

# Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ

September 2017

## In this Issue

- Thoughts Looking Forward
- Look Who's at the Well
- PWANZ Executive Update
- Mission Update
- United Nations Comment
- My Year With Helen

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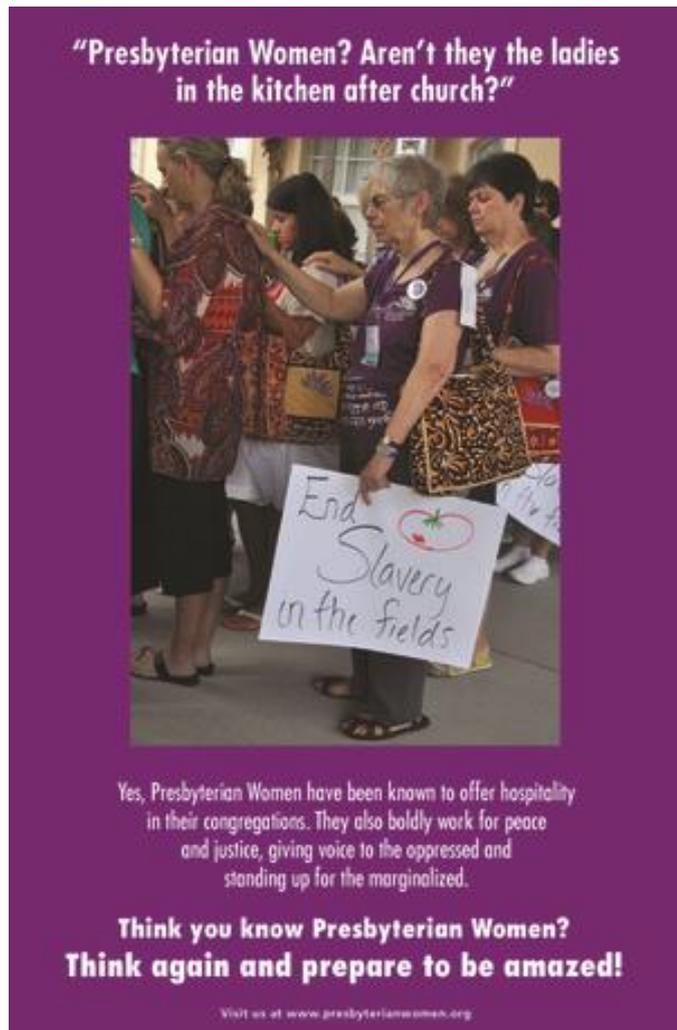
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This poster is from Presbyterian Women USA – what else do we do? Come to the Gathering and share our stories.



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

A few days ago I read the following quote from American scholar, author, and public speaker, Brené Brown.

She wrote...“I define connection as the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued; when they can give and receive without judgment; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship.”

I read this particular statement having just spent the day with the rest of the Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ Executive, at a meeting in Wellington. One of our agenda items was to plan the AGM being held on the Friday afternoon, prior to the start of the Women’s Gathering. We were listing all the ‘things’ that needed to be discussed, those to be voted on and actioned. Every item we listed was a good thing! But as I later reflected on what we had discussed, (amid the words of Brené Brown) I felt we had missed something. Most specifically, the stories from groups of Presbyterian Women. For me, one of the best ‘take aways’ from last year’s AGM was the ‘Sowing the Seed’ feedback forms which we filled in together.

So this year, how do we hear each other? Communication is one of the biggest struggles any national organization has. So how do we keep connection between our groups, between the Executive and our groups, between women? How best can we all be seen, heard and valued as Presbyterian Women? No doubt over the years, many different methods have been tried by groups who have sought to communicate more fully.

This year, we wonder if your group could send Sandra a short email which answers the following questions: What do you as a group value in your gathering? What gives your group strength and sustenance? What does your group struggle with? Is there any story, or speaker or God moment that you would like to share as an encouragement to the wider PWANZ? It would be great if we could hear from each and every group! And if you are an individual member – what holds you in this space? How can we encourage you? And equally, how can you encourage the wider membership?

It would be amazing to have not only the Executive documents, the budget and other financials in our AGM report, but also some reminders of the energy that exists within PWANZ nationwide.

As Sandra hasn’t been expecting these communications, please send them to her by the first week of October so they can be collated with all the AGM papers etc.

Together in Christ  
Erin

## ***Look Who's At The Well - ARE YOU?***

Dr Deborah Bower has over twenty years' experience in preaching/teaching, pastoral supervision, and spiritual life coaching. She has worked across all streams of Christian expression, and with various groups. Her area of expertise is in encouraging and equipping people to regain, or develop, spiritual and emotional health. She brings laughter, insight, hope, and vision for the future to individuals of all ages, and stages, through powerful, biblically based teaching and prophetically inspired ministry. Deborah has a passion for opening up the scriptures to reveal the heart and character of God. Deborah holds a PhD in Theology from Otago University. She spent four years teaching Introduction to New Testament Studies at Bible College New Zealand's Dunedin Campus (now Laidlaw College), and five years teaching Introduction to Old Testament, and aspects of NT Studies at Otago University. She also moderated the "Introduction to the NT" paper for EIDTS (Ecumenical Institute of Distance Theological Studies). Deborah's experience includes being the Interim Minister for the Wakatipu Community Presbyterian Church for a period of thirteen months. At present Deborah works for the Synod of Otago and Southland as Church Leadership Support Advisor for the region. She is Convenor of the Leadership Sub Committee of PCANZ, and also ministers nationally in a Presbytery recognised ministry called SoulScape. Deborah lives in Queenstown, New Zealand with her husband Gordon, and their two wee dogs, Lily and Poppy. Deborah continues to worship at Wakatipu Community Church, where she is an ordained elder.



### **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](http://www.burnslodge.nz)  
Email [clinton@burnslodge.nz](mailto:clinton@burnslodge.nz) to receive the 20% discount offered to our members, limited rooms available now, arrange to share with a friend at \$80 per twin room / 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](mailto: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***

### **PWANZ Executive**

The 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](mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com)

### **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**

To the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017, the second month of the current financial year to 30 June 2018, 187 financial members have contributed nearly \$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 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](mailto: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](mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com)

## **Missions**

Thank you for all your work and support  
**Sally Missions Convenor**

## **Developers Foundation Update on the 2015/16 Special Project**

Community development is a lengthy process and as Christchurch and Kaikoura people know recovery after a disaster be it earthquake or typhoons takes time, much discussion and decision making, money and the strength of people.



### **Families recover after Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines – CWS report:**

Local people built a brand new market run by the farmers themselves. More is on offer and money is staying in the community. The market is part of a plan to improve the local economy and family livelihoods. 94-98% of homes were damaged or destroyed in the 2013 super typhoon along with many livelihoods. Part of the community, Developers runs workshops and training programmes so people know about climate change and are better prepared for rising sea levels. They need funds now to plant mangroves to protect the coast and provide fish habitat.

3,061 homes received corrugated iron roofing.

49,540 fruit trees and root crops have been planted.

114.4 MT of food was produced **in the first year.**

### **United Nations Comment - Carol Grant, PWANZ UN Convenor Ministry for Women International Caucus meeting**

On the 18th August I attended the International Caucus meeting at the Ministry for Women. Attending this meeting are NZ NGO's involved in the UN Commissions on the Status of Women held in New York in March each year.

#### **The agenda**

This included the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Government's 2018 examination before the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in Geneva, recent delegations from Japan and Mexico, research on the factors behind the national gender pay gap and the recently released publication 'Closing the gender pay gap - actions for employers', insights into digital harm in New Zealand and celebrating the 125th anniversary of Women's Suffrage.

The venue was available to Caucus for a closed-door meeting, and this was followed by a round-table discussion with the new **Ministry for Women's Chief Executive, Renee Graham**. Ms Graham was previously Policy Director at the Ministry of Education and has a strong background in leading complex strategic policy development in both the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Development. Ms Graham has been appointed for a three-year term commencing on 19 June 2017. She is of Ngāti Toa and Ngāti Raukawa descent and is passionate about empowering NZ women and girls. More information about the Ministry for Women can be found on the Ministry for Women website [women.govt.nz](http://women.govt.nz) During the meeting's round-table discussion, Renee Graham, updated the Caucus members on the development of the Briefing to the Incoming Minister.



### International Caucus Presentations

The following presentations were made to the Caucus - the Ministry's presentation on the national gender pay gap, the Ministry's presentation on early findings of insights into digital harm in New Zealand, and a brief on progress of the New Zealand Defence Force on the implementation of the NZ National Action Plan UNSCR 1325 followed by New Zealand's national statement at the 2017 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

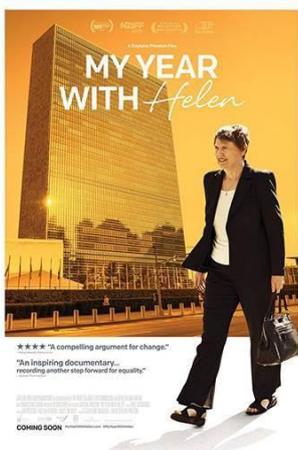
### 125th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in NZ milestone in 2018

On 19 September 1893, the Electoral Act 1893 was passed, giving all women in New Zealand the right to vote. As a result of this landmark legislation, New Zealand became the first self-governing country in the world in which all women had the right to vote in parliamentary elections. During the discussions I wondered how Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ will celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in NZ milestone in 2018 - nationally and around the regions?

Information on the 125th anniversary of women's suffrage in New Zealand is now available at: <http://www.mch.govt.nz/suffrage-125>.



### THE HELEN CLARK DOCUMENTARY



*"The film conveys how tough it is to break the remaining glass ceilings. May it motivate future generations of women to keep at it!"* — Helen Clark, 2017

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.