



New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women

CANTERBURY BRANCH

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NEWSLETTER MAY 2016

If there is anyone who doesn't already get their newsletter by email and would like to do so, please let us know.

NEXT BRANCH MEETING

The annual Awards Evening will be held on **Wednesday 25th May** at the Jack Mann Auditorium, University of Canterbury (former College of Education), at 5.30pm. Parking is available in Carpark 1 which may be reached by going to the end of Dovedale Ave, turning LEFT, going to the second carpark along on the LEFT. It is well signposted along with the Jack Mann Auditorium sign.

If anyone needs further information or transport, please contact the President or Secretary, details above.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

On Friday 8th July it is hoped to be able to hold a lunch meeting at the University of Canterbury hosted by the Christchurch-Nepal Friendship Society. Parking will be available close by.

Last month's newsletter had an article on the future of NZFGW and GWI along with ideas for future action. Bernadette Devonport, the National Convenor for International Affairs is still very much interested in any comments you have. She may be contacted through the branch email address of thebranch@canterburynzfgw.org.nz

Trust Board Report April 2016

The Trust Board met on 27th April. Our aim is conduct much of our business within our committee structures using the Board meetings to finalise recommendations from these working committees. The timeline of trust activities is critical to this process and through this document the working of the trust becomes transparent and a full review of the timeline is underway.

Financial Reporting and Distribution of Funds

This year brings in a change in financial and performance reporting standards for the Trust and the Xero financial package we have been using since 2014 is particularly valuable here. This has led the board to considering its giving and in doing so the Trust has sought clarity in the Charities Act 2005 Section 5 and 32. Our advice is that the Trust should be faithful to its principal object, that is to advance education and research. In doing this our giving has been reviewed to give emphasis to awards, scholarships and research.

CFGW Awards

In the CFGW Awards for the 2016, we had 23 applicants that met our criteria and the overwhelming majority of very high calibre. It is clear funding for the 4th year of an undergraduate degree and any postgraduate work is a challenge for many women and this is where we had our largest number of applicants

and awards were given to 22 women to a value of \$48,000.00

Our **Application for Incorporation** has met an issue around our Trust Property wording and advice from Wynn Williams is being sought as we are assured our application is valid and appropriate.

Endowed Masters Scholarships

The University of Canterbury (U of C) recently altered their level of funding on a Masters Scholarship to the extent that our funding was over twice what was being offered by the U of C. While this would make our award very prestigious it was agreed that our monies might be better spent lowering the awards and having two. The regulations are being rewritten to reflect this.

Chair's attendance at NZFGW Council meeting

I had the opportunity to attend this meeting and an excellent of the meeting was in the April Branch newsletter for summary of the meeting. A topic for discussion was the future of the national awards, the trust board had submitted its thoughts on this in response to a circulated paper bringing to the fore that few branches remain to top up these awards. It was agreed the topic be put on hold until NZFGW has completed structural changes at this year's national conference.

180 degree project

The Trust Board sought the services of 180 Degrees Consultants a student led service that high provides quality and innovative solutions for social enterprises and non-profit organisations. Their aim is to help organisations like ours achieve a greater impact and for us more particularly with our awards

c. Goals for the coming year: Increasing the business; maintain the standard of the stock, income and service.

d. Review of Academic Dress Manager's contract and job description: Governance Committee to undertake this in May.

That the Academic Dress Report be accepted. Moved: Jean Sharfe; seconded: Bernadette Devonport; carried

Ara Bachelor of Medical Imaging Travel Scholarships

These scholarships have been awarded to Katie Boddington (3rd year) and Joanna Ramsay (2nd year).

Conference Travel Awards:

Nicole McRae Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Nantes France
Katie Collins Society for Fresh Water Science Annual Meeting Sacramento USA

N Amy Yewdall Gordon Research Seminar and Conference on Bio-Inspired Materials Switzerland
Bethany Rees IASSIDD (Speech)World Congress Melbourne

Study Travel Awards:

Nicole McRae Research as part of PhD to be undertaken at the Baylor University, Waco Texas

N Amy Newdall Research as part of PhD to be undertaken at University of Oxford, UK

Health and Safety Act 2015

The new legislation came into force on 4 April 2016 and the Trust Board is currently reviewing its obligations under the new Act.

Ellen McCrae Chair

Regalia Hire Report

After a very busy six weeks life for the Regalia Hire business has quietened down and our attention has turned to the checking, cleaning and stock-taking of the regalia stock.

On Friday 18th March, the Regalia Hire volunteers and staff enjoyed a very pleasant lunch at Dine Divine Restaurant, provided by the Trust Board to show their appreciation for the work of the business.

Our volunteers have recently been joined by Carolyn Stewart who previously worked in the Records, Examinations and Graduations section and brings a wealth of knowledge about graduations from the 'other side' to our endeavours.

Jean Sharfe Regalia Hire Manager

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN REPORT

The following items were discussed at the April meeting of NCW.

Speaker: Dr Sandra Hastie (Principal Rangī Ruru)

Sandra spoke about preparing young women for the Boardroom. She began her talk giving statistics about the percentage of directors who are women and the research that has been done looking at the effectiveness of women as directors of publicly listed companies. Sandra said that we need to build a culture of women as managers and try to provide more career opportunities for young women, getting them to apply for jobs they would not otherwise consider, as well as encouraging them to raise their profiles, for example by being keynote speakers at conferences. However, she emphasised the importance of women being mentors for other women. At Rangī she is trying to form connections with past pupils and businesses associated with the school which can be used to encourage girls into leadership. She has also established a mentoring programme and a creative hub that helps develop leadership skills.

Paper to be presented at the National Conference

Liz Gordon and others are to present a paper on women in NZ prisons: why they are there and what can be done to support them.

Other Issues Raised

There is a need to have a Facebook page for young members to use.
Letter of support to be sent to Lianne Dalziell and also to Helen Clark to be sent to National Office for them to send on our behalf.

Recently Branch President, Helen Heddell contributed an editorial to the National Executive News. Her thoughts on the SVA and the 'Farmy Army' are reprinted below.

ANZAC Day, Nepal earthquake anniversary, Canterbury earthquakes, Student Volunteer Army – autumn, April 25th – the association of ideas, of events, is a human condition – one that we are so fortunate to experience.

As an older Cantabrian, a farmer, I look around me at how life is evolving from the spasmodic but increasingly frequent upheavals that have plagued us recently – global warming possibly the most damaging to us long term - and through it all I see inspiring examples of youth leadership.

The education and development of the young brain is on an exponential spiral that humankind always trusts is upward or even slightly sideways at times but hopefully a so called 'improvement' on decades past.

My generation in agriculture fosters this ethic continually in our work-life and accompanying organisations. Our groups and breed societies all support youth programmes and scholarships, international youth exchanges and competitions. We are proud to see our young flourish and experience success.

The sporting world in both team and individual codes acknowledges the influence it has in youth development – healthy mind, healthy body, pathway forward. And so it is in the domain of leadership that we are increasingly seeing younger shoes step up into serious roles with confidence and poise. Nowhere in our tertiary sector is this more evident than in the creation and maintenance of our earthquake-born Student Volunteer Army (SVA) – founded September, 2010, stronger than ever 2016.

Federated Farmers of Canterbury along with Young Farmers and Dairy NZ rallied to the cause of our city, Christchurch, in huge distress February 22nd, 2011 and

coined the title 'Farmy Army'. Daily up to 1200 farmers, family and friends mobilised with muscle and machines to the cleanup of liquefaction in the urban area for weeks on end and at subsequent quake events too.

The SVA had been formed during the previous severe quake in September 2010 under the spirited leadership of Sam Johnson, a farmer's son from Mayfield, a Law undergraduate and a Community Board councillor too. Clustered around Sam were like minded student friends with energy and enthusiasm to rally to the call for help for their fellow citizens. The image of a laidback, 'devil may care' student community was irrevocably changed that day.

Both the Farmy Army and the SVA came from the same seemingly unstructured background with few rules and boundaries, a ton of energy, exceptional skills, some sound backing in the form of machines and equipment AND above all the necessities of life – FOOD and WATER.

These groups weren't shackled by timesheets, and employment conditions. They worked without blinkers on to hamper their efforts – "9-5 weekdays" never entered their heads unlike other 'leaders' of the city – a major factor impeding emergency action in those early days. But they persevered and as other authorities tired, the energy and resources of these two loosely formed 'armies' gained momentum.

As a former coordinator with the Farmy Army I was privileged to be involved in the core of group planning, logistics and mobilisation. These two groups operated similarly with remarkably 'flat pyramidal' hierarchy – ideas were eagerly sought and operated on from all participants.

Our Farmy Army had participants from the ages of 10 – 86 years old, incredibly fit to the far less mobile, male and female, rural and, later on, urban folk – people who liked our method of uplifting

and tackling a project to help those far less fortunate.

For me one of the most remarkable insights I had was to observe the inner dealings of the SVA leadership brigade with the realisation that most of them had rural backgrounds, obviously the free thinking 'all is possible' mentality had its roots in the wider landscape.

Our student youth have indeed 'grown up' as we oldies may sum it up but they are still the same young people with little money, little food at times, on mental overloads with academic pressures, loads of free thinking and some outlandish pranks to add to the mix. And yet they are streets ahead of where our generation was at the same age. They have embraced leadership qualities that we never even perceived let alone uplifted till at least a decade later.

The same team took the SVA forward to subsequent earthquake events, and they are still proposing and undertaking phenomenal acts of voluntary 'kindness' to those in need. The former leaders have graduated and joined the workforce while new young aspiring leaders responsibly seek roles in SVA – the vision carries on. As Graduate Women continues to foster tertiary education we can be confident that our efforts are supportive in not only academic advancement but emerging leadership too.

Helen Heddell: President of Canterbury Branch NZFGW, Rural Women New Zealand Rangiora, beef farmer in Swannanoa and Sheffield, co-ordinator of Federated Farmers' Farmy-Army and fundraiser for Nepal earthquake.

CIR Report *Bernadette Devonport*

A Young Members Workshop will be held on 25 August 2016 as part of the GWI Conference. We have the opportunity to nominate an NZFGW person to attend. She must be under 40 years of age: GWI will pay the Conference registration fee, and NZFGW will contribute \$1,000 to the airfare. Nominations close 30 June, via NZFGW – email secretary@nzfgw.org.nz

Agenda items for the Conference are due to GWI by the end of May. A preliminary agenda has been issued. It is anticipated that a considerable amount of time will be taken up in discussions of the proposed dues increase, the newly revised constitution and the policy resolutions. The final agenda will be issued mid June. GWI's action plan and budget are also available Email Bernadette at bernadettedevonport@gmail.com or go to the GWI website.

GWI is seeking contributions to the *Hegg Hoffet Shop and Fellowship Raffle*. Donated prizes need to be portable e.g. items of jewellery, accessories, books (please make offers of prizes to the Fellowships convenor asap Contact Anne Asserson: anne.asserson@gmail.com). Items for the Hegg Hoffet table must be new. They should if possible be representative of the culture of the NFA of the donor. The price should be given for each item. Note purchases will be by cash as credit card facilities will not be available.

News from other Branches

Twenty-six members gathered at Lynn Holbrook's home recently to farewell Charlene Lutes, a long-serving member of Graduate Women North Shore branch committees and the Charitable Trust and former NZFGW National President from 2006 - 2009.

Charlene came to live in New Zealand in 1997 with her New Zealand husband Donald Cordes. Donald and Charlene met at the University of Radford, Virginia where Charlene had been Professor of Biology and

a former Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. Donald set up the veterinary pathology lab at the university. In Virginia, Charlene had been a member of AASW and after settling in Auckland she contacted Dorothy Meyer (then president of NZFGW North Shore), to enquire about becoming a member.

Charlene later suggested the Woman Educator of the Year award at North Shore branch. (Marilyn Waring and Dame Anne Salmond are past recipients). Charlene has been a valued member of the North Shore branch for 19 years.

Charlene's husband Don died last year and Charlene has decided to return to the US to be closer to family. She will be living in Roanoke, Virginia. We will miss Charlene's wisdom and quiet dry humour. She has made a huge contribution to our branch over the years and we have often sought her wise counsel. We wish her a safe journey home and a happy time re-connecting with family.

UPDATE ON EQUAL PAY (*from PAC Christine Ross*)

In late 2015 the government set up two tripartite working parties of government, unions and employer groups to look at equal pay issues following the landmark Employment Court and Appeal Court decisions in the Terranova case (Kristine Bartlett is the aged residential care worker whose union took an Equal Pay Act case on her behalf). The Employment Court found in her favour, noting that there was discrimination because 'women's work' was undervalued compared with work of similar skills, effort and responsibility undertaken in male-dominated occupations. This decision was largely upheld in the Appeal Court.

One working party is looking at a negotiated settlement to the Terranova case, and the scope has been widened to include care and support workers in the home support and disability sectors, as well as residential aged care. This is a female-dominated workforce, mainly paid at minimum wage or slightly above. This group has asked government for an extension to its report-back date. If a settlement cannot be reached, the unions will take the case back to the courts.

The second working party is looking at developing a set of principles on equal pay which will assist in clarifying the rights and responsibilities of employers and employees under the Equal Pay Act and provide a framework for resolving equal pay claims without having to take legal cases. This group is due to report to Cabinet shortly with its recommendations.

The issue of equal pay is by no means settled yet, but these working groups represent considerable progress. We do not know yet what they will finally recommend, nor do we know if government as a major funder of the care and support sector, will prioritise funding for a settlement of Terranova. We are watching with interest ...

Nominations are now open for GWI's CHITRA GHOSH AWARD

Criteria of the Award Applications must be made through NZFGW. Nominations close 30 July

The awardee must belong to a national federation or association (NFA) (or any branch thereof) of Graduate Women International (GWI).

The recipient must be a graduate of a recognised university.

She must have contributed to the development/betterment of the association to which she belongs.

Preference will be given to a candidate who has designed and has executed or is involved in an ongoing project of her NFA that promotes empowerment of members of her NFA or of a group of women or girls in her society. Details of the project / the candidate's involvement include:

The duration of the project and a measure of its success

The target group of women/girls that the project addresses

Photographs of the project

Disclaimer: while every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information in this newsletter, neither NZFGW Canterbury Branch nor the editor accepts any liability for any errors of fact or opinion