



New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (Inc.)

**CANTERBURY BRANCH,
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NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2013

***** FEBRUARY BRANCH MEETING *****

The first meeting for 2013 will be a lunch at the **Seven Cafe at Upper Riccarton (corner of Riccarton Rd and Hansons Lane) on Saturday, 23 February at 12.00 pm.** There is plenty of parking at the back or opposite in the Bush Inn Centre.

According to their website, *Seven Café is perched on the edge of Riccarton Road but facing the tranquil setting of the garden centre. It is a destination garden cafe run by people who have a lifelong enthusiasm and commitment to providing excellent food and service. Seven Cafe delight in offering fresh homemade food without the use of additives or preservatives. The eggs are free range, and gluten free, dairy free and vegetarian customers are catered for.*

This will be an opportunity for a catch-up with other members and a chance to hear what will be happening in the branch during the coming year.

If you are coming, would you please let Enid Smith, phone 358 9492 or email aesmith2@clear.net.nz know by 21 February.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to new member, Denise Ford who is a Masters student.

Subscriptions are now due so if you have overlooked it we would be grateful to receive payment as soon as possible.

CFGW AWARDS

These awards which are for full time students at Canterbury of Lincoln universities close on 31 March. Application forms are available on our website www.canterburynzfgw.org.nz or by emailing thebranch@canterburynzfgw.org.nz

OTHER AWARDS

HARRIETTE JENKINS AWARD

This award which is offered by the national executive is for those who have been branch members for at least six months.

Details are on the national website www.nzfgw.org.nz

THE NEW HORIZONS FOR WOMEN TRUST has various awards open from 1 March to 30 April and information is available on their website www.newhorizonsforwomen.org.nz

UNIFEM BREAKFAST

UN WOMEN NZ CANTERBURY cordially invites you to join us for breakfast to celebrate

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
“The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum?”

FRIDAY 8 MARCH 2013 - 7am to 8.30am at the Christchurch Netball Centre, 455 Hagley Avenue, Christchurch

Our guest speaker is
MARY DEVINE ONZM, CEO of “Ballantynes”

The buffet meal will include French butter croissants with assorted fillings, seasonal fruit platter, tea, coffee and orange juice

Plenty of parking from 6.30am – we ask that you arrive no later than 7 am so that you may select your breakfast and be seated by 7.15 when the morning's programme begins.

Bring some cash – we will have a raffle with good prizes, plus goods for sale.

Gather some friends and join this group of like-minded people working to support the world's women.

Tickets are \$30 which includes a \$10 donation to the projects of UN Women Aotearoa NZ in the Pacific.

For further information contact Wendy Carryer, 03-3584607 email: wendycarryer@hotmail.co.nz or Christine Low, christine@anglo-pacific.co.nz

FROM BRYONY GIBSON CORNISH

Those of you who attended the Awards Evening last May will remember Bryony who was looking forward to commencing her Master of Music studies at the Juilliard School in New York and also played the viola for us.

My trip started in Jackson, Mississippi – a funny place to start, but it was an unforgettable introduction to the US! I attended a Fulbright Orientation with about 120 other Fulbright scholars from all over the world. Our introduction to the US mainly entailed workshops and seminars outlining their expectations of us, and what we should expect! The highlight for me over these few days was meeting people from many different countries and I have kept in contact with some of them since I have moved to New York. They also convinced me to play and sing for them, which resulted in many of them wanting to come and watch my concerts here. We were a bit sick of the fried chicken for breakfast, lunch and dinner by the end though, so we were happy to continue travelling to our final destinations.

It felt really weird to finally arrive in New York. I arrived before most of the other residents at the hall and it was nice to be there in the calm before the storm! I spent a few days getting set up and I discovered the useful location of Bed, Bath and Beyond which is just across the street from Juilliard. Orientation started a few days later and I met more new people, this time musicians from all over the world! The balance between attending informative seminars and social events was worked out well, although I found it hard to find time for practice!

I have made some wonderful friends here and although everyone has a focus on work and practice, it has been great to hang out with them and escape “The Juilliard Bubble” as they call it. Living in the same building as the school is a conveniently dangerous perk of studying here. It is great to be so close and to be able to minimize transport time, but it is very easy not to explore the city when we have so many study demands.

My lessons with Heidi and Misha have been truly inspiring and with every lesson I go to, I know that this school was the right choice!

They are firm but encouraging and clear but imaginative and their teaching styles complement each other. I have been very fortunate to have weekly lessons with Heidi and fortnightly lessons with Misha.

Heidi has a policy with her students that she will teach us in our “Misha” weeks as long as we play technique, which has suited me perfectly!

The studio itself has been an inspiring forum in which I feel privileged to take part. Most of the classes have combined students playing with one of the four teachers in the studio giving a presentation on a particular area of viola technique or music. I particularly enjoyed Misha’s presentation on Intonation earlier in the term and we also had a visiting guest come in to talk about presentation. I took part in this by demonstrating what I would do if I spoke before an intimate house concert. What I love about the class is that it has a great balance between playing and workshopping.

Usually after each person plays, one of the teachers will talk to them about improving their performance and sometimes a student will lead the post-performance discussion. We also have play-through class, which is like a preparation for studio class, where groups of 3 or 4 people will play their pieces for each other and then each student comments on the other person’s performance.

Other perks of being in the ACHT Studio (ACHT is an acronym of the last names of the four teachers in the studio) include being recorded at every class (the best kind of honest feedback you can get!) and also the opportunity to work with our stunning accompanist, Yi-Fang Huang. She is a wonderful musician and because she is a violist as well as a pianist, she knows the repertoire inside out. We also have the opportunity to take part in studio recitals every month and a viola quartet performs at each recital – in the last one, I played an arrangement of the Tchaikovsky Seasons and it was great fun! It is sometimes overwhelming to be in a class of 30 viola players, but I have made the choice to find it inspiring rather than intimidating.

This term I have also had the opportunity to take part in Viola Sonata Class. I have teamed up with a pianist and we have learnt two “lesser-known” sonatas – the Rochberg, and Bowen’s Second Sonata in F.

We have had coaching with Karen Dreyfus and it has been incredible to have a third teacher! She has been very impressed with us and her encouragement has been great. We had a wonderful final performance in Morse Hall and if you would like to check out the youtube videos, click here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2ahFZEI_5c (there are multiple movements)

My academic classes have been pretty full on too, with Theory, History, Ear Training and one semester of Piano. I have particularly been enjoying Theory – our theory teacher is very engaging and he has revolutionized theory for me. Ear Training has been interesting and I have been learning solfège with fixed do. I am thankful for my training as a singer as the course is quite challenging and fast-paced! Piano and History have also been fun.

And as if this wasn’t enough, we also get assigned orchestra concerts to play in! Not that I am really complaining. I have taken part in one Juilliard Orchestra concert so far – Jeffery Milarsky conducted us with a programme of Bartok’s Music for Strings, Percussion & Celeste and Pärt’s Fourth Symphony “Los Angeles”. It was great to play some new repertoire, which I didn’t know and I certainly have a newfound appreciation for Arvo Pärt. I feel particularly lucky with my next assignment – Itzhak Perlman conducted us in a concert, which took place in Avery Fisher Hall at the Lincoln Center (the home of the NY Phil) on December 4th. We played the Beethoven “Emperor” Concerto, Mozart’s II Seraglio Overture and Symphony Fantastique by Berlioz. It was amazing to have so much rehearsal time with Mr. Perlman and it was the craziest feeling to be sitting just meters away from him! He is a hilarious person and I really like his conducting and rehearsal style.

I am excited to be playing in my first opera orchestra this semester, serving as Sub-Principal for Donizetti’s Don Pasquale - it will certainly feel weird to be in the pit and not onstage!

I have also recently received my grades for last semester and I am very happy to report that I received A grades (94-100%) for Viola, Sonata Class, Ear Training, Orchestra & Piano II, and A-s (90-93%) for Theory and History! So apparently my hard work has paid off.

I also have a work-study job where I act as a Pre-College Orchestra Mentor – this entails playing in their rehearsals on Saturday afternoons and sometimes taking sectionals. I act as a general role model and give advice on how to play in a section – it's really fun actually! In mid-November we gave our first concert in Alice Tully Hall and the programme was Debussy's Fetes from Nocturnes, Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto and Mahler's Fourth Symphony. I couldn't believe the general level of the students, they played in a mature manner and the solos amongst the orchestra members were particularly impressive!

As I am sure you are aware, Hurricane Sandy was quite a serious natural event that occurred over here! Having lived through that and the Canterbury Earthquakes, I can say without a doubt that the earthquakes were much harder to deal with. My area of Manhattan was unscathed though and we didn't even lose power! In a way, it felt like being on the "right" side of Christchurch for the earthquakes. My building did sway a little though and I found that rather disconcerting.

About a week ago I arrived home from the UK after spending two weeks with my family there. I have also just spent a week playing chamber music as part of Juilliard's ChamberFest too – my group has been learning Schubert's "Trout" Quintet and we are performing it next Friday in Paul Hall. Classes start on Monday and I am looking forward to continuing my studies here.

FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

From Dorothy Meyer, CIR National Executive

IFUW Conference Istanbul 17 to 21 August 2013

Conference theme: Women's role in achieving a sustainable future – Education, Urbanisation, Violence and Human Rights.

IFUW web site: <http://www.ifuw.org/>

Draft Agenda - IFUW web site: <http://www.ifuw.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/2012-circular-17-Draft-Agenda-Istanbul-Conference.pdf>

CONFERENCE Dateline reminders

1. Nominations to IFUW Board and Committees: 15 February 2013
2. Call for Conference Workshops: 28 February 2013
3. Call for Resolutions: 15 February 2013 (Details about the call for Resolutions can be seen on the IFUW website at <http://www.ifuw.org/ifuw2013/resolutions/#more-> Any resolution needs to be sent to me (dfmeyer@xtra.co.nz) for Executive approval.

FROM ANN POMEROY, NATIONAL PRESIDENT

By sheer coincidence I received the Ministry of Women's Affairs' (MWA) *2012 Annual Report* (published October 2012) at the same time as the Human Rights Commission's (HRC) *2012 New Zealand Census of Women's Participation* so have read the two documents together. A striking difference between the two is the upbeat self-congratulatory tone of the MWA report, versus the sober reality of stalled progress and regression reflected in the HRC report.

MWA highlights a gender pay gap in 2012 of 9.3% (compared to 11.3% in 2009). The Ministry fails to acknowledge that the public service itself has a gender pay gap over twice the average labour market pay gap. HRC notes (p4) "**Twenty two government agencies have gender pay gaps bigger than the average pay gap in the labour market**" and "**Nine government departments have more than a 20% gender pay gap including Treasury and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet**".

The Ministry of Defence has a gender pay gap of **42%**. It may think this gap is OK on the basis that most of its employees are male. It is not. The HRC points out that the Ministry of Corrections also

has a majority of male staff. Its gender pay gap is a negligible 3%. Women comprise 47% of Corrections management team. In Defence only 17% of the management team is female.

It's long past the time our public service quit ghettoising staff by appointing men to top management jobs and women to low paid support and administrative roles. HRC reports on some of the initiatives Defence is taking to encourage recruitment of women, including a review carried out eight years ago. Much more needs to be done to monitor the effectiveness of Defence policies aimed at assisting personnel balance work and family commitments.

State Services Commission, Treasury, Education, Prime Minister and Cabinet, Building and Housing, Crown Law, Inland Revenue, Transport and the Canterbury Earthquake Authority have also done insufficient work to reduce their gender pay gaps.

The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) noted our poor progress. MWA's report was reticent about this. It noted New Zealand provided a country report. It did not say how it was received. MWA also chose not to reflect on CEDAW's criticism that target setting for women by the government, business and private sector is weak, and that it is easy to exceed targets when they are low.

MWA also had nothing to say about occupational segregation.

"...while there is co-operation between the Government and private sector to identify targets for the advancement of women in decision-making positions, the targets, goals and timeframes set are not sufficient and may be a symptom of regression rather than progress in women's representation."
(CEDAW par 27 Concluding Observations)

"New Zealand has lost its role as an international leader in progressing gender equity" (HRC p142). Despite any perceived antipathy we may have to quotas and affirmative action, efforts overseas shows these interventions work.

Our contribution as individuals and through NZFGW is, as suggested by the HRC, to debate, discuss, write, speak, yell, fight, vote, and demand more effective intervention and change.

SUBMISSION ON EDUCATION AMENDMENT BILL (77-1)

This bill enables the establishment of charter schools. NZFGW has made a substantive submission on the Bill recommending it does not proceed, given that:

- the proposed legislation is deeply flawed
- it does nothing to promote better outcomes than those achieved by comparable schools already in existence
- education legislation is already flexible enough to allow diverse schooling choices
- more investment in our existing high quality public school system to address the needs of all children particularly those from low socio-economic status disadvantaged areas is needed
- schools funded by taxpayers must be subject to the scrutiny of the Ombudsman, the Official Information Act and the Auditor-General
- as in other schools funded by the public purse, teachers working in charter schools must be properly registered and qualified
- within the current school system, our teaching workforce is achieving results which enable our students to score highly on international measures.

The submission reflects the remit on charter schools passed at our October national conference. The full submission can be viewed on the website <http://www.nzfgw.org.nz/public-affairs-pac/>.

IFUW suggests the following international action which everybody can join to fight 'violence against women'. The **worldwide event ONE BILLION RISING (OBR)**, initiated by V-Day and taking place on **14 February 2013**. The aim of the event is to rise up and raise awareness on violence against women and its pervasive presence in women's lives. Every year 1 million women are victims of Violence against Women. According to the official statistics of UN 1 out of 3 women will experience violence and discrimination during her life.

HOW? have your photo taken holding a sheet of paper indicating why you want to dance on February 14th in a public space (e.g. railway or bus station, supermarket, at work and so on) and publish it to on <http://www.onemillionrising.org> . The website, www.onebillionrising.org provides information on how people and organisations are mobilizing all round the world - download a toolkit and have your own event.

CONGRATULATIONS to NZFGW FELLOW, PROFESSOR MARGARET BRIMBLE

On 21 November 2012 Margaret Brimble (MSc Auckland, PhD (Chemistry) Southampton, and 1982 NZFGW Fellow) was awarded the Rutherford Medal. She is only the second woman to receive New Zealand's top science award, and also became the first person to win three science medals in the same year. In addition to the Rutherford Medal, Professor Brimble was the recipient of the Hector Medal (for outstanding work in chemical, physical, mathematical and information sciences), and the MacDiarmid Medal (for outstanding scientific research that demonstrates the potential for application to human benefit).

Professor Brimble is a synthetic (medicinal) chemist. Her laboratory teams design and make molecules with therapeutic properties. For example, she is responsible for discovering and developing drugs that reduce inflammation and injury-induced bleeding, swelling and convulsions. Her goal (according to the *Listener* of 1 Dec 2012) is to be systematic, logical and persistent. Success requires sustained and consistent effort with lots of incremental steps.

GWW 90TH ANNIVERSARY DR AGNES BENNETT AWARD

Graduate Women Wellington and the Wellington Branch Charitable Trust have provided a one-off award to mark the Branch's 90th Anniversary. The \$10,000 award, dedicated to the branch's first President, Dr. Agnes Bennett, went to journalist Leigh Pearson to pursue further studies in Board Governance.

The Wellington Branch is campaigning to get more women into New Zealand's boardrooms. According to the Human Rights Commission's *2012 Census of Women's Participation* only 15% of the top 100 companies listed on the New Zealand Stock Exchange have female board members.

The award was presented by Dr Virginia Hope, Chair of Capital and Coast District Health Board, on the steps of the old Wellington Hospital where Dr Bennett worked in the first half of the twentieth century. GWW President, Joy Dunsheath, commented that "This continuity of women supporting women to achieve at a high level is very gratifying and embodies the work the Wellington Branch has done over the past 90 years and to which it is committed to carry on into the future. We look to women like Dr Hope and Leigh Pearson to continue to inspire others."