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Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women
Aotearoa NZ

April 2018

I extend a handshake of faatalofa (greeting) to you - special women – beautiful women - young and old - in celebration of the **International Women's Day 2018**. It was a humble privilege to be invited to represent the Presbyterian Church at the International Women's Day 2018, 130 women and men from different organizations, businesses, churches and schools attended the special celebration of the International Women's Day this year.



From left: Faaolataga (Ola) Leasi, Right Honourable Helen Clark, Dr Gill Greer, Rev. Hana Popea-Dell

The event was held at Parliament, hosted by the Minister for Women, the Honourable Julie-Anne Genter. The keynote speakers were the Governor General, the Right Honourable Her Excellency Dame Patsy Reddy, and the Right Honourable Helen Clark, formerly Administrator of the United Nations Fund for Development and formerly Prime Minister of New Zealand (in a conversation with Dr Gill Greer, Chief Executive of the National Council for Women).

The 2018 UN Women's theme for International Women's Day is '**Achieve Gender Equality And Empower Rural Women and Girls.**'

"Together we can empower rural women in the Pacific. The United Nations observance on 8 March reflects on how to accelerate the 2030 agenda, building momentum for the effective implementation of the new Sustainable Development Goals. It will equally focus on new commitments under UN Women's Step It Up initiative and other existing commitments on gender equality, women's empowerment and women's human rights."

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Rt. Hon Helen Clark added *“The challenges are great, but with the 2030 Agenda for Development – which addresses and incorporates gender equality more than ever before in global development agendas – we have an unprecedented opportunity to address the issues faced by women and remove the barriers which prevent them from fulfilling their potential. By doing so, we stand our best chance ever of eradicating poverty, realizing human rights for all, and leaving no one behind.”*

The ceremony was live-streamed giving an opportunity for women’s groups and schools around New Zealand and in the Pacific to participate in the event and to people having breakfast in the Grand Hall of Parliament building.

Prior to the breakfast on Thursday, **The Suffrage 125** was launched at Government House to coincide with International Women’s Day. Governor General Dame Patsy Reddy said *‘As New Zealand prepares to mark 125 years of women’s suffrage, there is plenty to celebrate – but there is still much to be done.’*

Reflecting back on the events of the day, the Ministry for Women (in partnership with Te Papa) convened a panel of amazing and inspirational women who have made significant contributions to furthering the rights of women and girls. It was a significant commemoration recognizing New Zealanders from many cultural backgrounds who have contributed to improving women’s lives. The **Whakatū Wāhine** (forging our future, heralding our history) was central in the ceremony, and reflected a kaupapa of women standing up, and people standing up for women.

The panel discussed how we could build on our past successes and the lessons from our rich history, how we are addressing the unique challenges that we face today and what we can do to ensure a promising and empowered future for all NZ women across all cultures, ages and social groups.

Carol Grant



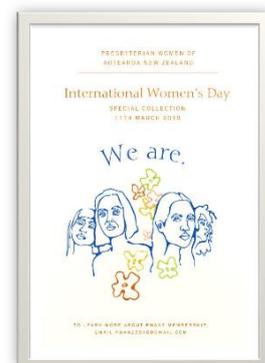
I give thanks for the ongoing work of the Presbyterian Women in Aotearoa New Zealand for the empowering of women, and also for Sandra Waldrom for her efficient administration work.

Kia kaha, kia manawanui.

Rev. Hana Popea-Dell
St Ninians Uniting Church, Karori

2018 PWANZ Special Collection

We gratefully acknowledge the support of many Parishes in New Zealand who have contributed to our Special Collection over March 2018. Donations were received from Opotiki, Riverton, Havelock North, Albany, Timaru, Whakatane, Te Atatu, Dunedin, Wellington, Kawerau, Te Kauwhata, Titahi Bay, Otaki Waikanae, Miramar, Feilding Oroua, Nightcaps plus individuals – thank you.





"Proud to be a part of the Suffrage 125 national event programme."

In 1893, New Zealand became the first nation in the world to grant women the right to vote. Suffrage Day (September 19) is a significant day in New Zealand's history. Suffrage Day provides an opportunity for individuals and organisations to celebrate New Zealand's suffrage achievements and look for ways to make further progress to benefit women.



I was delighted to be invited to the launch of Suffrage 125 at Government House on 7th March, the day prior to International Women's Day. We were all asked to wear purple or white - the suffrage colours. It was good to meet other UN CSW friends such as Caroline Herewini, Kaiwhakahaere of Te Whare Tiaki Wāhine Refuge and Rae Duff, Graduate Women International, as well as many women leaders.

The young New Zealander of the year, Rez Gardi was one of the young women who gave an impressive speech. Rez was born in a United Nations refugee camp in Pakistan as her Kurdish family escaped persecution in their home land of Kurdistan. At the age of 6 Rez and her family settled in New Zealand. Arriving with nothing, Rez has sought to use her difficult start in life as motivation to succeed recently becoming one of New Zealand's first Kurdish female lawyers.

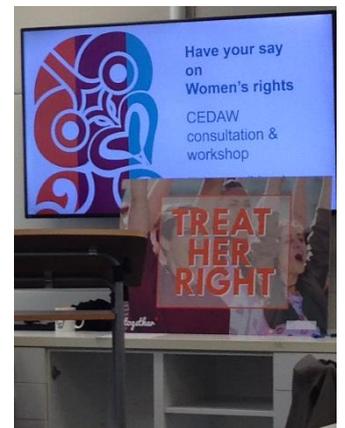
Human Rights Commission Consultation

I also received an invitation to attend the Human Rights Commission Consultation on Women's Rights at the Human Rights Commission Treaty (CEDAW) on International Women's Day. The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) promotes the equality of women throughout society, also obligates states to suppress all forms of sex trafficking. CEDAW was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 December 1979. It was ratified by New Zealand in January 1985. The Convention obligates signatory states to end all forms of discrimination against women and contains three core elements:

- affirms women's legal rights, includes all manner of civil and political rights
- devotes attention to women's reproductive rights: "the role of women in procreation should not be a basis for discrimination"
- addresses cultural conceptions of women and how stereotypes, customs and norms can perpetuate discrimination

Party states are obliged to report four yearly on compliance with the CEDAW. These reports, which cover national action taken to improve the situation of women, are presented to the Committee by Government representatives. In discussions with these officials, the CEDAW experts comment on the report, obtain additional information then make recommendations. New Zealand will appear before the Committee in July 2018.

The 'Treat Her Right.- Pay The Sisters The Same As The Misters' Petition with thousands of signatures was received at the consultation event by the NZ Human Rights Commissioner, Jackie Blue.



Rev. Carol Grant Dunedin

Letter from Erin

Dear PWANZ

It is with deep regret that I write to inform you of my resignation as President of Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ effective 31st March 2018.

There are a number of factors contributing to my decision but the main reasons are family and my role as Mission Advisor for Southern Presbytery. When I was appointed to the role of transition co-ordinator it was with the permission of the Synod of Otago & Southland (my employer). There was capacity within my time to fulfil the commitment to PWANZ. Over the past six months it has become evident that my capacity has changed and an adjustment to where my attention lay needed to be made.

The Executive needs people who have time and energy to dedicate to their portfolios in way that help PWANZ move into a more relevant place in the wider churches life. The fact that I can't offer PWANZ the time and energy I feel it needs has led to this decision.

I wish you God's blessings in the process of filling this portfolio.

In Christ

Rev Erin Pendreigh

2018 WE ARE at the Well

PWANZ Executive are bringing a series of **regional gatherings** to you over 2018. Last year we had one national gathering and it was great so this year we are trying a different approach. At Mosgiel last year Dr Deborah Bower inspired and stimulated us and she will be at all the gatherings so we can all hear one of our Presbyterian women treasures.

We begin with multi-venues in the Alpine Presbytery from Thursday 21st June starting at St Andrew's Rakaia, then in Central Presbytery at St Andrew's Hastings for a full-day of activities on Saturday 14 July, followed by Northern Presbytery in August, and Kaimai at Chartwell Co-operating, Hamilton in November. We are all welcome at all the venues.

Dr Deborah Bower will lead us with her teaching, igniting and encouraging the Life within. Deborah has over twenty years' experience in biblical based preaching, pastoral supervision, and Spiritual life coaching. She has worked across all streams of Christian expression, and with various groups. Her area of expertise is in encouraging and equipping people to regain, or develop, spiritual and emotional insight. Deborah has a passion for opening up the Scriptures to reveal the heart and character of God. Deborah holds a PhD in Theology from Otago University and has spent over five years teaching aspects of Old and New Testament studies at both Bible College (Dunedin Campus), and at Otago University. She also moderated the "Introduction to the NT" paper for EIDTS (Ecumenical Institute of Distance Theological Studies).

Deborah's experience includes being the Interim Minister for the Wakatipu Community Church (Presbyterian) and she is an accredited Strengths Coach with Strengths Network South Pacific. At present Deborah works for the Synod of Otago and Southland as Church Leadership Support Advisor for the region. She is Convenor of the Leadership Sub Committee of PCANZ, and she sits on several national committees for the PCANZ. Deborah is the founder and Director of SoulScape, which has PCANZ Presbytery recognition. Deborah lives in Queenstown, New Zealand with her husband Gordon, and their two wee dogs, Lily and Poppy. Deborah continues to worship at Wakatipu Community Church, where she is an ordained elder.

There will be a great programme continuing our theme from the gathering in Mosgiel, with a choice of venue and awesome speakers, topics that are relevant and interesting to both young and old. Have you a venue to offer hosting? More details to come in BushFire - May.

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ Executive Report

Child Poverty Reduction Bill – Submission to the Select Committee

Mavis Duncanson, PWANZ UN Convenor wrote: It is a clear human rights issue and of course Andrew Norton produced that excellent Justice booklet highlighting poverty and violence. The call for submissions closed at midnight 4 April 2018. Copies of our submission prepared by Mavis are available on request to pwanz2016@gmail.com and will be publicly available on the Parliament website once the Select Committee have read them.

100% of our member respondents gave their support to the PWANZ Executive forwarding our submission to the Select Committee.

The Executive apologises for the short notice in requesting a response from members to this process. We are aware that Groups meet monthly and it may not always suit timing to wait for these submissions to be circulated to members and have the opportunity to discuss the Bill. We will endeavour in future to allow more time.

AGM The AGM will be held on Saturday 15 September at St Alban's Palmerston North. Put the date in your diary and look forward to a great day put on in Palmerston North.

BushFire Ensure Presbyterian women receive their copy of your monthly newsletter – BushFire, forward email addresses to pwanz2016@gmail.com, or request a hard copy with a postal address. Remember Group Contacts to provide a list of each of your members as we recognise individual membership.

Presbyterian Women – Funding Update To 31 March 2018, of the current financial year to 30 June 2018, nearly 400 financial members have contributed nearly \$15,000 in donations to mission.

Special Project Information

Sally reports: I have got rather muddled and know that not everyone has received their copies of the information about this year's special projects. Please email me if you haven't received it. You can also download the information about our two projects <http://presbyterian.org.nz/national-ministries/presbyterian-women-aotearoa-new-zealand/special-project>

The New Zealand project works with PILLARS, Ka Pou Whakahou, which exists to create positive futures for the children of prisoners in Aotearoa, supporting them to cope with parental imprisonment therefore breaking the cycle of intergenerational crime.

The international project working with CWS and their partner the Centre for Community Solidarity in Uganda working with people caring for orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV and AIDS.

Presbyterian Women – Membership

Do you know a member of your congregation who would like to join Presbyterian Women for just \$10 per year? \$10 per annum provides 11 copies of the BushFire newsletter and a vote at the Annual General Meeting. Remittance forms have been emailed to members in April, if your Group Treasurer pays the fees on behalf of members please pass on to them.

This year is the year to promote membership – **if we all ask one other person to join** then we are on the way to becoming a vibrant relevant part of our church.

Turakina - from the Council News March 2018

Te Aka Puaho Moderator Marina Rakuraku spoke about her first year as Moderator and advised Council that the sale of the former Turakina Maori Girls College property had been completed and settlement would be next month. She acknowledged that this was the end of an era.

Group Events

Christchurch Presbyterial - Six Decades of Ministry, Mission, and Faith Filled Service to the Parishes, Church and Wider Community

In March I was privileged to be invited to the final communion service and luncheon at Cashmere Presbyterian Church which celebrated the incredible ministry of the APW groups of Presbyterian women around the Canterbury region. As regional chaplain while I was a minister in Christchurch, I saw firsthand the dedication, ministry, and wonderful generosity of each group as I visited, led quiet days, participated in annual meetings, executive meetings and communion services. The Rev Chris Elliot in her sermon listed many of the numerous ways all these busy women had served the churches and local communities as well as contributing nationally by hosting conferences and internationally through all the Methodist Presbyterian partnership and outreach projects. Many of us in the pews today learned about service and commitment from our mothers, mother in laws, aunts and neighbours who were also dedicated members of these APW groups from every parish around the region. The service was followed by a sumptuous luncheon and much chatter and laughter as memories were shared. A bitter sweet but joy filled celebration. I was very glad to hear that Canterbury gatherings will continue but with a different focus. If I am ever invited again to one of these gatherings I will be there!



Carol Grant. Former Regional Chaplain of Christchurch Presbyterial

Presbyterian Women Manawatu

On Saturday 10th March, Presbyterian Women of Manawatu joined together to celebrate International Women's Day with a shared afternoon tea. Ann Smith, our new Co-Ordinator opened the afternoon with devotions from Proverbs 31:10 "A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies (precious jewels, diamonds)"

March is a month of two significant Women events – as well as March the 8th being International Women's day, March the 6th is International Women's day of Prayer. This day began in the 19th Century, however, in 1887 Presbyterian Women of UK called for a recognised day of prayer in support and encouragement for women involved in home mission for women and children. We took up and blessed a special collection for PWANZ in financial support of the ongoing advocacy role locally, regionally and internationally including United Nations.

Our guest speaker for the day was Margaret MacGregor, who was ably supported by husband Paul, who gave us a very vivid and interesting talk on their 5 years in Thailand with RAHAB Ministry. Margaret, a hairdresser by trade, with her RAHAB team took many prostitutes off the streets and out of the bars and taught them English and trades with many being given the new skills and courage to open their own businesses in a range of trades – hairdressing, tailoring, food stalls to name a few, and become self-sufficient and supported.



Ann Smith