the Ricebowl Mission. Through this partnership, awareness of, and support for, the people of Myanmar has grown and become widespread throughout the PCANZ. The situation of the Rohingya people in Myanmar is a humanitarian crisis resulting from decades of struggle in the complex web of Myanmar's multi-ethnic, multi-religious society, exacerbated by years of brutal military rule. The members of the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar are almost exclusively of the Chin ethnic group, one of many ethnic minorities within this country. Due to the nature of social and political life in Myanmar, they will largely have little awareness of, and no involvement in the Rohingya crisis which is taking place in a remote area the Rakhine State, even though it borders the Chin State where our partners are. This crisis is still unfolding but it is clear the Rohingya people need the involvement of the international community.

– Phil King, Global Mission Coordinator, PCANZ

United Nations Comment



Goal 5 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals which was signed by the NZ Government two years ago is an important goal for women here is New Zealand and around the world.

Targets

- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
- Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.
- Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life.
- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference

on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.
- Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.
- Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka remarked recently; Ending violence against women: the time is now, together.

“In 2017, gender-based violence targeting women and girls in the world is the most frequently committed crime. It is mostly committed by people that are known to the women and girls, people they love, which makes it difficult to report them to law enforcement. We also count as gender-based violence the crimes that are committed in public spaces and in situations of conflict. Yet, most of the perpetrators are never brought to book, even those that are known to the law enforcers and to the victims.

Families, workmates, employers, trade unions, the media, law enforcement, public institutions, ministers—especially of justice, defence, health, social services, finance and education—and Heads of State need to lead this fight from the front. It is not fair to burden only Ministers of women and gender with this fight. These divisions and departments need to lead from the front. All of these parties need to use their considerable capacities to reduce the burden that is disproportionately carried by women in this fight, a fight that is universal and a prerequisite for sustainable development in every country and in every nation. This violation of women’s rights exists in every society, in every country, rich and poor, in every region, and in every culture.”

CSW62 (2018)

The sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 12 to 23 March 2018.

Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world are welcome to attend the session.

Themes

- **Priority theme:**
Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls;
- **Review theme:**
Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women.

Thank you for the encouragement and support you have given me during the time I have served Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand in the role of UN Convenor.

It has been a truly amazing and personally life giving and very rewarding time in my life, ministry and as a long time feminist. I believe the future for our voices as an NGO with Special Consultative Status at the UN in the national and international forums is bright indeed. I look forward to reading future reports on our work at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and here in New Zealand and offering my support, encouragement and expertise wherever it may further the empowerment of women and girls around the world.

The Rev Carol Grant, PWANZ United Nations Convenor