



New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (Inc.)

**CANTERBURY BRANCH,
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NEWSLETTER MARCH 2013

***** APRIL BRANCH MEETING *****

There is no branch meeting this month and the next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 24th April at 7.30 pm in the Rangi Ruru Staff Room.**

Last year we heard from Emily Doyle, the Year 13 student from St Margaret's College who spoke about her two weeks spent in Yevres, France as an exchange student on the programme in memory of Kiwi RAF pilot, Noel Stokes who gave his life to prevent the village of Yevres being destroyed when his bomber crashed. This time Emily's French exchange partner, **Marie Valette** will speak to us. Marie is delivering a speech to the Papanui RSA on Anzac Day (the next day) so this will be an opportunity for her to practise her public speaking. We hope members will make a special effort to come and support this young student, especially as the exchange programme is partly funded by the Federation.

GRADUATIONS



Helpers are required for the following graduations

Christchurch Polytechnic

Wednesday 27 March 8.30am to 1.00pm or 1.00pm to 5.00pm (at 9 Creyke Rd)
Thursday 28 March 11.00am to 2.30pm or 2.30pm to 5.00pm (foyer, CBS Arena)

Lincoln University

Thursday 11 April 8.00am to 1.00pm or 1.00pm to 5.30pm (at 9 Creyke Rd)
Friday 12 April 11.00am to 2.00pm or 2.00pm to 5.30pm (at Lincoln Univ.)

Canterbury University

Tuesday 16 April 8.00am to 1.00pm or 1.00pm to 5.30pm (at 9 Creyke Rd)
Wednesday 17 April 11.00am to 2.00pm or 2.00pm to 5.30pm (foyer, CBS Arena)
Thursday 18 April 8.00am to 1.00pm or 1.00pm to 5.30pm (at 9 Creyke Rd)
Friday 19 April 11.00am to 2.00pm or 2.00pm to 5.30pm (foyer, CBS Arena)

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

THE CANTERBURY BRANCH UC SUPPORT NETWORK

As part of its ambitions to strengthen the Branch's support for women graduates, an on-campus network has been recently created at the University of Canterbury (UC). The group facilitators, Genevieve Taylor, Sarah Christie and Brittany Nolan, as current UC postgraduate students and

alumni, see the group as an excellent opportunity for graduate women to come together to discuss their research, and also network with women from other areas of the University, such as academics, administrators, and alumni.

A Facebook page, Canterbury NZ Federation of Graduate Women, for the group has been established and currently has attracted 40 members - which include undergraduates, postgraduates and UC alumni. The page acts as an outlet for information for students, staff and alumni on events, funding opportunities, regalia hire, and activities on-campus which may be of interest to them. The link to the page is: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/198441853614226/>

The UC club days on the 22nd of February provided an excellent opportunity to raise awareness among women graduates of the Branch, the links of the Branch to the University, the objectives of the support network, and any upcoming events. This proved successful, with women from all levels signing up for more information on postgraduate study assistance (financial and general advice), and participation in events.

This was followed by the inaugural soiree at Ad Lib Cafe and Deli at UC, to discuss further with graduates the role of the network in assisting with their academic careers. The soiree attracted a variety of women including Branch members, alumni, staff, undergraduate and postgraduate students, who were all able to provide different ideas on how the network could be activated on campus. Associate Professor, Natalia Chaban from the National Centre for Research on Europe at UC, shared helpful advice to graduates she had been given from various sources, which has assisted her in her own successful academic endeavours. The Branch provided refreshments for the group to enjoy while participants discussed the group's future role at UC. Roseanna Gamlen-Greene, a current UC student, impressed the group with lovely music.

Thus far, these events have presented a means of interaction with women graduates, or future graduates, to discover what would be beneficial to them in terms of on-campus support. Feedback from women at different levels suggested the need for such a group on-campus as an opportunity to discuss their research and knowledge transfer from staff or alumni to prepare them for further study or their professional careers. Students also mentioned the potential of the group to be involved in activities at the University, and Christchurch in general.

Any ideas or advice on the role of the support group would be greatly appreciated. Please don't hesitate to contact Genevieve - genevieve.taylor@canterbury.ac.nz.



Post graduate students, along with Branch president, Barbara Peddie listening to the speaker, Natalia Chaban

FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

A changed post-disaster landscape in jobs for women?

Picking up on the biennial consensus of women's participation report (<http://strongerchristchurch.govt.nz/article/outdoor-world-appeals-to-christchurch-woman>) and thinking about my current research topic (centred on Christchurch's earthquake), led me to highlight some of the small increments made by women in the post-disaster zone. Traditionally, in disaster literature, women could be said to experience a gender bias in recovery, both financial and emotional. Women take a lead-role in emotion-work, maintaining the household and caring for dependents. Indeed, the report seems to back current academic literature by stating that Canterbury women are very often the 'invisible glue' providing support and stability for vulnerable citizens like the young, the elderly and disabled people. Women have been disproportionately affected by job loss in the Canterbury region and there is little measurable evidence that they are an employment priority.

The census of women's participation also highlighted the lack of presence women have in the building/construction industry, something that is burgeoning in Canterbury. Less than 1% of modern apprentices in building and construction and 2% in the electricity supply industry are female. Women make up 17% of the built environment workforce and 13% of engineers. After those sobering figures, I could spend pages telling you about the extraordinary things Canterbury women have achieved in more 'traditional' industries, and not for a moment do I discount their courage, entrepreneurialism and tenacity. But for some women, job prospects have expanded as the city rebuilds.

More women are exploring operator roles in civil infrastructure and an increase in the number of women gaining employment to assist with the rebuilding of Christchurch is changing the way the male-dominated industry is viewed. And the view does need to be changed, one of the issues women face when entering any male-dominated industry is being underestimated by their employers.

The range of roles women are immersing themselves in stretch across engineering, truck driving, traffic management, health and safety, painting, plastering, building, carpentry, operating heavy machinery, drainage and civil construction. Certainly, the industry as a whole is conscious of widening the scope of who is in their workforce.

In the aftermath of the earthquakes women have been given (and are increasingly taking) the opportunity to roll up their sleeves and assist in rebuilding Christchurch piece by piece.

Strategic Thinking – Towards a Strategic Plan 2013-2018

At its first face-to-face meeting the new National Executive began a process of strategic thinking to generate information and ideas that would inform the strategic direction of NZFGW for the next 2-5 years.

Individual members and branches are invited to contribute to this process. Below is a summary of the output of our first discussion. We focused on our current strengths as well as identifying where more effort might be required. We looked for opportunities that we could build on and risks we need to consider.

Our next steps will be to continue the reflection but also begin to prioritise the areas we have identified for action and develop more specific and measurable objectives and actions/steps for the next two years that will help NZFGW to achieve them.

If you would like to contribute please send your comments to elizabeth.eppel@xtra.co.nz

Ann Pomeroy, National President

Towards NZFGW Strategic Plan 2013–2018

NZFGW has a proud 90 year history which through the immense knowledge, skills and experience of its members past and present, has built a credible organisation with local, national and international networks and power.

NZFGW's strengths include:

A network of branches and an income-earning infrastructure which

- supports women to achieve through education with grants and scholarships totaling approximately \$1.7 million annually;
- advocates for women locally, nationally and internationally;
- offers opportunities for women at all stages of their career to make a difference for other women; and
- is a voice by and for women.

NZFGW needs to work on:

- Its image so that it is seen to be concerned with relevant and important issues that affect the education of girls and women and how they fare in our society
- Its membership so that it appeals to all ages of graduate women, and our membership grows, and its profile more closely resembles the graduate profile of women in New Zealand society generally
- Strengthening NZFGW links with graduate women in other Pacific nations
- Strengthen our links with and between the Branches
- Our focus to concentrate our efforts and our influence
- Developing more variation in our programmes

NZFGW sees opportunities to:

- Use the IFUW 'pillars' to create a unifying focus for all the branches
- Portray ourselves better – to the public, to potential members, and to decision makers
- Show how we value our members
- Develop our programme to better meet the needs of different age groups

Our success in making the improvements we have identified and making good on the opportunities that we see could be threatened by:

- Failure on the part of NZFGW and Branches to be proactive
- International events such as the global financial position, and
- Burn out of the active membership because too few are involved.

In planning our objectives and activities for the two years ahead, these factors and any other emergent threats need to be kept in mind.

The way ahead

NZFGW today reflects our history. There are good things that we want to celebrate and built on and there are trends we want to change. The gains achieved in the last 90 years and highlights such as International Womens' Year in 1975 might have produced a sense that the job is done. Since then membership has been declining, branches have disappeared and the continuing relevance and visibility of NZFGW has appear in question. More women are in the paid workforce and societal expectations and values have become more complex. Apparent gains in pay equity for women and equal participation of women in decision making last century have not continued.

In the face of these negative trends, there are some positive ones we can build on and our strategic thinking has plan identified new areas. Our finances are strong. Cracks have appeared in the glass ceiling.

The future scenario we want is an NZFGW that is:

- Active, Engaged and relevant
- More members are taking active leadership roles on specific issues
- The NZFGW 'brand' is recognized, and strongly associated with awards to assist women through education and also advocacy for women
- NZFGW has clear simple messages about who we are, what we do, and what is important for the future of girls and women through education

- NZFGW has strong geographically located branches and also a strong virtual network of members who do not live in a Branch area
- Meetings of NZFGW are stimulating and vibrant social event where the coming together of similarly motivated graduate women is inspirational and celebrated
- NZFGW learns how to work with a more virtual membership

To achieve this future we need to set ourselves some **challenging and measurable objectives** for the next few years.

Objectives identified to achieve this (in no particular order or priority)

- Use the IFUW 'pillars' as an overarching theme for activities and events
- Engage members to help distill and simplify the NZFGW messages
- Increase NZFGW visibility – more proactive relationship with media
- Use multi-media to disseminate messages
- A membership drive – each member to bring in at least one new member
- Promote community 'service' as an ideal
- Generate enthusiasm for bequests and donations
- Promote women in governance through workshops and training, and advocacy
- Build and maintain relationships with tertiary institution Alumni associations
- Ask for more from our fellowship awardees e.g. public speaking and promotions of the contribution of NZFGW in community
- Make the contribution of each woman manageable

Next steps

- 1) Feedback from the Executive and the membership on our strategic thinking so far
- 2) Executive to prioritise objectives and develop activities, timelines and metrics for measurement of their achievement.

A Distinguished Member – Dr Gladys Montgomery

Recently NZFGW was approached by Mark Derby, a NZ Historian working at the Manatu Taonga – Ministry for Culture and Heritage, for more information about Dr Gladys Montgomery, an Auckland physician, feminist and free spirit. During the early 1930ies she was vice-president of the Auckland Branch of the Federation of University Women. She was an active and prominent member, organising fundraising activities on behalf of women's and children's health issues. She later served as a surgeon in the Spanish Civil War.

Mark is a member of the advisory board of an international network of researchers on Spanish history and its worldwide influence. He plans to write articles on specific New Zealand participants in the Spanish Civil War, including Dr Montgomery. There is a reference in the '*Footprints of Kate Edger*', where it is recorded that she was President of the Branch in 1931. In Chapter 7, P86, '*Vignettes of the Branches*', there are references to her as part of a hospitality group and making her home available for a fundraising garden party. We were able to suggest that he check the archives of the NZFUW in the Turnbull Library and passed on his request to Jane Bellamy, a member of the former Auckland Branch.

Jane was able to supply Mark with information from the Auckland Branch Memorial Book and also refer him to the Auckland Branch archives held at the University of Auckland Library. Mark has also heard from a grandson who met Gladys when he was a young boy during WW2, located a photo of her in the Auckland Museum collection, and received various other fascinating snippets of information, especially the authoritative biographical information provided by Jane Bellamy. He has agreed to provide NZFGW with a summary of the information which we plan to send on to La Federación Española de Mujeres Universitarias (FEMU), the Spanish NFA who may be able come up with further relevant information.

This request should remind us that our history holds many distinguished members with interesting lives and careers. If you have members in your Branches whose history should be recorded, please write down what you know about these women and send it to your Branch Archivist, as well as to the Editor of NE News.

Rae Duff - NZFGW NE Archivist

NEW NZFGW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Gail Adams-Hutcheson (Editor NE News) is a PhD candidate at the University of Waikato, Fellow of the NZFGW and is a wife and mother of two young girls. Her research project centres on the relocation experiences of Cantabrian's who have moved to the Waikato following February's devastating earthquake. Gail is concurrently an assistant editor to Professor Lynda Johnston for the internationally peer reviewed journal *Gender, Place and Culture*. On a lighter note, Gail enjoys rural life in the Waikato, rides horses, kayaks and has travelled extensively throughout Asia in her earlier years. She is passionate and hardworking and looks forward to being part of the editorial team.

Patricia Sivertsen (Treasurer) Pat brings a wide range of business skills to her role as Treasurer, having recently retired after more than twenty years of operating an Inbound Tourism Business. Pat has a Law Degree and a Post Graduate Diploma in Tourism which she completed as a mature student. Pat is the former chair of New Horizons for Women Trust, an active supporter of community projects in her community of Karitane, and a trustee of the Otago Mental Health Foundation Trust which provides peer support services for people with bipolar condition. She is also a past Marketing Convenor for the New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

IFUW Young Members' Newsletter

The Young Members' Newsletter is currently looking for people to contribute articles in English for the June 2013 issue. It is a channel where you can share experiences, successes and opportunities with other members. Prevention and elimination of violence against women, but other topics are also welcome! If you are willing to contribute to our newsletter try writing something about this topic in relation to your personal experience.

Articles should be submitted by May 30, 2013. All submissions are reviewed and deadlines have been set to ensure ample time for discussion of revision and layout issues before final publication. Format Guidelines: Articles of 250 to 1000 words, pictures/graphics are also encouraged.

Notification of your interest to sending in an article will help facilitate the process. Please feel free to contact: romilda.boerleider@gmail.com. Please visit the link to read our past newsletters at: <http://www.ifuw.org/resources/ym/>

FROM THE NEW HORIZONS FOR WOMEN TRUST

Trust Award applications are now open.

This year we have an online application process and we encourage all applicants to use this process. The online form can be saved and documents uploaded. The online application forms are accessed from our website

<http://www.newhorizonsforwomen.org.nz/award-applications/>

ZONTA CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH-CANTERBURY WOMEN IN BUSINESS AWARDS 2013

Date: **Tuesday 26 March 2013**

Venue: **Westpac Hub, 55 Jack Hinton Drive, Addington, Christchurch**

Time: **5.30 - 8pm**

Dress: **Business**

Featuring three Women in Business Award finalists and guest speakers Brigit Blair and Cilla Hegarty.

For more information, contact Melissa Haberfield:

ZontaWomeninBusinessAward@gmail.com / 027 683 8223