

GRADUATE WOMEN CANTERBURY

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NEWSLETTER MARCH/APRIL 2017

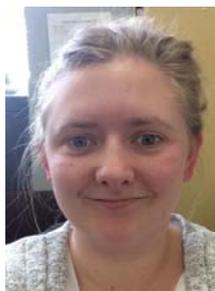
Next Meeting

The annual Awards Evening is to held on **Thursday 11 May in the Jack Mann Auditorium, Solway Avenue at 6.00pm**. It is always and enjoyable and educational evening hearing these very talented award winners talk about studies and research. It would be great if you could make a special effort to attend.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Branch Member Samantha Dudley was awarded a Graduate Women Charitable Trust Fellowship of \$10,000

Samantha's research is focussed on estrogen mimicking compounds and their role as potential breast cancer risk factors. Breast cancer is the number one in New Zealand. Her principle aim is to investigate ways in which a woman's risk of developing breast cancer could be reduced. Samantha is currently in her second year of her PhD at the University of Canterbury. She also holds a Bachelor of Science (2013) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Science (distinction,



2014) in biochemistry, both also from the University of Canterbury.

Another University of Canterbury student **Katherine Yates** was awarded \$15,000. Katherine is currently a PhD candidate in Engineering Geology in the Geological Sciences department at the University of Canterbury. Before pursuing a career in Engineering Geology, Katherine undertook a Civil Engineering apprenticeship where she worked full time in industry and studied part time. Upon completing her apprenticeship, Katherine completed a Master's of Science in Engineering Geology with First Class Honours at the University of Canterbury. She then worked as an Engineering Geologist at Beca Ltd for several years before returning for further Postgraduate study. Her current research aims to improve the understanding of slope instability in windblown silt deposits (loess) in Banks Peninsula, Canterbury.



REPORT OF LAST MEETING

Last month about 20 members and a few husbands got together for the first meeting of the year which was a very pleasant outing in near perfect weather to the farm of Branch President Helen Heddell and her husband Peter in Swannanoa, North Canterbury. There we were treated to a lovely lunch in the

garden and admired Helen's prize winning sheep (pictured below) and new born puppies. Grateful thanks go to Helen and Peter for their wonderful hospitality. Two photos of the event are below.



REPORT OF NCW MEETING – Bernadette Devonport

We began with a minute's silence to remember those who lost their lives six years ago in the 2011 earthquake.

We have three new independent members including a representative from the University of Canterbury's FemSoc.

I was the 'guest speaker' at the meeting. Ellen McCrae took the next step from the brainstorming we did at our last meeting in 2016 (November), on who we are and what we do, and we began a new system of communicating with the media. Basically we went into groups and composed a letter to the editor (Press, North and South, Listener...). Our aim is to compose a letter at each of our monthly meetings and send it immediately to the relevant organisation. We

want our voices heard regularly in the community. The issue we chose this evening was a letter of congratulations to Lianne Dalziel for accepting responsibility for the decisions taken during the recent Port Hills fires.

Following that we went through the regular items on the agenda.

There is a possibility that one of our midyear meetings will be held just before the New Horizons for Women award ceremony; the national NCW Board has co-opted two members until the AGM later in the year. Ellen has had meetings at her house since November when those members who could attend discussed the bill before Parliament on rates rebates for residents of rest homes; the Children, Young Person and their Families bill; and the proposed reworked membership and governance role of the NCW Board.

Upcoming event- 15 and 16 September AGM (being held here in Christchurch)

FROM GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

More than 20 GWI delegates are attending CSW61 from 13 March 2017 in New York City, including Rae Duff and Shirley Gillett from Graduate Women New Zealand.

Graduate Women International's (GWI) written statement addressing the 61st session of the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) theme of "Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work" is now published on the (see link below).

The statement, submitted by GWI and undersigned by international and national nongovernmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, makes strong recommendations regarding labour rights for refugee women; education skills and

language training for the country of settlement; gender disaggregation of data; cultural integration programmes; protection against gender-based violence in the workplace, trafficking and exploitation; and financing. See full statement:

<http://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2017/NGO/52>

The New Zealand government delegation to SW-61 is as follows:

Hon Jo Goodhew:

Member of Parliament

Carolyn Schwalger:

Deputy Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations

Laura-Lee Sage:

Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations

Pauline Winter:

Chief Executive, Ministry for Pacific Peoples

Catherine Neil:

Deputy Chief Executive, Ministry for Pacific Peoples

Helen Potiki:

Director International, Ministry for Women

Bindu Armstrong:

Senior Policy Analyst, Ministry for Women

CHEATING DEATH

Science is getting to grips with ways to slow ageing. Rejoice as long as the side-effects can be managed.

Imagine a world in which getting fitted with a new heart, liver or set of kidneys, all grown from your own body cells, was as commonplace as knee and hip replacements are now. Or one in which you celebrated your 94th birthday by running a marathon with your school friends. Imagine in other words, a world in which ageing had been abolished.

From an individual's viewpoint, this all sounds very desirable. For society as a whole, though it will have profound effects. Most of them will be good, but not all.

One concern is that long life will exacerbate existing social and economic problems. The most immediate challenge will be access to anti-senescence treatment. If longer life is expensive, who gets it first? Already income is one of the best predictors of lifespan. Widening the gap with treatments inaccessible to the poor might widen divisions that are already straining democracies.

Will older workers be discriminated against, as now or will numbers give them the whip hand over the young? Will bosses cling on, stymying the careers of their underlings, or will they grow bored, quit and do something else entirely? And would all those old people cease to consider themselves elderly, retaining youthfully vigorous mental attitudes as well as physical ones -or instead make society more conservative (because old people tend to be)?

A reason for hoping that the elderly would turn out less hidebound is that life itself would be more a series of new beginnings than one single story. Mid-life crises might be not so much about recapturing lost youth as wondering how to make the most of the next half-century.

Retirement would become a more distant option for most, since pension pots would have to be enormous to support their extended lifespans. To this end, the portfolio career would become the rule and education would have to change accordingly. People might go back to school in their 50s to learn how to do something completely different. The physical labourer would surely need a rest. The accountant might become a doctor. The lawyer, a charity worker. Perhaps some will take long breaks between careers and party wildly, in the knowledge that medicine can offer them running repairs. Boredom, and the need for variety, would alter family life, too. How many will tie the knot in their 20s in the expectation of being with the same person 80 years later? The one-partner life,

already on the decline, could become rare, replaced by a series of relationships, each as long as what many today would consider a decent marital stretch. As for reproduction, men's testes would presumably work indefinitely and, though women's ovaries are believed to be loaded with a finite number of eggs, technology would surely be able to create new ones. Those who wished to could thus continue to procreate for decades. That, and serial marriage, will make it difficult to keep track of who is related to whom. Families will start to look more like labyrinthine networks. In the world where marriages do not last, women everywhere will be freer to divorce and aged patriarchs will finally lose their hold.

Such speculation is fun, and mostly optimistic. The promise of a longer life, well lived, would round a person out. But this vision of the future depends on one thing-that a long existence is also a healthy one. Bodies have evolved to be throwaway vessels for the carriage of genes from one generation to the next. Biologists have a phrase for it the disposable soma. It explains not only general senescence, but also why dementia, cancer, cardiovascular problems, arthritis and many other things are guarded against in youth, but crammed into old age once reproduction is done with. These, too, must be treated if a long and healthy life is to become routine. Moreover, even a healthy brain may age badly. An organ evolved to accommodate 70 or 80 years of memories may be unable to cope when asked to store 150 years' worth.

Yet biological understanding is advancing apace. Greater longevity is within reach-even if actual immortality may not be as close (or as interesting) as some fantasists would like to believe. **Adapted with permission from *The Economist* 13/08/16**

TWO FREE PUBLIC LECTURES

The 2017 Athol Mann Lecture

"Exciting research developments on Ageing Brain diseases in NZ - challenges and opportunities to give better quality of life"

Sir Richard Faull, University of Auckland

Sir Richard Faull's love affair with the anatomy of the human brain has traversed almost forty years, and has made him a man "obsessed" - but the 71-year-old said he is still just getting started.

His obsession has led to ground breaking - and at times controversial research - which has revolutionised the understanding and treatment of brain disease.

In 2007, Sir Richard was awarded the Rutherford Medal, the Royal Society of New Zealand's top honour, for his team's landmark finding that a diseased human brain can repair itself by creating new brain cells, something he had been taught as a med student was impossible. Highly regarded internationally, Sir Richard is the director of the Neurological Foundation Douglas Centre for Brain Research at the University of Auckland, where he teaches and oversees world-leading research on brain diseases.

Please join us at 6.00pm at the Rolleston Theatre, Otago Medical School, Christchurch. Wednesday 17th May, 2017, for this free public lecture. Refreshments will be served Registrations essential. Please email kate@cmrf.org.nz - call on 3531 243 or visit www.cmrf.org.nz/events to register online

BROADHEAD LECTURE

You are invited to attend a Broadhead Lecture delivered by Professor Andrew Stewart (University of California, Berkeley): **"Beware of Centaurs (and others) Bearing Rocks: Four Masterpieces from the Logie Collection and the Hephaisteion in the Athenian Agora"**.

This is a public lecture that will be held on Tuesday 4 April, at 7pm, in the Great Hall at the Arts Centre.

The Broadhead Classical Lecture is a public lecture in memory of Professor Henry Dan Broadhead (1889-1967) who was on the staff of the Department of Classics at what was then Canterbury University College (1915-1954). Professor Broadhead is known principally for work on Latin prose rhythm and Greek Tragedy, his magisterial edition of Aeschylus' Persae (Cambridge University Press, 1960, re-issued in paperback in 2009) remains highly regarded. The lecture is possible due to a gift by Mrs H D Broadhead made in memory of her husband.

Professor Stewart's lecture explores the continuing vitality in mid fifth-century Athens of some apparently unconnected themes represented on four Attic black-figure vases in the Logie Collection: Centaurs and others using rocks as weapons; Herakles' battle with Geryon; and the Return of Hephaistos to Olympos. New discoveries in the Athenian Agora indicate that their connecting thread, namely, Athenian ideas about technological and cultural evolution, guided the choice of subjects for the sculptural embellishment of the best preserved of all Athenian temples: the so-called Theseion, or Temple of Hephaistos and Athena Hephaistia on Agoraios Kolonos, built between ca. 475 and 415 B.C.E.

At Berkeley, Professor Stewart is the Professor of Ancient Mediterranean Art and Archaeology in the Departments of History of Art and Classics, Nicholas C. Petris Professor of Greek Studies, and Curator of Mediterranean Archaeology at the Hearst Museum of Anthropology. He is a member of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, he has received fellowships and grants from the Guggenheim and Getty Foundations, and from the American Council of Learned Societies; in

2009 he received U.C. Berkeley's Distinguished Teaching Award.

Professor Stewart specializes in Greek art, particularly sculpture, and currently is charged with publishing the Classical and Hellenistic freestanding and architectural sculpture from the Athenian Agora. His interest and expertise in fifth century Athens makes him an ideal Broadhead lecturer. He also has a long standing association with the James Logie Memorial Collection and it is most appropriate to have him contribute to the Classics Department's move back into the Arts Centre and our anticipation of the opening of the Teece Museum of Classical Antiquities in mid May.

For further information please contact Dr. Gary Morrison: gary.morrison@canterbury.ac.nz

From the Minutes of the 13 March 2017 International Women's Caucus meeting

The meeting urged Paula Bennett, Deputy PM and Minister for Women to:

- Advance the organisation of a government hosted side event at CSW61 within the UN complex
- Reinstate the position of non-government representative on the government delegation to the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women and future sessions, to act as a liaison with non-government group delegations attending the sessions
- Urgently encourage the government to support the Domestic Violence Victims' Protection bill through first reading to select committee
- Give consideration to working with other governments on a positive response to the statement by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom to the Member States of the United Nations.

Update on Resolution 1325, Women, Peace and Security.

- The NZ Defence Force has appointed a new Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Dr Denise Lievore (formerly with Ministry for Women). The NZDF is developing a strategy to include diversity across the organisation.

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) main platform in response to UNSCR 1325 is to establish how New Zealand can best assist women in foreign countries to participate in the Peace and Security process.

- The NZDF is currently supporting an Australian pilot programme on a Gender Advisor Course, currently only Sweden has such a course in place.
- Laura Pascall, International Strategy and Planning Advisor, International Service Group, New Zealand Police (Police) noted that the first pre-deployment session on the National Action Plan has now been given. New Zealand Police and NZDF are working together on how best to facilitate pre-deployment sessions. These discussions will further inform pre-deployment training. NZ Police is also currently looking to include an increased gender focus in the design of its programmes and recruitment.

Action is needed. The gender pay gap is something we all have the power to change, especially now we know more about it

For **government** this means leading work to reduce the gender pay gap in the public sector (including addressing pay equity), and encouraging employers to address the issue in the private sector.

For **employers** this means addressing behaviours and assumptions in the workplace. Changes to processes can start by examining gender differences in on pay, recruitment and advancement data, and can include unconscious bias training, gender

blind recruitment, and clear progression criteria.

For **employees** this means sharing experiences about what works, encouraging workplaces to be employers of choice by taking action, and being aware of individual rights.

Motherhood penalty report

This week, Stats NZ (in collaboration with the Ministry for Women) released a report on the motherhood penalty (the gender pay gap for parents and those without children and the difference between those gaps).

See

http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/income-and-work/Income/motherhood-penalty-summary.aspx

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