



New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (Inc.)

**CANTERBURY BRANCH,
PO BOX 6733, CHRISTCHURCH 8442
PHONE 364 3530 & FAX 364 3583**

Website: www.canterburynzfgw.org.nz E-mail: thebranch@canterburynzfgw.org.nz

PRESIDENT:	Barbara Peddie	Phone 377 0246	email bpeddie@clear.net.nz
SECRETARY:	Geraldine Murphy	Phone 383 3958	email geraldinemurphy@xtra.co.nz
TREASURER:	Hilary Stubbs	Phone 383 0084	email hilarystubbs@clearnet.co.nz
MEMBERSHIP:	Deborah Errington	Phone 352 6680	email deborah@errington.co.nz

NEWSLETTER MAY 2013

MAY BRANCH MEETING

ANNUAL AWARDS EVENING

The next meeting which is our Annual Awards Evening will take place on **Wednesday 22nd May at St Barnabas's Church Hall, Tui St (off Fendalton Rd) at 7.30pm.**

This is an opportunity to hear from some of those whom the Trust Board have considered worthy of an award over the past year. As in previous years there will be a wide range of topics and you are assured of a most entertaining and educational evening. We do hope branch members will come along and support those highly enthusiastic and knowledgeable young people.

MID WINTER LUNCH

This year the mid winter lunch will be held on **Saturday 13 July at 12pm at the Chateau on the Park. Names to Enid Smith, phone 358 9492 or email aesmith2@clear.net.nz by Thursday 11th July.**

N.B. As there will be no newsletter next month this is the last notice you will receive about the lunch, so please note the details now to be sure you don't forget.

FROM TWO AWARD WINNERS

Janna van Hasselt

I wanted to get in touch to let you know how things are going with my course in Chicago. I'm loving SAIC and the MFA programme is incredibly rigorous and intense. I've been to many inspiring exhibitions and artist talks and had over 30 studio visits from faculty, artists and critics. My work has developed in so many ways due to the range of facilities at the school and also being encouraged to work outside my comfort zone by my advisors. Chicago is a wonderful and vibrant city to live in - it's an amazing experience to be studying here!

I wanted to thank you and CFGW again for the travel grant which has helped so much.

All the best, Janna

Rosalie Hosking

Rosalie was an Exchange Researcher at Waseda University from 1st October to 16th November 2012 using an extensive collection of recent and modern mathematical works. In particular she was studying the many versions of the Japanese Edo period textbook, the Jinkouki which the university is in possession of. She also visited many shrines and temples which contain mathematical tables from the Edo period.

Below are two of Rosalie's photographs



FROM NATIONAL PRESIDENT – ANN POMEROY

Our theme for the NZFGW 2014 Conference is *Empowering Women*. Why is this subject still so relevant for New Zealand women? It seems obvious. As previous editorials have shown, New Zealand women are still not earning as much as their male counterparts, and are still not equally represented in decision-making in government, corporate and professional occupations. Women are still too often unable to escape from violent situations in the home. But why are these inequalities and obstacles that face women still so prevalent? NZFGW and other women's organisations have been banging on about them since the 1920s, if not before, and while there have been massive changes, we still haven't "made it".

Part of the problem is the amount of work that has had to be done to make the tiniest incremental shift. For example, in the 1860s and early '70s Miss Dalrymple, who established the first New Zealand secondary school for girls (Otago Girls High School) in Dunedin, had to interview 'every person of major importance in the town', and wrote over 800 letters in order to get the University Council to resolve in 1871 "that women should be admitted to all the classes of the university and be allowed to compete for 'all certificates equivalent to degrees'".¹ It then took an Act of Parliament and another six years for women to receive degrees (with Kate Edger the first to do so).

In the early days IFUW and NZFUW focused on the education of women, on fellowship and peace (now translated as the perhaps more manageable 'freedom from violence'). While this enabled most things of interest to members to be covered, it also led to a somewhat scattergun approach and diffusion of energy. IFUW's focus in 2010-11 on the four pillars (see later this edition) enables a more concentrated effort to be made to achieve our goals.

NZFGW and branches' work to empower women is currently carried out through advocacy (letter writing to Ministers of the Crown, submissions and appearances at select committees), and by funding-raising for awards and grants through particularly hiring-out of capping regalia. At branch level we also have inspirational speakers. But is this enough?

What else should and could we be doing, as an organisation, to change attitudes and behaviours? What could we do, for example, to support women engineers remain in engineering? Briget Burdett (see next article) is only one of many women engineers who have left the profession. While she is engaging in an equally worthwhile arena, the question must be asked: what is needed to empower women to identify and address the 'pipeline' failure which seems to be haemorrhaging its early-mid career women from the profession? Your ideas on this would be very welcome!

¹ Winifred MacDonald (1982) *Footprints of Kate Edger: History of the New Zealand Federation of University Women 1921-81* p24

DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING THE FUTURE OF IFUW – FOR URGENT CONSIDERATION:

Taking IFUW into the Future

Since the Strategic Planning Session of 2012, members of the Board and, more recently the newly-appointed Executive Director, have all been involved in looking at different possible strategies and processes to ensure the survival of IFUW. The intent of these discussions has been to formulate proposals to be put to the membership at the Conference in August 2013. While it is the delegates to Conference who must make the final decision on any proposals, we had hoped that it might be possible to reach a Board consensus on a preferred proposal. This has not happened. The Board is divided and believes that it is better for that division to be represented by two distinct proposals to be set before the membership rather than a single document encompassing all proposals.

Members will therefore receive separate documentation for the two proposals:

- Proposal One: is to remain in Geneva and strengthen the organization through actions to streamline governance, increase visibility and grow membership. This is the preferred option in the document prepared and circulated by the Executive Director for discussion at the February Board meeting. It is supported by Catherine Bell, Patricia Galeana, Anne Nègre and Jennifer Strauss.
- Proposal Two: is to downsize administrative costs by outsourcing some or all of the Office functions, with the possibility of moving a residual Office to a less expensive location. This is the preferred option of Marianne Haslegrave and Willemijn van der Meer who believe that this option was inadequately investigated in the document circulated at the February meeting. Relevant proposals have subsequently been invited from a suitable management company.

The documentation for each proposal will provide a detailed supporting plan that will include budgetary considerations and the constitutional amendments needed to give effect to the proposal. In the case of Proposal One the plan has been prepared and the documentation will be circulated shortly. In the case of Proposal Two, full information cannot be made available till after mid-May. This is the deadline set by MCI, the organization asked to make a proposal which would involve alternative plans for a completely outsourced Office and for outsourcing of Office functions with the retention of an IFUW Executive Director.

The Board feels obliged to stress to members that failure to meet the structural, operational and financial challenges facing IFUW must make future closure of the organization a strong possibility. Crucial decisions must be made in Istanbul.

We invite comments on the documents that will be sent to you including on any proposed constitutional amendments.

FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

The following items of interest from a recent NCW meeting were provided by branch representative Marlene Smith

- The “Give a Little – Help a Lot” Campaign to assist the National Office is explained in a pamphlet.
- Re the Contraception, Sterilisation & Abortion Act, NCW will be producing a remit.
- A draft letter is being prepared about the small print in telephone directories.
- A summary of the *Circular* will be given by a different person each month. Raewyn Dawson summarised the latest copy, noting items of special interest. Dame Lesley Max is the new patron.
- The Local Issues sub-committee is now in place and members were asked to indicate their interest.
- Voting forms asking for nominations are to be in by next month.
- On Monday 1st July the AAW will be holding a meeting to discuss the remits and NCW members would be welcome to attend. Raewyn Dawson is the Diocesan President of AAW.
- The UC Seismic website “Women’s Voices” was demonstrated by Rosemary Du Plessis, using her cell phone as a hotspot. It has audio facilities to enable blind people to “read” the

text. At present three young photographers are continuing to work editing and adding videos and photos.

- Beryl Anderson, former National President spoke about the UN working groups with particular reference to CEDAW, one of the nine Human Rights Treaties. She noted that, in accordance with the special language used by UN, we need to talk about equality, not equity.

Funding sought for book on the real NZ woman

Funding is currently being sought to help publish the *All Woman* photographic project by Bev Short. Bev has travelled throughout New Zealand, photographing and interviewing 48 women from all walks of life, ranging from a Carmelite nun to a sheep shearer to a politician to a nurse.

All Woman explores the many facets of the modern NZ Woman. The objective is to inform and create debate around what it is to be a 'real' woman. A fundraising page has been set up on Pledge Me - <https://www.pledgeme.co.nz/829>

Women in Governance Awards: Nominations open

Women leaders in business will be celebrated and recognised at the Inaugural WOB NZ Women in Governance Awards on the 17th July 2013, at Villa Maria Estate in Auckland.

The CEO of Women on Boards NZ, Lesley Whyte, is urging the business community to get behind these awards and nominate women who are displaying excellence in leadership and governance. For information about making a nomination, go to <http://wob.org.nz/events/the-women-in-governance-awards.html> Nominations close on 3 June.

National Dementia Cooperative

Planning is underway for the Dementia Knowledge Exchange forum on 21 and 22 November 2013 in Auckland. The focus will be on evidence and action, with emphasis on good-news stories about implementation of the NZ Dementia Care Pathway Framework, and examples of person-centred care. If you have any stories from your area, or know a suitable speaker, please contact Marja Steur, **National Coordinator, National Dementia Cooperative**, DDI 03 337 8691 Marja.Steur@cdhb.health.nz

A Global Dementia Charter has been launched by Alzheimers Disease International and Bupa. Find it on <http://ndc.hiirc.org.nz/page/39231/global-dementia-charter/?tab=4891§ion=19790>

The first meeting of the NDC Christchurch Network is planned for 30 May 2013. The Network is for everyone in the region who is keen to work together to improve dementia care. Contact Marja (see above).

Climate Change Expert to visit

Climate change group **350 Aotearoa** is hosting a New Zealand visit from one of the world's most respected speakers and activists on climate change, Bill McKibben. Meetings will be held in Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin from 11-13 June. Full details are available at maths.350.org/nz or contact campaign coordinator, Ashlee Gross at ashlee@350.org.nz or on 0272626121.

Model Scouts Look for New Talent at Eating Disorders Clinic

Sweden's largest eating disorders treatment clinic, the 1,700-bed Stockholm Center for Eating Disorders, says it has an unusual problem: scouts for Sweden's biggest modeling agencies who congregate outside its doors, persistently trying to recruit patients.

NCWNZ Wins Back Charitable Status

National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) President, Barbara Arnold, was pleased to announce that the National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) has been reinstated as a registered charity following the decision of the Board of the Charities Commission to deregister it in August 2010. "It has taken 32 months of hard work and considerable anxiety to have the 2010 decision reversed" Barbara Arnold said. "We always knew the Commission's original decision was wrong. The fact that NCWNZ was alone among other national councils of women throughout the world in being a non-registered charity was a telling factor in itself. We need to ask as a community whether the system we have in place for challenging decisions of the charities regulator is working for us as a country.... In its 117 years, NCWNZ has worked tirelessly for the betterment of women, the family and the community".

NZFGW CHARITABLE TRUST

Harriette Jenkins Awards – four awards were made in late 2012 as follows:

Emma McGuirk of Otago Branch, studying for her PhD in Anthropology received \$500 towards travel costs to the TimeBank Conference in Raglan 17-18 November 2012, at which Emma was presenting and also gathering data.

Elizabeth Liddle of Otago Branch, studying for her MSc in Applied Science (Physical Geography), received \$2000 towards Chemistry and Geography lab costs at Otago University for her research into water quality (ground and surface water) in Ndola, Zambia.

Kathleen Ullal of Waikato Branch received \$1747.30 for funding for travel to Wellington, accommodation and purchase of texts for a research article on William Morris.

Dr Sian Halcrow of Otago Branch received \$2000 towards childcare and fees in order to study two papers in tertiary teaching (PGCertHighE) in 2013.

At 2 March National Executive meeting a motion was passed to increase the value of the Harriette Jenkins awards to a maximum of \$3000 each. These awards are for members who have been financial for at least six months and seek assistance with costs associated with their study and/or research. The awards are offered annually, closing on 30 September each year.

There were insufficient funds for the Mildred Keir Award to be offered through *New Horizons for Women Trust* Second Chance education awards this year.

Awards are open for 2013 as advertised on our website

Applications for all awards are now to be posted to: P.O. Box 1713, Palmerston North 4440.

The NZFGW Charitable Trust Secretary and Awards Convenor Dr Rowena Taylor can be contacted on awardsconvenor@nzfgw.org.nz

Women and the Census - *Dr Mervyl McPherson, PhD, MSocSci (Hons), Social, Demographic and Evaluation Research, Auckland Research Associate National Institute of Demographic and Economic Research, Waikato University*

The story of women's lives is reflected in the history of the census in New Zealand. In the early days, men decided which topics or questions to include, and analysed and interpreted the data. In turn, census data was only collected from the "head of the household", almost always male.

Women's lives, as depicted by census data, were largely secondary to those of men. Women were often defined by their relationships to men through their "conjugal condition", daughterhood or working for a man (usually as a domestic servant). Where women were recorded as having traditionally male occupations it was considered to be an "incorrect return"! (Rebecca Forbes, *History of women in Statistics*). Issues of importance to women such as unpaid work were not included. Women did not get to fill out individual census forms until 1945, and the filling out of the dwelling form by head of household (usually male) was not dropped until 1981. In 2013 the relationship between the census and women is very different. Women's roles in society have changed, as have women's roles in the development and analysis of the census. The census operation at Statistics New Zealand in 2013 was headed by Carol Slappendel; and Dr Natalie Jackson is

currently Professor of Demography at Waikato University, and further, many statistical analysts and demographers are women.

Today, women fill out their own forms, and frequently the dwelling form on behalf of the household. Questions are asked about unpaid work, and marital status is no longer an integral part of questions on women's employment and childbearing. Analysis of all data is done by gender. What hasn't changed, however, is the importance of census data in monitoring gender differences. While women have achieved in many spheres outside of the home and family, statistics show they still have not reached equality with men in many areas. While outperforming males at all levels of educational achievement now, this has not translated into employment equity. Women still mostly work in different and lower paid occupations (e.g. education not engineering), still earn less than men working in the same field, particularly those with post-graduate degrees, and still carry out the majority of unpaid home and family responsibilities (see www.mwa.govt.nz/news-and-pubs/publications/graduate-income-data.pdf)

Census data can benefit women by providing evidence of changes, and highlights inequalities and the diversity of their lives today. Women now live in a variety of family situations: while an increasing proportion do not marry or do not have children, increasing proportions are the main or equal breadwinners for their households. The scale of the census means it can also tell us about rural women's lives, Maori, Pacifica and Asian women's lives, and those at our local community level. It can also provide evidence to dispel myths about women portrayed by some media, such as teenage girls being a small and declining minority of sole parents, not the majority. See (<http://www.eeotrust.org.nz/content/docs/reports/FINAL%20Workforce%20Demographic%20Trends%202012.doc>). As a demographer and a woman I am looking forward to analysing the data from census 2013 after the extra long wait from 2006 due to the Christchurch earthquake in 2011. I hope as women you too will be looking forward to hearing about how women's lives have changed over this period.

Transition from Engineering to Psychology Article by Briget Burdett who is a Senior Transportation Researcher at the Hamilton Branch of the Traffic Design Group, where she has a particular skill in applying psychology to solving complex road safety problems.

I recently wrote a letter to the Editor of *NZ Listener*, in which I described an encounter with some university students in an upper-class shopping mall in Kolkata, India. I asked the girls what they were studying. "Psychology", one of them answered. As a recent student of that subject myself I was delighted, so asked this bright young woman what she intended to do upon graduating. She looked confused, and her companions giggled; "Marriage!" she exclaimed, as though there were no other option on her clouded horizon. As women born in New Zealand, in the last quarter of the 20th Century, the nature of our opportunities are among the most free of all women worldwide. Until travelling to India last year, I was somewhat oblivious to the huge privilege afforded to me and my peers. Having met with several members of NZFGW at a seminar I presented in Hamilton recently, it is my pleasure to elaborate on my career and education to date, perhaps as a personal acknowledgement of how fortunate I am to have these choices.

It's fair to say that I enjoyed all subjects at school, but had a particular enthusiasm for mathematics and science – helped no doubt by a series of particularly engaging teachers. I thought I might do a maths degree and teach maths, until one teacher suggested engineering. It was, he said, an alternative option including maths and science; one which could lead to teaching, but equally might open up other opportunities I hadn't yet considered. So I enrolled and completed a four-year BE (Hons) at the University of Canterbury. The subject matter was for the most part far too dry to ignite my passions, but I did enjoy the human aspects of traffic engineering in particular – so I took a job with this focus. A few years later, I missed the challenge and collegiality of student life so I studied part-time for a Masters of Engineering in Transportation.

Before starting my Masters thesis, I met a psychology academic (conveniently located in my home town of Hamilton) from the University of Waikato. Associate Professor Samuel Charlton is New Zealand's leading traffic psychologist, and so began my fascination with the human behaviour applications of transportation challenges. I took a psychology graduate paper as part of my Masters (with Canterbury University being enlightened enough to allow this diversity), and studied driver behaviour as part of my Thesis; an investigation into perceptual speed management treatments on rural roads.

There is, I think, an increasing acknowledgement in the NZ transportation industry of the value of understanding driver behaviour from the perspective of psychology, and importantly, understanding that this is not the natural domain of a civil engineer. I took some psychology undergraduate papers at Waikato and have just recently enrolled in a PhD, in which I will investigate driver attention and awareness. I hope to walk this ridge between the brains of psychology and the brawn of engineering for many years to come.