



# Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand

May 2016

## **Presbyterian Women – Funding Update**

Feedback to the new remittance form has been positive with \$1,080 in affiliation fees received from groups since last meeting (February 22), plus \$220 in donations to PWANZ and \$3,775.83 in contributions to Mission projects. Thank you for your prompt responses and generosity. Every dollar counts!

## **Annual Subscriptions - Renewed 2016**

### **National Council of Women for NZ.**

This month we congratulate all those who represent Presbyterian Women at local NCW branch meetings. Sandra Waldrom, our national administrator represents PWANZ at Wellington meetings. She is a member of St John's in the City. From the South Island, Liz Millar of Knox Church Dunedin, not only represents Presbyterian Women but is also the secretary of the Dunedin branch. Thank you to all those who raise our voices in community forums.

## **Horizons Magazine – Presbyterian Church USA**

This magazine is full of interesting news about the ministry, mission and activities of our American sisters. Google - [horizonsmagazine.com](http://horizonsmagazine.com)

## **Nominate Women for New Year's Honours**

The Ministry for Women are calling for nominations for New Year honours' 2017. The process requires a description of what is special about a nominee's achievements. Nominations are due to the Honours Unit, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, by 24 May 2016. Anyone can nominate a person they think is worthy of a New Zealand honour. For more information on how to recognize outstanding women in New Zealand go to [www.dpmc.govt.nz/honours/nominations/faq](http://www.dpmc.govt.nz/honours/nominations/faq)

## **Communication**

PWANZ are currently updating our communication channels with Presbyterian women. The Transition Team would welcome your suggestions as we plan ahead for 2016 / 2017.



Have you seen our new facebook page? Have a look and like us.

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

We would also like some news from your group to put up on the facebook page.

## Where are the voices of Presbyterian Women being heard in the courts of the Church? Who represents you in your area?

If you have appointed representatives to attend your Presbytery meetings, please email their contact details to: [PWANZ2016@gmail.com](mailto:PWANZ2016@gmail.com)

The current Book of Order Regulations states:

### 8. 9. Membership of presbyteries

(f) The President of Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand in the presbytery and one other, or their substitutes, chosen by the Association,

Although the terminology is now out of date, Presbyterian Women need to have a voice when decisions are being made - we need to be there to vote!

## Membership of Presbyterian Women

Do you know a member of your congregation who would like to join Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand?

Women and girls participate in a variety of ways in the church. Individuals are welcome to become members of PWANZ too.

Email: [PWANZ2016@gmail.com](mailto:PWANZ2016@gmail.com) for more details on individual membership.

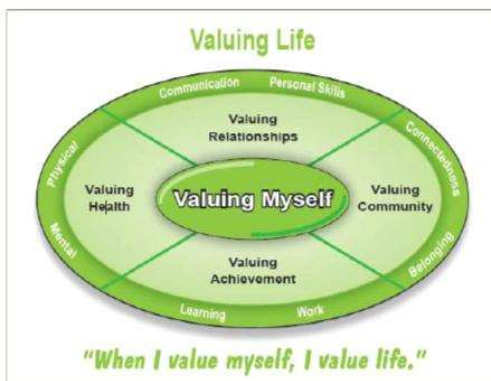
Some former APW groups have Presbyterian Women who are still very active in their congregations. We hear of these amazing women all the time. Please pass on our contact details so that they can get all the up to date news of Presbyterian Women. Just call Sandra, Sally or Carol. Staying connected is so important.

**MISSIONS** - Convener Sally Russell ([sallyrussell@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sallyrussell@xtra.co.nz))

## Special project 2015/16

Thank you for all your hard work in supporting our two projects this year.

**The Young New Zealanders Foundation** slogan is "When I value myself, I value life" and they work with teenagers and teachers on suicide prevention. Our money will support their resource kit Gemstones 2 to help people working with teenagers to value their life.



When a young person values themselves, they are more likely to value their health, their relationships (with family, friends and people around them) their school and the environment they live in.

Valuing Life is an antidote to suicide.

**CWS partner Developers Foundation** in the Philippines is working with communities after Typhoon Haiyan (see the February Bushfire)

### Mission Gift Funds - Distribution

Presbyterian parishes supporting the resettlement of Syrian refugee women and girls in Wellington and Dunedin. Funds are available for projects now.

N.B. Updated Mission envelopes will be available once the old supply is finished.



### Stamps

Thank you to all those who save and prepare stamps.

**How do you sell them?** We all are looking at new ways to on-sell stamps so please let me know how you do it?

Email: [sallyrussell@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sallyrussell@xtra.co.nz) . More news in your next newsletter BushFire – June 2016.



**IN JUNE**  
**KEEP HOPE ALIVE**  
**SUPPORTING SYRIAN REFUGEES**



**Operation Refugee** is a new challenge to raise funds for Syrian refugees in search of safety and a decent life. The challenge is to live on the same rations as a Syrian refugee living in Lebanon or Jordan and raise as much money as you can.

CWS will supply you with the rations and you sign up family and friends as sponsors. Your efforts will make a difference for families who have nowhere else to turn to for help.

**Operation Refugee starts on 16th June and finishes on the 20th. Register today!**

Will you join the marathon effort to get food, medical care and education to the 4.8 million people who have fled Syria? Through Operation Refugee we are mobilising more support for our partners working on the frontline in Jordan and Lebanon. More funds will mean they can help many more people.

You can sign up to do the challenge, sponsor someone else who is doing it or make a donation to Operation Refugee. Keep hope alive for Syrian families who want a better future.

<http://www.cwsoperationrefugee.nz/>

Would your women's group, young people or church like to sponsor someone to take on the challenge? I've signed up in solidarity for all the people around the world who have to live on these rations for months and years more than the 5 day challenge. Sally R

## United Nations - Looking forward to 2030.

The new sustainable development agenda builds on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), drafted in 2000, which focused on reducing poverty, hunger, disease, gender inequality, and ensuring access to water and sanitation by 2015.

The new sustainable development goals, and broader sustainability agenda, aim to complete what the MDGs did not achieve, and go much further, addressing the root causes of poverty and inequality and the universal need for development that works for all people. The new agenda is an action plan for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. It will foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies and require the participation of all countries, stakeholders and people.



The ambitious agenda seeks to end poverty by 2030 and promote shared economic prosperity, social development and environmental protection for all countries. The new agenda is based on 17 goals, including a stand-alone goal on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (SDG 5) as well as gender-sensitive targets in other goals. This is the first development agenda that has been negotiated by all Member States and that is applicable to all for the next 15 years. The outcome reiterates national ownership and leadership in the implementation of the agenda.

- See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org>

The Rev Carol L Grant  
United Nations Convener, Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand