



New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women

CANTERBURY BRANCH

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NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2016

FEBRUARY BRANCH MEETING

The first meeting for the year will be a lunch at the **Hotel Montreal, 363 Montreal St**, on **Friday 26th February at 12.30pm**.

Note change of date – not 28th February as in the November newsletter.

Car parking is available in the hotel car park in Kilmore St or on the streets outside.

If you are coming, will you please let **Enid Smith**, phone 358 9492 or email

aesmith2@clear.net.nz know by the **19th February**. Transport is available if required.

This year I want to focus on you, our current members, to come and enjoy our activities alongside our businesses.

The city is rebuilding and visually exciting – at last!! So let's get our branch along the same lines for us all.

You are welcome to send me a personal email with ANY thoughts at all – from transport issues to calendar and timing ideas and so forth. PLEASE.....

I am NOT good at "Can't Do", I don't have blinkers on and will give most things a go, sometimes to my detriment!

So let's have all your ideas and hope that we can encourage YOU to come and be stimulated by your Branch activities.

It's my personal mission too to incorporate Lincoln University and CPIT much more in our activities and, if at the end of the year we have some new members, that's wonderful, but let's have greater numbers of our current team enjoying the Branch. Each meeting will have a good "chat" time for social and we are always keen on the 'foodie' aspect too!

I hope you can join us for lunch at Hotel Montreal on Friday Feb 26th – it encapsulates modern and old world perfectly and is very easy access for all.

FURTHER BRANCH MEETINGS PLANNED FOR 2016

Wednesday, 25th May – Awards Evening,

Wednesday 27th July – Lunch at the University of Canterbury

October (date to be finalised later) Annual General Meeting

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – HELEN HEDDELL

As incoming President of our Branch I want to wish you all a very Happy New Year!

We have so many issues going on around the world that it is sometimes difficult to see the joy in things locally but our everlasting tribulations with weather, giving our farmers and holidaymakers angst, has seen our gardens and trees flourish throughout summer. There's always GOOD going on somewhere.....

We are an active branch of GWI with our very healthy Hoods and Gowns business and the Trust's excellent stewardship of our scholarships and funds for Canterbury tertiary students.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

To date 48 members have renewed their subscriptions, consisting of 29 Senior Members, 13 Ordinary Members and 6 Honorary Members. If you have not yet paid we would appreciate payment as soon as possible.

The National Executive have asked for the email addresses of branch members for direct national postings. If you object to this, would you please let Bernadette Devonport know (contact details above).

TRUST BOARD REPORT – Ellen McCrae, Chair

Farewell to Judy Brooks

The last meeting of the Trust Board for the 2015 year was held on 25th November. The meeting marked the end of a long period of service from Judy Brooks who joined the Trust Board at its inception in 1991 as the Regalia Convenor and she has remained on the Board as either Convenor, Chair and more recently as a member. Judy's role in establishing the Trust dates back to the 1980's and this and her significant contribution was well documented by Ngaio Francis when Judy vacated the Chair in early 2014. Our sincere thanks go to Judy for the dedication which has ensured the Trust will continue to flourish.

Application for Incorporation

Following the High Court approving the new trust deed to replace the Deed of Declaration dated 10 September 1991 the Trust Board has made application to proceed with Incorporation as stated in Section 15 of the new Deed.

Finance

Board members are pleased to appoint Gloria Moyle as Treasurer. Gloria assumes the reins from Hilary Stubbs who has been in the position for 8 years and seen through many changes.

Awards, Scholarships and Prizes

In this period the Trust Board approved the following:

Two University of Otago Summer Studentships

A prize for a summer studentship project

Sadie Balkind Scholarship – Sarah Hoffman who is completing an LLM at Stanford Law School. Her chosen topic is Water Quality and Agriculture a comparative approach where she is looking at Canterbury and California. Both regions are confronting similar issues regarding water management having adapted their respective regions to irrigation intensive uses (Canterbury – dairying and California – almonds)

Sadie Balkind Awards

- **Amy Hill** who is completing a Master of Science (major Cellular and Molecular Biology) at the University of Canterbury.

Her thesis is investigating the impact that herbicides have on the antibiotic resistance of bacteria.

- **Jennifer Schori** who is completing a Master of Science in Ecology at the University of Canterbury. Her research project will involve the development of insect conservation and monitoring techniques using the nationally endangered Robust grasshopper, *Brachaspis robustus*, as a study species.
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- **Nelli Sibaeva** who is completing a PhD (Biological Sciences) at the University of Canterbury. The focus of her research will be the emergence of DNA during the evolution of early life.

Helen Wily Prize in Mathematics: – Grace Davison

Doris Le Roi Prize in Biological Sciences: Sophia Hunt

10 book tokens to top students in the History and English Departments respectively

CFGW Trust Board Scholarships, Awards and Prizes

Members of the Board considered the two papers submitted by Deborah Errington and Judy Brooks respectively on processes and regulations associated with our awards and scholarships. Both papers provide a useful base for future discussions and decisions.

Trust Board Operating Structure

It was agreed the Board should operate with three Committees taking responsibility to consider matters outside the regular board meetings.

These committees are:

Governance - Jill Van de Geer (Chair); Bernadette Devonport

Finance - Gloria Moyle (Chair); Hilary Stubbs; Jean Sharfe

Grants – Deborah Errington (Chair); Hilary Stubbs; Gloria Moyle

Chair of the Board

Ellen McCrae was elected as Chair of the Trust for 2016.

The next meeting will be held in early March.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN REPORT – Marlene Smith

Ellen and I attended the November branch meeting. Time was spent discussing an action item: Medically Assisted Dying – Key Issues & Protections. Further attention was given to the NCWNZ White Paper on Gender Equality. The next branch meeting is scheduled for 16th February.

Emails received during the holiday period included:

- NCWNZ – summary of White Paper – Enabling Women’s Potential
- Gender Equality News – an item of interest is that a group of Afghan students gathered on the campus of Kabul University to embark on an unlikely course – the country’s first Masters degree in Gender & Women’s Studies.
- Action Items: Updating the Education Act (by 27 Nov); Victims of Family Violence who Commit Homicide (by 2 Dec); NZ Emissions Trading Scheme (by 29 Jan 2016)
- Link to Women’s Voices Kotuitui Article: *The Confidence to Know I Can Survive: Resilience and Recovery in Post-Quake Christchurch* by Rosemary du Plessis et al – a paper based on Liz Gordon’s analysis, presented at two conferences.
- NCWNZ Nat Pres Rae Duff – end of year summary & update
- NCWNZ – updates on CE position (seeking a new person) , post conference docs etc
- Fwd: Soroptomists’ International President’s Appeal – Yvonne Simpson wants to make a difference through education and leadership for women and girls in Nepal following the earthquake.
- Fwd: UN Women ChCh NZ – networking invitation & news
- Fwd: Living Wage Movement – in good heart

REGALIA HIRE REPORT – Jean Sharfe, Regalia Hire Manager

The regalia hire business will be officially resumed operations for the year on Tuesday 2 February. Another busy year looms. Following the successful organization of the UC December Graduation, we are launched into the next round with enrolments for UC April graduation opening in 1 February. However before we reach those ceremonies we have Vision College, CPIT and Lincoln University graduation during March and April with Open Polytechnic in early May. During the summer break dry cleaning of the gown stock has begun and the sorting, counting and packing for return of hoods borrowed from other branches has been done. Graduation dates are: **CPIT 23rd and 24th March, Lincoln 7th and 8th April, Canterbury 18th – 21st April.**

FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE NEWS

From the President’s Desk: Government draft report on CEDAW

How many women in New Zealand leave school with a baby rather than a qualification?

The government’s report (its eighth) on the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women highlights achievements:

- In 2014, women continued to participate in tertiary education at a higher rate than men - 12 percent of women compared to 8.7 percent of men.

Regretfully the report failed to mention the greater cost to women of their education, and the massive gender pay gap (despite their qualifications) once women enter the work force.

The report notes the failure of most women to obtain promotion to the top ranks if they are outside the public sector. Although the number of female chief executives in the public service increased from 24% in 2012 to 41% in 2015, the situation elsewhere remains dire. For example, while 47% of lawyers are female only 26% are partners or directors of law firms, and in the private sector women made up only 14% of directors and 21% of chief executives or senior managers in all listed companies in 2014. Also it is somewhat telling that the largest of the public service agencies are still led by men.

To the government’s credit are two research publications which identify why women ‘drop out’ of the leadership pipeline *Realising the opportunity: Addressing New Zealand’s leadership pipeline by attracting and retaining talented women* (2013) and ideas on helping women up the ranks: *Inspiring Action: Action plans and research to help you attract and retain talented women* (2014).

But where are the policies to address this situation?

Regretfully little was said about which New Zealand women do NOT get a chance to become graduates. While we applaud the work on addressing access of women with disabilities to higher education, information is also needed about the impediments that geography, ethnicity and class can impose on women getting to university, polytechnic or wānanga.

More information is needed about barriers facing women at primary and secondary school levels. For example, while Māori women have the highest rates of participation in tertiary education (17% compared to 12% of all women) why do so few Māori girls leave school with NCEA2 or higher qualifications (62% compared to 80% of all women)? Also what's stopping Māori women from qualifying (fewer Māori women complete a tertiary qualification compared to women of other ethnicities).

It would be useful to know whether there are differences in outcome at the tertiary level depending on which decile of school the women attended during their secondary schooling.

The really good news is:

- There has been a 400 percent increase in the number of women enrolling in trades training at Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT) since 2012.

The Ministry of Women's Affairs attribute the following actions to this turnaround:

Developing a business case for increasing the number of women in the trades *Building Back Better: Utilising Women's Labour in the Canterbury Recovery (2013)*

Publishing a handbook for trade employers on how to recruit and retain women. *Growing your trades workforce: how to attract women to your jobs (2014)* working with the Stronger Canterbury Infrastructure Rebuild Team (SCIRT) to raise women's visibility in the rebuild.

Possibly even more to the point have been the following:

- Introduction in 2014 of the Women in Trades Scholarship initiative at Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT).

The initiative covers tuition fees for women studying towards a Level 1-4 Trades programme at CPIT and has made trades training more accessible for women, enabling them to pathway from other industries to retrain for a career in trades.

- CPIT also established a Top Female Trades Award to recognise the achievement of its female trades students.

Fifty women were enrolled in trades training at CPIT in 2011 and this rose to 414 women in 2014. In the year to June 2015, there were

2,400 more women employed in the construction industry in Canterbury than at the same time the previous year. Women made up 17.8 percent (8,600) of construction workers in Canterbury in June 2015

Surely if the government can see its way to supporting women into male dominated trades, it can also raise the pay rates for women working in traditional occupationally segregated caring work. Why don't the people looking after children and the elderly receive the same returns as the as the people fixing cars and building houses?

The NZFGW Susan Byrne Memorial Career Change Award

We were not able to offer this award in 2014 due to lack of funds, but were pleased to receive 19 applications in this round, offering a \$10,000 grant. The successful applicant is:

Chanel Taylor

Chanel's previous career was in the field of academic neuroscience research. After graduating from the University of Otago with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Psychology and a PhD in Neuroscience, Chanel held three consecutive Post-doctoral Research Fellow positions at the University of Oxford, the University of Otago, and the Queensland Brain Institute. Chanel has recently embarked upon a new career as a Visual Artist, for which she is currently studying towards a Bachelor of Applied Media Arts at the Southern Institute of Technology in Invercargill.

FROM GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

President's Letter

Dear Members

Best wishes for a successful 2016! May this be a year of continued growth and success for GWI and its NFAs. Two years into the triennium, we can say proudly that with your involvement and support GWI has achieved great strides forward.

With your support, we have:

- Gained tax exemption in Switzerland, which has enabled us to gain tax exemption in New York State
- Run capacity building workshops which have led to successful *Girls' Choices* workshops
- Set up the *Girls' Choices* and the *Teachers for Rural Futures* projects
- Achieved a permanent spot on Global-Giving for our *Teachers for Rural Futures* project in Uganda

- Participated in the World Education Forum to ensure our members' voices are represented and our mission heard
- Participated in consultations by UNESCO on ICT in education and Regional Higher Education Recognition Conventions
- Participated in the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Human Rights Council, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Used the GWI Manifestos widely throughout the world and held discussions on their content inside NFAs
- Participated in a Brookings Institution panel on girls' education during the UN General Assembly
- Prepared and disseminated four policy updates and several policy position papers used diversely in different countries
- Submitted written and presented oral statements to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), UN CSW, NGO CSW Geneva and UNESCO

For our members, GWI has provided:

- **GWI in Focus** ten times a year to NFA leaders to be distributed to all their members. A separate GWI in Focus is sent to independent members, tailored to their specific needs
- **Weekly Update** for internal and external audiences
- **Webinars** relevant to all NFAs' work
- **Membership development workshops** in country and in regions to build capacity within NFAs and policy seminars to extend networks and provide external visibility for NFAs

Catherine A. Bell GWI President

The NZFGW Charitable Trust is pleased to announce the following 2016 Fellowships:

Awards were made to ten Fellows totalling \$112,000. This represents a smaller number of awards compared to the last two years (fifteen 2014 Fellows and fourteen 2015 Fellows) when

\$150,000 was disbursed each year. As always, the calibre of the 38 applicants was very high with our Fellows studying across diverse fields to a very high level. In alphabetical order, they are:

Erica Buxton who holds a BA (Hons) in French and History from the University of Otago (2010), and an MA (Hons) in International Relations from the Australian National University (2012). Erica has been a research assistant and tutor at Otago and Victoria universities in public policy, political philosophy, international relations and history, and studied at a French university as part of her undergraduate degree. Erica grew up in Christchurch.

Gemma Cartwright who previously completed a PhD in genetics at Massey University, Palmerston North. In 2014 she commenced a four-year, graduate entry Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree at Melbourne University. To support the growth of the New Zealand agricultural industry and consequential increasing demand for practically skilled, dedicated rural veterinarians, she intends to qualify as a veterinarian and return to rural New Zealand to practice, following the completion of the DVM.

Danielle Duffield who graduated from the University of Otago with a Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) and a Bachelor of Arts (majoring in politics) in 2013. Danielle currently works as a litigation solicitor at a national law firm and is also the president and co-founder of the New Zealand Animal Law Association, an organisation of lawyers working to improve animal welfare through the legal system. Danielle intends to study for a taught course Masters of Laws at a US university and to write a thesis on the comparative enforcement of animal welfare law.

Natalie Jones who studied law and science at the University of Canterbury, graduating at the end of 2012. She was a judges' clerk at the High Court for two years, before undertaking an internship in international environmental law at the Inter-American Association for Environmental Defence. She has recently begun studying towards an LLM in International Law at the University of Cambridge, and hopes to continue on to PhD study beginning in 2016. Her particular academic interests lie in the international climate change regime, youth participation in environmental decision-making, and climate finance.

Sarah Kuper is currently studying towards a Master of Laws (LLM) at the University of Pennsylvania, focusing on human rights and access to criminal and civil justice. After graduating with LLB (Hons)/BA/DipLang from the University of Otago in 2011 Sarah clerked at the High Court of New Zealand.. Sarah has a longstanding interest in social and criminal justice and has volunteered with various youth, community and student organisations in New Zealand and abroad.

Tamaryn Meek who is currently working towards completing a BSc with Honours in Chemistry in 2015, at Massey University Albany. In 2016 Tamaryn intends to begin a PhD focusing on organic synthesis and chemical biology, which she hopes to do within the chemistry department at the University of Cambridge. Her PhD research project will involve the synthesis of new antibiotics which are able to function through novel modes of action, and address multi-drug resistance (resistance to multiple classes of antibiotics) within bacteria.

Grace Salisbury Mills who hails from Wellington, where she has spent the majority of her life. Grace completed a Masters of Architecture (with distinction) in 2013, and a Bachelor of Architectural Studies, in 2011, from Victoria University of Wellington (including an exchange at the Danish Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture, in Copenhagen). As of May 2015, Grace is undertaking a Masters of Urban Design, at Columbia University in New York City.

Dr Lisa Pilkington who graduated in 2010 from the University of Auckland with a BA/BSc majoring in Chemistry, Statistics and German. Lisa then completed a BSc (Honours, First Class) in 2011 and a PhD in 2015 at the same university, in organic and medicinal chemistry. After completing a postdoctoral research fellowship with the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre and School of Chemical Sciences (University of Auckland), she has received this award to study an MSc (Applied Statistics) at the University of Oxford, UK. She hopes to use knowledge gained during this study to advance methods of drug discovery in medicinal chemistry.

Tessa Popay who graduated from the University of Auckland in 2013, having completed a Bachelor of Science with First Class Honours, specializing in

Biomedical Science. In August of 2014, Tessa entered into a PhD programme at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee under the supervision of Dr Bill Tansey in the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology to identify the role of a novel protein complex in cancer development.

Mevagh Sanson, from Whangarei & Wellington, who will use her NZFGW Fellowship towards her research on the effectiveness and consequences of content warnings. She is currently completing a PhD in Psychology at Victoria University of Wellington, and graduated with a BSc (Hons) from Victoria University of Wellington in 2012.

Culture Galore

...dance to the beat of a different drum...

A celebration of culture, showcasing performing arts, crafts, demonstrations and global food.

Saturday 12 March at Ray Blank Park, Maidstone Rd

12 noon - 4pm Free entry

For more details phone 941 8999

Cancelled if wet