



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

**CANTERBURY BRANCH,  
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### NEWSLETTER MARCH 2012

#### NEXT BRANCH MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 22 March at 7.30pm in the Y13 Common Room which is next to the car park on Hewitts Rd next to the grass area.**

The date of this meeting is, almost to the day, the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first general meeting of what would become the Canterbury Branch of NZFGW. *A History of the Canterbury Branch of the NZFUW* states that: "At a meeting held on 18 November 1921 at the Christchurch Girls' High School, the Constitution was approved by the twenty members present and the Canterbury Women Graduates Association was born. On 24 March 1922, the first general meeting was held under the new Constitution. At the 1930 Conference the name was changed to the Canterbury Branch of the New Zealand Federation of University Women."

Therefore it has been decided to celebrate this event and members are invited to come along and share their memories and favourite reminiscences. There will be a special birthday cake and a glass of wine or fruit juice, along with photos, early minutes and other memorabilia to look at.

#### REPORT OF LAST MEETING - DOT PAGE'S VISIT

Last month about 20 members enjoyed lunch at Rosebank Estate Winery along with a talk by National President, Dot Page.

Dot began by telling us about her investigation into the lives and careers of early women graduates of Otago University. She discovered that there were women 58 graduates between 1885 and 1900 and the first of these was Caroline Freeman who had no secondary education and studied part time while teaching. Each day she walked the seven miles from Green Island to the university and back. She went on to found her own private secondary schools in Dunedin and Christchurch. Dot was finding it difficult to track down the other graduates until on a friend's advice she successfully advertised in a genealogical magazine. She was surprised to find that the families of these graduates were still in contact and discovered that the main careers followed were teaching with 33 out of the 58 becoming secondary school teachers. This was a good time to get ahead in a teaching career as many girls' secondary schools opened during these years and some went straight from receiving their MAs to becoming a headmistress. Emily Siedeberg and Margaret Cruikshank were the first women graduates of the Otago Medical School in 1896 and 1897 Margaret Cruikshank was the first NZ women to register as a doctor. She had her own practice in Waimate for many years and until 1993 her statue in Waimate was the only one of a woman in NZ apart from Queen Victoria. Dot also spoke of the beginning years of the Federation in the 1920s and how the practice of rotating the Executive and the Triennial Conference were established then. The hiring of hoods and gowns also began in 1929 and seems to have started almost simultaneously in several branches. In 1993 the Federation reached its peak with 17 branches and over 2000 members. Now there are only 10 branches and under 700 members, although encouragingly the membership recorded a slight increase last year.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A very warm welcome to new member Barbara Smith. Barbara is a retired Speech and Language Therapist.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you have not paid your subscription for the year 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 it would be much appreciated if you could do so as soon as possible as capitation fees will soon be due.

If you are unsure whether or not you have paid or have any other queries, please contact the Membership Secretary whose details are at the top of this page.

## CFGW SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS

These awards which close on 31 March are for students continuing an approved course of study at the University of Canterbury or at Lincoln University, into their 3rd, 4th or 5th year; such students should have a proven record of academic achievement.

Other awards available are the Study Travel Award and the Conference Travel Award which must be applied for at least six weeks before date of the commencement of study or the conference.

Information and application forms for all awards may be obtained by emailing [thebranch@nzfgw.org.nz](mailto:thebranch@nzfgw.org.nz)

Those who have been members for at least six months are eligible to apply for the **Harriet Jenkins Award** which also closes on 31 March. Further information is on the national website [www.nzfgw.org.nz](http://www.nzfgw.org.nz)

## GRADUATIONS



Helpers are required for the following graduations

### Christchurch Polytechnic

Thursday 29 March 8.30am to 1.00pm or 1.00pm to 5.00pm

Friday 30 March 11.00am to 2.00pm or 2.00pm to 5.30pm

### Lincoln University

Thursday 19 April 8.00am to 1.00pm or 1.00pm to 5.30pm

Friday 20 April 11.00am to 2.00pm or 2.00pm to 5.30pm

### Canterbury University

Monday 23 April 8.00am to 1.00pm or 1.00pm to 5.30pm

Tuesday 24 April 11.00am to 2.00pm or 2.00pm to 5.30pm

Thursday 26 April 8.00am to 1.00pm or 1.00pm to 5.30pm

Friday 27 April 11.00am to 2.00pm or 2.00pm to 5.30pm

If you can assist at any of these times, please ring **Kay Holyoake, phone 351 9738**

## FROM THE WAIKATO GRADUATE WOMEN NEWSLETTER

Gail Adams, a PhD student from Waikato has embarked on a project to be completed by April 2014. In this project she aims to investigate the collective emotions and coping mechanisms of Cantabrians who have relocated to the Waikato as a direct result of the Canterbury earthquakes. People who relocate tend to disappear and their experiences are under researched by disaster scholars. In October and November Gail conducted a series of in-depth interviews with survivors and found that one of the most common desires for interviewees has been the need for shared experiences with other Cantabrians who have also relocated. When something deeply unsettling like an earthquake occurs a greater part of the healing process is to be able to emotionally share and learn that personal experiences are actualised by other people. This being the case, Gail has just completed a focus group with four households who gained a great deal from meeting each other and being around people "who know how it is". There have been very specific difficulties for people who have relocated.

## **INTERNATIONAL MATTERS**

**Claire Matthewson, CIR, National Executive**

[matthewson.claire@gmail.com](mailto:matthewson.claire@gmail.com)

### **Announcing IFUW Day 2012: an international day to promote and celebrate**

The IFUW Board has decided to make 1 June each year **IFUW Day** and invites national Federations also to do so. The Board's focus for the first IFUW Day will be on the amount that, worldwide, our members provide for Fellowships and Scholarships. (The recent survey on this subject to which you all responded in November is very relevant.) IFUW suggestions of how we might locally celebrate the first big Day in 2012 include activities that are fairly usual for NZFGW branches – a function to honour our award recipients, or arranging public media releases about stellar award recipients currently or in their later careers. Timing such events around 1 June rather than spread elsewhere across the year's programme may work well for some branches.

### **IFUW Fellowships and Grants: application deadlines in 2012**

Please note that applications from NZFGW members (Branch or Independent) for IFUW fellowships and grants should reach Claire Matthewson electronically **no later than 1 September 2012** at [matthewson.claire@gmail.com](mailto:matthewson.claire@gmail.com). IFUW's deadline is **1 October 2012** and applications need to traverse a national process before being forwarded to Geneva. Detailed information and application forms can be downloaded from <http://www.ifuw.org/what/fellowships/international/>

### **IFUW discussion on maternal health, parental leave and childcare: full summary now available**

Many members will be interested in the final report on the very lively IFUW email discussion (October – November 2011). This is now available online at: <http://www.ifuw.org/docs/maternal-health-final-summary.pdf>

### **What is IFUW: taken from 21 November press release 2011**

Sometimes in the local Branch or a general enquiry from prospective members or in promoting NZFGW publicly, we are asked what IFUW itself actually is and stands for. The following excerpt from a recent IFUW's statement might be a useful succinct response:

“The International Federation of University Women (IFUW) is a nongovernmental organisation promoting education and the rights of women and girls worldwide. Our network links women graduates from all cultures, all fields of study, all professions and all generations. Today 61 IFUW national affiliates and members are present in more than 120 countries.

“IFUW was founded in 1919 after World War I by women graduates who believed in the importance of working together for peace, international understanding and friendship. IFUW is a strong supporter of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and believes that their full implementation is a global priority.”

## **REPORT ON THE GREEN PAPER ON VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

The submission by NZFGW has now been sent to Paula Bennett and other ministers who represent Social Development. There are multiple issues that impact on the issue of 'vulnerable' children. It was decided to keep our comments confined to key concerns of the organisation. The elements that we stressed were that early intervention is crucial; that social economic status is a key factor in determining the quality of life of women with resulting effects on the lives of children and families; that focusing on positive approach to educating families is preferable to surveillance and that listening to and supporting children is preferable to viewing them as being 'vulnerable'.

### **The summary**

It is important therefore that if New Zealand decides to change its legislation affecting children, it does so only after it has carefully considered the evidence and research presented in the respected international reports. Education is a key to empowering and enabling families and children to reach their potential and is preferable to taking an approach based only on dealing with problems.

### **The Recommendations:**

- That a system be implemented to ensure the co-ordination of all reports and related projects so that health, social and educational inequalities are integrated with one body held responsible e.g. A Ministry for Children.
- That high quality maternity service, parenting programmes, childcare and early education are available for all families.
- That maternal mental health and education be addressed as empowering women raises the standard of living.
- That children's strengths are recognised and enhanced to enable them to cope with difficult circumstances.
- That both targeted and universal policies be addressed.

The full report will be available on the NZFGW Web site.

### **NZFGW FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED**

There were 72 applicants for the 2011 NZFGW Fellowship awards, many of very high calibre.

The successful candidates were:

Anthea Blackburn, Chemistry, North-Western: \$7,000

Emma Beatson, Marine Mammology, AUT: \$7,000

Emma-Louise Bickerstaffe, Law, Cambridge: \$5,000

Gail Hutcheson, Geography, Waikato: \$5,000

Meghan McIlwain, Neuropharmacology, Auckland: \$10,000

Jamie Taylor, Psychology, Massey: \$10,000

Amanda Thomas, Geography, Victoria: \$6,000

### **Harriette Jenkins awarded**

Just one Harriette Jenkins award was made, to Annie Zhang of the North Shore Branch: \$2,000

### **TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE, 5-7 OCTOBER 2012: AN UPDATE**

The National Executive is hoping for strong support from NZFGW members for the triennial conference, to be held in Dunedin from 5-7 October, in tandem with the conference of the NZ National Council of Women. **Put the dates in your diary now!** Planning is well under way. Lorraine Isaacs leads an effective Local Arrangements Committee, which is working very amicably with the Otago NCW's Conference Committee. Lorraine has also been persuaded to convene a small constitutional advisory committee, to advise on the changes to the constitution necessary when (if) the proposed restructuring is ratified by Conference; its recommendations will be checked by our Honorary Solicitor. An excellent venue at the University, the St David Street complex, will accommodate the two conferences in adjacent theatres, one of which is large enough to hold all of us for keynote speakers.

### **CANTERBURY BRANCH WEBSITE**

Don't forget to look at the Canterbury Branch's new website at [www.nzfgwcanterbury.org.nz](http://www.nzfgwcanterbury.org.nz). On it you can find branch newsletters, information about scholarships and awards and regalia hire as well as a link to the national website.