



New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (Inc.)

**CANTERBURY BRANCH,  
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## NEWSLETTER MAY 2012

### MAY BRANCH MEETING

### ANNUAL AWARDS EVENING

This meeting will be held on **Wednesday 23rd May 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.

The speakers and their topics are:

**Emma Swadel** on the biochemistry of filamentous micro-organisms

**Cathy Robson** on video modelling in education

**Bryony Gibson-Cornish** on the viola and singing

**Anisha Dayaram** on viruses with circular single DNA implications for infection by these in our own livestock

**Lucinda Allison** on the Feldenkrais technique in spinal cord injury

**Sophie Hunt** on freshwater ecology research

**Louisa McIlroy**, who has completed a marketing internship with Disney World Florida and has performed with the Brandenburg orchestra in Melbourne.

**Jikita de Schot** who has completed an internship with the United Nations in New York.

It is hoped that this year more members will make a special effort to come along and hear 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.

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

### JUNE BRANCH MEETING - OPEN DAY AT 9 CREYKE RD

As mentioned in the last newsletter, on **Saturday 23 June** there will be an **Open Day** with a finger food lunch at the **Regalia Hire Rooms, 9 Creyke Rd (11.00am to 2.00pm with lunch at 12.00pm)**. This will be an opportunity for all members to visit the new premises and find out about all the hard work that goes into contributing to the success of the graduations and raising the money needed to fund the numerous scholarships and awards administered by the Trust Board.

As the lunch will be catered we need to know the names of those coming so could you please advise **Enid Smith, phone 3589492 or email [aesmith2@clear.net.nz](mailto:aesmith2@clear.net.nz) by 16 June.**

## **ANOTHER DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

The annual mid winter lunch will be held on **Saturday 21 July at 12.00pm**. The venue is still to be decided.

## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

Welcome to new member Bryony Gibson-Cornish who is one of our award winners and will be speaking at the Awards Evening.

## **TRUST BOARD**

The CFGW Awards for 2012 were decided at the last meeting of the Trust Board on 3 May.

There were 20 applications and awards were made to: **Lucinda Allison**, PhD in Health Sciences; **Stephanie Borthwick**, MA in Political Science; **Anisha Dayaram**, PhD in Microbiology; **Bryony Gibson-Cornish**, MusB Hons; **Amy Horn**, MA Psy/Human Services; **Josephine Hagan**, BCom; **Wendy Jackson**, BTL; **Balsam Obaid**, PhD Health Sciences; **Susan Rapley**, MSc Psychology; **Cathy Robson**, MA Psychology; **Fiona Thomas**, BSc Hons Geography; **Alexandria Tino**, PG Diploma in Science; **Emma Swadel**, MSc

## **REGALIA HIRE REPORT (JEAN SHARFE)**

Both Lincoln University and the University of Canterbury graduations have taken place recently. As there was only a weekend between the Lincoln ceremony and handing out for the first Canterbury ceremony, and Anzac Day between the first Canterbury ceremonies and the second hand-out day, the "Basement" team have been working extremely hard.

Overall both graduations went well from our viewpoint. Although the collection of regalia at the venue adds to our workload and to the wear and tear on the regalia, in view of the traffic congestion on the roads between the CBS Arena and 9 Creyke Rd, it is in fact the best option. For all but one ceremony the rate of returns was higher than at the Arts Centre.

The team are now looking forward to a quieter period with checking, cleaning and stocktaking our main activities for the winter. For a number of our members there is also travel to look forward to. Grateful thanks go to those members who were able to give some time to helping out over the graduation period. Without the voluntary labour provided we would be unable to provide our service. It is always nice to hear the favourable comments about the efficiency of our service from graduands and their parents. So again many, many thanks to all those who helped and we look forward to seeing you again in December.

### **Thinking about the Rebuild**

**1.30-2.30pm at the Canterbury WEA, 59 Gloucester Street, 4 Wednesdays, entry by gold coin donation**

23 May            **Nurturing the Emergence of New Cityscapes** - Di Lucas, landscape architect, Lucas Associates.

30 May            **OneVoiceTe Reo Kotahi**- Moira Underdown & Adele Wilkinson

6 June            **Making the past part of the future: historic architecture in a rebuilt Christchurch** - Jessica Halliday, architectural historian and writer

13 June           **Resilient and Sustainable Cities** - Dr David Conradson, Department of Geography, University of Canterbury

## FROM DOT PAGE, NATIONAL PRESIDENT

The counting of votes in the election held recently in the Wellington Branch for the next National President has been completed and I am pleased to inform you that Dr Ann Pomeroy is the successful candidate.

It is a great credit to NZFGW and the Wellington Branch in particular that two such able people as Ann Pomeroy and Joy Dunsheath have been willing to take on the responsibility of leading our organisation. Both have contributed a great deal to Federation in the past, are doing so at present and I am sure will continue to do so in future. We are grateful to them both for their commitment.

May I also take this opportunity to express my most sincere appreciation of the sensitive and thoroughly professional manner in which Dr Judy Whitcombe has handled the practicalities of the election.

## OURSTORIES

The newly published *Herstories: a Celebration of Life*, edited by Joyce Ivory, is the third publication of significance to FGW members to come from the Auckland region in the last two years. Dame Dorothy Winstone's substantial autobiography, *I Write as I Remember*, appeared in 2010, and *True Minds: Reflections on the History of the North Shore Branch of the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women, 1966-2010*, edited by Helen Sturm, followed in 2011. The three books are quite different but they have some important points in common, beginning with the fact that all of them feature cover illustrations of women in academic dress. All three books combine affectionate personal reminiscence with strict regard for accuracy. They are all very readable and, taken together, they add a great deal to our understanding of what highly educated women have been able to achieve for themselves and what they have been able to contribute to New Zealand society over recent decades – and how important FGW has been to them.

Our most senior Member Emerita, Dame Dorothy, looks back over her long life, in which as she says at the outset, family, home and church have been pivotal, with the grace and generosity of spirit we would expect of her. The honours heaped on her - Dame of the British Empire, Companion of St Michael and St George (CMG), Member Emerita of NZFUW and Distinguished Member of the Auckland Branch, Life Member of NZNCW, the Auckland University Students' Association and Auckland Girls' Grammar School Old Girls' Association – are less important to her than the service and the friendship. Both NZFGW and NCWNZ play a huge part in her story.

Service and friendship also bind together the accounts of the North Shore Branch's various activities. Special projects, sub-groups within the Branch, social events, the work of the Charitable Trust and links with the National and International Federation are vividly described in *True Minds*, an excellent record of a young and flourishing branch. Through their activities we catch clear glimpses, and sometimes more, of the women involved.

In the most recent addition to this group of books the women take centre stage. *Herstories* is a collection of 40 brief life stories of members of the former Auckland branch of NZFGW. It originated in reminiscences shared at a meeting of the daytime Viva group when their speaker failed to arrive. The women range in age from those who graduated in the 1930s to those born in that decade and the next. Some, sadly, have died while the book has been in preparation. Most have now retired from paid employment but still meet regularly in Viva, while others are active in other FGW branches.

Most of the women were born in New Zealand but a number came from Britain or Europe. They all lived through the turbulent decades of the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century; many of them, whether children or adults at the time, speak of World War Two as a turning point in their lives. They were also part of a generation that saw society move from a pattern when a stay-at-home mother was the norm to one where women claimed equal rights in the workplace. Some of them were raised in families that valued advanced education, others did not get the opportunity for University study until their own families were grown. All greatly valued their education. Some used their talents in voluntary work of

all kinds (typically including Federation and NCW) in their communities, while others took their own careers to a high level.

*Herstories* is available at \$24 (packaging and postage included). Cheques should be made out to: Joyce Ivory 97 Wirihana Road Titirangi Auckland 0604 (Email joyceivory@hotmail.com)

## **GOING OVERSEAS TO AN IFUW AFFILIATE COUNTRY?**

### **Federation's international friendship purpose**

Recently Branches will have received a copy of the Waikato Branch newsletter for April in which Roberta (Bobbie) Balmer of the Canadian Federation (CFUW) had written following her visit to Hamilton in February and her receipt of much appreciated personal hospitality. Bobbie had lodged her NZ travel details and a formal Request for Introduction to CFUW, whose CIR duly forwarded these to her NZFGW counterpart. The request was then sent on to three of our branches in the vicinity of Bobbie's travels, and two Waikato members generously stepped up.

In earlier days of the Federation, Requests for Introduction were considerably more common, both inwards to New Zealand and outwards on behalf of NZFGW members. This directly accorded with the IFUW founding purpose to foster international friendship in the interest of peace. The generic Position Description for National CIRs currently being finalised by IFUW still retains as core this role of facilitating introductions for members travelling in IFUW affiliate countries. Newer NZFGW members – either branch and independent – might not be aware of this service that can be requested of the CIR. (In this period of tenure, I have received two inwards requests – one each from Canada and the USA and none outwards. Please note that requests *are* still and always welcome. **(Claire Matthewson, National CIR)**

## **GETTING TO GRIPS WITH RESTRUCTURING**

### **The Next Executive: What It Might Look Like. Have You Thought of Standing?**

#### ***Dot Page***

The Executive has taken into careful consideration the views of branches and individuals in relation to the selection and operation of the next NZFGW Executive, which will be confirmed in office for two years at our conference in October.

The concerns expressed have been almost solely about the financial implications of moving from a regional to a national system. Treasurer Joanne Rogers has calculated that this could amount to an extra \$5000 per year, allowing four face- to-face Executive meeting during the biennium, including at Conference, but with an electronic Mid-Term Council. She has assumed that seven of the ten Executive members will come from branches spread throughout the country. (You will recall that we have decided a core group of three should be based in Wellington) To cover travel to these meetings, based on smart saver fares and building in a \$100 accommodation allowance per person, fees for individual branch members would have to be raised by \$5 and gowning branches asked for an additional \$360 (average). Obviously these costs could be higher or lower depending on factors such as the geographical spread of the Executive.

We have been exploring ways to reduce the predicted costs, but we should also point out that the model does not take inflation into account. There are three obvious possibilities for savings: to reduce the size of the Executive, to reduce the number of face-to-face Executive meetings and to rely on the President's branch to offer accommodation.

We recommend retaining a ten person Executive, rather than overloading a smaller group, but offer an option within this for your consideration. Under the present system, which we intend to retain, there are seven named Executive positions, President, Secretary, Treasurer, CIR, PAC, and the Awards Convener/Secretary and Treasurer of the Charitable Trust. The Immediate Past President is also a member of the Executive till Mid Term Council. The other portfolios, Publicity, Publications, Membership, Archives, Younger Members, are allocated as appropriate to the other three Executive members.

We suggest that these three become Adjunct Members of the Executive, required to report regularly, but not required to attend face-to-face meetings, other than those attached to the conference – unless of course called to do so by the President in any particular instance.

The number of face-to-face meetings could be reduced, but it is already low. We assume that there would be a meeting immediately after the conference at which the new Executive takes office and also one immediately before the conference that ends the biennium. That leaves only one face-to-face meeting per year, and an electronic Mid Term Council. We leave it to the incoming Executive to trial means of electronic communication, skype, teleconference etc. as alternatives to these two face-to-face meetings.

The question of billeting – which we recommend – is also one for the incoming Executive.

### **Gearing Up For The Elections**

A core group of the President, Secretary and one other Executive member will come from the Wellington Branch. When these positions are filled, nominations will be called for the other named positions, including those for the Charitable Trust, and for three other members to take up the various portfolios. Branch presidents will shortly be sent nomination forms and updated position descriptions so that interested members can see what the job entails. Nominations must be made and seconded by members of the branch and endorsed by the branch President. Only one nomination for any of the named positions will be accepted from a branch. Independent Members are eligible to stand, and do not require branch endorsement.

More detailed information will follow. You have time to think about it - the closing date for nominations will be 31 July.

## **CONFERENCE 2012 – AN UPDATE**

### ***Lorraine Isaacs, Local Arrangements Committee***

The 29<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference is stacking up to be an amazing event: for the first time it will combine with the National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) for keynote speakers and social events. Diary it now: noon Friday 5 October to noon Sunday 7 October in Dunedin at the University of Otago's St David Lecture Theatre complex.

Registration forms will be available by late May from Branch Presidents, the NZFGW website or the Local Arrangements Committee, for a fee of less than \$180. But if you are coming and want to book a motel near the venue, you should do it soon, as you will be competing for rooms with NCWNZ participants. A few billets may be available with Dunedin FGW members.

Optional extras include Saturday night Combined Conference dinner at Larnach Castle, complete with Scottish pipes and a taste of haggis.

See you there!!

### **A pre-conference treat: Judith Cullen at Home *Louise Croot***

Judith Cullen is known for her inspirational cooking classes in her St Clair home.

On **October 4 2012** you have the opportunity to visit her home and garden to share lunch and a cooking demonstration between **11am and 2pm**. Places are limited and the cost is \$60 each.

If you are interested in being there please book a place by emailing Judith

at [judith@judith-cullen.com](mailto:judith@judith-cullen.com)

Her website is [www.judith-cullen.com](http://www.judith-cullen.com) for more details about Judith's life with food as a teacher, successful cafe and catering business owner and food writer.

**From Linda Robertson, National Executive** [roylinda@xtra.co.nz](mailto:roylinda@xtra.co.nz)

### **Correspondence from Members of Parliament**

**Early childhood education**

Hon Hekia Parata (Minister of Education) acknowledged the letter that was sent from NZFGW in Dec 2011. While agreeing that poor quality early childhood education could be harmful, she indicated that achieving a minimum of 80% of teachers being registered would maintain sufficient quality. Our letter made a case for 100% of teachers being registered. The Minister says:

“However, while research shows that participation in high quality ECE can be beneficial for your children, there is no evidence to suggest that a fully registered workforce is necessary to achieve high standards. A recent Education Review Office Report, *Quality in Early Childhood Services (Aug 2010)*, notes that it is the combination of many factors rather than any one on its own, that contributes to high quality ECE services. These factors include leadership, relationships and interactions, teaching and learning, assessment and planning, as well as professional learning, qualifications and support, and cultural competence.”

#### **Green Paper on Vulnerable Children:**

A letter was received from Hon Paula Bennett in response to the submission regarding the Green Paper on Vulnerable Children. She noted that over 9,000 submissions were received with many being from groups and organisations. Additionally more than 2,000 people attended meetings and had their views noted. A White Paper will now be drafted and it is anticipated that a 10 year ‘Children Action Plan’ will be developed and released later this year. Information can be found at: <http://www.childrensactionplan.govt.nz>. A statement on the website promises that it will be updated regularly as themes emerge and the White Paper is developed.

### **NZFGW FELLOWSHIPS AND SUSAN BYRNE AWARD**

Information about the NZFGW Post-graduate Fellowships and the Susan Byrne Award for 2012, together with the necessary application forms, is on the website [www.nzfgw.org.nz](http://www.nzfgw.org.nz)

The closing date for Fellowships is 31 July.

The closing date for the Susan Byrne is 31 August.

#### **THINKING OF OUR FIJI ASSOCIATION FRIENDS**

Severe flooding in Fiji in early April washed out roads, swamped homes and saw almost 12,000 people in shelters. There have also been deaths in Fiji’s second major flooding disaster in 2012. On NZFGW’s behalf, a message of concern was sent to FAWG. The Association’s President, Dr Akanisi Kedrayate, replied:

Thank you most kindly for your sympathy and kind thoughts. We are so glad we have friends like the NZGW who support us at difficult times like this with your kind thoughts and prayers. Government, NGOS and churches have joined forces to send clothes, medical supplies, water and food to the West. I went to Nadi on Monday night after the flood. I was shocked to see the damage to the bridges, farms and Nadi town.

We have yet to receive the news from FAWG members in the West about their situation. We are also raising funds to send to the West.

#### **WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN 2015: IWD 2012 ANNOUNCEMENT**

Also on 8 March, the President of the UN General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the UN proposed a UN Global Conference on Women in 2015. Twenty years on from the last women’s summit in Beijing (4WCW), a global programme focusing on women, to be articulated at a fifth World Conference on Women (5WCW), would be a timely follow on to UN Women’s establishment in 2011.