



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

**CANTERBURY BRANCH,  
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### NEWSLETTER JUNE 2012

#### NEXT BRANCH MEETING

The Open Day which was to have been held at the Regalia Hire Rooms at 9 Creyke Rd has been cancelled for lack of interest. The reluctance of members to venture out at this time of the year (especially with the possibility of snow) is understandable so we will try and organise this event in the summer when the garden will be an added attraction.

Therefore the next meeting will be the annual mid winter lunch to be held at the **Chateau on the Park, Deans Ave/Kilmarnock St, at 12.00pm on Saturday 21 July**. The cost is \$26.50 for a choice of three mains, two desserts and tea or coffee.

If you are coming would you please advise **Enid Smith, phone 3589492 or email [aesmith2@clear.net.nz](mailto:aesmith2@clear.net.nz) by 14 July**.

#### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A warm welcome is extended to new member, Genevieve Taylor who is a PhD student and one of our award winners.

#### AWARDS EVENING REPORT

Those who attended the recent Awards Evening had a most enjoyable evening listening to and afterwards meeting and chatting to the award winners over supper. One of the highlights of the evening was the playing by Bryony Gibson-Cornish on the viola of two movements from a suite by JS Bach. Her photo and some others can be seen on the back page of this newsletter and there are more on the website [www.nzfgwcanterbury.org.nz](http://www.nzfgwcanterbury.org.nz)

The speakers and their topics were:

##### **LOUISA MCILROY**

Louisa is currently in her 5th year at the University of Canterbury where she is completing her Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Marketing and International Business and her Bachelor of Science majoring in Psychology and Management Science. During her time at University she has completed two Marketing internships with both Walt Disney World in Florida and the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra- looking at audience behaviour.

##### **SOPHIE HUNT**

Sophie is currently in her final year of a BSc with an endorsement in Ecology. This year her papers are focusing on freshwater ecology, conservation and global environmental change.

##### **BRYONY GIBSON-CORNISH**

Bryony has had a long association with the University of Canterbury, beginning with viola study at the Pettman Junior Academy of Music seven years ago. Now at nineteen years old she has just graduated with a Bachelor of Music. This year Bryony is completing a truncated Bachelor of Music Honours year prior to embarking upon her Masters of Music study at the Juilliard School in New York.

##### **EMMA SWADEL**

Fungi are one of the most important groups of organisms on the planet. They are involved in processes such as recycling nutrients on the forest floor and the production of many foods and drinks. Emma's research has a biochemistry focus that involves investigating the molecular mechanisms that underlie the branching process in filamentous microorganisms. She is currently perfecting the technique of inducing these organisms to branch and is going to be fluorescently staining calcium and a protein called actin to see the effect they have on the branching process.

##### **ANISHA DAYARAM**

Dragonflies are among the most important invertebrate predators in many freshwaters environments. As a top-end predator, they feed on a variety of virus vectors such as plant and sap sucking insects. Dragonflies therefore have the potential to be used as a surveillance tool for monitoring viruses in an ecosystem. Some of preliminary work has

resulted in the discovery of a novel ssDNA virus species that spans three dragonfly species. This was the first circular ssDNA virus known to be isolated from invertebrates. Following on from our preliminary work, we have discovered two new ssDNA virus species and also isolated various known plant viruses.

#### **CINDY ALLISON**

Cindy works individually with people with spinal cord injury (SCI) using the **Feldenkrais®** Method (a form of sensory motor education). Research suggests that **Feldenkrais** leads to reduced pain and fatigue; and improved coordination and stability. These are significant issues for many people with SCI. The purpose of Cindy's PhD is to develop and evaluate a **Feldenkrais** group programme for people with SCI. The CFGW Postgraduate Award will provide funding for the purchase of equipment such as gym mats and rollers for the programme.

#### **STEPHANIE BORTHWICK**

Stephanie is a political science student at the University of Canterbury. She is currently working towards her Master of Arts and researching Belgium and how the political, sociological and institutional aspects of the country allowed the country to survive 541 days without an elected government. She became interested in this topic when she was travelling in Europe last year. She hopes to travel to Europe to further her research towards her thesis at the beginning of next year and intends to use her award from the NZFGW to help fund her time there.

#### **JIKITA DE SCHOT**

Jikita received a study travel grant from the NZFGW to assist her in undertaking a four month unpaid internship at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. As a requirement of the internship, she is currently a Masters student at Canterbury University studying towards a Master of Laws (International Law and Politics). Her internship provided her with opportunities to gain exposure to the workings of the UN and engage in issues pertinent to the international community; and was extremely relevant to her studies.

#### **CATHY ROBSON**

##### **Effects of Feedforward Video Self Modelling on Fluency and Comprehension in School Aged Children.**

The aim of Cathy's research is to improve children's reading fluency and comprehension using a technique called feedforward video self modelling (VSM). Feedforward VSM is based on observational learning and enables children to view themselves performing a behaviour (reading fluently) which they are not yet able to do. Each video will be filmed, edited and played back to the child on an iPad or iPod to show them reading fluently. This technique supports the children's ability to think ahead to the future and act on the present, an idea which has been coined 'mental mind travel'. It is predicted that the children will show rapid behaviour change (in reading fluency and comprehension) after only viewing their video self model six times over a two week period.

### **OTHER LECTURES/COURSES**

#### **The Battle of Heritage, 2012 - 2.30pm Sunday 22 July, Villa Maria College Auditorium, Peer St**

A lecture by Jenny May, architectural historian and heritage consultant to the Christchurch City Council. This will be the annual Jim Gardner Lecture sponsored by the Canterbury History Foundation. Jenny May is dealing with many aspects of post-earthquake preservation, storage, changes in conservation principles, debate between professional groups and day to day concerns about damage to heritage sites and buildings.

#### **The Politics and Controversies of the Modern Olympics – Greg Ryan**

##### **18 June 7-9pm (2 Mondays) at the WEA, 59 Gloucester St. Cost \$16**

The International Olympic Committee insists that London 2012 will be a celebration of sporting participation and success. In reality, the modern Olympic Games have always been highly political and marked by controversy. They were used by Hitler to promote Nazi Germany; became an important staging ground for the Cold War; almost bankrupted a number of cities that hosted them; have been tainted by drug scandals and influenced by television and corporate sponsorship. Yet there have also been many extraordinary sporting performances and millions continue to watch. Greg Ryan is Associate Professor in History and Dean of the Faculty of Environment, Society and Design at Lincoln University.

For further information phone 366 0285 or email [admin@cwea.org.nz](mailto:admin@cwea.org.nz)

### **NEWS FROM AUCKLAND**

*Jane Bellamy, Independent Member and former member of AGW*

On Sunday 22 April former members of Auckland Graduate Women and members of the North Shore Branch gathered together for an informal afternoon tea. The gathering had two purposes, one to bring together former members of the Branch and secondly to give those attending a chance to catch up with Joyce Ivory who is in the process of moving from Auckland once their home has sold.

Those attending included 5 Members Emerita, 4 past National Presidents, all but one of the 1997 - 2000 National Executive plus most of the Auckland/North Shore members of the 2006-2009 National Executive. This, it was agreed, was quite a gathering! Past National Presidents, Dorothy Meyer and Charlene Lutes, plus former AGW President, Juliet Yates paid tribute to Joyce's dedication to NZFGW, particularly in her role of Membership Secretary and the development of Independent Membership.

Other important news from Auckland is of work on the completion of the Auckland Branch Memorial Book with the assistance of the Kate Edger Educational Charitable Trust. The book to date records the achievements and

contributions of former members of the Branch who played major roles in its activities. In addition to one final entry in the Memorial Section it was decided to include the entries for a number of women, still living, who have been significant in both the Branch and NZFGW. The thirteen entries in this section have been researched and written by Michelle Smith, an Independent Member and Post-Doctoral Research Awardee. The calligrapher is currently adding these to the book for safe-keeping. Typed copies of all the entries are kept separately and will be available for inspection at Conference in October.

### **Dot Page, National President - A thousand days**

A week ago, on Mother's Day, the 2012 Save the Children report on the State of the World's Mothers appeared on my computer screen. Entitled Nutrition in the First Thousand Days this thirteenth report focuses on the crucial period in the life of a mother and her child from pregnancy to the second birthday.

Although it relates some good news stories of improving situations for mothers and babies in a number of countries and is illustrated by heart-warming photos, much of the report makes cruel reading. It describes the 171 million children globally who do not have the opportunity to reach their full potential because of the effects of poor nutrition in this earliest period of their lives and become 'stunted' both physically and mentally. In some developing countries up to half the children are chronically undernourished, and this is the underlying cause of death for some 2.6 million children and 100,000 mothers each year.

In accordance with its usual practice, Save the Children provides carefully devised tables to rank overall the best and worst places in the world for mothers and children. New Zealand comes in fourth, behind Norway, Iceland and Sweden and ahead of Denmark, Finland and Australia. Niger is last, just below Afghanistan (which has been at the bottom of the list for the last two years) and Yemen. In their commentary, the authors differentiate between developed and developing countries. Out of 75 developing countries, which together account for 95% of child deaths, only four were assessed as 'very good', with most children fed according to recommended standards: Malawi, Madagascar, Peru and Solomon Islands. At the bottom end of this table Somalia, Cote d'Ivoire, Botswana and Equatorial Guinea revealed 'staggeringly poor' performance indicators and had shown little improvement since 1990. There is obviously a link between poverty and poor nutrition for mothers and children but this is not absolute: some very poor countries (as the Solomons) are performing well, whereas others are underperforming. Stimulating general economic growth alone is not enough to fight maternal and infant malnutrition; specific strategies are needed.

Save the Children has highlighted six low-cost nutrition interventions with the greatest potential to save life in a child's first 1000 days and beyond, and claims that coverage of these globally could prevent more than two million child deaths a year, at a cost of a mere \$20 per child.

The 'life-saving six' are:

- iron supplement, to lower women's chances of dying in childbirth and to strengthen children's resistance to disease
- breastfeeding, exclusively for six months
- complementary feeding, to guard against 'stunting'
- vitamin A, to help prevent blindness and lower children's risk of death from common diseases
- zinc and hygiene, to save children from diarrhoea.

Well-trained and well-equipped front line health workers and midwives, able to travel to remote communities as well as serve urban ones, have been proved the most effective agents to deliver the health package.

Predictably, Save the Children recommends increased government and private sector support to provide better nutrition, and laws, policies and actions to support families and encourage breastfeeding. But together with these recommendations is one that stands out as strikingly different. Because it so clearly proclaims and actively endorses the values that Federation adheres to world-wide, it is worth quoting in full.



**Bryony Gibson-Cornish playing two pieces by J.S. Bach on the viola.**



**Jikita de Schot & Genevieve Taylor, Study Travel Award winners**



**The group of Award Winners**



**Kathryn Mangin, Sadie Balkind Scholarship Winner**