



Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ

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

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February 2017

Gathering 2017 (incorporating AGM) at Mosgiel

Save the date, Friday 3 to Sunday 5 November – organise your travel. The Annual General Meeting will be held from 4pm to 6pm on Friday, an evening programme following dinner. Saturday will be a mix of presentations / workshops / reflection and networking opportunities.

Accommodation in a combination of single rooms, twin rooms and ensuite rooms is available on a first booked basis, all meals plus activities will be hosted in Burns Lodge at Holy Cross Centre, Mosgiel. www.burnslodge.nz More details will follow in our March Bushfire

Let us celebrate our membership diversity, honouring our toanga of Presbyterian Women, and share our hope for the future. Your voice is valued and your company welcome, if not in person support another to join us.

Sandra Waldrom

Thoughts Looking Forward from Erin

Have you ever had the feeling of taking two steps forward only to take one step back? When I think of transition this phrase often comes to mind. There is energy to move toward something new, but our habits and our ways of doing that are often all we know thus making any transition a conflicted journey. This week I watched some Super Bowl (played in America) and then watched the ads that cost companies millions of dollars to air during the game. One ad – by the car firm Audi – resonates with our journey. (hopefully - you can watch it by clicking here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6u10YPk_34) - Inspirational !!

But then it was revealed that the board of directors at Audi USA consists of 'NO' women! Two steps forward, the AUDI ad played on primetime USA. One step back, as a company they don't reflect the reality they are speaking about.

APW has worked hard to champion and practically help the cause of women both in New Zealand and internationally. Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ is continuing to take steps forward. At times, it seems hard to know the way forward seeking to be a movement that younger women will connect with. Welcoming Tausala Iosefa to the Executive is a step forward as we look forward to having another voice at the table. Appointing key women around the country to be Ambassadors for PWANZ is another step forward. We celebrate strengthening these roles and appointing more women to represent PWANZ. These appointments affirm the desire to be connected around the country.

Another aspect in the transition journey is listening. The feedback forms that were completed at our AGM will soon be discussed, and worked through at our Executive meeting held later this month. Another way to listen is for me to come and visit. It's a bit risky, but if you would like myself (or another member of the Executive) to come and visit a gathering of Presbyterian Women in your wider region, please do get in touch and I can work with you regarding the details.

Please keep praying for PWANZ, the Executive, Ambassadors and the many women around the country that faithfully continue to organise and gather together. Please keep praying that PWANZ would find its voice in this ever-changing world we live in. Importantly please pray for Carol and the delegation she is leading on our behalf to the UN, in New York, next month.

Erin Pendreigh

Chief Executive PWANZ

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ Executive Report

Tausala Iosefa joins the Executive as Human Rights Convenor

Tausala Iosefa is a qualified lawyer, admitted to the Bar in 1997 with twelve years of work experience. As an active member of St David's Church, and the Tuvalu and Tokelau Community groups in Palmerston North, assists in organising cultural yearly activities and fundraising, and has held the position of Secretary and Treasurer for the Tokelau Community and currently a fundraising committee member.

The focus of our Human Rights Convenor is:

- Promotion of the aspirations and welfare of women in the church and community
- Support gender equality and diversity in the church and community
-

The Human Rights convenor supports ongoing advocacy for the role of PWANZ locally, regionally, as well as at the United Nations with our Special Consultative Status. As a member of the PWANZ Executive, the Human Rights convenor will be available as our representative at Church courts, committees and other formal groups.

Presbyterian Women welcome Ambassadors

The Executive have also appointed two ex-officio PWANZ ambassadors to ensure representation for PWANZ at Church courts in:

Northern Presbytery - **Rae Simpson**, previously Gleanings Editor and her greatest interest is in the area of missions.

Central Presbytery - **Faaoataga Leasi**, previously Pasifika representative on Executive (then APW) and delegate of UN CWS57 to New York in 2013. Involved in community and church activity in Wellington region.

There are potentially two places remaining on the Executive, but in the interest of ensuring continuity of skills and experience we will be looking to fill these positions over the coming two years to enable rolling membership within the Executive.

Gift Cards

PWANZ has produced a series of 5 cards using photos taken in 1907 to 1926 from Presbyterian Research Centre (Archives), which we are selling to help cover administration costs. Email pwanz2016@gmail.com for an order form.

Presbyterian Women – Funding Update

As at 31 January 2017, seventh month of the new financial year ended 30 June 2017, members' affiliation fees have contributed \$2,274 plus \$10,677 gifted to mission.

Presbyterian Women – Membership

Contributions to our mission and individual / group subscriptions may be made by direct credit to our PWANZ account – ASB 12 3011 0117101 00.

Do you know a member of your congregation who would like to join Presbyterian Women for just \$10 per year? Email: pwanz2016@gmail.com for an individual membership form.

Individual Membership of \$10 per annum provides 11 copies of the BushFire newsletter and a vote at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday 3 November 2017.

Group treasurer's / secretary may make subscription payment for their members and provide separate list of names / email contact.

UN Delegation CSW61 (2017)



Perhaps you, too, are longing for outbursts of positivity, new innovative ideas and signs that society is exhibiting signs of new life in unexpected places?

So many news items or articles begin with a negative statement. You see these in the papers, in articles, on TV, Facebook, or hear them in everyday conversations. Genuine creativity, harmonious relationships, affirmation and happiness are often hard to find in these acrimonious corners of our world.

I am indeed fortunate, as United Nations Convenor for PWANZ, to be finalising arrangements for the next delegation to represent us in New York. Twelve wonderfully talented and very excited women from around New Zealand will gather in New York to listen, contribute, network, plan and celebrate with women and girls from around the world. We come from different ethnicities, difference backgrounds, and different experiences, but we all long to make a positive difference for women and girls wherever we are.

The delegation members are all already influencing their own multiple networks at school, university, in churches, with emergency services, and in cities and local government, and they will continue to do this on their return but with a wider and deeper global perspective. At the UN we will be involved in a vast array of events, workshops, forums, and meetings with representatives from governments and civil society. We will make a positive difference to policies, and decisions at the UN because our PWANZ voices are affirmed and valued as a faith based organization.

Priority themes at CSW61 are women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls, and the empowerment of indigenous women. For more information - Google the website www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw61-2017

Please keep us in prayer as we prepare to leave on the 9th March, for many hours of safe travel across the Pacific and the US, that we can make a positive contribution to the lives of women around the world, safety whilst in the US, and then safe travel all the way home again. We will look forward to sharing all the good news, positive outcomes, creative ideas, and ways all of us together as PWANZ women can make a difference on our return.

Carol Grant. PWANZ United Nations Convenor



STOP PRESS - Membership of Presbyterian Women

Your donation to our mission is tax deductible – ensure your funds are received by PWANZ before 31 March 2017 and you will receive a tax receipt to claim your rebate from the Inland Revenue. Also, did you know that you are able to nominate another to receive your rebate and that you may make that gift to the PWANZ account – ASB 12 3011 0117101 00.

Mission Update

Mission Birthday Gifts

The Mission Birthday gifts are one of the taonga of our past. Over 100 years ago, The Rev H J Fletcher working in the Presbyterian Church's Maori Mission, made the suggestion that if every Presbyterian gave one shilling a year all the financial needs of the Maori Mission would be met. Mrs Venables and her friends picked up the idea and it was launched 1906 a year after the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union (PWMU) became a national organisation.



This scheme is still operating today and is a major source of funds for our mission work. Last year \$15,840 was raised and grants were made to 'mainly music' in Lebanon, Palm Project in Vanuatu and the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) through CWS. All of these have been reported in Bushfire and in the Annual Report.

Thank you to Bev Quigley who continues to hold our stocks of Mission Birthday envelopes. Get in touch with her when you need some more.

Contact details for Bev: 11 Birch Street, Timaru 7910

03 686 1207

bquigley1@kinect.co.nz

Special Project

The Special Project 2016/17 focuses on families and prevention of gender based violence.

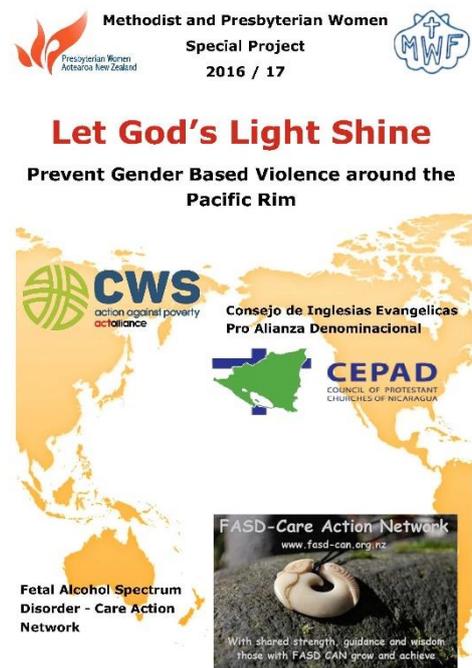
The international project working with CWS and their partner Council of Protestant Churches (CEPAD) in Nicaragua, will fund more training programmes so young people and families can tackle the violence that is damaging their lives.

The New Zealand project works with family's affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), a term that describes adverse development that can occur when a person is exposed to alcohol whilst in the womb. The organisation FASD-CAN plans to develop respite care options for families.

A reminder that there is more information on our special projects on our webpage

<http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/national-ministries/presbyterian-women-aotearoa-new-zealand/special-project>

Scroll down the page and there is information, poster and CWS power point talk available to download.





Let God's Light Shine Special Project 2016-17

This is one of the slides on the presentation available for download at

http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/sites/public_files/CWS_2016.pdf

This year I invite you to travel across the Pacific to Nicaragua in Central America. Meet Oneyda. Now aged 24 Oneyda is married with a child of her own. She has a good job with a nongovernmental organization and is happy.

Growing up her life was different. She avoided other people and was often fearful. Her home was a violent place. Her father often lost his temper and the whole family suffered - terribly. At 15 she was chosen to be a health promoter in her village by CWS partner CEPAD, the Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua. With training and support from the CEPAD team, she not only led her group of 15 young people, but transformed the life of her family. Her father found ways to improve the family's livelihood and better control his temper. Her mother was able to heal from years of injury.

Leading the group sessions, gave Oneyda the opportunity to talk about her own experiences and think about ways she could make change happen. The training gave her the courage and support to confront the violence in her own home and in their village. Together Oneyda and CEPAD broke the cycle of violence.

Raising money for the **Special Project** will fund more training programmes so other young people and families can tackle the violence that is damaging their lives.

Thank you for all your work and support

Sally Russell Missions Convenor

Calendar – 2017

February

18 – Executive meeting in Wellington

March

8 – International Women's Day

10 - BushFire release

April

7 - BushFire release

May

12 - BushFire release

27 – Executive meeting in Wellington

June

9 - BushFire release

July

14 - BushFire release

August

11 - BushFire release

26 – Executive meeting in Wellington