

## In this Issue

- Thoughts Looking Forward
- 2018 Look Who's at the Well - ARE YOU?
- International Women's Day
- Special Collection
- Executive Report
- International Women's Day
- Calendar
- Island Time
- Hamlin Fistula NZ

Like us on Facebook

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



# Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ

February 2018

**Special Collection**

11 March 2018

Your parish Minister or Session Clerk will receive an "open" letter to the congregation, poster and a link to a DVD to share.

**Please share the stories of PWANZ**

This is what it looks like on our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/presbyterianwomenaotearoanewzealand/videos/2016470451900281/>

|  |   |  |  |   |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| <p><b>President</b><br/>Rev Erin Pendreigh<br/>Balclutha<br/>Mobile: 027 774 1457<br/>Phone: 0800 335948<br/>Email:<br/><a href="mailto:erin@southernpresbyterians.nz">erin@southernpresbyterians.nz</a></p> | <p><b>Administrator</b><br/>Sandra Waldrom<br/>PO Box 17427,<br/>Karori<br/>Wellington 6147<br/>Mobile:<br/>027 702 9386<br/><a href="mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com">pwanz2016@gmail.com</a></p> | <p><b>Human Rights<br/>Convenor</b><br/>Tausala Ioefa<br/>Palmerston<br/>North<br/>Mobile:<br/>021 2080 857<br/><a href="mailto:tausala.iosefa@gmail.com">tausala.iosefa@gmail.com</a></p> | <p><b>Missions<br/>Convenor</b><br/>Sally Russell<br/>Havelock<br/>North<br/>Mobile:<br/>021 129 9608<br/><a href="mailto:sallyrussell@xtra.co.nz">sallyrussell@xtra.co.nz</a></p> | <p><b>United Nations Convenors</b><br/>AnneMarie Tangney<br/>Mobile: 021 069 6953<br/><a href="mailto:am.tangney@gmail.com">am.tangney@gmail.com</a><br/>Mavis Duncanson<br/>Mobile: 022 028 7005<br/><a href="mailto:mavisj.duncanson@gmail.com">mavisj.duncanson@gmail.com</a><br/>Both Dunedin</p> |
|--|---|--|--|---|

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

Over the past few months confronting, disturbing accounts of abuse as a result of unequal power dynamics have dominated media streams. The reaction of those around me has given rise to deep cries for change. Change on a global scale. But also lament about the power dynamics that are present in our own lives.

As Presbyterian Women, as followers of Christ we have something to offer the wider conversation of power dynamics, of gender equality. We are part of a denomination that has an aspiration to walk in the light of Galatians 3:28. We are proclaimers of a gospel that makes room for each person's story, we are family that has room for the broken-hearted.

PWANZ are committing this year to join in the wider conversations that our country is having regarding women. We will be writing submissions on relevant legislation and over the year encouraging our members and others to join us in speaking up and out. Can I suggest for you to watch out on our face book page or subscribe to our Bushfire publication so you can join your voice with PWANZ as we aspire to be 'one in Christ'?

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ also want to congratulate Joy Cowley, recently recognised with the Member of New Zealand Order. Joy gave of her time at our Women's Assembly recently held in Mosgiel. Those who attended were richly blessed by her teaching over the weekend. We were also inspired by her faith which she so freely shared with us. And we know that over the years she has given of her gifts and talents to encourage congregations around the country. She is truly a woman for our time and place.

Shalom,

Rev Erin Pendreigh

## ***2018 Look Who's at The Well - ARE YOU?***

The Executive meets on Saturday, 17 February to plan the programme for 2018. We will hold a gathering in your Region – watch out for venues and dates near you in the next BushFire. There will be a great programme and awesome speakers, topics that are relevant and interesting to both young and old.

## **Special Collection**

General Assembly 2016 recommended:

That a PWANZ Special Collection be taken on the Sunday nearest to International Women's Day each March to support the ongoing advocacy role of Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand locally, regionally, internationally, as well as at the United Nations.

We need funds to expand the work we do – we send delegations to the UN, we held an inspiring gathering in Mosgiel last year with more events planned this year – we all have lots of ideas and even though we are frugal it all costs. We get no funds from PCANZ and we are asking parishes to support us.

Please help – talk to your Minister, Session Clerk and Church Council and ask them for a direct donation. Talk to your congregation and ask them to support the special collection. Show the short (3 minute) DVD. Be enthusiastic

PWANZ Executive will provide material to support the retiring collection on the Sunday following International Women's Day, 11 March 2018, as agreed at GA16. Your parish Minister or Session Clerk will receive an "open" letter to the congregation, poster and a link to a DVD to share.

<https://www.facebook.com/presbyterianwomenaotearoanewzealand/videos/2016470451900281/>

## **Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ Executive Report**

### **Archives – Filing Records**

The Director of Archives, Yvonne Wilkie reminds us to deposit records with Presbyterian Church Archive, Knox College Dunedin, and generally "When in Doubt KEEP!"

"One of the reasons for retaining our old records is to offer to future generations a story of our faith journey as a group of Presbyterian women. It is important then that the records we retain give a sound overview of the role, functions, spirit and mission..."

A guide is available from [pwanz2016@gmail.com](mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com) , if you are decluttering or safe-keeping.

### **Communications Convenor**

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

**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.

## **WANTED – stories for Bushfire**

**What is your group doing? What are you talking about? What have you read?**

**Please** send us your stories and a photo or two for Bushfire and our Facebook page so we can share that enthusiasm. We can also advertise upcoming events on Facebook. Send to Sandy [pwanz2016@gmail.com](mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com) or the Bushfire editor Sally [sallyrussell@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sallyrussell@xtra.co.nz)  
Deadlines below in the Calendar

## **Presbyterian Women – Funding Update**

To 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018, the seventh month of the current financial year to 30 June 2018, 300 financial members have contributed over \$12,000 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](mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com)

This year is the year to promote membership – **if we all ask one other person to join** then we are on the way to becoming a vibrant relevant part of our church.

## **2018 UN Delegation**

Do you have a passion for social justice, gender equity and the empowerment of women? 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.

## ***International Women's Day***

International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

This year, International Women's Day comes on the heels of unprecedented global movement for women's rights, equality and justice. Sexual harassment, violence and discrimination against women has captured headlines and public discourse, propelled by a rising determination for change.

Echoing the priority theme of the upcoming [62nd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women](#), International Women's Day will also draw attention to the rights and activism of rural women, who make up over a quarter of the world population and majority of the 43 per cent of women in the global agricultural labour force.

from <http://www.un.org/en/events/womensday/>

Put the date in your calendar – Thursday 8 March 2018. Two of our Presbyterian Women members will join the Breakfast hosted at Parliament in Wellington, how will your Group celebrate...share your ideas and inspiration.

## ***Calendar***

### **February 2018**

17 – Executive meeting in Wellington

11 – Collection at Parishes for work of PWANZ

12-23 - UN Convention of Women

### **March 2018**

5 – Deadline for Bushfire material

8 – International Women's Day

9 - BushFire release

### **April 2018**

9 - Deadline for Bushfire material

13 - BushFire release

## Island Time



Before Christmas I listened to an interview with Damon Salesa, Associate Professor of Pacific Studies and Director of Pacific Strategy and Engagement at Auckland University. He was talking about how New Zealand is one corner marker of the Polynesian triangle and is geographically in the Pacific but that the general population does not see ourselves as a Pacific nation.

When the America's cup came to Auckland in July we spent \$400,000 on the ticker tape parade down Queen St and prepare ourselves to spend millions altering the harbour to accommodate the needs of the sailing, mainly Pakeha, community. When Tonga made the semi-final of the Rugby League World Cup a lot of the coverage was about the mayhem of the celebrations, and when fans converged on Queen St after that controversial loss RNZ reporter Sally Murphy said, 'fans carrying flags and banners were dancing in the street disrupting traffic'. Surely there's room for both sports in Queen St.

Brigit Williams Books have a series of short books on big subjects and **Island Time by Damon Salesa** is a thoughtful look at ourselves.

*The category that New Zealand has come to use, "Pacific Islander, has ensured that New Zealand ways of seeing are fundamentally disconnected from the Pacific. Pakeha New Zealanders live on Pacific Islands but many – perhaps most – still describe themselves as 'Europeans', even if the Pacific has been their home for generations. In these kinds of understandings and claims there can be no acknowledgment of Pacific place and Pacific histories, no claiming of a Pacific connection, let alone a Pacific-based identity. There is consequently little opportunity for them to reflect on what the Pacific means.*

One chapter takes Auckland as the example and using the census mesh blocks analyses where different ethnicities live. The book also talks of other places Wellington, Oamaru, Tokoroa, Petone, Porirua and Bluff.

*Auckland has hundreds of predominantly Pacific neighbourhoods, but relatively few predominantly Asian neighbourhoods despite the much larger Asian population..... This Pacific ethnic concentration looks very different from the experience of other ethnic groups in Auckland and it differs in specific ways. ....they (Pacific) are almost always a large majority .....most likely to be ethnically isolated and also the least likely to share neighbourhoods with Europeans.*

So perhaps this should be a challenge for us - reflect on what it means to be a Pacific nation.



**Hamlin Fistula NZ \$5,000 given from last year's mission funds.**

Hamlin Charitable Fistula Hospitals Trust (HFNZ) is a Kiwi charity which takes its name from an unsung NZ hero Reg Hamlin and his Australian wife Catherine Hamlin, who together established a special hospital in Addis Ababa to treat women with fistula (a hole in the bladder or bowel which follows prolonged obstructed labour and stillbirth). The fistula results in incontinence from bowel or bladder (or sometimes from both). The consequences for the women are horrendous; they are often abandoned by their husbands and forced to live in huts at some distance from their families. The shame of their condition and the lack of any hope of living a normal life lead many to despair.



Initially the need was for fistula repair surgery and establishing five outlying regional hospitals. With the introduction of midwifery training in 2007, HFNZ has moved to primarily supporting midwifery centres.

Ethiopia is the tenth largest country in Africa. The population is fast-approaching 100 million with half under 15 years of age. There are many different tribes and groups with over 70 languages and 400 dialects. Ethiopia is one of the world's poorest nations. The average life expectancy is only 42 years. Currently, one out of every 27 Ethiopian women end up dying during child birth.

More than 70% of all maternal deaths are due to five major complications: haemorrhage, infection, unsafe abortion, hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, and obstructed labour. There are many factors that affect the outcome of pregnancy from the onset of any obstetric complication. The outcome is most adversely affected by delayed treatment. Delay in treatment is the result of many factors.



The tragedy is that these women die not from disease but during the normal, life-enhancing process of procreation. Most of these deaths could be avoided if preventive measures were taken and adequate care was available. Maternal death is an indicator of disparity and inequity between men and women and its extent a sign of women's place in society and their access to social, health, and nutrition services and to economic opportunities.

The St Columba's Taradale PWANZ group remember collecting pantyhose for the Hamlin hospitals – thank you for telling us about this work so that we are able to make a contribution to the lives of other women and once again reflect on our own privileged first world experiences.