

# Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand

August 2016

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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016**

***Register and have your say?***

**Saturday 24 September, St John's in the City  
Wellington – 9am registration**

Theme - "Sowing Seeds for the Future", we will outline our focus for 2017. The Transition Team will report to you on mission, United Nations, and present the year end accounts to 30 June 2016. We look forward to your input and sharing of ideas through workshops during the afternoon. The day's programme will close at 4pm.

All Presbyterian women are welcome to attend, financial members get to vote, ensure your membership is up to date. Email: [lois.robertson@clear.net.nz](mailto:lois.robertson@clear.net.nz) to register, only \$20 for the day including lunch and tea / coffee.

***THOUGHTS: What Do I Get For My \$10 per year Membership of PWANZ?***



**For just the cost of 'two cups of coffee'?**

Ongoing strategic planning and capacity building for the future of women of all ages in our churches supported by an annual generous ongoing Council for World Mission Grant of \$50,000 over five years. A Women's Assembly is being planned for 2017.

Ongoing partnerships with Methodist Women's Fellowship, and other local, regional, national and international partnerships: UN Ecumenical Women, UN Women, NZ National Council for Women, NZ Ministry for Women International Caucus, and voting members in all the courts of the church.

### **In 2016:**

Bushfire, our new publication which regularly updates and informs all members. Plus, regular articles in Bush Telegraph, posts on Facebook and the PCANZ web site.

A team of four dedicated women who work mostly voluntarily and give tirelessly of their time, and often generously from personal discretionary funds who work together to ensure the smooth running and future focus of PWANZ prior to, during, and following meetings.

Only one is paid for her administrative and financial work on behalf of the organisation. Sandra Waldrom, National Administrator, is contracted to work part time. She has updated PW membership, financial and accounting systems, Charities Services data and attended to the myriad of correspondence and all levels of communication.

A National Mission Convenor (unpaid) who has coordinated the way PW reaches out to others. Sally Russell has evaluated past mission projects, updated many aspects of PW mission work in this rapidly changing context, and presented new mission opportunities to further our global and New Zealand mission work.

A United Nations Convenor (unpaid) Carol Grant has lead two delegations of self-funded women and girls to the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, attended NZ Ministry for Women International Caucus meetings, and spoken to many church and community groups to promote this work. The ongoing work of PWANZ which is a NZ national NGO with Special Consultative Status at the United Nations continues all year.

A newly appointed Coordinator (unpaid) from May 2016. Erin Pendreigh's time is supported by the Synod of Otago and Southland.

An Advisory Group (unpaid) of four PW members who have supported the work of the PW Transition Team as the Team works to lay the foundations for a new inclusive movement to bring in a different future for women in the church.

**Now how's that for good value?**

**Many thanks for your ongoing support and additional generous donations.**



**Carol Grant, Transition Team member**

## **Why Presbyterian Women?**

**Women are in leadership roles, as clergy and lay leaders - in congregations, presbyteries, synods and General Assembly. So given that women have made it to the top (?) in the PCANZ institutional structures some may wonder. Why PW?**

In an interesting article in the 'Horizons' magazine Kathy Reeves, mission associate for PW in the PCUSA points to three vital gifts offered by Presbyterian Women in her organisation: inclusive community, leadership enhancement, and ministry. Some of her thoughts apply to us as PW look at where we are and how we want to be in the future. Her sub headings are. . .

### **Building an inclusive community**

*'Women naturally build community among themselves. We know we can accomplish more if we do things together. It is where also that we find encouragement and support on a personal level'*

In a multi-cultural, cross cultural church like PCANZ, can we be more intentional about building an inclusive community of women and girls of different racial ethnic backgrounds and ages? Can we ensure that all women know they have a place in our organisation where everyone's gifts can be used to enhance PW's ministry to the church and community?

*'While we can always strive to do better, few organisations in our church are as inclusive and diverse as Presbyterian Women. Many Presbyterian Women credit PW with providing a welcoming community when they are seeking a congregation.'*

How can we as PW warmly embrace and welcome new members at church, and provide an environment which embraces them and encourages the use of their gifts to strengthen the body of Christ as well as opening up a place where women can share differences of opinion and theological insights as we pray, work, and play together?

### **Developing and strengthening leaders**

*'PW encourages women to use their God given abilities for the good of the organisation and the church world-wide. Through the support of the PW community many women have found the courage to speak out against injustice and seek ways to improve the lives of others,'*

We, in PWANZ, continue to do this locally, regionally, nationally and internationally in various forums. An amazing number of women apply their skills in secular organisations in their communities or on boards of other non-profit entities. How do we recognize and celebrate their successes within our congregations?

### **A passion for mission**

*'Both the strength of the PW community and its membership of women leaders enable the organisation to make significant contributions to the ministry of the PCANZ. PW has a strong reputation throughout the world as being a generous supporter of mission projects particularly those that respond to the needs of women and children, and of efforts to build a world where everyone enjoys basic human rights in their daily lives.'*

Our many projects have been and continue to be far reaching, as we have partnered with others to make the world a safer and better place. I have met many women at UN CSW who have been recipients of our mission projects. We have sown many good seeds - the blossoming is evident in so many far flung places.

## **Agents of change**

Kathy finishes her article by adding *"I wonder if those nineteenth century and early to mid-twentieth century Presbyterian Women ever imagined that women would gain such prominence in the church. Those were the days when a minister - always a male - had to be present at the women's prayer meetings and AGM'S because "no one knew what women would pray for, or decide, if left alone"*

From the beginning PWANZ have been agents of change working for human rights, building bridges, educating the young, peace creating, caring for creation and our neighbours, and speaking out against injustice and oppression. Our stated aims are - we unite in prayer, study, fellowship and service, make a Christian witness in home, church and community, and support the work of partner churches in worldwide mission and evangelism.

Let's go for gold, and make sure our voices are heard in every corner of the church and community. It's to you and to me, as individuals or within groups, meetings, church courts, or assemblies to make sure this happens!

**Carol Grant PWANZ UN Convenor**

Horizons Magazine PCUSA. September /October 2015  
Presbyterian Women. One Body. One Spirit

## **Presbyterian Women – Funding Update**

In the first month of the new financial year ended 30 June 2017, more than a hundred and ten members have paid their affiliation fees. These contributions to PWANZ accounting now for \$800 in membership plus almost \$7,000 gifted to mission. Contributions have been recorded from ten groups, one Presbyterial and three individual members.

## **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 and membership is \$10 per year which can be direct credited to ASB 12 3011 0117101 00.

Email: [pwanz2016@gmail.com](mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com) for an individual membership form.

We are seeking to update the database and have everyone's email address as well as postal address to help with communication and individual membership helps with that.

## **Mission Update**

I'm busy sending out the special project packs and finalising the Mission Gifts distribution for 2016.

Thank you everyone who contributed to the 2015/16 special project. We raised \$13,422 for the Young New Zealanders Foundation for the publication Gemstones 2, a resource for teachers, youth workers etc on self-worth, suicide prevention and \$5,753 for CWS partner Developers Foundation in the Philippines for their work rebuilding homes and livelihoods after Typhoon Haiyan.

## **Turakina**

Wayne Te Kaawa, Moderator Te Aka Puaho is pleased that PWANZ are still interested in Turakina and their pupils. He reports that 20 girls have gone to Hukarere Girls College in the Esk Valley, north of Napier and that Deputy Principal Kerehoma Mihaere has transferred with them to make the transition easier. This year PWANZ is providing a \$1,000 scholarship to Jemau Bell to be available for extra-curricular school activities and items which will help in her aim to study at Otago University.

*Ko Ruapehu te maunga  
Ko Whanganui te awa  
Ko Te Atihau a paparangi te Iwi  
No Otautahi ahau  
Ko Jemau Bell ahau.*

*Kia ora. I'm a year eleven student currently. I'm a very adventurous person, I love finding new places to explore! I like making new memories and meeting new people. Being at a Māori boarding school has given me confidence so I'm not that shy when it comes to meeting new people unless it's meetings or really important times. But not only does it give me confidence, but it provides me with a great understanding of my culture.*

*I'm the middle child so I tend to tag along with my older brother and go out with him just to go and get out of the house for a few hours. Attending a boarding school, I'm not home much so when I am I like to spend as much time and help out with family whenever I can. I'm from Christchurch but I live on the Gold Coast in Australia. I'm not one for cleaning voluntarily but I still do, I guess I can't stand when people don't help out or pitch in where or when they can. I believe that helping out a little never hurts anyone. Whether I'm in Christchurch or over in Australia with different family members I always do my part in the house hold. In my family I'm more of the academic child, as my older brother and younger sister are the sporty ones.*

*I suppose I've always loved learning new things especially outside of the classroom, so I do love P.E because I learn new things each lesson while going out and having a run. Science is one of my favourite subjects, I love biology! My future career goal is to attend Otago University for a bachelor of medicine and bachelor of surgery. I want to be a surgeon to help and save others! I haven't decided which area I want to specify in but I'm leaning towards being a cardiothoracic surgeon. I'm a very passionate person when it comes to things that I love, such as kapa haka! I can't wait until next year's regionals for secondary kapa haka.*

*I would like to thank Presbyterian Women for giving me the opportunity to be considered for a scholarship but more importantly the honour of receiving a Turakina Scholarship in which both myself and whanau will be very proud to hold.*

*No reira*

*Jemau Bell*

Kerehoma Mihaere adds: *She was sent back to NZ to learn more about her Maori side and herself as a person. The values taught here are those of Turakina based upon our Christian faith. Her family comes from the Whanganui river with many relatives past pupils of Turakina, four being foundation pupils*

**Sally Russell Missions Convenor**