



# GRADUATE WOMEN CANTERBURY

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## NEWSLETTER MAY 2017

### Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting is to be held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at the George Hotel, Park Terrace to discuss the future of the Branch.

As it is very unlikely that we can form a committee from October, along with a declining membership and low attendance at meetings, the present committee has agreed that it is now necessary to make a decision on whether to wind up the Branch.

We hope that you will make a special effort to attend this very important meeting. Prior to the meeting there will be a lunch paid for by the Branch. There will be no cost to you.

If you are coming, would you please contact Geraldine Murphy, details above, by 15<sup>th</sup> July. There will be a reminder closer to the time.

To you all,

A Special Thanks to you wonderful members of the branch who came and supported our Awards Evening last Thursday.

It was amazing to have such a marvellous turnout – you just kept arriving! And I know it put a special smile on the members of our hardworking committee to have your support too.

We have some tough decisions to make at our Special General Meeting in July so I really hope you can all come and join us for a special Midwinter Luncheon at The George Hotel (plenty of parking!) at mid-day on Saturday July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Branch is in the fortunate position of being able to host this luncheon free of charge so find a warm wrap and come! I am away in June to the World Angus Forum in Scotland, preceded by a Merino Tour in Central NSW and followed by a speaking engagement at Women In Wool at the Bendigo SheepShow in July (the largest sheepshow in the world) so I will be “over” farming by then and so happy to catch up with you all!

Warm kind winter wishes  
**Helen Branch President**

### Awards Evening

Recently awardees, their family and friends as well as branch and Trust Board members enjoyed a most informative evening socialising and listening to a selection of awardees speak about their area of studies. There were nine speakers as follows:

#### Michelle Westley

Michelle is a speech-language therapist and master's student researching communication disorders at the University of Canterbury. Her project aims to look into how we can support adults and children who are unable to use their own voice e.g. people with cerebral palsy, motor neuron disease, Parkinson's

disease, dementia and many other conditions that reduce the ability to speak. Michelle's project involves healthy children and adults 'donating' their voices by trialling a 'voice banking' recording software called ModelTalker.

### **Caitlin Henderson**

Caitlin's Masters research is on the biological control agent *Puccinia punctiformis* on Californian thistle. *Cirsium arvense*, commonly known as Californian thistle, is a problematic weed in New Zealand and around the world. In agricultural systems, Californian thistle competes with plants causing a decrease in yield which reduces animal feed availability. The main objectives of this research are to determine if there are any genetic differences between rust samples from different locations in New Zealand and to measure the susceptibility of different genotypes of Californian thistle to the rust fungus.

### **Lily Brailsford**

#### ***Assessing Afromontane Forest Genetic Diversity on Mambilla Plateau, Nigeria.***

The Mambilla plateau, situated on the border of Nigeria and Cameroon, possesses some of the remaining Afromontane forest remnants in Western Africa. Caitlin's research project aims to determine the long-term viability of these forest fragments by assessing their genetic diversity and connectivity. This will help ensure enduring protection of the species and ecosystem services that the Afromontane forests support.

### **Lizzie Cook**

#### ***PĀKEHĀ BLISS OF CRUELTY: Understanding social power in Aotearoa***

Lizzie who received the Trust Board Doctoral Scholarship for three years doctoral research is exploring White Settler identity in Aotearoa/New Zealand and is critically critiquing our participation in the social of Aotearoa; what it means to be a meaningful bicultural partner with Tangata Whenua (ngā iwi Māori) with social responsibilities that also relate to environmental responsibilities. She explores the white privilege and hegemony

lying within White Settler identity as she develops a theory of Pākehā bliss of cruelty that shapes our response to the local and the global.

### **Megan Apse**

Megan's research will explore how parents conceptualise the benefits their young children (aged 5 - 10 years) derive from participation in organised sport. Child rates of participation in organised sport are increasing in Western industrialised countries (Neely & Holt, 2014). Yet, medical and psychology literature suggests that child development is not necessarily optimised by increased time spent in adult-led, instructional situations, such as organised sport (Barker et al., 2014).

### **Quin Tang**

Quin received a Special Project Award to publish her memoir "Half a Walnut Tree". In it she tells the heart wrenching story of her childhood during the Chinese Cultural revolution and her challenging life in Christchurch as a young single mother returning to education. Quin was one of the few survivors of the collapse of the CTV building where she worked. She has earned BA and MA degrees in Psychology and as well as an MEd degree in Counselling and a PG Diploma in Mental Health.

### **Katie Collins**

Katie is studying aquatic macrophytes (plants) growing in agricultural streams. These plants provide important functions, however during summer months their excessive growth can completely take over the waterway and cause flooding issues. To avoid this, drain management traditionally uses a bank side digger to excavate the macrophytes. This practice has negative ecological effects. As part of CAREX, the Canterbury Waterway Rehabilitation Experiment, she is studying alternative control solutions for aquatic macrophytes.

### **Samantha Lee**

Samantha is a current PhD candidate studying developmental psychology at the University

of Canterbury. A Travel Grant assisted Sam in travelling to Austin, Texas in April 2017 to present a poster of her PhD findings at the Society of Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting. The data Sam presented were drawn from a larger longitudinal study, led by Dr Jacki Henderson, which is investigating the neurodevelopmental outcomes of 9.5 year old children born to mothers enrolled in methadone maintenance treatment for opioid dependence during pregnancy.

**Beth Rees**

Beth is a first year Master of Audiology student who received a Travel Award to speak at a conference in Melbourne 14-19 August 2016 on her summer research programme on a pragmatic profile of Pre-school children with Down syndrome and parent observations of the language use of pre-school children.

*Below: Quin Tang (right) and her friends. Quin received a Special Project Award*



*Lizzie Cook, recipient of the Trust Board Doctoral Scholarship who also provided musical entertainment*

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN NEWS –**

*Marlene Smith*

I attended the last branch meeting held on 18 April, at which the guest speaker was Lyn Jansen from STOP – a Community Free from Sexual Abuse. This organisation started in 1988, firstly for men, and now provides community based intervention services to children, adolescents and adults. Lyn gave an overview of the services available and then focussed on the work she does with 4 – 12 year-old children with concerning sexualised behaviour, i.e. behaviour and play which is beyond the normal developmental behaviour. Comment was made about many small children being exposed to hours of porn. It was emphasised that we cannot compare children’s sexuality with adolescent or adult sexuality.

Concern was expressed that as an apolitical organisation, it is important to be mindful of this when commenting on public issues and politicians.

Time was spent in buzz groups evaluating the new “Our Voice in the Community” initiative; the executive will consider the feedback from the groups.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 May.

**FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

**Reminder re Dues 2017/18** Our President has written three letters (see below) outlining our commitment to GWI and its aim to get women across the globe into primary and secondary education. In doing so we are accepting the need for an increase in dues to GWI. Consequently, the dues payable by Branches and Independent Members for the period 1 July 2017–30 June 2018, as set and agreed at the AGM in October 2016, are as follows:

**Branch Members –**

\$84 per Graduate Member, allocated as follows:

\$57 GWI Dues Fund

\$15 NZFGW General Fund  
\$12 Travel Fund  
\$22 per Associate Member – allocated as follows:

\$15 NZFGW General fund  
\$7 Travel Fund

#### **Independent Members -**

\$87 per member – allocated as follows

\$57 GWI Dues Fund  
\$15 NZFGW General fund  
\$12 Travel Fund  
\$3 IM Fund

We thank you for your continuing support for the aims of GWI and GWNZ. **Margaret Ellett, Treasurer**

#### **LETTERS FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT NEW ZEALAND IS PROUD TO BE PART OF GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL (GWI)**

We all belong to GWNZ because you as a member believe in our wish: To make a positive difference to the education and employment outcomes for girls and women in New Zealand and internationally.

Internationally GWI achieves this positive difference by:

- Promoting international peace and cooperation, understanding and friendship
- Supporting education and equality for women and girls
- Recognising and protecting human rights
- Promoting social justice and equality
- Promoting lifelong education to influence and benefit all of society.

Our membership of GWI enables us to contribute to this work and:

- ◆ ensures New Zealand has influence at the international table
- ◆ is globally connected
- ◆ participates in international projects aligning with our aims
- ◆ remains connected with other professional women's organizations
- ◆ facilitates education through scholarships, grants, debates, seminars, conferences and publications.

Subscriptions from fortunate graduate women like ourselves from around the globe form 60% of GWI's income and are therefore a key element in GWI's ability to achieve its aims. GWI relies on us.

The General Assembly of GWI member country representatives last year agreed to a long overdue increase in the subscription for GWI. Now all organizations, including ours here in New Zealand (GWNZ), will each year pay per member \$57. This is a small amount in comparison to the costs of running the organization and in light of how long fees have remained at an inadequate level.

I wish, over the next few weeks to help clarify why the National Executive of GWNZ fully supports this increase and recognizes that the greater the financial base, the more effective GWI and in fact GWNZ can be.

#### **International Projects**

GWI has several international projects that are making a positive impact on access of education to girls and women throughout the world. These projects all require significant finances to be implemented effectively. The projects include:-

I AM THE FUTURE: In Turkey, workshops and mentors enable girls to consider continuing their education rather than opting for early marriages,

GIRLS' CHOICES: In Kenya and Ghana, workshops and mentors help girls finish secondary schooling and transition to tertiary education. In Rwanda, GWI is working with the Orange Device Group to develop mobile apps that allow girls to access information that makes this transition possible.

TEACHERS FOR RURAL FUTURES: In Uganda, GWI supports the training of women teachers and their employment in country schools. GWI also encourages TWINNING PROJECTS, linking member organizations around the world. Our Otago Branch, for example, is helping develop a school in Sierra Leone, and our Manawatu Branch is fundraising to support the education of girls in Nepal following the devastating earthquakes.

I encourage you to go to the GWI website and see in more detail the projects your contribution helps make possible.

## **LETTER TWO**

In my last letter to you I began to show how our membership of GWI helps us to achieve our goal of making a positive difference to the education and employment outcomes for girls and women. My letter was motivated by the increase in dues to GWI, agreed by member country representatives at the General Assembly in 2016. The increase is long overdue but does mean higher subscriptions from us. For the GWNZ financial year 1 July 2017 to 30 July 2018, for example, GWI dues payable will be 40 Swiss francs – approximately NZD57 per member\*. This is a small amount for us to give considering the costs of running an organization that provides a voice for graduate women and advocates for education for women and girls around the globe.

My February letter focussed on GWI's International projects. These illustrate how GWI is active and practical in supporting education for girls and women. But GWI also has a much wider brief of

- Promoting international peace and cooperation, understanding and friendship
- Supporting education and equality for women and girls
- Recognising and protecting human rights
- Promoting social justice and equality
- Promoting lifelong education to influence and benefit all of society.

It is GWI's efforts to fulfil these aims that allow us, here in New Zealand, to have a voice and to play a part at the highest level in international affairs.

### **International Advocacy**

GWI is active in working on behalf of its members for the adoption and implementation of international agreements that will protect and benefit all girls and women. It does this through consultation and submissions which include:

**SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS:** United Nations Economic and Social Council; United Nations and other agencies

**SUBMISSIONS:** Written statements to 61st Commission on the Status of Women; 34th Session of the Human Rights Council.

**ACTIVE PARTICIPATION:** Beijing Platform for Action. (This is an outcome of the 4th World Conference on Women 1995); Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women.

Through GWI individual member organisations such as GWNZ have the opportunity to comment to the United Nations on the status of their country's implementation of Rights for Women and Children. These are the **UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEWS**.

The areas of focus in these consultations and submissions include:

Safe access to education, education for indigenous peoples, promoting violence-free family life, child marriage, violence directed against women, prostitution, trafficking in persons, globalisation and its effects.

## **LETTER THREE**

In this, my third and last letter to you on the relationship between GWNZ and GWI, I focus on the founding and still relevant reasons GWNZ is affiliated with GWI. My previous two letters have shown the benefits of us belonging to GWI as GWI operates and advocates for improving the ability of women to access education. Now I shall discuss the background for graduate New Zealand women to be part of GWI and reasons we still are.

### **International Networking**

From the beginning, part of the mission of GWI has been to help its members. GWI was created in 1918 to be "a worldwide organisation uniting university women ...(and) fostering friendship and understanding."

This is evident when you look at the website and see that GWI aims to fulfil its mission by Enabling graduate women to use their expertise to effect change at all levels;

Providing an interdisciplinary approach to issues;

Promoting cooperation, networking, support and understanding among graduate women. GWI (formerly IFUW) was founded just after World War I by women graduates who believed in the importance of educated women working together for peace, international understanding and friendship- and the need for work in these areas continues today.

GWI today has network links with women graduates from all cultures, all fields of study, all professions and all generations. It has over 60 national affiliates and members in more than 120 countries. promotes the rights of women and girls worldwide through access to quality education and training up to the highest levels. Through its own awards and those of its affiliates, such as New Zealand, GWI gives more than US\$2 million a year in fellowships and grants.

GWNZ has been part of this organisation almost from its inception. The University Easter Tournament in Christchurch in 1921 provided an opportunity for representatives of some new groups of women graduates to meet and draw up a constitution for a New Zealand Federation. This was formally accepted by the International Federation at its second conference, in Paris, in 1922.

GWI continues to make a difference globally (by helping women's projects in developing nations), personally (connecting with other professional women), educationally (scholarships and grants, debates, seminars, conference and publications) and through advocacy (by being part of a national global voice for women).

As members of GWNZ we have the opportunity network with likeminded women. We can do this when travelling or working overseas. GWNZ Fellows and Award Recipients are located throughout the world, furthering the awareness of and benefits of women's education. They also join us in undertaking this while remaining in New Zealand.

### **AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF GRADUATE WOMEN: CANBERRA ACCOMMODATION BURSARY**

The Canberra branch of the Australian Federation of Graduate Women offers residential accommodation for up to four weeks early in each calendar year at the Australian National University. The award is open to a woman graduate or final year honours student from a university or equivalent institution in Australia, New Zealand, Papua-New Guinea or South Pacific countries. Preference may be given to applicants who are members of an affiliate of Graduate Women International. Canberra residents are ineligible.

The Bursary will be available during 2 to 31 January 2018.

The award is open to women of any age who wish to carry out a short research project, in any field, which would benefit from a short stay in Canberra, for example, to use a particular library or museum collection or special scientific equipment. The successful applicant will be required to provide a brief report following completion of her project.

Applications close on 31 October 2017 and application forms may be obtained from Ms Heather Nash, AFGWNSW(Canberra branch), GPO Box 1453 Canberra ACT 2601, Email: heather.nash4@bigpond.com Ph (02) 6295 9214 and 0405 056 533

Enquiries regarding the Bursary may also be addressed to Heather Nash. The successful applicant will be notified no later than 30 November 2017.

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