



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

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### NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2013

#### SEPTEMBER BRANCH MEETING

The next branch meeting will be held at **7.30pm on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September** in the **Rangi Ruru Staffroom** (entry from Hewitts Rd). You are most welcome to invite family and friends and/or any one else who is interested.

The speaker will be Dr. Ursula Rack, Adjunct Fellow Gateway Antarctica, University of Canterbury who will give a talk entitled: **A blizzard of the worst type: diaries and logbooks as providers for weather phenomena.**

Weather information in diaries is not the usual source one would think of. However, logbooks and diaries are a valuable source of weather information. There is also a large amount of information hidden between the lines, and sometimes in very direct expressions, about the expedition members and their interactions, reactions and ways of coping with the harsh conditions, often caused by weather phenomena. The talk will present the way such information can be extracted from diaries, the context of the writings and the individuals who wrote these texts. The focus is on two expeditions: the British Antarctic Expedition and the German Antarctic Expedition from 1901-1903.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm at Rangi Ruru**. The positions of Vice-President and Membership Secretary are vacant and any volunteers would be warmly welcomed.

#### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Sadly the death occurred recently of former member Shona Mann. Shona joined the branch in 1950 and was a member until ill health caused her to resign a few years ago. She was a teacher all her working life, both in Fiji and New Zealand, with her final appointment being at Mairehau High School.

#### A New Zealand Touch to ANZAC Day in France

*Those who came to last November's branch meeting will remember the speaker, Emily Doyle, a Year 12 student from St Margaret's College, who went to France as the 7th Yèvres Exchange student and, while there, was required to give a speech in French at the wartime remembrance ceremony held annually in the Eure-et-Loir village in honour of Kiwi RAF pilot Noel Stokes. The ceremony is attended by the NZ Ambassador to France, RAF representatives, leading figures in local government, eye witnesses of the wartime event, family members of the crew etc.*

*The following is a translation of Emily's speech the topic of which suggested that the Christchurch earthquakes had given us insights into the suffering and uncertainty of war.*

I wandered in the streets, surrounded by rubble. Of the city that I knew, only fantastical ruins remained. The buildings of my childhood were no longer there. They had been destroyed. Great fissures in the streets seemed to swallow the hopes of the city. And yet the sun still shone.

Mother Earth had shaken, stirred by forces that were invisible, uncontrollable. She had destroyed our homes, swept away our memories, stolen the lives of people we loved.

Walking among the ruins, I almost felt like a soldier, alone and disorientated on a deserted battlefield. However, this was not a war but an earthquake.

I am too young to have known the war. In fact, New Zealand's soil has never been invaded. And yet, I can imagine a little what it might have been like because I have lived through two massive earthquakes.

The first, on 4 September 2010, struck in the middle of the night. It was frightening and buildings were damaged, but no-one died. However, this was just the beginning. On 22 February 2011 another earthquake struck the city, this time during the day. And this time there were nearly 200 deaths.

I was at school, on the first floor of a building that no longer exists. The building shook; everything fell around me. We quickly ran to safety outside and assembled on the lawn. Many girls were crying. The teachers consoled us and stayed with us until our parents came to fetch us. All this time we did not know if our families were out of danger, because there were no means of communication.

I cried with joy when my family eventually reunited but I cried in distress because the face of Sumner, my suburb, had totally changed. Many rocks had fallen like bombs from the cliffs onto the buildings below.

We are here today to remember the courageous actions of Noel Stokes. You know the story. It was one of those moments in time that turn ordinary people into extraordinary people: firstly Noel Stokes who gave his life while doing his duty, but also the people of Yevres who, at the risk of their lives, did not hesitate to give Stokes a decent burial in the middle of the night.

These courageous actions have deeply moved me.

And at home? In Christchurch many citizens reacted quickly: doctors, the police, fire services and local politicians. That goes without saying. And young people also became extraordinary people. To mention just one example, an army of students was formed to save those who still needed to be saved, to help those in need, and even, with shovels in their hands, to clear away the smelly liquefaction that covered the streets. There were also extraordinary young French people. I refer to a group of high school students from Bourges who were on an exchange visit to Christchurch in February 2011 – young people of my age who experienced the terror of the earthquake. Once back in France, the group took up the challenge of doing something to help. They succeeded in raising 5000 Euros towards the reconstruction of our school buildings. His Excellency the Ambassador of France in New Zealand presented us with the cheque on their behalf.

I tell this story because it shows the generosity of spirit that exists between the people of our two countries and shows us that we can have hope for the future of the world.

I will always be proud to have been part of this courageous community. Despite my feelings of impotence at first, I learned that I still have a part to play.

Mr Mayor, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I know that the Christchurch earthquakes were not a catastrophe of world importance like the war. However, as in war, we have come to know tragedy and suffering. And as in wartime we have known courage and hope.

I thank you sincerely for the opportunity to express my thoughts in your presence, and to try to reinforce a respectful and friendly relationship between France and New Zealand.

#### **NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN NEWS (*Marlene Smith*)**

The speaker at the last meeting was Kate Day from the Living Wage Movement who gave an overview of this 20 year old concept and handed out well documented background information. The Living Wage Aotearoa / New Zealand Statement is: "A living wage is the income necessary to provide workers and their families with the basic necessities of life. A living wage will enable workers and their families to live with dignity and to participate as active citizens in society. We call upon the Government, employers and society as a whole to strive for a living wage for all households as a necessary and important step in the reduction of poverty in New Zealand." Organisations and individuals are asked to support this statement and the campaign to achieve a living wage in N.Z. Contact [livingwagechristchurch@gmail.com](mailto:livingwagechristchurch@gmail.com) or join Living Wage Christchurch on Facebook.

#### **Coming Events:**

**NCW Celebration of Women's Suffrage Fundraising Function:  
*Rebuilding Christchurch: Where are all the Women?***

**Guest Speaker: Joanna Norris, Editor of *The Press*. Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at the Linfield Cultural Recreational Sports Club, 56 Kearneys Road, off Pages Road. Tickets \$15. All welcome. Contact Jennifer Delaney 385 9828 for tickets and / or information.**

## **WEA Women's Suffrage 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Panel Discussion: Feminism Today.**

Facilitated by Rosemary de Plessis, Research Co-ordinator, Christchurch Branch NCWNZ Women's Voices Project, with panellists Dannielle O'Halloran, ChCh Branch President, PACIFICA; Maddy Surie of the Forward Foundation working for equality in women's sport; Megan Clayton, former Branch President Tertiary Education Union and Delia Richards, Philippines Culture & Sports Trust.

**At Canterbury WEA , 59 Gloucester St on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013, 12 – 2pm, \$5.** To register phone 366 0285 or email [admin@cwea.org.nz](mailto:admin@cwea.org.nz) or go online to [cwea.org.nz](http://cwea.org.nz)

### **New Horizons for Women Trust**

*Supporting education, innovation and research that benefits women*

### **Invitation to the Christchurch Awards Ceremony**

The New Horizons for Women Trust warmly invites you to the Christchurch Awards ceremony on Saturday 31 August, 2.30 – 4.00pm at the Macmillan Brown Centre, University of Canterbury. (Entrance through the Arts Road)

This year we are delighted to be able to present two Second Chance awards and one Research award to very deserving and inspiring women. Refreshments will be served.

The awards ceremony is jointly hosted by PACIFICA Women and the Zonta Club of Christchurch Canterbury

We look forward to sharing this special occasion with you

*Please RSVP by Wednesday 28 August to [melissahaberfield@gmail.com](mailto:melissahaberfield@gmail.com) Phone 0276 838 223*

## **FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

### **From the President's Desk**

Something I have long believed, but now at last have some evidence for, is that a wide gap between rich and poor puts brakes on economic development, contributes to social corrosion and division, and the problems which all of us (except the top 1% of course) encounter in obtaining particularly social services and social justice. Max Rashbrooke, editor of *Inequality; A New Zealand Crisis* was the opening speaker at the ANGOA meeting on 11 July and gave some highlights from the work of 17 chapter contributors and 14 viewpoint contributors to this highly readable book.

Pause for thought. From being once an 'equal' rich country we have experienced the biggest increase in the gap between rich and poor since recording began in 1982 and we now have the dubious status of being one of the most unequal. Why does this matter? The book advises that high levels of income inequality stifle economic growth by (page 11):

- denying low-income families the money they need to invest in their children's education (and thus their contribution to the economy in later life)
- by allowing top income earners to influence politicians to pass laws that favour their interests, not the wider economy's
- and by making societies more unstable and less able to respond to sudden shocks (i.e. less resilient).

Countries with higher levels of income inequality perform worse than more equal countries on a wide range of social measures from school performance to average life spans. This is because our decision makers (including our 'rich list' Prime Minister) have less understanding of other people's lives, overall people's willingness to participate in community activities declines, and people tend to socialise within their own social circles. Such segregation means that the 'haves' fail to take their skills into other areas. Where there is less knowledge about others, there is less trust, and this makes it harder to do business, and harder for ordinary salary and wage earners (us) to influence policy makers and to have policy developed that enables us to improve our lives. Take the wage gap. It's never going to be a good time to bring the wage of low paid care workers up to that of car mechanics. As Helen Kelly says the low paid care workers are not getting paid poorly because they have poor individual negotiating skills, but because there is inbuilt structural inequality.

We've seen this with boards of directors. Where there is a lack of diversity it is hard to introduce change. Sorry to harp on about this, but boards would perform better if they included more women. Having heard Ministry of Women's Affairs CEO (and Wellington Branch member) Jo Cribb firmly oppose the suggestion that the Ministry should work to introduce quotas, I was interested to see that *The Listener* of July 20-26 ran an article promoting quota systems – in this particular article - into parliament, but why stop there. After all, when people are selected on merit, it's still as the articles' author, Jennifer Curtin (Associate Professor of Politics at Auckland University) says 'highly arbitrary and gendered'.

### **NZFGW submission on the Employment Relations Act amendments**

We have put in a submission on the proposed changes to the Employment Relations Act amendments, which Parliament is currently considering, highlighting the potential for negative impacts on women's employment, for both graduate women and all women workers.

These are:

- Because collective bargaining supports better wages and other employment conditions for women (including lessening gender pay differences and improving pay for low-paid women), removing the duty to conclude collective bargaining will have a significant negative impact on women. Collective agreements often have flexible working and leave arrangements that are better than the legislative minima.
- Allowing employers to opt out of multi-employer collective bargaining (MECAs) will potentially affect women, many of whom are graduates, working in the health and education sectors where MECAs are in effect.
- The 2012 concluding observations on CEDAW request the New Zealand government to: '*Carry out an independent evaluation of the gendered impact of the reform of collective bargaining and ensure that it does not negatively affect women's employment and trade union rights*'. These reforms do not meet that test, and potentially New Zealand will be in breach of its CEDAW obligations.
- We support the improvements to flexible working arrangements, but believe that there are still too many grounds on which an employer can refuse a request.

The submission will be put up on the NZFGW website after we have appeared before the select committee to speak to it.

**Christine Ross PAC, NZFGW National Executive**

### **INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS**

***Dorothy Meyer, CIR, National Executive***

[dfmeyer@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dfmeyer@xtra.co.nz)

This will be my last report before seventeen of us go to Istanbul for the 31<sup>st</sup> IFUW Triennial Conference. While you can't all go to Conference, for the first time the Conference can come to you. Members are invited to follow the Conference by tweeting the Conference using hashtags #IFUW and #IFUWconf. You can respond to the IFUW tweets on @IFUWwomen. All the details are in the IFUW Update for 18 July which has been sent to all the Branch presidents/CIRs.

The NZFGW members going to Istanbul are:

Ann Pomeroy	Dorothy Meyer	Rae Duff	Sian Halcrow
Margaret Ellett	Pushpa Wood	Mitra Etemaddar	Christina Tay
Louise Croot	Lorraine Isaacs	Sheila Williams	Susan Stein
Beverley Turner	Shirley Gillett	Martine Cashell-Smith	
Joy Dunsheath	Amber Fraser-Smith		

The first line of names is the delegates and the second line has the names of the alternate delegates. Amber, Mitra and Christina are all registered for the Leadership Training Programme.

**Pushpa Wood**, with help from Christina Tay, is presenting a workshop titled, *Cost of leaving women out of the equation – can we afford to do it?* They will be looking at whether the provision of quality higher education for all is economically sustainable.

Pushpa and I have been invited to present a **joint workshop** with the Japanese Association which addresses *The distinctive traits women bring to leadership*. It picks up the points made about Women in Leadership at the Mexico Conference and examines the progress that has been made, and still needs to be made.

**Mitra Etemaddar**, with assistance from Louise Croot and Shirley Gillett, is presenting a workshop entitled *Women and Governance*, which asks the question about whether we can have a sustainable future without women leaders?

**Shirley Gillett** will be introducing and explaining the IFUW education resource kit aimed at *The Education for the Realisation of Rights of Girls and Women*. Shirley chaired the group who worked on this and it was introduced in the 20 June IFUW Update.

Apart from the usual votes for officers of IFUW, standing committee conveners and members, finances, constitutional changes and resolutions this Conference will be game changing. You have all had an opportunity to examine and consider the two proposals for the future of IFUW, and some of you will have followed the extensive on-line discussion that took place over June and early July and which are now available on the member-only pages of the IFUW website. I have collated the responses received from our branches of NZFGW and it is printed here.

### **SUSAN BYRNE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP 2013**

I am now just over half way through my degree for a Bachelor of Midwifery. I have had a very demanding and rewarding 18 months. This has involved supporting 16 women in birth and facilitating (taken the lead midwife role) for another 20 women. These births have usually been at the local maternity unit in Te Awamutu, at the birth centres in Hamilton, at the hospital or in the woman's home. I have accumulated 184 antenatal and 112 postnatal visits. As well as attending Wintec for lectures I have completed 1020 clinical placement hours (at the end of the degree the requirement is 2480). I have received wonderful feedback from midwives and women and find as a result many clinical opportunities are opened for me.

My classmates and I have moved on from the study of normal birth and we are immersed in 'complications' papers at the moment. This involves a placement at Waikato Hospital, a tertiary institution dealing with high risk pregnancy and birth. I am enjoying this demanding experience and managing to facilitate many births on my own (supervised of course!). However, it is reinforcing my belief that I want to work out in the community where I can give the women the time they need. I find it very frustrating knowing that a woman would benefit further if I could spend more time with her, but am pulled away by the needs of the other women under my care. I am lucky enough to also be juggling a placement with a rural midwife who specialises in home birth at the same time. This has been an awesome experience that I am very fortunate to have obtained. A highlight of this placement is helping at a vaginal breech birth of an 11 pound 2 ounce baby! A natural breech birth is something that some qualified midwives have not seen because of this midwifery skill being lost due to the option for Caesarean section. Photos of this birth are to be published in an upcoming home birth textbook. I have been lucky enough to have witnessed breech birth early on in my career and to have my belief and respect in woman's power to birth naturally reinforced so emphatically. I will take this belief with me into future practice that is for sure!

The scholarship funds I have received from you so far have been an incredible help to my family and our living costs. Placement with a midwife and hospital shifts have meant that I have a minimum of one hour travel a day, so a huge amount has been spent on petrol and maintaining my vehicle. I have a constant search on trademe for textbooks and references that I am trying to accumulate for women in my future clinic and I am very grateful to have funds set aside for this. We are still living in a shed and although this is a bit more depressing in winter my children are happy and healthy and I keep telling myself the end is in sight!

I have managed to maintain my A+ average across my papers which I am very proud of, as my group tutor told me she did not think this would be possible throughout my second year with the extra time pressures. I also tell myself that I am showing my children they have the power to achieve their dreams. I am not the same person who started out on this degree; I have grown in many ways and had learning experiences with women across a huge range of society. I am fortunate that my husband is also studying part time to be a paramedic - although this places more financial strain on our family it means that he too feels challenged. We have some interesting dinner table conversations when we manage to be home at the same time! I can assure you that the second instalment of the Susan Byrne Memorial scholarship will not go to waste and will be spent as wisely as possible.

With warm regards and appreciation for your support,

**Kimberlee (Kimba) Allison**

## WOMEN OF INFLUENCE AWARDS

The awards will capture a cross-section of influencers in six categories, decided by a panel of judges. The categories include *board & management*, *innovation & science*, *community service & social enterprise*, *regional and local influencers*, *business entrepreneur* and *emerging leader*.

Information about the awards, categories, the judges and latest news, blogs and links to other resources can be found on the Women of Influence section on [Stuff.co.nz](http://Stuff.co.nz) and [Westpac](http://Westpac). To nominate yourself or someone you think should be recognised, [download an application form](#)

Fairfax Media and Westpac Bank NZ Ltd have entered into an exciting and innovative partnership to support, promote and celebrate diversity and the invaluable contribution women make to New Zealand. The Women of Influence Awards are about bold, energetic women who are helping shape New Zealand and its future. We're looking locally, regionally and nationally for women, who are having an impact well beyond their formal roles; that are using their interests and influence to improve the world for others.

Nominations close 30 August 2013.

**THE FRIENDS OF NGAIO MARSH HOUSE** present **Fiona Farrell** talking about the task of adapting the Ngaio Marsh novel *Photo Finish* into the stage play *SNAP!* coming soon at the Court Theatre.

Of her 32 novels, Ngaio Marsh set only four in New Zealand. The last of these was *Photo Finish* written when she was over 80 years old, and published in 1980. *Photo Finish* was well reviewed and sold well. It was her second to last detective novel and was set in a fictional luxury lodge on an island on a lake on the west coast of the South Island. The story follows the traditional 'golden age' convention of a house party trapped by a storm. No-one can leave. One of these must be the murderer!

Tickets \$25, includes glass of wine or fruit juice, nibbles and social half hour.

Tickets from Philippa Bates: [philbates@paradise.net.nz](mailto:philbates@paradise.net.nz), phone 358 8763, 16 Hounslow St, Ilam.

Please send a s.a.e. for tickets.

**Venue:** Elmwood Bowling Clubrooms, Heaton St, Merivale

**Date:** Sunday 15 September

**Time:** 5-7 pm.

### Diary this Date Now

#### NZFGW National Conference 26 – 28 September 2014

#### 'Women Empowering Women as Leaders'

The 30th NZFGW National Conference will be held in Wellington at Rydges Hotel Conference Centre, 75 Featherston Street, Pipitea, Wellington from **26 – 28 September 2014**. An exciting programme is being planned and more information will be posted on the NZFGW website soon.

**Disclaimer: while every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information in this newsletter, neither NZFGW Canterbury Branch nor the editor accepts any liability for any errors of fact or opinion.**