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Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ

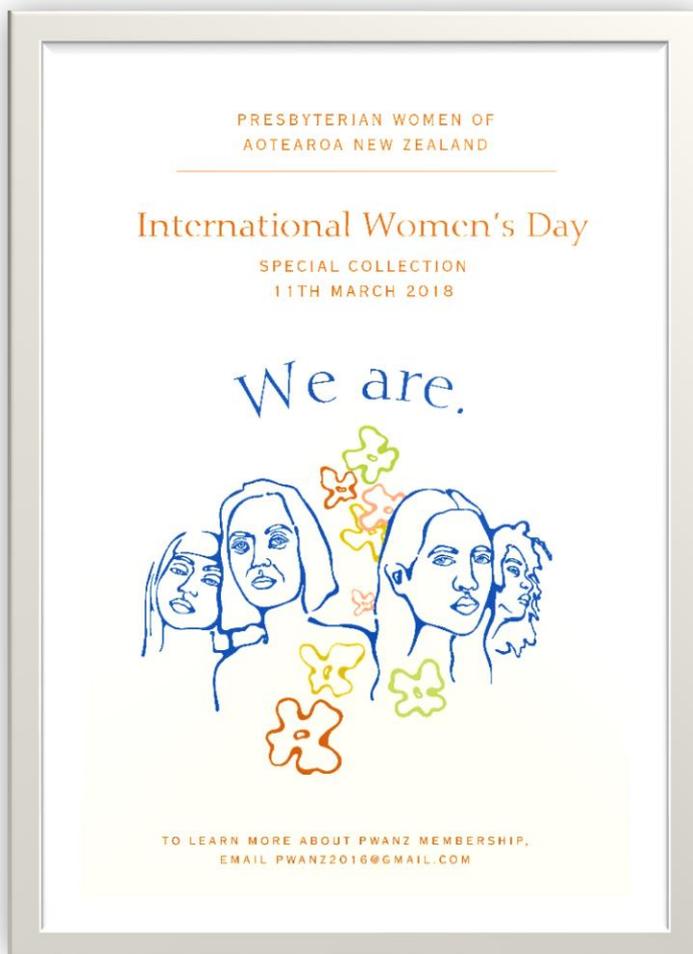
March 2018

Special Collection

11 March 2018

Your parish Minister or Session Clerk has received an “open” letter to the congregation, poster and a link to a DVD to share.

Please share the stories of PWANZ



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, Church Council and your congregation. and ask them to support the special collection. Be enthusiastic

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Thoughts Looking Forward from Erin

What a busy month March is turning out to be. Today is Census day. An attempt for the country to know who we are, how we get to work, are our homes mouldy, and what ethnicity we align ourselves to - amongst other things. Tomorrow is International Women's Day. A day recognized by United Nations as focusing on Women – the social, economic, cultural and political achievement of women. As far as PWANZ goes this International Day of Women affirms our existence. We are a movement of women who continue to give women nationally and internationally opportunities that will enhance their situation.

A comment I heard recently (on the media) has me thinking – Firstly Megan Markle (the woman who has chosen to marry Prince Harry). Asked about her work campaigning on gender equality issues and women's empowerment, she said of the sector: "You'll often hear people say, 'you're helping women find their voices'. "I fundamentally disagree (said Megan) with that **because women don't need to find a voice: they have a voice. They need to feel empowered to use it and people need to be encouraged to listen.**"

I am realising that some of our issues as women are not that we don't know about them. It's not that we don't have solutions. It is more that the people, forms and structures are struggling to listen. Or worse they placate.

At General Assembly for PCANZ in 2016 – a motion was passed that PWANZ could hold a special collection throughout the churches for the work we do – on the Sunday closest to International Women's Day. The motion was agreed (meaning it passed 100%). I am not convinced though that those who voted will participate in promoting the collection.

It was a 'women's issue' so everyone voted yes even though they didn't necessarily agree with the motion. I am not convinced we achieved anything with the motion that was passed at GA16. Not if people didn't listen and engage in what the appeal was trying to achieve. It would have been better (in my mind) if those who disagreed with it had have spoken against it. Engaged with it and debated. It would at least have meant that we had been heard.

International Women's Day is not for women per say. It is for society to recognise that at our last census women made up 51.3% of our population. Women made 85% of all household purchases. Women earnt \$14,000 less a year than men, had lower levels of higher education than men.

International Women's Day is for women to share their stories. International Women's Day is to remind people who are not women to listen.

In Christ

Erin



Millie Te Kaawa, QSM, Whakatane. A Kuia of such incredible grace and bearing that it defies language to describe her presence. A presence which spoke time and again of the God she worshipped and honoured with her very being. Millie was our Kaimanaaki - one who nurtures and a wonderful Kaiarahi - our guide. She gave to us the glories of Maoritanga, the beauty of her native tongue and the loveliness of kotahitanga - the Maori gift of community. Millie passed away peacefully last night (16 January). We will miss her terribly. Please pray for her people, her family and especially for Te Aka Puaho whom she served with all her love and energy for all her life.

The following was published on the Governor General's blog whence received the QSM for services to Maori and the PCANZ in 2012...

For services to Māori and the Presbyterian Church. Mrs Milly Te Kaawa is the moderator of Te Aka Puaho, the Māori Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. She served for 18 years as the Clerk of Te Aka Puaho before this and has been an elder in the Presbyterian Church since 1960. She is strongly involved with her iwi, Ngāti Tuwharetoa, and has been secretary of the Hahuru Marae in Kawerau. In this capacity she worked to foster links between iwi and the Tasman Pulp and Paper Mill in the 1980s. She served as a trustee of the Sir James Fletcher Memorial Scholarship Trust. Mrs Te Kaawa is held in high regard in Māoridom and in the Presbyterian Church in the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

Haere ki te wa kainga
Haere ki te kainga tuturu
O to tatou Matua i te rangi
Haere, haere, haere.

Richard Dawson Moderator PCANZ

Millie's tangi was held at Hahuru Marae, Kawerau and Sally Russell represented PWANZ.

2018 Look Who's at The Well – WE ARE

The Executive has met to plan the programme for 2018. We will hold a gathering in your Region, with Dr Deborah Bower as our Worship Leader. There will be a great programme continuing our theme with a choice of venue and awesome speakers, topics that are relevant and interesting to both young and old. More details to come in BushFire - April.

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ Executive Report

End of Life Choice Bill – Submission to the Justice Select Committee

As agreed at the Executive meeting on 17 Feb 2018 and with more than 85% support from members PWANZ made a submission to the Justice Select Committee opposing the introduction of euthanasia.

Responses agreeing to the PWANZ submission:

YES - 87%

NO - 11%

UNABLE TO RESPOND - 2%

Of the NOs there were deeply personal accounts. The responses were widely gathered from Browns Bay in Auckland to Winton in the south, with some responding from Group discussions. The submission is available from pwanz2016@gmail.com and from the Parliament website once the Select Committee has read them.

AGM The AGM will be held on Saturday 15 September at St Alban's Palmerston North. Put the date in your diary and look forward to a great day put on in PN.

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 28 February 2018, of the current financial year to 30 June 2018, over 300 financial members have contributed nearly \$13,000 in donations to mission.

Special Project Information

Sally reports: I have got rather muddled and know that not everyone has received their copies of the information about this year's special projects. Please email me if you haven't received it. You can also download the information about our two projects <http://presbyterian.org.nz/national-ministries/presbyterian-women-aotearoa-new-zealand/special-project>

The New Zealand project works with PILLARS, Ka Pou Whakahou, which exists to create positive futures for the children of prisoners in Aotearoa, supporting them to cope with parental imprisonment therefore breaking the cycle of intergenerational crime.

The international project working with CWS and their partner the Centre for Community Solidarity in Uganda working with people caring for orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV and AIDS.

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.

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.

Calendar 2018

March

8 International Women's Day
11 PWANZ Special Collection
12 to 23 United Nation's 62nd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62) in New York

April

9 Deadline for Bushfire material
13 Bushfire release

September

15 AGM in Palmerston North

2018 UN Delegation - New York from 12 to 23 March.

Dr AnneMarie Tangney "I am writing this contribution for Bushfire just a few days before I excitedly fly out from Dunedin on March 8th to lead this year's PWANZ delegation to the United Nation's 62nd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62) in New York.

This is my first year as the UN convenor leading the PWANZ delegation to the Commission (a role that I am sharing with Mavis Duncanson who will be leading 2019's delegation). Despite being on a steep learning curve to fully understand what this new role entails, I am pleased to already have some knowledge as to the history and intention of what the Commission is about through my experience of having attended CSW59 in 2015 as a member of the PWANZ delegation. This is when I first sensed the reality of CSW being a powerful instrument documenting the lives of women throughout the world and aiming to shape global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. This year the PWANZ delegation is rather small but, as everyone is well aware, good things tend to come in small packages!

The delegation consists of four wonderful women who each have a heart for women and seek a world where gender is not a factor in an individual's safety or opportunities in life.

The four self-funded delegates members are:

Joanna Maskell: Joanna is the Women's Rights and Workers Rights policy advisor at the Human Rights Commission and is interested in all aspects of gender justice / equality and the empowerment of women and girls. She has been working in the areas of gender-based violence, pay equity and equal pay. She is interested in hearing about mechanisms and solutions from other countries that have been successful in advancing women's rights in these areas. Joanna was raised attending the Presbyterian church (St Mary's by the Sea in Torbay).

Penny Mudford: Penny is the National President of Rural Women NZ. She is interested in gender equality for rural women, especially through economic empowerment, capability building, and leadership. Much to Penny's credit she has recently been selected to be the civil society representative on the NZ Government delegation to CSW this year. Penny is a Christian who has a long connection with the Presbyterian church – when she was a rural farmer she attended the local Uniting Parish (combined Methodist and Presbyterian) at Rongotea (and Awahuri and Sanson before they closed). Penny's late father was church organist for 35 years at St Pauls Presbyterian Church in Feilding.

Deborah Tangney: Deborah is an accountant but more recently has been managing the Auckland Bridge Club. She has a personal interest in the Economic and Justice arenas and is concerned how women can often be adversely (and unjustly) affected in these particular areas. Deborah is one of my older sisters who happened to be captivated by my stories about CSW59 and has been wanting to attend CSW ever since, and so I encouraged her to consider applying to join the delegation, and she did much to my joy. As time allows, she attends St Stephen's Presbyterian church in Ponsonby.

Ashleigh Smith: Ashleigh is in her final year of Nursing Studies at Otago Polytechnic and is the youngest women in our delegation. She is originally from Naseby, a tight knit community in the Maniototo region. From an early age she has been incredibly passionate about issues affecting young people (most significantly mental health, bullying and suicide) and gained national attention when aged 15 she co-founded the Sticks 'n' Stones bullying prevention organisation with other Central Otago young people. Last year Ashleigh was named winner of the New Zealand's Queen Young Leader Award.

It is indeed exciting to have in our delegation some representatives from NZ's rural communities, especially seeing that the priority theme at CSW for this year is 'Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls'.

I want to thank the members of PWANZ for the support that Mavis and I have already received in our new roles and I want to declare to you all that I will do my best to represent the Presbyterian women of Aotearoa NZ while I am at the UN.

Please consider 'liking' and then regularly checking our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/presbyterianwomenaotearoanewzealand/

for updates from the PWANZ delegation while we are at CSW62, as I hope to share some of the excitement and learning with you all."

International Women's Day

Rev Hana Popea, St Ninian's Karori and Faaolataga Leasi, PPIC and Central Presbytery Ambassador, PWANZ attend the International Women's Day Breakfast at Parliament on Thursday 8 March 2018. We look forward to news of their experiences in later newsletters.

Missions

Sally Missions Convenor

DID YOU KNOW in Cote D'Ivoire, boys as young as 10 yrs old are trafficked from neighbouring countries to pick and harvest cocoa beans? The cocoa that they harvest is likely to be in our chocolate this Easter.

In situations of poverty and exploitation, trafficked children and adults labour on cocoa farms in West Africa. These children are subject to physical, emotional and sexual abuse and chocolate producers have the power to stand up for their freedom and their rights. Large global chocolate companies hold a lot of power within the industry, much more than the cocoa farmers, workers and co-ops on the ground and especially in places like Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa where they grow a large proportion of the world's cocoa.



Chocolate companies have a responsibility to address the key issues that contribute to the trafficking of children for work on cocoa farms. These children are subject to physical, emotional and sexual abuse and chocolate producers have the power to stand up for their freedom and their rights.

That's why, STOP THE TRAFFIK are campaigning for the global chocolate companies, as well as New Zealand's largest retailers and chocolate makers to use their influence for positive change. We encourage consumers to get in contact with their favourite chocolate makers and supermarkets to share their interest in purchasing traffik free chocolate, also to vote with their dollar by purchasing Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance and UTZ certified Easter eggs certified chocolate Easter products.

To learn what our Kiwi retailers and chocolate makers are doing to address human trafficking and for more information on how you can be involved head to www.traffikfreechocolate.com.nz