



New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (Inc.)

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NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2011



***** CHRISTMAS MEETING *****



The final meeting for the year will be held on **Thursday 17 November at 7.30pm at the Helen Kitson Function Centre, Rangi Ruru School.**

Sue Yorke will speak about the work of **Supergrans**, a not for profit organisation promoting the sharing of knowledge with those who need encouragement to better enable them to manage their resources. Staff and volunteers share their practical skills in cooking, gardening, budgeting and other home management skills.

As usual at this meeting, we ask you to bring a small item of non perishable food which this year will be given to the Salvation Army in Aranui.

Jeanette Hickford will be providing music for the singing of Christmas carols and there will be a festive supper of Christmas cake and mince pies along with wine and fruit juice.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

About 15 members attended the recent AGM and the names and contact details of the new committee are on the last page of this newsletter. If anyone would like a copy of the annual reports and financial statements, they are available from the secretary.

We still need a President and a Vice President.

At the completion of business, members enjoyed listening firstly to Rosemary Baird who spoke about her interviews and recordings of New Zealanders who had emigrated to Australia from the 1960s onwards. Newspaper advertisements were used to contact the interviewees and 276 responded. Although Rosemary had a list of questions, she wanted their full life histories and the interviews usually lasted for three hours. She discovered that many of them went to and from Australia and New Zealand several times, depending on the economic situation in each country, although there were often personal and family reasons also. Rosemary visited the interviewees in their own homes and never felt unsafe. Many of them became friends, kept in touch and continued to provide updates.

Melissa Idiens then spoke about her time at the Scott Polar Institute at Cambridge and also her attendance at an Arctic Conference in China where she had an unequalled opportunity to talk to experts in the field. She has recently learnt that the Government will partly fund her salary while training for two years as a junior professional officer in a United Nations office. New Zealand has never had a junior professional officer before and Melissa is breaking new ground. However she is looking for multi national sponsorship to provide the rest of her salary.

GRADUATIONS



Helpers are required for the following Canterbury University December graduations:

Tuesday 13th December	8.00am to 1.00pm <u>or</u> 12.30pm to 5.30pm
Wednesday 14th December	11.30am to 3.30 pm <u>or</u> 3.00pm to 5.30pm
Thursday 15th December	8.00am to 1.00pm
Friday 16th December	11.30 am to 4.00pm

If you can assist at any of these times, please ring Kay Holyoake, phone 351 9738

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership subs are now due and are included with this newsletter. Early payment would as usual be much appreciated.

SHAKTI now in Dunedin

Some of you might remember that we had a representative from SHAKTI speak to us some time ago and now a branch has opened in Dunedin. The organisation, which started in Auckland in 1995, currently runs four women's refuges, drop-in centres and a 24-hour crisis line for ethnic women in New Zealand. The organisation's South Island base was destroyed in the Christchurch earthquakes. For more information on Shakti's work, visit its website at www.shakti.org.nz. You may also be interested to read *Purple Dandelion*, written by the organisation's founder, Farida Sultana.

Two latest IFUW blogs

- **Women's worlds: IFUW panel on widows**
- **Educational attainment and employability**

The first blog shares findings from a workshop and panel on "Breaking Barriers Imposed by Widowhood – Enhancing the Millennium Goals," organised by IFUW at the Women's Worlds Conference in Ottawa in July 2011. What is the position of widows in today's world and what roles do they play? Our Louise Croot was a member of this Panel. To view the blog and comment, see www.ifuw-forums.org/blog/2011/08/24/womens-worlds-2011-ifuw-workshop-on-widows/

The Educational attainment blog relates to the current situation in OECD countries as presented in the 2011 edition of *Education at a Glance*. (This covers 34 countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, USA and the United Kingdom . To view and comment, see www.ifuw-forums.org/blog/2011/09/15/educational-attainment-and-employability/

ALL HANDS ON DECK: CANTERBURY REGALIA MOVES TO NEW HOME

This article was written by Jean Sharfe for the National Executive News and it is reprinted here for those of you who may not have seen it.

On Thursday August 5 Canterbury Branch members bid a sad, and what we hope will be a temporary, farewell to our home of 30 years, at the Christchurch Arts Centre.

Many NZFGW members will be familiar with Canterbury Branch's 'Basement'. When the University of Canterbury left the central city for the new university site at Ilam in the 1970s and gifted the Town site to the City of Christchurch, it retained ownership of the basement of the Old Chemistry building and offered the Federation space there for its regalia. Gradually, over the years CNZFGW acquired the whole basement area, which has proved an ideal location for our business.

While a number of the Arts Centre buildings suffered damage in the 4 September 2010 earthquake, our building, which had undergone strengthening some years earlier, was comparatively untouched. Damage to a tower over the door to the South quad meant tenants on the upper floors had to use our street access and foyer until late January, but for us life was pretty much 'normal'. On 22 February, the Arts Centre suffered widespread damage, and while our building still had little damage we did have some damage from water and were unable to remain with the building being 'Red Stickered' For the next five months we were essentially homeless. We operated our regalia business from our homes, but the lack of ready access to our telephone and email made life somewhat challenging.

In March, we were allowed to take a team of our volunteers and some members of the 'Student Army' into the building to retrieve some regalia, our computers and some business records.

We managed to provide regalia for the University of Canterbury's Celebration for Graduates, using a school hall close to the campus and in May moved the regalia out to Lincoln University for their graduation.

Meanwhile, we negotiated with the university – which was facing its own challenges with damaged buildings and teaching in tents – for new accommodation.

In July we received the keys to our new home, a house on the university campus. Now we had to retrieve the rest of the regalia, business and branch records and thirty years of accumulated odds and ends. Our first moving date was deferred because of the heaviest snowfall in Christchurch for decades. However, in the first week of August we spent two days packing and transporting all except the largest furniture. We had great help from Allied Pickford staff, to the extent that they would not stop for lunch and we ended up passing sandwiches and coffee to them over the security fence while they packed the last load. Staff from the graduation office of the university came to help us pack, and the University Warehouse staff have been simply wonderful transporting and storing regalia for us.

Now we are settling in to our new home, although at the time of writing we are waiting for a new temporary gown room which is to be built on part of our parking area. Our gowns are still in storage at the warehouse We have had the CPIT graduation, and there are school prizegivings and December graduation for Canterbury coming up. Life goes on.

We now have new phones and an internet connection and can be contacted in the following ways:

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Branch members and others arriving to help clear out the Basement

CONTRIBUTION FROM AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER

Living wills in New Zealand

Glennys Oliver, Independent Member, Tauranga

Influences on the elderly individual to execute an Enduring Power of Attorney and/or a Advanced Directive/Living Will in New Zealand.

C Prentice, in the Herald Scotland, April 21, 2010 stated "The elderly ... a blessing or a burden? It's time we had a long hard think". Prentice, the article continued, believes there are two faces to the aging demographics in western society. One is the healthy, financially secure, active participatory individual who remains mentally stimulated into old age; the other is portrayed through current discussions on whether Alzheimer sufferers need to be tagged like criminals in case they wander

off, as so many do.

Demographics reveal New Zealanders are living longer, many well into their 80s, and the baby boomers will increase the numbers further. The biomedical model has proved a successful business enterprise for the medical and pharmaceutical industries and society by treating peoples' illnesses in an ethical manner. However, historico-medically and socio-economically motivated government-led 'cradle to the grave' ideologies now have a new focus. In the 21st century government, socio-economical, medical/health, pharmaceutical and complementary alternative medicine (CAM) marketing initiatives have engendered new ideologies that focus on psychologically empowering the individual to take responsibility for their own health through healthy lifestyle choices.

But for the elderly individual in the dying stages of their life, it is not about what the biomedical model or governments offer, it is more about what they don't offer. End of Life Care (EOLC) at the micro level is complex particularly for those who do not clearly articulate their wishes verbally or through written formats before they become too ill, frail or are deemed legally incompetent to do so. God and religious beliefs still come into the scenario, as does the powerful and knowledgeable medical profession. But cyberspace is enabling individuals to become more confident in their EOLC decision making. On-line people can exchange ideas and learn from others, private and professionals, how best to form and articulate their own EOLC wishes.

Increasingly, research reveals the elderly want to die at home, peacefully and don't want to be a burden on their families. However, research also highlights the infrastructures to enable them to do so are not as yet in place at the macro level. The challenge is to ensure these options are available to all, regardless of location, medical or cultural background, or personal circumstances.

The elderly are creating their own organisations to foster awareness around EOLC issues in the wider community and via the internet, but questions surrounding what a natural death should be in the 21st century remain unanswered. It is evident the orthodox medical profession no longer has the sole authoritative voice in EOLC matters and that less medical intervention is being requested by the elderly as they lie dying in a hospital, nursing home, palliative care facility or at home.

Progress has been made, and the elderly can have a say in their EOLC either verbally or through executing documentation detailing an Enduring Power of Attorney, and/or an Advanced Directive/Living Will. The more the elderly communicate their wishes to others, the more likely they will be heard, and the more likely they will experience the EOLC they want as the 21st century progresses.

As a mature student, Glennys completed a Bachelor of Social Science (Hons) at the University of Waikato in 2010.

From Dot Page, National President The Invisibility Factor

In Christopher Fry's play *The Lady's Not For Burning* one of the characters, startled to come upon another in a supposedly empty room, exclaims, 'They told me there was no-one here.' To which the first replies, 'It would be me they meant.' The speaker was not a woman but I've often thought that the exchange encapsulates the perception of women in much of our history – in the room but somehow not visible. I was reminded of this by a series that the *Otago Daily Times* is putting together to celebrate its 150 years as a daily paper, New Zealand's first. For each of the 150 days leading up to its anniversary in November it is publishing a full page of news items taken from one year in its past, in a sequence beginning in 1861. The series is excellent, but – probably reflecting the original papers rather than the present-day compiler's selection – decidedly masculine in content and tone.



Looking for the women, I had no luck until 1889 but was pleased to find an article then on the 'Sweating Scandal', one of a number in a campaign taken up by the ODT on behalf of women workers, especially in the clothing trade, who worked desperately long hours, in factories or as piece workers at home, for less than a living wage. (The resultant foundation of the Tailoresses' Union, the first women's union in New Zealand, was not mentioned.)

As the 1890s began I searched in vain for any mention of votes for women, although the suffrage campaign, including the women's petitions to Parliament, was strongly supported in Dunedin and its environs. Neither the first participation of women in parliamentary elections in 1893 nor the first meeting of the National Council of Women three years later was deemed worthy of comment. Queen Victoria rightly featured, however: her Diamond Jubilee in 1897 and her death in 1901 – 'Bad Tidings Spread - the Queen is Dead.'

Notoriety was (is) one way for women to gain attention. The hanging of baby farmer Minnie Dean was featured in 1895. In 1909 the capture of the 'notorious female fraudster' Amy Bock, newly wed as Percy Redwood, clearly delighted the reporter. ('The game's up Amy' said the officer as 'he' sauntered coolly down the stairs smoking a pipe. 'All right' said Amy)

Women, it seems, attracted little press interest in the Depression or the Second World War, other than the report of a tragic fire at the Seacliff Mental Hospital in 1942, in which 37 women died. But we came into our own in an item in 1946. 'Hats Off to the Women Who Did Men's Jobs' describes how the return of hundreds of ex-servicemen to their places in industry was bringing to an end the role played by women in maintaining the country's essential war services. There was 'unanimous praise' for the women posties, tram conductors, baggage handlers and taxi drivers who were now being replaced. Dunedin's female tram conductors, 56 at peak, were now down to three, and of the 30 women employed by the biggest taxi firm, only one remained and she was due to leave as soon as a suitable man could be found to do her job.

Surely we have come a long way from an era when women posties and taxi drivers were a temporary novelty, when we were (as for so much of our history) utilised as a reserve labour force, to be called on in time of crisis or labour shortage and dismissed when the crisis was over and when male job applicants were routinely favoured over female ones? Perhaps, but we can't take it for granted. Introducing the 2010 Human Rights Commission's *Census of Women's Participation* Dr Judy McGregor affirms that in a number of significant areas women's participation has stalled or is even sliding backwards - and we still have that persistent gender pay gap.

The *Otago Daily Times* yearly news round-up has now reached 1982, entirely bypassing any mention of second wave feminism. I'm waiting to see if the setting up of the Ministry of Women's Affairs gets a mention. As the series gallops towards the present, my sense is that there are still many rooms where we are present but not visible.

OTHER MEETINGS

UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY FREE SPRING LECTURES

The following free public lectures will be held at 7pm on Tuesdays at the Jack Mann Auditorium on Solway Avenue.

You can enrol at www.communityed@canterbury.ac.nz now for individual lectures or for the series.

15 November

Kicking the Tyres of MMP – what are your options in the referendum?

Presented by Dr Therese Arseneau (College of Arts)

22 November

Rebuilding Christchurch for a healthy future – is there a serious role for cycling?

Presented by Associate Professor Simon Kingham (College of Science)

29 November

Voter knowledge and policy outcomes – what we don't know can hurt us.

Presented by Dr Eric Crampton (College of Business & Economics)

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