



New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (Inc.)

**CANTERBURY BRANCH, PO BOX 3088, CHRISTCHURCH**

**PHONE 366 2804 & FAX 366 1803**

E-mail address: [handgcanty@xtra.co.nz](mailto:handgcanty@xtra.co.nz)

---

|                 |                      |                |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| PRESIDENT:      | Shirley C'Ailceta    | Phone 326 5231 |
| SECRETARY:      | Geraldine Murphy     | Phone 383 3958 |
| TREASURER:      | Hilary Stubbs        | Phone 383 0084 |
| MEMBERSHIP SEC: | Bernadette Devonport | Phone 358 6245 |

---

## **NEWSLETTER APRIL/MAY 2011**

### **MAY BRANCH MEETING**

### **ANNUAL AWARDS EVENING**

This meeting will be held on **Wednesday 25th May (not 26th May as in last month's newsletter) at St Barnabas's Church Hall, Fendalton Rd (car park entrance off Tui St) at 7.30 pm.**

Those students who have been granted Branch awards, including CFGW Trust Awards, Sadie Balkind Awards and Travel Awards will be speaking to us about their research and studies.

Topics will range from: Parkinson's Disease and Autism to the hybridisation of mountain daisies.

The number of branch members attending over the past couple of years has been disappointingly small and it is hoped that this year more members will make a special effort to come along and learn more about the fascinating areas of study of our award winners. All those who have attended in the past have really enjoyed the evening and the enthusiasm and knowledge of these young scholars make it well worth braving the cold for.

This is the first branch meeting for the year as the February outing was cancelled for lack of interest.

If you would like a ride, please contact one of the names at the top of the newsletter.

### **A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

The annual lunch will be held on **Saturday 9 July**. The venue is still to be decided on and it is hoped to have a speaker.

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Several members still have not yet paid their subscriptions and will see a red sticker on the top of their newsletter. As we need to pay capitation this month, prompt payment would be appreciated. If you think you may have paid, please contact the Membership Secretary, phone 358 6245.

### **MID TERM COUNCIL**

This was to have been held in Christchurch but because of the earthquake was transferred to Dunedin and held over the weekend of 9/10 April. Bernadette Devonport and Jean Sharfe represented the branch and Bernadette has presented the following report:

## **Executive Reports** (issues highlighted by the presenters)

**President-** PGW networks; executive restructuring; Trust financial constraints

**CIR-** the death of Elizabeth May, Waikato; Branch membership concerns taking attention from international issues for women; the need for Branches focus on the IFUW Four Pillars and Branch actions; no successful NZ applications for international awards

**Public Affairs-** there has been no reply from Steven Joyce to the NZFGW letter of concern about cutting ACE funding

**Publicity-** financial constraints are restricting publicity options; Branches urged to keep FGW in the local media

**Membership-** 9 Branches left from 18 and with 8 having voting rights. There is a danger of the Executive outvoting Branches; Independent Membership growing

**Young Members-** there has been a lack of response by young members to the Facebook page.

**Treasurer-** unaudited accounts were presented; there were two major one-off income items; donations to IFUW have been maintained thanks to Branches' generosity; the international subscription will be disadvantaged in 2011 by exchange rates; falling membership dues (30-35% drop last few years); new term deposits at lower rates

**Charitable Trust-** no Susan Byrne applications will be considered this year but Branch donations are welcomed; awards will focus on topping up rather than having major awards; Vivienne Wake has made two new awards for a post-graduate and undergraduate over 40 years; audited accounts were presented showing a loss of \$14,155 for year because of writing off failed investments; looking for good future investments; income is down because of low interest rates

## **Branch Reports**

**Hawkes Bay-** good work with Dove Hawkes Bay

**Manawatu-** steadily declining membership; supporting literacy and numeracy programmes at Ratana

**North Shore-** history of the branch published; issue of student membership only for undergraduates; working on two of the Four Pillars

**Otago-** young members active

**Southland-** 17 members; 5 study grant awards given; Marie Lockie has been made an Honoured Member

**Waikato-** Stephanie Hutchison has died; low attendance evening at meetings and few young members; new Trust Deed; have student membership (question of eligibility for Harriet Jenkins)

**Wellington-** growing membership by shoulder tapping the mid age group; lively meetings at lunchtimes and panel presentations open to the public; public affairs focus

## **Remits**

**Website-** there was good discussion and concern over timeline to achieve; 'implementation' was removed from the motion and the motion was passed

**Early Childhood-** passed (Sunday)

**ACE Funding-** passed with addition of restriction to ACE classroom adult education, not wider ACE funding

## **Restructuring National Executive** (further to Dot's paper)

There are issues of continuity and getting enough people on the National Executive; national approach best; wide discussion on the separation of the Trust from the National Executive- need to remain together but have separation of work; original intention was for national executive members to be trustees.

Motion proposed by Dot and amended after discussion, then passed:

**'That the NZFGW National Executive, in conjunction with the Central Region and after consultation with all Branches, develop guidelines for electing the next and subsequent Executives made up of members from anywhere in NZ'**

## **Speakers**

Rae Duff- IFUW Committee on the Status of Women- gave an outline of the work of this committee and subgroups; urged Branches to tell CIR about any newsworthy actions and urged members to 'get the most out of your FGW membership'

Martine Cashell-Smith- IFUW Board and Membership Committee- gave an outline of her meetings and the discussion on the purpose of IFUW; the importance of peace in objectives (see IFUW website on 'what we do'); Membership Triennium projects include twinning with NFAs on particular issues and contacting Asia/Pacific NFAs

Joy Dunsheath- IFUW Hegg Hoffett Special Committee

Dorothy Meyer- IFUW subgroup assessing education in Science and Technology; (see Royal Society report on science education in NZ)

Lorraine Isaacs- IFUW Constitutional Adviser

Beverley Turner- IFUW adviser to PGW network- outlined meetings attended and gave a breakdown of what is happening in several Pacific Islands

Margaret Baird- Otago University- gave a breakdown of the movement of women from being half of science graduates to less than 5% of senior scientists; soft money problem (fixed term contracts usually held by women); need for lateral thinking to overcome career barriers

## **Theme Sessions**

Early Childhood- good speakers gave outlines of early childhood curriculum and need for trained teachers; key question of how far the revised curriculum linking early childhood objectives with school curriculum will achieve gender equity before 2015

Secondary school- speaker (Principal Queen's High) emphasized important areas of development of ICT, values education and how to improve student learning; qualities of well trained students and need for independent learning; challenges include strengthening community/school links

Tertiary- gave outlines of Otago Polytech programmes for distance learning; challenges of Otago University cutting funding for Continuing Education and eligibility for older students; gave examples of four types of programmes that train women for leadership in business etc (such as Global NZ Women and Leadership NZ)

Good discussions on these issues- need to help Maori and Pacific Island students and work with iwi; need for keeping tertiary education available to second chance students; encouraging girls into trades

## **Pacific Graduate Networks**

CIR- Claire Matthewson + Linda Robertson + Anne Rogers (Treasurer)

Council approved draft Regional Action Plan

Council also agreed to send letters to the Prime Minister and relevant Ministers expressing FGW concerns at the government removing funding for the Pacific students language series and the revision of the Pacific education plan (deleting goals 15-17) that reduces emphasis on Pacific Island languages.

## **Yesterday, the Minister for Social Development and Employment announced the development of a Green Paper on Children**

The Green Paper on Children will stimulate a national conversation about how we value, nurture and protect children in New Zealand. The development of this key discussion document will be led by a public policy expert who will work with a multidisciplinary team. An independent scientific and academic reference group will provide advice and peer review. There will also be input and advice from a group of people with a frontline perspective. The Green Paper on Children is the first part of the process to develop a Children's Action Plan and will be available in August. Following widespread consultation on the Green Paper, a White Paper that sets out the Children's Action Plan will be developed. This Children's Action Plan will include all children aged 0-18 years, with a special focus on children aged under five years. The Action Plan will provide a means of aligning work across government and non-government organisations, and is likely to have implications for policy, practice, service delivery and legislation. The Minister is inviting you, and everyone else who is interested in improving the wellbeing of New Zealand children, to be part of this visionary approach.

## **NZ WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

On Saturday 28 May at the Hotel Intercontinental the NZ Women's Conference will be launching its first Conference. This Conference is about encompassing all parts of your life and covers topics such as health, wealth, goal setting, business tips, weight loss and much more. There will be a line up of speakers including Trelise Cooper, dietary guru Damian Kristof from Downsize Me, Kati Kasza founder of Evolu skincare, Robyn Simpson goal setting expert from Australia, just to name a few. Further information is available on the website [www.womensconference.co.nz](http://www.womensconference.co.nz)

## **SYMPOSIUM ON GLOBAL HEALTH AND GENDER**

***Louise Croot, Immediate Past President IFUW***

Louise will be attending this symposium and writes:

The Vienna team of IFUW with Coordinator Ilona Graenitz are involved in the 2nd Symposium on Global Health and Gender in conjunction with the 4th annual meeting of the Austrian Society for Gender Medicine.

Gender sensitive medicine aims to provide better healthcare for women and men. It has been jointly organized by the Vienna NGO Committee on Status of Women, CoNGO- The Conference of NGO's in Consultative Status with the UN and The Austrian Society. The Key note speaker will be Professor of Clinical Medicine from Columbia University Dr Marianne Legato.

Participating in a health workshop, I was fortunate to hear Dr Legato speak at the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York in 2010 and was surprised we had not heard of her work in New Zealand. As a cardiologist she has been working against the odds to highlight the fact that most research in her field had been done with random samples of men. Women had different symptoms and for example therefore different needs pharmacologically and in other areas of medical care practice.

She has written on the topic and is an inspiring speaker. She contends there are both men's and women's healthcare matters that should be treated differently. Other subjects dealt with were infectious diseases, immunology and pharmacology. psychiatry, surgery and orthopaedics, ageing, internal and family medicine as well as fetal development and neonatology. I am very fortunate to be able to attend this 2011 meeting with Ilona and her IFUW team in Vienna and have a colleague from the Otago Medical school Dr Monika Clark-Grill present and offering a poster session as well.

I understand this field of medicine is gaining importance and recognition and certainly links in well to integrative medicine developments here in New Zealand. I will be happy to share information with you all on my return.

## **Inaugural "Me Rongo" Peace Congress and Festival Peace, Sustainability and Respect for the Sacred**

Rēkohu (Chatham Islands, New Zealand) 18-21 November 2011

The Congress will focus on indigenous peace-making traditions.

Session proposals are invited on the following strands:

Peace and ethics, Eradication of weapons and instruments of aggression, Peaceful conflict resolution, Peace education

A Peace and Sustainability Festival will precede the Congress. This will include 10 days of workshops facilitated by local and international leaders in the fields of sustainability, creative arts, writing and respectful practices. To register and receive your information pack, please email [Susan Forbes](mailto:SusanForbes) by May 30