

Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand Transition Team News - February 2016

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A message from the Transition Team

Welcome the second edition of Bush Fire.
Blessings as you plan ahead for 2016.

Like many organisations, Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand, is at a tipping point and one which is full of exciting opportunities.

Unlike many contemporary organisations, we are different because we are called by God to work together, offering our skills, talents and ministries to each other, the congregations to which we belong, as well as the wider community and the world of which we are a part.

Times have changed. If we as Presbyterian women and girls are to meet the challenges of this moment, we must be ready to answer God's call in 2016 to women and girls throughout the Church, whenever and wherever we meet, as individuals, in groups, or in clusters, or circles, up and down the land.
What a variety of groups there are!

And what an amazing opportunity we have! Women's groups are meeting in new ways as they reach out to congregations, within the larger Presbyteries, and the wider community as Presbyterian Women together.

This year is an opportunity to do things differently under the umbrella of Presbyterian Women. Some groups are small, some are larger, some cater for older women who enjoy meeting together, some are mission or community focussed, some raise funds for projects, some have chosen different names - but all are amazing.

As members of the Transition team we look forward with hope as we pray in an unknown future, listen to you, your dreams and possibilities, and endeavour to help create new ways as women together across our Church.

Carol, Sandra, and Sally. Transition Team Members

Council for World Mission Capacity Building Grants

The possibilities this special funding will open up for Presbyterian Women nation wide are exciting, as spaces are created for younger women to meet as Presbyterian Women in new ways relevant to the 21st century. A first grant of \$5,000 has been made in 2016 with ongoing funding from CWM for the next few years to resource future growth and new initiatives. The first grant of \$5,000 can be used in 2016. The ongoing funding from CWM for the next few years will continue to resource future growth and new initiatives.

Opportunities to meet Presbyterian women on the move

Have you heard about the - Brave Girl Conference in Christchurch in April, the Beloved Conference in Auckland in May? Are you planning a gathering for women and girls in your area? Do share the news with us all!

See www.bravegirl.co.nz and Beloved at www.stcolumba.org.nz

Highlights from the Combined Transition Team and Advisory meeting held in December 2015

Bev Quigley's willingness to continue in her Mission Birthday Gift role was celebrated. During the time of transition the Advisory group are available for support and the Terms of Reference will be used as a guide when necessary.

The Contract for Services by the National Administrator, Sandra Waldrom was signed off by the Advisory group. Sandra Waldrom, Lafulafu Ekenasio and Lois Robertson will be PWANZ signatories during the transition period. The election of the Transition and Advisory Groups as minuted by the NCG was validated.

A financial budget will be presented in February and Mission Birthday funds distributed. The subscription to PCUSA 'Horizons The magazine for Presbyterian Women' be paid for the next three years. See horizons.pcusa.org

After discussion which included acknowledging the 120th anniversary meeting of APW in Dunedin, and the timing and location of a "Capacity Building" event, it was agreed to leave the decision for where this might be held to the Transition Team. [It is noted that the CWM \$5000 grant cannot be used for payment for Work but it may be used for expenses - guest speaker, venue hire, music, travel for regional consultations etc.

It was agreed that a separate National Business Meeting (NBM) will be held in September as required under the Terms of Reference, in Wellington. Tentative date - 23 September 2016.

As Bush Fire has the potential to develop this will be published in 2016. A Blog, Facebook, Web site, and more access to SPANZ, to be explored. A generic email address for PWANZ will be set up.

The NCW White Paper 'Enabling women's potential: the social, economic and ethical imperative' November 2015 was endorsed by the group.

Special Thanks

As Presbyterian Women look forward to the future we are immensely grateful for the contribution and commitment by those who completed their work at the end of 2015 as the remaining members of NCG – Lafulafu, Leautuli, Joan, Bev, Carol and Ngaire. We could not have accomplished as much as we did without the dedicated commitment, oversight and visionary seed sowing by Shona in her role as national secretary. Ngaire also gave much by extending her term to care for our finances. Thank you also to Rae for her work as the editor of Gleanings who wove together the stories sent to her and added much to the tapestry of work accomplished. Carol carries on in her role as UN convenor. year.

The Taonga of Presbyterian Women

It is 120 years since the first group began in Dunedin in 1896 and so it is timely to celebrate and recall some of the taonga of Presbyterian Women. We have so much to be proud of - loving service, dedication, commitment, talents and skills, generosity, administration ability, the written word, creative ministry and many shared and wonderful stories.

Here are some treasures and we know there are many more.

Passionate articulate leadership over many years

- PW UN international Mission
- PW/MWF Special Project
- Long support for Turakina

- Birthday Mission
- Stamps
- Funds donated – a huge amount over the decades

- Global Mission support for projects
- Ministry and commitment of faithful women

- Harvest Field
- Gleanings Bushfire
- Women's Conference in Wellington
- Triennial meetings
- Printed resources
- Mutual support of lay and ordained women

Celebrations to mark milestones,
A visible presence at General Assembly
Presence at and contribution to the United Nations Networking
Structure and history
Our story is the women's ministry to the church story

The gifts of lay women in our congregations

Generosity in every sphere
Fundraising ability
Rural and urban women working together
Women's perspective
Craft and handwork
Catering and pastoral care
Church worship
Custodians and protectors for PW taonga
And much of the unseen and unsung service at all levels

Historical material

How do we handle our historical material that needs to be archived before it is lost? Where have you collected and stored your groups papers?

Changing Times

The time is NOW for oral histories to be recorded.
Our stories are precious. How will you record these? Written? Oral?

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women - CSW60 2016



The 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at the United Nations in New York from 14th to 24th March 2016. Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from all regions of the world will attend the session.

The Priority and Review Themes:

Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development

The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls (agreed conclusions from the fifty-seventh session)

Some of the topics that will be addressed:

- 1 The persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women.
- 2 Unequal access to and inadequate educational opportunities.
- 3 Inequalities in health status and unequal access to health care services.
- 4 Violence against women and girls.
- 5 Effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women.
- 6 Inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision making at all levels.
- 7 Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women.
- 8 Lack of awareness of and commitment to internationally and nationally recognised women's human rights.
- 9 The girl-child.

2016 PWANZ Delegation

The eleven delegation members come from a range of church and civil society women's networks. They are an amazing group of skilled women who care passionately about the empowerment of women and gender equality. Again this year these women come from the South Island. Expressions of interest were received from the North Island but no final applications were received. All members of the delegation are self funded which is a big personal commitment for each person.

UN Parallel Event 2016

The PCUSA, PC East Africa, PCUSA Youth have invited PWANZ to join in hosting a parallel event at the UN on Education and Poverty. It will raise our profile even further!

Parallel Event Title

Breaking Cycles of Poverty through Education: Models from Presbyterian Churches

Parallel Event Description

Education for women and girls reduces poverty, improves health, and improves the distribution of income. The Millennium Development Goals have helped many communities in the Global South to bring previously uneducated children into the classroom. The Sustainable Development Goals challenge the world to do even more in the area of education. Presbyterian Churches have helped hundreds of thousands of girls learn to read and write and hundreds of thousands of women to deepen their education. In hundreds of communities, Presbyterians were the first to open up opportunities for formal education for girls. Panel members will reflect on ways Presbyterians continue this tradition and engage in ministries of education today. Each panelist will lift up models of educational ministry. A question and answer period with participants will follow.

Parallel Event Sponsor Maximum 5 organisations

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Presbyterian Church of East Africa, National Woman's Guild

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand

Celebrating PWANZ special role at the UN

I believe it is time the PCANZ in every corner gave its willing support to this international project. Our Special Consultative Status at the United Nations as Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand should not be a well kept secret but something unique to treasure which the whole church can celebrate, support and promote. Lots of CSW60 news will be at UN Women www.un-women.org/en/csw/csw60-2016 and on the UN Ecumenical Women web site. www.ecumenicalwomen.org

Carol L Grant, United Nations Convenor

Empower to Restore: Special Project 2015-16

CWS says: Thank you for your kind and generous support of the Special Project. The work you do to raise funds is making a difference in so many lives. Last year you helped more fisherwomen in coastal Tamil Nadu, South India set up small businesses, campaign against violence in their homes and communities, and stand up for the rights of fisherfolk wanting to stop large corporations destroying their livelihoods. Our partners Neythal is working hard and you have given support they need in another critical year. Thank you.

2016 Project This year the special project is for Developers, a partner in the Phillipines with a sound track record of making change happen.

In November 2013 Typhoon Haiyan swept through parts of the Philippines. Haiyan devastated the country – over 6,000 people lost their lives and around 4 million their homes. Before Haiyan the people in coastal Aklan Province lived largely off the land and sea. They collected fish and worked on fishing rigs or boats. Further inland they grew crops to eat or sell and for crafts like fans, mats and footwear. They grew palay or rice, bananas and coconut as well as other fruit and vegetables. Pigs and chickens supplemented the fish they gathered from the sea.

Some of the work Developers did before the typhoon was to improve environmental protection by involving the whole village including children in clean ups, better rubbish disposal and new learning. They organised the replanting of mangroves to restore the habitat for fish and moderate damaging tidal movement. Using a strong community development model, they work with local villages on development plans to improve the local economy and respond in case of disaster.

Since the typhoon, Filipinos have been working hard but many need help to replace what they lost in the typhoon. Coconut and banana trees take years to grow and they do not have the capital to buy new farming or fishing equipment. Most are aware that another dangerous weather event may come their way. Nearly two years later Developers is doing what they can. They have a small interest free loans scheme which lends NZ\$70. Repayments are made twice a month.

Developers has helped households replace fishing equipment, poultry and pigs, and restore vegetable gardens. It has assisted local government to respond to their communities and undertake economic planning for the future. They have provided materials to repair 11 schools and have involved men, women and children in the process. Next year they want to do more and that is why your efforts for the Special Project are so important. Simply put, your fundraising will mean Developers can extend this help to more families and communities preparing for future disasters and their own development.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for making Developers Foundation a foci of your fundraising campaign.

We are grateful and proud to be supported by the New Zealand community through the the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches in New Zealand."

Tet Naraval Executive Director



A village makes plans for its future

Elizabeth David with two of her children who received four sheets of corrugated iron after the typhoon.

CWS has produced an easy to use PowerPoint about the work of Developers for the Special Project. It comes with a talk that you can adapt. Click on: [Em- power to Trust](#) for more information: Download [Slides](#) and [Transcript](#)