

Gleanings

from the people



#80 July/August 2015

From our National Convenor:-

Good things take time

God bless our Presbyterian Women at this time in our journey of change. Please support the National Business meeting in Wellington on 26th September and have your say. There is a notice of motion enclosed which proposes to close our organisation, and as National Convenor I would like to apologise sincerely for the lack of information, and transparency with regards to finances and operations of our organisation. More importantly as I look back, cancelling last year's meeting lost an opportunity for members to have their say and keep everyone in the loop. I believe there is a role for our Presbyterian Women's organisation in the church, a more reduced role, information to keep members connected, sharing our news and ideas, supporting our special projects and United Nations' role. With reduced membership, hard decisions need to be made with the finances. It will be a place for Presbyterian Women that encourages, equips and educates our women, praying for each other, trusting in God, volunteering spirit, inspiring and spiritually feeding our women in conferences, camps, and retreats, regionally and nationally. Social networking will be key. Please give us a chance. May God's Peace and Blessings be with you all -

Lafulafu

For everything there is a season!



I've been looking at Ecclesiastes. As the preacher looks back at the meaning of life, he sees so much of it as "chasing after the wind" and "meaningless". But in chapter 3, he recognises that for everything there is a season—birth and death, planting and uprooting, keeping and throwing away, silence and speech etc.

I've been thinking back over the seasons of our movement. Fifty years ago was the time when PWMU, Guilds and Fellowship groups came together under one umbrella. There was a time for study conferences to be held in several centres, in the years between the triennial business meetings, and a time for them to end. There was a time for the number

of committees to be reduced, for the Special Project to change from practical to financial, and then to join forces with MWF. There was a time to take our place as a Non Government Organisation with the United Nations. There is also a time for each one of us to be involved in mission, right on our own doorsteps.

So what of our organisation? Association of Presbyterian Women has been renamed Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand. In the days before we had women elders and clergy, APW was where so many women played their part in the church.

Now we come to a new phase. Women are very involved in every part of church life, and have less time for the traditional women's groups we once found so fulfilling. Where to from here? How will the "women's desk" pan out? Do we have a future? Is it time to wind up our movement as some suggest? Are we "chasing the wind"? So the preacher, very likely King Solomon, talks of imparting his wisdom, then wondering what has been gained by it all. He also wonders what use his wealth has been! But as he ends his book, he comes out on a positive note which we would do well to take to heart :-

"The words of the wise prod us to live well...
They're like nails hammered home, holding life together.
They're given by God, one Shepherd.

But regarding anything beyond this...go easy. There's no end to the publishing of books
and constant study wears you down.....

The last and final word is this:
Fear God.

Do what He tells you.

Eventually God will bring everything that we do out into the open
and judge it according to its hidden intent, whether it is good or evil.

Ecclesiastes 12: 9-14
The Message

Pray that we will make the right choices as we approach this cross road.

Rae

THE JUBILEE QUILT is TRAVELLING.

The Jubilee Quilt, which was contributed to by so many groups, for whom the past of APW was hugely important, is on a journey. First, Mary North and I took it to the Waikato where the Matamata, Hamilton, Cambridge, Te Kuiti and Otorohanga folk could see it. It is now on its own, and with much encouragement, it is being shepherded from place to place. It has been enjoyed by folk in Tauranga, Whakatane, Opotiki, and Napier. Palmerston North will have it in time for their district's Presbyterial in July. While there it will be shown at Hunterville, Whanganui and Feilding. Waikanae will be next, then to Masterton for their Presbyterial in August and Martinborough folk will get to see their block. I hope that it can be shown in involved parishes of the Wellington area in the following month, so that after being hung at the National Business meeting in Wellington in September, it will be taken to the South Island areas and on to its final resting place. I have asked each group to be responsible for one way travel to or from their place. This has worked well thus far.

Anyone who saw the quilt at Assembly, or a photo of it, will notice a small change. The block on the front with the teardrops has been replaced. There was apparently no missing block! All were accounted for. So I removed that block and replaced it with one of the two on the back. These have the old and the new logos on them. So the logo, that has been APW for most of its 50 years, is now on the front. The new logo is alone on the back, but at the bottom corner, where a quick lift will show it off. Travel well, Jubilee quilt. I thank the many women have been involved in your becoming. It is a delight to me that these people can enjoy seeing the completed quilt that you now are. May they be blessed by their APW memories.

Natalie Watkin.

WHAKATANE KNOX WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

At our recent June meeting we held our Special Project Fund Raiser. Our speaker was the local Diabetic Nurse Educator who gave us a most informative talk on Youth Diabetes, this was followed by a CWS DVD on the work of Neythal, working with the fisher women in Tamil Nadu, South India.

However, the absolute highlight for Fellowship members was the viewing of the beautiful Jubilee Quilt which held pride of place in the lounge. What a joy it was to pore over each individual picture, marvelling at the beautiful scenes from around our lovely country.

"We are all one in Christ Jesus"

Our sincere thanks to Natalie Watkin for the wonderful job she has done on behalf of our organisation.

Margaret Gurr

HAWKES BAY PRESBYTERIAL

The quilt arrived in Napier just two days before the H.B. Presbyterial June meeting, and was greatly admired by all. The blocks representing all parts of the country are works of art. The quilt hung in St. Paul's foyer for one Sunday, and drew many admiring comments, before being sent on to Palmerston North.

Thank you from H.B. Presbyterial to Joy Forbes who drove from Opotiki to hand deliver it, while making a personal visit.

Isabel Morgan



Shona Ratana & Vijaya Lokuketagoda.
With the quilt in Whakatane

Sometimes the best
thing you can do is
not think, not wonder,
not imagine,
not obsess. Just
breathe, and have
faith that everything
will work out for
the best.

curiano.com

The agenda for the day will be: Morning
tea as members arrive from 8.30am on-
wards Devotions in the church (leader to
be confirmed)
General business and reports, lunch and
the future of our movement. (see P5)

2015 PWANZ National Business Meeting
will be held on Sat 26th September 2015
between 9am & 3.30pm
at Pacific Islanders Presbyterian Church, Newtown,
cnr Constable & Daniell Streets, Wellington.

Plan to be there to have your input into
the future of our movement.
Remember, one vote per branch.
Individual members may also vote,
one member per parish.

Agenda

Welcome
Apologies
Devotions
Remembrance Candle
Personal Greetings
Attendance Record
Minutes of the previous meeting
Reports
LUNCH
Future for PWANZ
Election of Officers.

Registration Form for the National Gathering

Saturday 26th September 2015, - 10am – 3pm
PIPC Newtown, Wellington

Name.....

Parish and Presbyterial

Voting Delegate for
(Note: only one voting delegate per parish)

Travel Plans: arrive in Wellington

time must leave meeting
(We need to know if a member needs to leave early to catch a flight)

Accommodation in Wellington: local information is available
(we may be able to help you with accommodation)

Koha: \$20.00 given on the day - this will cover catering and printing costs

Please return this form to Lois Robertson 2/2 Pattie St, PETONE 5012
or lois.robertson@clear.net.nz, Arrangements Convener
By Wednesday 16th September



Special Projects

Thank you for all your efforts for the last project, "Together We Can" I can now give you our Project for this coming year. The NZ part is "NZ Youth Foundation" and it will involve the Printing of Gemstones 2. for schools. It is specifically designed to help teachers who work with children at risk especially the Intermediate age children in promoting personal wellbeing and sound mental health, i.e. - Suicide, cyber bullying and abuse. The core philosophy is one of "Valuing Life". The overseas part is in the Philippines where help is still needed after their last Cyclone.

New project material should be available by the end of July.

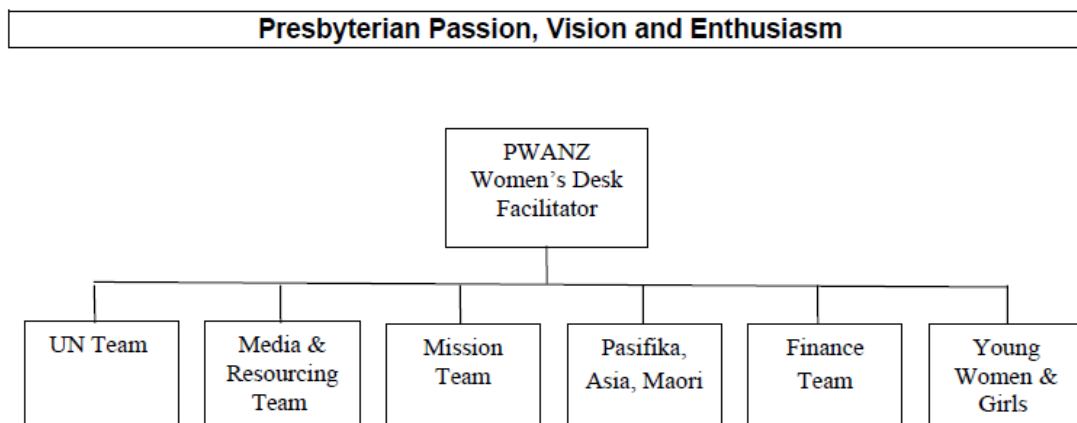
Joan Roberts

'Aprons with Attitude' was the theme for Palmerston North St Davids Night Owls May meeting. Members told the stories about the aprons they brought along. Google resources were used to glean history, purpose and changing fashions from a blacksmiths to hostess and modern BBQ aprons. Many providential attitudes came from behind an apron. Greetings cards were crafted to give to St David's Outreach Convenors.



Our current structure: has a National Coordinating Group consisting of National Convenor, Deputy Convenor, Secretary, Treasurer, Resources Convenor, Mission Convenor, Communications Convenor, Pacific Island Convenor and United Nations Convenor.

Proposed new structure:



The recommended composition of the new structure is a Women's Desk Facilitator (paid position) to support work of UN Team, Media & Resourcing Team, Mission Team, Pasifika, Asia & Maori Team, Finance Team and Young Women & Girls Team. The new structure is streamlined and relevant in these changing times, efficient and more flexible. We propose funding the Women's Desk Facilitator role, all other roles would be voluntary. It is proposed to have elections at business meeting for the roles on the new structure.

NB: NCG are currently working on the remit for the new structure of the organisation and this will be sent out to members in a separate notice this month.

Lafulafu Ekenasio (Convenor)

Notice of Motion for PWANZ Business Meeting September 2015

There are two parts to this motion:

1. That the organisation known as Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ, and formerly known as Association of Presbyterian Women, be wound up and cease to exist as soon as possible and in accordance with its own rules and the Corporate Societies Act
2. That monies such as Bequests, Trusts, the Emergency Fund and all other named funds, Scholarships and the Annual Mission Project, be administered by the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa NZ in accordance with the guidelines of the organisation and the conditions of each bequest and trust.

NOTES

1. In recent times the organisation Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ has often been run in ways not consistent with its own guidelines and structures, indicating that these are no longer relevant and no longer possible to maintain with the personnel required. There have been changes to structure over the years, but if a new start is desired (perhaps as set out in Bushfire) those who wish to take part should be free to do so in a way that is relevant to them and to another generation. Many current members of Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ are elderly and no longer wish or are able to take a part in administrative duties. Most have been part of the organisation over many years and have already done years of service both locally and regionally as well as nationally. Their love for the church and its organisations is often now limited to parish groups. But their long service needs to be honoured while at the same time allowing younger women to belong to an organisation that meets their needs, just as the original APW met the needs of women at the time of its inception.
2. By shifting the monies which are tied, to the Presbyterian Church to be administered, all or part of the available funds (those used for the daily running of Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ) could be transferred into any new organisation to give it a workable foundation. Such actions would also leave the possibility that the U.N. membership could be continued by a new organisation without jeopardising its status.
3. The current National Coordinating Group is a transitional group and could be retained for up to a year in order to wind up the current organisation in a proper manner and in accordance with the above motions, and if desired to work on something new. When any new organisation is set up actions are taken so that any previous or preceding organisation can cease to exist. This motion is setting out the proposal that the meeting allow this to happen so that the creation of something new may happen without the encumbrances of a past era. It also allows parish groups to continue as they have always done if that is their wish and to have the choice of being part of any new organisation or existing on their own.

Jan Veitch, Lois Robertson, Natalie Watkin, Mary North, & Hazel O'Brien

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Aotearoa New Zealand
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**TURAKINA MÄORI GIRLS' COLLEGE
110th BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATIONS**

On Friday 29th May, Jill Little, Marjorie Empson and Heather Tate of PW Manawatu attended the 110th Anniversary of Turakina Maori Girls' College at Marton. We were pleased to represent the NCG and "Friends of Turakina".

Along with many old girls of the school plus guests, all were welcomed with a powhiri, including waiata from the past and present pupils. There was an opportunity to be shown around the school before sitting down to a wonderful dinner with songs plus many stories told and happy memories shared throughout the evening.

Our past pupil, Dr Kathy Irwin from Nuhaka, (currently in charge of the Board of Proprietors), related stories about her grandfather the late Rev John Laughton from Ruatahanui, Opatiki who worked alongside the prophet Rua and had huge connections with the early establishment of the college. She passionately appealed for support for the college, and expressed considerable concern over its financial situation."

From the Bay of Plenty, former pupil Millie Te Kawa known to everyone as Auntie Millie, spoke, despite her very poor eyesight and reliance on her walking stick. She paid a special tribute to APW and thanked the women of the Presbyterian Church across New Zealand for their enormous financial contribution and ongoing love, loyalty and support to the college over the years.

The programme for Saturday 30 May began with house competitions, organised by the Staff, and held at Bulls Town Hall. During the afternoon there was an Old Girls' Hui. The weekend's celebrations finished with dinner at a local Marton restaurant for those who wished to attend.

Jan Thomson
for *Friends of Turakina*
and *Presbyterian Women Manawatu*



NCW has been working very hard on gender equality, not only in NZ but world wide. The importance of this was highlighted when Gillian Whitley of Leprosy Mission spoke to Northern Presbyterian and told of gender related problems of women with leprosy which added to the problems

Material for the next issue of Gleanings

Is due by Monday 17th August
To Rae Simpson lestrsimpson@xtra.co.nz
12 Kotanui Ave ,
Whangaparaoa 0930

Thanksgiving and thankfulness are like oil that God uses to keep our relationships with Him and those whom we live with in Christlike condition.

Marjorie Empson



*An invitation to you all
Note this date and come along*

National Business Meeting

"Bushfire : preparing the ground for new growth"

Saturday 26th September

9.00am to 4.00pm

Pacific Islanders Presbyterian Church, Newtown,
cnr Constable & Daniell Streets

Cost: \$20.00 per member (catering & printing)

Come have your say and hear way forward for our organisation

We have a few offers for billets. We can also help and advise you with accommodation if you want to stay in a cheaper hostel or hotel.

Please complete registration form and send to lois.robertson@clear.net.nz
(Morning tea 8.30am as members arrive)