



## New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (Inc.)

**CANTERBURY BRANCH, PO BOX 6733, CHRISTCHURCH 8442**

**PHONE 366 2804 & FAX 366 1803**

E-mail address: [handgcanty@xtra.co.nz](mailto:handgcanty@xtra.co.nz)

PRESIDENT:	Shirley C'Ailceta	Phone 326 5231
SECRETARY:	Geraldine Murphy	Phone 383 3958
TREASURER:	Hilary Stubbs	Phone 383 0084
MEMBERSHIP SEC:	Bernadette Devonport	Phone 358 6245

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### NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2011

#### SEPTEMBER MEETING

As mentioned in the last newsletter, on **Tuesday 13 September** we will be joining the National Council of Women and attending their Suffrage function at the **Linfield Cultural Recreational Sports Club, 56 Kearney's Road (off Pages Road)**. The speaker is Mary Devine, Managing Director, Ballantynes. There will also be supper and entertainment. Tickets are \$15 and payment may be made on the night.

If you wish to go, please contact Geraldine Murphy, phone 3883 958 by 6 September.

#### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Canterbury Branch of NZFGW will be held on **Thursday 20 October 2011 at 7.30 pm** at Rangi Ruru School, Hewitts Rd.

The business of the meeting will be:

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous AGM
2. Presentation of Annual Reports and Financial Statements
3. Election of Officers
4. General Business

**Below is a nomination form for the new committee and this year, as well as new members, we are particularly looking for a President and Vice-President. If you are a recent new member and want to get to know more people, come and join the committee. It is great fun and the duties are not onerous. If you wish to be nominated, or to nominate someone (with their consent of course), please fill in the form below or contact Shirley C'Ailceta 326 5231 or Geraldine Murphy 383 3958 and we will arrange nomination.**

#### NOMINATION FORM 2011/2012 COMMITTEE

We nominate \_\_\_\_\_

for the position of \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_  
(name and signature)

Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
(name and signature)

I agree to be nominated \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

NOMINATION FORMS TO THE SECRETARY, PO BOX 6733, UPPER RICcarton, CHRISTCHURCH BY 13 OCTOBER.

## **NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN (Val Bailey)**

With regard to the application to CERA for funding for an Oral History project on women's experiences post-earthquake, a meeting took place on 19 July with officials from the Ministry of Women's Affairs and CERA. Representing NCW were the President, Judith Sutherland and three people with academic qualifications who have been closely involved in the development of the research proposal. They met with two policy people from MWA and two managers from CERA. There is no funding from CERA for the project but recommendations will be given for other places to apply for funding.

## **NEW NCW REPRESENTATIVE REQUIRED**

Unfortunately Val Bailey who has so ably represented our organisation at NCW for the past few years is stepping down in October and we will then need a new representative. This involves attending a monthly meeting (at present this is held at the Foundation of the Blind rooms in Bristol St) and reporting on this at our monthly committee meeting. If anyone is interested, would you please contact Val on 3350272 for further details.



New Horizons for Women Trust invites you to celebrate the achievements of Marita Roberts, Alexandria Tino and Adriana Yianacou, our 2011 Christchurch Second Chance awardees.

We would be delighted if you would join us for our Christchurch Awards ceremony on Saturday September 10, 2.00 – 3.30pm at the Macmillan Brown Centre University of Canterbury. (Entrance through the Arts or Forestry Roads) *Refreshments will be served*

RSVP to Marg Lees - [marg.lees@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:marg.lees@canterbury.ac.nz), by **Monday 5 September, 2011**

## **From National President, Dot Page - Advocating for Advocacy**

Last July, when I wrote about the deregistration of the National Council of Women by the Charities Commission, I called it an unfinished story. It is time for another episode.

You'll recall that the reason the Commission refused to recognise NCWNZ as a charitable organisation, according to its (wonderfully titled) Manager of Monitoring and Investigation, was that its advocacy was a 'principal' rather than an 'ancillary' activity. It could not therefore be regarded as existing purely for charitable purposes.

To what extent advocacy is an acceptable activity for a not-for-profit organisation seeking registration with a Charities Commission and how charitable purposes should be defined are questions of importance to many voluntary organisations, and not only in New Zealand. Late last year the Australian High Court found in favour of one such organisation, Aid/Watch, ending its four year tussle with the Commissioner of Taxation to gain tax-exempt charitable status. Having deliberated on the meaning of the terms 'charitable institution' and 'political purposes', the Court found that the group's role in generating public debate about the efficiency of foreign aid was not a political activity but a charitable one, in that it was of benefit to the community.

There is renewed activity around the issue in New Zealand. Voluntary organisations are preparing to lobby Government about the terms of the Charities Act and the role of the Charities Commission. The Association of Non-Governmental Organisations of Aotearoa (ANGOA) recently held a widely representative forum on the subject, attended by leaders of 33 national organisations, networks and umbrella groups. From this forum and subsequent discussions, ANGOA has produced a concise and clearly argued position paper which deals with issues around the interpretation of the Charities Act 2005 and a newer development, a radical proposal to

absorb the Charities Commission into the Department of Internal Affairs. (ANGOA Position Paper: The Charities Commission and the Charities Act 2005, 7 July 2011)

ANGOA reports virtual unanimity around three points:

First, any plans to absorb the Charities Commission into Internal Affairs should be put on hold. The Government is committed to a full review of the Charities Act 2005 by 2014 so it makes no sense to restructure the Charities Commission - as such a merger would require - before the review.

Secondly, as a matter of urgency, the scheduled review of the Charities Act should be brought forward, to aim for a completion date of 2013.

And thirdly, a moratorium should be imposed on deregistrations and refusals of registration on the basis of advocacy until the review has taken place.

Maintaining that the Commission has taken an overly restrictive approach to the definition of charity ANGOA proposes instead a definition, along the lines of the recent Australian judgment, with an emphasis on public benefit.

It should be stressed that there is no question of New Zealand voluntary organisations being hostile to the overall concept of a Charities Commission or ungrateful for the services the present one offers. Its educative function, helping train volunteers in governance and financial management, is appreciated. Its independent status is greatly valued. The main change advocated is a cultural one: a movement away from concern with 'policing' the voluntary sector and towards support for the good that accrues to the community from charitable activity, broadly defined.

Our own NZFGW Charitable Trust is registered with the Charities Commission, but because we have separated the charitable donations we make through our awards from our general National Executive business we have not been directly affected by the narrow definition of 'charitable' currently adhered to. Nevertheless, as part of the voluntary sector of civil society, we should be aware of possible changes to the legal framework within which we operate. There is the probability of change from another direction too. The Law Commission has just released an Issues Paper calling for discussion, and submissions by 30 September, on reform of the Incorporated Societies Act 1908. The Act is described as 'uncomfortably old' and its review is intended to offer better support to not-for-profit organisations. The proposals put out for discussion involve, among other things, some standardisation of registered societies' constitutions and a code of practice for good governance. We are likely to be affected by changes either to the Charities Act or the Incorporated Societies Act and should keep a careful eye on developments.

*Postscript: After I wrote the above, we learned that changes to the Charities Commission were to be discussed by a Cabinet Committee and reported to Cabinet within a few days. Our PAC Linda Robertson has sent an email supportive of the ANGOA paper.*

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**Linda Robertson, National Executive** [roylinda@xtra.co.nz](mailto:roylinda@xtra.co.nz)

### **Submissions to Parliament**

We have received ministerial responses to recent submissions that will be of interest as they provide more information about government intentions. (See the NZFGW web site for copies of the submissions.)

#### Withdrawal of funds from the girls self defence project

Hon Tariana Turia says: "Over the last five years significant funds have been allocated to family violence prevention, education and co-ordination services. The success of efforts to date in raising awareness about family violence like the "Its not OK" campaign has resulted in increased demand for services to the frontline". She then goes on to discuss five new initiatives that include:

- "its not OK campaign"
- E Tu Whanui ! campaign
- A new social change campaign aimed at pacific people
- A new capability-building training programme for Pacific providers based on Mauri Ora
- A new family-Centred Services Fund

Some funding allocations have been withdrawn and while this has affected the Women's Self Defence network, she says "they may be eligible to apply to the Family Centred Services Fund" (this is contestable).

#### Withdrawal of funding from the Tupu Pacifica series

Hon Anne Tolley (Minister of Education) has stated that "supporting Pasifika student achievement is a priority for this government". She goes on to say that "there has been no decision made to cease the Tupu resource. The production of new titles of Tupu has been temporarily stopped for 2011 while the Ministry of Education undertakes a review on how to best meet a range of Pasifika needs..... Schools received five issues of Tupu in 2010, one in each of five Pacific languages, and are still able to access approximately 270 existing print titles of Tupu from *Down the Back of the Chair* the Ministry's resource catalogue". Thus the halt in production of this series is related to finding the best way of supporting Pacific students.

### **Breaking Cycles, Breaking Ceilings, Breaking Barriers, Breaking Ground**

#### **Louise Croot, Immediate Past President IFUW**

#### **Women's Worlds Congress? Have you heard of it?**

The first one was held in Haifa University in 1981. Our organization IFUW has participated in the last six congresses in many parts of the world.

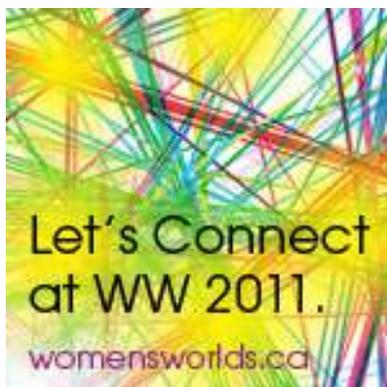
The latest one was held on Ottawa- Gatineau over the 3rd to 7th July. The 11th Women's Worlds took four years to organize, with volunteer committees and a small secretariat overseeing the planning and implementation of the event.

The main Theme of WW 2011 was *Inclusions, exclusions, and seclusions: Living in a globalized World*, because where globalization and women are concerned, provocative questions abound.

The programme stated that "Globalization has contributed to the destabilization and marginalization of women and communities. Yet certain consequences have yielded positive results for women. Globalization has meant enhanced communication and organizing trans-national connectivity that has deepened as women's organizations and networks struggle to sustain themselves and maintain resilience in the face of forces that oppose women's equality."

The daily themes started with a who were able to explore by Breaking Cycles, Breaking Breaking Ground. These areas of emphasis, facilitating Indigenous women's accessibility for women with

Anne Ronning from Norway of Breaking Barriers. Our work IFUW Mexico Conference, Nigeria (see the IFUW website of Women), material gleaned Widows Workshop at the Madrid, as well as comment from our Samoan member recently after a request to PGWNet. (Our appreciation to Jennifer Strauss for her interest as well.)



plenary session of about 2000 women way of a panel interview the issues of Ceilings, Breaking Barriers, and themes were intersected with 3 priority intergenerational dialogue, honouring knowledge and culture, and disabilities.

and I presented a session under the title was supported by a paper from the seminars presented by members from under Education for the Empowerment from India and Ireland presented to our previous Women's Worlds 2008 in

*Breaking barriers imposed on Widowhood* was enhanced by a focus on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) suggested by the organizers. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> June this year the first official UN International Widows' day was held and we wished to build on that achievement.

Twenty women from all parts of the world and one man from the media in Canada participated. The outcome included some key points that we are making to international NGOs involved in gender equality issues, such as UN Women, the Human Rights Council and our IFUW Vienna team. The New Zealand Ministry of Women's Affairs is the national focus here as will be the appropriate body in Norway.

Other highlights included the opening in the Grand Hall of the Canadian Museum of Civilization (place of the Ottawa IFUW Conference in 2001). The opening and closing programme featured Inuit drumming, and throat singing by Tanya Tagaq, as well as a government political speech that met with distrust. Interpretation was provided in all plenary session in Spanish, English and French. These sessions were held in the beautiful

Ottawa Convention Centre. Individually made and painted drums, by a Canadian Metis woman artist, Jamie Koebel were presented to each plenary session speaker and special guests.

Sessions by other women included Feminist Geography presentations by four graduate students about women's perceptions of public space research, using interviews and photovoice techniques, Online Education, by Women Graduates USA member Jackie Shahzadi who looked at the unique advantages for women wishing to study in Higher Education and Hilary Lips' session on Expanding Choices for Older Women against the Backdrop of Stereotypes.

Under the day theme Breaking Cycles the topic *Marketing to and responses from the elusive female demographic*, three challenging papers were presented:

- Media Culture, Artifact and Gender Identity; an analysis of Bratz Dolls
- Resisting Pink—Again
- Imperceptible Fundamentalisms: The Perfect Woman and the Multiple Roles of Barbie

Fascinating! The next Women's Worlds 2014 may be in Melbourne.

Do have a look at the website for more details [www.womensworlds.ca](http://www.womensworlds.ca)

#### **FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE - MEMBERSHIP**

Capitation returns for this financial year are now in and we are pleased to be able to report that our membership is slightly up on last year. Subscriptions from Independent Members are still arriving, however, so we will defer an overall report until next time.

#### **Linguistic fieldwork in Vanuatu**

*Marie Dhuhamel, Independent Member*

I have just completed a Master of Arts thesis researching and describing a little described language spoken in a remote part of Vanuatu. Linguistic fieldwork is the collection of language data in its natural environment, i.e. where the language is spoken. I travelled to the tiny remote island of Atchin, 1km long by half a kilometre wide, 600 inhabitants, in Central Vanuatu. There, I spent several weeks working with the islanders who had agreed to help me with their native language.

My task was to interpret the data I collected in the field, following the linguistic methodology in which I had received training. In the process I also learned to speak some of the language. The data consisted of audio files that I recorded during interviews with speakers of the language on the island. The audio files were used to work out the sound system of the language, its morphology (how words are built) and syntax (how sentences are built). The end result was a grammatical description now available at the University of Auckland library. As a mother of three, it was perhaps raising bilingual children that first triggered my interest in linguistics – the description of languages. Settling in New Zealand from my native France in the late eighties also made me realise how language affects all aspects of our life and identity. What interests me in linguistics is what is common to all languages; I feel this has something to say about how all humans think. To go about finding what is common to all languages, it makes sense to describe the largest possible number of languages. But many minority languages are less, or no longer, spoken, mostly for political and social reasons. And for each language that disappears, it is one less possibility of understanding what facets of cognition we all share – and I won't have room here to talk about the severe social impact of language disappearance!

There is therefore some urgency in describing minority languages. When I pondered whether to try and return to the safety of a well paid position in IT, or to continue with graduate research in the field of linguistics, I decided for the latter, with the encouragement of my family. But the condition I set myself was that any research I would carry out would address this urgency. And that is how I found myself doing fieldwork.

An hour's flight from Port-Vila, followed by a 90 minutes rough ride in the back of a pick-up truck, then a short crossing on a tiny boat from the mainland to the islet, brought me to Atchin. Luckily, I had been spared a downpour and made it to the island dry with my recording equipment. My contact there was Chief Gaston, one of the chiefs of the island, whom I had previously met through sheer good luck. He had arranged for me to be lodged at his cousin's. The dwellings consisted of a group of thatched huts and a pink brick house in which I was given a bed, table and chair.

With fewer mosquitoes than on the mainland, islanders are at a reduced risk of catching malaria. But there is little space for gardens on Atchin and, every week day, most adults paddle their canoes to their garden on the mainland, leaving on the island the babies, their mothers or big sisters, the aged and the school-age children

who attend the diverse mission-run primary schools. Living without electricity was quite doable, though my solar-powered lamp became very precious. But without running water it was a bit problematic to keep cool in the summer weeks, and I soon learned all the safe spots where I could swim – and avoid the sharks.

The language I studied is still actively spoken on the islet and in particular it is the first language spoken by small children. But the young people tend to leave the island for the two main towns of Vanuatu: Port-Vila and Santo. Often, they marry people from other islands who don't speak their mother tongue and they end up speaking the national language, Bislama to their partner and children. That is how vernacular languages lose their speakers in Vanuatu.

I found Vanuatu people markedly aware of all issues about language and its political and social ramifications. The people I worked with were all very welcoming and reliable, glad to be involved in the research process. It was very gratifying to work with people who had such a deep understanding of what the research was all about. They know that the first step to preserving a language starts with its description, a step I could help with, but that the remaining steps rest with them, the speakers.

## **WOMEN ON AIR present their annual Suffrage Celebration AN EVENING WITH INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN**

**on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at the Riccarton Park Function Centre, Racecourse Rd  
at 7.30pm.**

**Tickets \$12 from Scorpio Books or phone Ruth 384 4721**

Farida Sultana and Shila Nair will talk about Farida's journey from a frustrated child and teenage bride to a proud and independent Muslim women now living in Auckland. Farida set up SHAKTI in NZ – a women's refuge for Asian women and now travels the world setting up SHAKTI refuges.

GOODBYE SARAJEVO is a remarkable story of two sisters, Atka Reid and Hana Schofield fleeing the besieged city of Sarajevo.

The evening will conclude with Michele A'Court, winner of the Female Comedian of the Decade Award 2010.

## **NZFGW CHARITABLE TRUST – DONATIONS RECEIVED**

### ***Lyn Howe, NZFGW Charitable Trust Treasurer***

Below is a summary of donations received from branches for this financial year compared with last year. Our grateful thanks to all branches for their continued support.

Funds have been received tagged for Fellowships and Harriette Jenkins only. We have received no untagged funds, and no funds tagged for either Mildred Keir or Susan Byrne.

We ought to be able to offer more Fellowships this year. The tentative figure is approximately \$50,000, to be confirmed post audit. Thanks again to all branches for their generosity.

### **COMPARISON OF DONATIONS ACCOUNTED FOR Y/E JUNE 2010 vs Y/E JUNE 2011**

	<b>Jun-10</b>	<b>Jun-11</b>
Anonymous	\$ 5,000	
Canterbury TBC	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000
Manawatu	\$ 23,000	\$ 23,000
Nelson	\$ 200	\$ 200
North Shore	\$ 300	\$ 1,500
North Shore		\$ 4,000
Otago	\$ 20,000	\$ 17,000
Waikato	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Wellington	\$ 32,000	\$ 43,000
	<b>\$ 108,500</b>	<b>\$ 116,700</b>