



New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women

CANTERBURY BRANCH

PO BOX 6733, CHRISTCHURCH 8442

Website: www.canterburynzfgw.org.nz

PHONE 364 3530 & FAX 364 3583

E-mail: thebranch@canterburynzfgw.org.nz

PRESIDENT: Helen Heddell Phone 03 312 0404
SECRETARY: Geraldine Murphy Phone 383 3958
TREASURER: Bernadette Devonport Phone 0210491224
MEMBERSHIP: Barbara Peddie Phone 377 0246

email helenheddell@xtra.co.nz
email geraldinemurphy@xtra.co.nz
email bernadettedevonport@gmail.com
email ppeddie@clear.net.nz

NEWSLETTER JULY 2016



REPORT ON JULY BRANCH MEETING

At this meeting branch members were given the opportunity to meet members of the Nepal NZ Friendship Society of Canterbury and enjoy some of their delicious food. This Society was established in 2002 with the active help of New Zealanders and aims to introduce and promote Nepalese culture and traditions. They also actively support Nepalese people who have experienced natural disasters and after lunch Jitendra Bothara a seismic engineer gave an illustrated talk on the aftermath of the major earthquakes in April and May of 2015 in which some 8,000 people lost their lives and 600,000 homes were destroyed. This was the worst disaster to hit Nepal in over eight decades and a dysfunctional government and lack of insurance mean that reconstruction has been painfully slow.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

Samantha Dudley who is a PhD student in Biochemistry studying estrogen mimicking compounds and their role as potential breast cancer risk factors and **Corianne Holmes** who has BA and MA degrees and is a consultant.

TRUST BOARD REPORT

Distribution of Funds

A Trust Board meeting was held on 30 June and we opened with Sam Cherry (Rightway, Accountant) leading a discussion on distribution of funds. Jenny Moreton and Alex Dalzell (Craigs Investment) also provided an update on our portfolio currently valued at \$275,000. The trustees agreed on setting an amount of \$200,000 for distribution in the 2016/17 year this level determined in part by ensuring that the minimum amount of capital to remain should be \$500,000. While the Trust has a healthy base of \$1m and is not reliant on the Regalia Hire to maintain an income the latter is clearly a valuable asset. This value comes not only from an income aspect but from a public profile aspect. It is important that the business continues to factor in maintaining and improving our regalia stock and as a trust board we support the work of the dedicated hoods and gown group who meet every Tuesday.

Incorporation of the Trust

Members may be aware of the protracted time taken with our application for Incorporation and

unknown to us the companies office had granted incorporation on 23 March without advising us and acknowledged both that a mistake had been made in not granting incorporation at the time of initial application and that they had continued on contacting us as though incorporation was not granted long after the 23 March date. A costly error for us as lawyers were required to uncover the blunder.

Endowed Masters' Scholarships

Revised regulations for 2 endowed Masters scholarships have been accepted, 180 degree project and scholarship review. The Trust received a very valuable report from a team associated with the university on the profile of our scholarships and strategies we might use to enhance that profile. This information alongside a review of our scholarship principles being conducted under the auspices of Deborah Errington will help us set our scholarship strategy for the coming period.

Conference and Study Travel Awards

Bethany Rees Conference Travel ISAAIDD (Speech) World Congress Melbourne Australia Aug 2016 - \$400.00

Lyn McFarlane Conference Travel 6th World Congress on Mountain Ungulates & 5th International Symposium on Mouflon Cyprus - \$1,000

Ashleigh Grose Study Travel Summer School paper University of BOKU (Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna Austria Paper called Alternative and Economic Monetary Systems -nd \$1,000

CFGW Category 8 special project awards

Quin Qing Tang publication of A Memoir: Half a Walnut Tree a story of Grieving and Growing - \$2,000

Marie Peters Publication of the book 'Connon Girls': A Study of 20th Century New Zealand Women at University - \$2,000.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN REPORTS

June meeting – Marlene Smith

The NCWNZ First Vice President Vanisa Dhuru addressed the June branch meeting and talked about the CEDAW Reporting Session with Lead Groups by NCWNZ.

Our Government (led by the Ministry for Women) submit reports 4-5 yearly to the CEDAW (Council for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women) monitoring committee, outlining their progress in meeting their obligations under the convention. NCWNZ has produced a Shadow or Alternate Report every time since ratification, the key objectives being to monitor, review and report to the CEDAW Monitoring Committee. Our previous report in 2012 strengthened the CEDAW monitoring committee's capacity to identify gaps and draw accountability from the Government (there were over 100 areas where the NZ Government could do better), but was not as successful as had been hoped.

The next Government Report would be submitted on 30 June 2016. NCWNZ has set up Lead Working Groups to address the key areas of government action; together these groups will collect and develop content for the next Shadow / Alternate Report. The Lead Group themes are: Women with Disabilities, Rural Women, Older Women, Women Affected by the Canterbury Earthquakes and Maori Women. Reports are required to be submitted in a particular format. Vanisa also answered questions about the proposed changes to appointing the NCWNZ Board.

In buzz groups we discussed the current action item: the UN Commission on the Status of Women - Stereotypical Attitudes to the Roles and Responsibilities of Women.

Twenty years ago, Vanisa was a student in my 6th form mathematics class at Freyberg High School in Palmerston North and I was delighted to meet up with her again. She is a very impressive young woman and it is good to know that NCWNZ is in such capable hands.

July Meeting – Bernadette Devonport

Speaker: Di Harwood (General Manager Tenancy Protection Association)

Di gave a clear and thought-provoking outline of the work of this association which is an advocate for vulnerable tenants, working with many agencies to support those in need. TPA aims to provide stability for children by trying to maintain a tenancy so they do not fear having to constantly shift homes and schools. Rents are still quite high in Christchurch and bonds and rent advances too high to make shifting easy. One complication is

that in NZ tenants do not have security of tenure and tenants do not want to come to the notice of landlords.

Proposed Organisational Change for NCW

The major changes proposed in NCW will be voted on at the September National Conference. Changes include new types of membership allowing young women to join but not attend branch meetings. There was discussion on the role and rights of branches in the new structure. The Christchurch branch is also beginning to reach out to young women to join NCW and is approaching organisations within the universities.

Kate Sheppard and Suffrage Day

There will be a short ceremony at noon on 19 September at the Kate Sheppard memorial as well as a Hilda Lovell-Smith suffrage meeting on the 23 September from 5.30-7.30pm at the Chapel St Centre. Beverley Forrester is speaking. The topic for the Lois Middlemiss Memorial Award which is a poetry competition for secondary school students is Selfie Culture.

NEW HORIZONS FOR WOMEN TRUST

The two Second Chance Education Awards sponsored by the Canterbury Branch FGW Trust Board were recently received by Lei Tevaga who is enrolled at Whitireia Polytechnic and Hineawe Hapuku who is currently studying for a Certificate in Science and Health at UCOL, Palmerston North. Hineawe writes: "I am the eldest of four children and the first to seek education at tertiary level hence I feel responsible as a role model. I have saved and done this without financial help from my parents, showing my siblings that anything is possible – how tertiary education can open doors to career paths and the positive effect it can have on your life. Thank you Canterbury Graduate Women Trust. The award will enable me to purchase anti-virus software for my laptop, pay for tutorials for my subjects and relieve some of my student loan.

FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE NEWS

NZFGW AGM

Hosted by Graduate Women Canterbury at Canterbury University, Illam Campus (TBC)

PROGRAMME

Friday, 7 October 2016 Dinner at a local restaurant (own cost)

Saturday, 8 October 2016

- 9:30 am** Morning tea;
- 10:00 am–11:00 am** AGM;
- 11:00 am–12:30 pm** Planning session
- 12:30 pm–1:30 pm** Lunch;
- 1:30 pm–2:00 pm** Finish planning session
- 2:00 pm–3:00 pm** Speaker (TBA);
- 3:00 pm** Afternoon tea

Please **R.S.V.P** to thebranch@canterburynzfgw.org.nz by **30 September** for catering purposes (there is no charge for attendance at this event)

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

1. Move to replacing conferences and council meetings with annual general meetings (on the expectation that this is acceptable, this is the format we've adopted this year!). Note that the Council as an entity remains (i.e. National Executive, plus Branch Presidents and the IM Network Convenor).
2. With an AGM structure, all members are entitled to vote – so branches will no longer have delegates (we need to decide if we want to accept proxy votes – i.e. those who can't attend in person will be able to give their vote to the President or will indicate in advance how they wish to vote – or we may be able to have some kind of electronic voting system – in this respect the on-line tool loomio has been suggested. According to Google search, Loomio enables group decision-making). Note at this AGM we will be using the branch delegate structure, unless branches vote in advance that you want to shift to the one member- one vote system.
3. Payment of costs of attending Payment for delegates to attend Conference was previously the responsibility of branches. While AGM business may be conducted by email, audio, or audio/visual conference calls, or in person, cost of members attending continues to be members' responsibility if they are IMs, and their (and their

branches') responsibility if they are branch members (this then brings NZFGW AGM attendance in line with the way most organisations run their AGMs and conferences). For 2016, the cost to members/branches will only be for travel, as the Canterbury branch is kindly offering to cover the cost of catering.

4. Removal of Associate Branches in favour of individual membership.

5. Election of the incoming President will take place one year in advance (i.e. one year prior to the end of the term of the incumbent President), so that the incoming President has time to ensure that positions on National Executive are filled.

6. With a rolling membership of National Executive, people on the National Executive will be re-elected (if eligible and agreeable) or replaced (if they have reached the end of their maximum of 6 years) when their position comes up for renewal.

7. National Executive may invite Branch Presidents (or their representative), the IM Network co-ordinator, and Chairs of Branch Charitable Trusts to attend planning meetings. National Executive may provide a small contribution to travel costs for face-to-face planning meetings. It is anticipated that planning meetings will be held in association with AGMs to keep costs to a minimum.

8. The name New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (NZFGW) will be replaced by the name Graduate Women New Zealand (GWNZ). (Note in anticipation of this change we have purchased the domain name GWNZ.org.nz).

9. Māori language translation of our name to be included in the constitution.

10. References to IFUW be replaced with GWI. Go to <http://www.nzfgw.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/2016-proposed-changes-to-2014-Const.pdf> to see the actual wording of the proposed changes to the Constitution and the Charitable Trust rules.

Meeting of the NZFGW Charitable Trust (5 July)

Proposed remit for the AGM: change in the rules for the Harriet Jenkins Award. Currently members need to be only members for six months to be



eligible for the Harriet Jenkins. We feel that young women are joining just for the sake of this award (paying \$60 to get \$2,000!). We propose increasing the length of

membership for eligibility for the award to two years, and seeking evidence of the member's support for the work we do as an organisation.

Congratulations to Dr Pushpa Wood

Graduate Women Wellington President, Dr Pushpa Wood, was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit on the Queen's Birthday Honours List announced on 6 June 2016 for her services to interfaith relations and adult literacy.

Pushpa is the co-founder and a life member of the Wellington Inter-faith Council and Chair of the New Zealand Chapter of the World Council of Religion and Peace. She was instrumental in organising New Zealand's first National Interfaith Forum and has helped engage Wellington City Council to celebrate Faith and Community Week since 1992.

She is also the Chair of the Adult Literacy Financial Practitioners' Association, and Director of Massey University's Financial Education and Research Centre. Pushpa is recognised as an international expert in financial literacy and has contributed to discussion documents on financial literacy for the OECD. While with the Commission for Financial Capability she developed a quality assurance system for financial literacy providers and developed a Financial Literacy Competency Framework for adults, which is now widely used by the education and industry sectors including NZQA. She has developed financial literacy training models for indigenous communities and was a member of the Steering Group for Improving Māori and Pacific Financial Literacy. She led the design and implementation of New Zealand's first financial literacy course for people with learning disabilities. In 2015 she developed the National Strategic Plan for Financial Literacy and a five year Action Plan for Timor Leste.



Some members of the Nepal NZ Friendship Society of Christchurch with branch members Helen Heddell and Ellen McCrae

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