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

Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women
Aotearoa NZ

May 2018



2018 WE ARE...at the Well

PWANZ Executive are bringing a series of **regional gatherings** to you over 2018, supported by CWM with a “building capacity” grant.

Dr Deborah Bower will be at all the gatherings so we can all hear one of our Presbyterian women treasures. She holds a Doctorate in Theology from Otago University, is a Church Leadership Support Advisor at Southern Presbytery & Presbyterian Synod of Otago and Southland. Deborah 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.

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.



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Deborah will speak on:

"In John's gospel Jesus encounters a woman at a well (John 4.4-42). She has a past, and her present is less than perfect. In this unusual encounter Jesus connects with the woman's heart, and she is never the same again.

Where is Jesus in our story?

Do we have a well experience?

Let's go on a journey of discovery and explore the terrain that is our heart."

A new generation of Presbyterian Women. Come meet with us at the well for nourishment, engagement, inspiration and connection. **MAKE A DATE IN YOUR DIARY** at the venue nearest you (see below) and organise to bring others too.

Alpine Presbytery Thursday 21st June St Andrew's **Rakaia**, from 10am with lunch to follow
Alpine Presbytery Thursday 21st June Cashmere Presbyterian **Christchurch**, from 7pm with coffee & dessert

Alpine Presbytery Saturday 23rd June Whakatū Presbyterian, **Nelson** beginning at 9.45am

Central Presbytery Saturday 14th July St Andrew's **Hastings** for a full-day of activities, including presentations with Dr Deborah Bower and



Caren Rangi - Chartered Accountant Fellow (FCA), Trustee for the Te Matau a Maui Voyaging Trust and Eastern and Central Community Trust, Director Cook Islands Investment Corporation, Board Member Charities Registration Board and Council Member Creative New Zealand

Northern Presbytery in August with 4 venues to choose from – St Cuthbert's Browns Bay, West, Somervell in Remuera, and South on Thursday 9th to Saturday 11th.

Kaimai at Chartwell Co-operating, Hamilton in November and St John's, Rotorua.

To assist us with planning and catering please register in advance email: pwanz2016@gmail.com

Have you a venue to offer hosting? More details to come in BushFire - June.

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.

AGM The AGM will be held on Saturday 15 September from 9am to 1pm from by lunch and workshops to close by 4pm at St Alban's Palmerston North. Put the date in your diary, make your travel plans 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 30 April 2018, of the current financial year to 30 June 2018, over 400 financial members have contributed over \$16,000 in donations to mission.

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.

Northern Presbytery News - from our Northern Ambassador

Rae Simpson reports from the recent meeting of Coastal Cluster of the Northern Presbytery. "The emphasis was on multiculturalism, and I became aware that PWANZ really doesn't manage to embrace a lot of the ethnicities that have reached our shores in more recent years, but I have no idea where to start ... the focus of NCW on gender equality is somewhat narrower than the diversity of migrants."

Nukuhau Tapu Presbytery News Faolataga Leasi, Central Ambassador reports from the NCW sponsored What Wellington Women Want - 10 year Civic Plan discussion:

Art and Culture – increasing the investment and acknowledging the proportion of *Pasifika women* in art, culture and sports that shape up the holistic essence of the city. Increasing and improving accurate facilities that suits the diversity of all groups including women and children, including free parking over the weekends.

Again, **Housing** scheme with a suitable model that is suppliable and affordable and for all the Wellingtonians.

Amber Parry Strong introduces herself: I am one of the new children's ministry enablers in Central Presbytery and as part of my role I would love to come and speak to APW groups about children, kids friendly, outreaches at churches etc. There are 3 of us covering the region so we can go anywhere from Wellington, across to Taranaki. Phone me on 021 487 0281

TRAVELLING TOGETHER

The Council of World Mission (CWM) is pleased to present this prayer book for every day of the year in 2018, in observation of our fortieth anniversary. *This devotional guide is an invitation to the reader to explore, and hopefully experience, the unfathomable riches of God's grace and to live in confident hope that God's future, buoyant with possibility, is already breaking in on the horizons of our consciousness. The reflections herein represent the experiences, faith and convictions of the contributors; their reflection on*



scripture within the context of current landscape; and their vulnerability in making public their theological views and biases. We pray that reading and meditating on the content of these pages will serve to inspire faith and encourage us in our walk with God throughout this year.

http://www.cwmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/CWM_DailyDevotion2018_Full-for-Website.pdf

Worship & Discipleship

2 April

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 17.1-7

TOPIC: Symbols in Scripture: Water

There are many symbols used in the Scriptures to provide vivid illustrations of God's relationship to the world. Jesus used simple everyday things of life to reveal spiritual truths. In the next seven (7) days I will be highlighting a few of these symbols so that we can meditate on God's care and provision for us and give our appropriate responses through worship.

The first symbol that I have chosen is water. Water is seen as vital for all life; refreshing and nourishing. In the Scriptures it is used as both positive and negative symbols revealing the importance of its usage in the correct amount as well as dangerous in the oversupply of water. In Genesis we read the story of the great flood on the earth, destroying all life in its path except Noah and his family who were protected by God because of Noah's obedience in building the ark.

In our present context, we are experiencing natural disasters, like flooding, tsunamis and earthquakes. The industrial revolution and subsequent greed of human beings, have contributed to some of these disasters by the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This has resulted in global warming and climate change. This effect has caused the earth's average temperature to rise by almost 1°C.

In today's reading we learn of the Israelite's need for water in the wilderness and God's liberating power with the dramatic rescue from slavery in Egypt, to the land that God had promised them. During their journey to the Promised Land, they complained to God about Moses' leadership and the lack of water. So God instructed Moses to use his staff and strike a rock to provide life-giving thirst quenching water for the people. Stories of God's divine rescue are replicated many times in the saving actions of God as one who cares for his people and provides for their needs.

Questions and actions to consider:

We have received God's salvation – healing, forgiveness and peace through Christ's ministry and sacrificial death.

1. Do we continue to trust that God watches over and cares for us?
2. How can we show our thanks and praise for God's provision of water by being good stewards of this precious resource?

Ideas - using water sparingly and not wasting it, caring for our environment to keep it clean, reduce our carbon footprint to reduce global warming, support Water Aid

Prayer:

Loving God, 'As the deer pants for water, so our souls long after you.' We praise and thank you that you are the source of life and provide for our needs. Help us to trust in you in times of plenty and in drought as we meditate on Amos 5.24 'But let justice roll down like waters, and goodness like an ever-flowing stream.'

Eco Bags in Havelock North

The St Columba's Environmental Group had a focus on water and of course the problem of plastic in our oceans is a concern. We try and *think globally act locally* and now make eco bags which sell at our church mini markets. Its basically a small netting bag with a drawstring tie to take with you for vegetable purchases saving the use of those flimsy one-time use plastic bags at the vegetable section.

We can't make enough, we put the price up and that didn't help.



UN Report



Dr AnneMarie Tangney (PWANZ UN Co-convenor) April 2018

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the largest annual gathering of the United Nations calendar and this year it took place from 12 – 23 March 2018. It is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. As a member of CSW, Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa New Zealand (PWANZ) has a responsibility to be represented at these annual sessions to evaluate progress, set standards and formulate policies to promote gender equality and the advancement of women worldwide.

As well as Government representatives, there were more than 4,300 civil society representatives from 130 countries participated in this year's CSW and PWANZ delegates were among five of those women.

This year's CSW's main theme was the "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls". I have to admit that having always lived in an urban setting I found that it was somewhat new to me to especially concentrate on the many real difficulties encountered by rural women over and above those experienced by their urban sisters.

Rural women: the invisible mainstay of sustainability

What I learnt is that rural women are often the invisible mainstay of sustainability – as it is most often rural women who ensure the food security for communities, build climate resilience and strengthen economies.

Yet despite the importance of this role, gender inequalities, such as discriminatory laws and social norms, combined with a fast-changing economic, technological and environmental landscape very often restrict their full potential, leaving them far behind men and their urban counterparts.

I have to admit that I did not immediately appreciate the link between climate change and the potential for rural women to be disadvantaged, but what I learnt is that with a changing climate, women who already have unequal access to land, water and energy are further negatively impacted. For instance, as floods and droughts increase, rural women and girls spend more time and effort to collect and secure water and fuel, missing out on education and income-generating opportunities.

It is good to know that UN Women supports efforts to increase women farmers' access to land, financing, climate information and climate-smart technologies to achieve gender equality through climate-resilient agriculture, as well as enhancing their capacity to move up green agricultural value chains.

Mission Update

Pillars

Special project this year.

Invisible Victims of Crime



In 2012, Pillars hosted the first nationwide annual Children of Prisoner's Week campaign and the theme was "Not my Crime, Still my Sentence." This sums up what it can be like for children of prisoners who are punished by society for a crime they did not commit.

Pillars large scale research study into the children and families of prisoners in New Zealand revealed that children of prisoners are usually far worse off as a result of parental imprisonment.

Typical challenges for children of prisoners include having to move house, change school, live with somebody else, struggle with friendships, experience effects of post-traumatic stress disorder following often sudden separation from their imprisoned parent, living in poverty, have challenges staying in school and a general lack of access to a range of health services they need to be well.

Social isolation and deprivation as a result of parental imprisonment can lead to pathways of criminal offending. Children of prisoners are over nine times more likely to go to prison as adults than other kiwi kids.

Pillars is the New Zealand expert in addressing the crisis occurs through incarceration of a parent. We provide advice and support via our [helpline](#), [training](#) and [best practice guides](#) for people in our community who make decisions about their outcomes. We have [information and resources](#) for families in every prison in New Zealand.

Note: Please email or ring me and I can send your group the pack about Pillars and our project in Uganda. Sally

CSW63: Have your say and consider going to New York



Planet 50-50 by 2030
Step It Up for Gender Equality

The sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63) will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from **11 to 22 March 2019**. The priority theme is 'Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.' The review theme picks up on the agreed conclusions of CSW60 in 2016 to consider 'Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable Development'

Through the foresight of women two decades ago, Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand has special consultative status at the United Nations. We have a responsibility to be represented at CSW63. It is a privilege to be part of Ecumenical Women at the United Nations and work together with women of faith internationally in this task.

It is not too early to be thinking of women who can speak to the priority theme or to an aspect of the global goals for sustainable development. If you are interested in contributing to a written statement on gender equality in New Zealand, in applying to be a self-funded member of a Presbyterian Women delegation to the United Nations, or in getting more information please contact the United Nations Convenors: Mavis Duncanson and AnneMarie Tangney