



# Bush Fire

Spring 2021

## Newsletter of the National Coordinating Group

### Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa New Zealand

***Kia ora! Aloha! Greetings!***

Radically, *Hope* wraps us in our deliberations that not all church services would be cancelled, High Tea clubs and small Bible Studies are not all cancelled in the Lockdowns. Perhaps, we have hopes in our response to expected/unexpected cancellations queuing up, internally and externally. Nevertheless, I believe we would never lose hope in embracing and praying for one another. Therefore, we are continually networking for and with you around current issues and upcoming event; like our National Gatherings in November in Wellington. Thus our biggest hope is to fellowship in person or alternatively, by zoom in case. Kia kaha – hope you’ll enjoy this piece from an anonymous author.

***“Not Everything is Cancelled”***

- Sun* is not cancelled
- Spring* is not cancelled
- Relationships* are not cancelled
- Love* is not cancelled
- Reading* is not cancelled
- Devotion* is not cancelled
- Music* is not cancelled
- Imagination* is not cancelled
- Kindness* is not cancelled
- Conversations* are not cancelled
- Hope*** is not cancelled

Faaolataga-Ola Leasi

Greetings Presbyterian Women,

Once again we are approaching our AGM. This year it is being held in Wellington at Scots College with a zoom option for those who prefer not to travel. If you have any remits to submit, please send them in as soon as possible. We are looking to fill four positions: United Nations; Overseas Mission; Communications Convener and Treasurer. If you are interested in one of these positions contact me for a role description.

Special Projects.

We met with Methodist Women Fellowship and CWS in August. It was decided to keep our Special Projects the same as 20/21 – St John’s ambulance service for the New Zealand project and the overseas project is raising funds for the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees’ work with women & children.

I am looking forward to meeting and seeing you again in November.

Ruth Steven  
Administrator

President	Administrator	Human Rights Convener	Missions Convener	United Nations Convener
Faaolataga(Ola) Leasi	Ruth Steven	Tausala Losefa	Tracey Sa	Mavis Duncanson
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### **From Whakatane:-**

At Knox Women's Fellowship, Whakatane, we often celebrate birthdays. Here we have Vonnie and Erica in their 70s and Colleen who turned 80. The majority of our members are now in their 80s. Along with increasing age, our group grows in enthusiasm for fellowship and encouragement for each other.

Also we recently sent \$300 to International Needs Mission. This has been an annual donation for about a decade now. It goes towards supporting Sano Diyo Home, (meaning Little Lighthouse) in the very north of India. This houses girls that have had a troubled past due to poverty and human trafficking. Here they have a Christian upbringing and a good education.

Vonnie Schonveld



### **Virtual New York hui:**

#### **Climate change as it affects women and girls**

The sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) will take place from 14 to 25 March 2022. The priority theme is 'Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes', with a review theme on women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, assessing progress on the agreed conclusions of the sixty-first session.

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa is one of the international non-governmental organisations invited to attend the session. We enjoy this incredible privilege because of the foresight and persistence of Jane Prichard and others who made an application for special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council which we have held since 1998.

The event will be held virtually, with opportunity to participate on-line with women from all parts of the world. Ecumenical Women at the United Nations will host an on-line orientation with women of faith, including our sisters in Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Church USA. Within Aotearoa the Ministry for Women provides daily updates available to all NGO participants about the progress of member state negotiations.

If you have ever thought about attending CSW this is an ideal time to get a taster of the experience from the safety and warmth of your own home. Social media hashtags #CSW66 or #EWCSW66 will be increasingly populated with information about events.

**If you are interested in being part of a delegation from Aotearoa to CSW66 in March 2022** please email [mavisj.duncanson@gmail.com](mailto:mavisj.duncanson@gmail.com)

Mavis Duncanson  
UN Convenor  
September 2021

**Registration Form for the Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday 20 November 2021, 10:00am to 12:30pm  
Scots College, 1 Monorgan Road, Wellington, 6022**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Attending in person \_or by zoom\_\_.

Voting Delegate for \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: only one vote per congregation/group/other)

Travel Plans: arrive in Wellington \_\_\_\_\_

Time must leave meeting \_\_\_\_\_

(We need to know if a member needs to leave early to catch a flight)

Koha: \$20 given on the day – this will cover catering and printing costs

Direct Credit: **ASB** 12 3011 0117101 00

Reference: Attendee's name

Code: AGM 21

Please return this form to: PO Box 7174 Palmerston North or [pwanz2016@gmail.com](mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com)

by Wednesday 17 November 2021

**WORLD DAY of PRAYER**

This annual event is due to take place in your area on Friday 4th March.

Jan Harland who has represented Presbyterian women on the planning committee writes:-



Hi Ola,

I hope this finds you well and happy.

For the past six years I have volunteered on the national committee for World Day of Prayer Aotearoa New Zealand as the national treasurer. I am now standing down from this role as I have other commitments.

The NZ national committee of the World Day of Prayer has representation from different ecumenical groups i.e Anglican, Catholic, Methodist and Presbyterian. As I am standing down, there will be no Presbyterian woman on this committee. Can you think of a Presbyterian woman in Christchurch that would take this role?

Warm regards and blessings in all you do.

Jan Harland

027 356 0215

03 351 0803

Prayerfully we have a Presbyterian woman who would be pleased to fill this rple

## A Reintroduction

As I enjoy my lovely view of Shakespear Regional Reserve, I really have no intention of getting particularly involved in PWANZ. However, I can't stop myself!

Anybody knowing the quiet little girl in Hastings would be surprised to meet the woman I am today. Apart from rising through the ranks of the Girls' Life Brigade, I took no leadership roles other than at girls Crusader camps. Others were far more impressive and outgoing than me.

Lester and I married in 1964 and moved to Dunedin in 1967. Our young womens group at North East Valley was affiliated to APW and we had reports from Presbyterian that meant nothing to me, but in 1970 I found myself attending 2 APW groups in the Riversdale/ Waikaia Parish and attending presbyterial, a morning meeting, so 2 youngsters stayed home with Dad and one came with me and sat at my feet with her books and puzzles. Then in 1971 there was conference in Napier—a good opportunity to take a family holiday, as well as attending conference. I've lost count of conferences and business meetings I've attended since then. On moving to Kohimarama, Auckland in 1974, Presbyterian provided which made life easy, and at that time Mrs Vivienne Adair introduced me to NCW as well. In 1976 I found myself on a planning committee for an Auckland conference - a very new experience for a quiet Hawkes Bay girl. In Dannevirke I managed to keep a relatively low profile, but on moving to Edgecumbe, it wasn't long before I found myself in the role of Presbyterian president and edged into presbytery as well. Likewise, I kept up my involvement in Waikato and joined National Executive as Programme, Prayer and Study convenor. But retirement in 2005 seemed a good time to bow out—it didn't happen. I joined national executive again as Missions convenor. Then I edited Gleanings for 3 years.

Cyrlene and Anne from Vanuatu tried to get assistance to replace a building in Vila, Vanuatu, but PWANZ was unable to help. At the same time, our parish was looking for a new mission involvement so we picked up the tabs and for about 7 years I was quite heavily involved in our local committee. That project came to an end shortly before lockdown began.

That seemed to be the end of my PWANZ/ Missions involvement, other than being the local contact for PWANZ. Our own group is a lovely chatty group which is no longer affiliated. However, in an unguarded moment I offered to help out if I could so here I am, editing another Bushfire. Thanks Vonnie for your input to this edition. I would love to have stories from other group—nothing big and wonderful—just Presbyterian women being Christian women together.

Rae Simpson

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