



# New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (Inc.)

**CANTERBURY BRANCH,  
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## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2013



### \*\*\*\*\* CHRISTMAS MEETING \*\*\*\*\*



The final meeting for the year will be held on **Thursday 28 November at 7.30pm in the Staff Room, Rangi Ruru School, Hewitts Rd.**

Two branch members who have recently returned from visiting a variety of countries overseas will each give an illustrated talk about their travels.

We ask you to bring a small wrapped gift which would be a suitable for a young mother, as this year we are giving to the Karanga Mai Young Parents' College at Kaiapoi.

The evening will begin with wine and fruit juice and conclude with a festive Christmas supper.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

About 20 members attended the recent AGM and the names and contact details of the new committee are on the last page of this newsletter. There are still vacancies for various positions including Vice President, Convenor of Public Affairs and International Affairs and volunteers would be most welcome.

If anyone would like a copy of the annual reports and financial statements, they are available from the secretary.

After the business of the meeting was over members heard from a speaker from the YMCA who spoke and showed a DVD about their activities, especially the Youth Camp at Wainui.

### A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The committee have been working on the programme for next year and the first meeting for 2014 is to be a lunch at Sweethearts Café, 161 Gardiners Rd on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 12.00pm.

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to new member, Caralyn Purvis who has a BMedSci (Hons) degree in Speech Science and is currently a PhD student.


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

We do not have birth dates for all members and so you may need to tell us if you have now become a Senior Member or an Honorary Senior Member. The definitions of these according to the Constitution are:

"**Senior Member**" means a member who:

- Graduated more than 40 years ago and has been a member of a branch of the International Federation of University Women for the previous 15 years; or
- Is aged 65 years or more and has been a member of a branch of the International Federation of University Women for the previous 15 years

“**Honorary Senior Member**” means a member who is aged 90 years of age or over. The subscription is \$45 for Senior Members is \$45 and it is free for Honorary Senior Members. Please contact the Membership Secretary or email [thebranch@canterburynzfgw.org.nz](mailto:thebranch@canterburynzfgw.org.nz) if you have any queries.

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| <b>GRADUATIONS</b>  |
| Helpers are required at either 9 Creyke Rd or the CBS Arena for the following Canterbury University December graduations: |
| <b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>8.00am to 1.00pm or 1.00pm to 5.30pm (9 Creyke Rd)</b>                         |
| <b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>11.30am to 3.00 pm or 3.00pm to 5.00pm (CBS Arena)</b>                       |
| <b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>8.00am to 1.00pm (9 Creyke Rd)</b>  |
| <b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>11.30 am to 1.30pm (CBS Arena)</b>  |
| If you can assist at any of these times, please ring Kay Holyoake, phone 351 9738   |

### NCW Report

The November issue of the NCWNZ publication *The Circular* records that last month NCWNZ made written submissions on the following:

- Flexible Superannuation Discussion Document
- Student Loan Scheme Amendment Bill (No 3)
- Victims Orders Against Violent Offenders Bill 126
- Social Security (Fraud Measures and Debt Recovery) Amendment Bill 98.1

To read the full submissions visit [www.ncwnz.org.nz](http://www.ncwnz.org.nz) (Members' Area).

Other items of interest in *The Circular* include:

- A report on the National Executive Meeting held in late September
- Superannuation – Two events attended by Jean Fuller, Parliamentary Watch Committee, as a representative of NCWNZ
- Securing the Future of Parent-led Early Education by Maureen Woodhams, Playcentre, who begins her article with “Playcentre is at crisis point”. Engaging parents in the education of their children is an action item under consideration at present.
- The Legal Framework for Burial and Cremation in New Zealand – A First Principles Review. This is another action item being worked on.
- “Very Scary and Very Shaky” – Alia Afzali’s quake experience. This is an interview conducted for the Women’s Voices project.

and many more. If you would like to be on a “round robin” circulation list to read *The Circular*, please let me know by phoning 3599 225 or emailing [g.e.smith@clear.net.nz](mailto:g.e.smith@clear.net.nz)

**Marlene Smith**

### WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

This is an opportunity to find out more about the Women’s Empowerment Principles\* which are a set of Principles for business offering guidance on how to empower women and promote gender equity in the workplace. More than 500 businesses around the world, and 35 in New Zealand, have committed to implementing these principles. We will also be presenting certificates to Christchurch companies that have become signatories. Sue Kedgley, President of the UN Women National Committee, and Christine Low, from the National Committee, will speak at the event.

**Date:** Thursday 28 November 2013. **Location:** Westpac Hub, Jack Hinton Drive. **Time:** 5.30pm-7.00pm  
Light refreshments will be served. We look forward to you joining us at this inaugural Christchurch event.  
RSVP: Monday, 25 November 2013 to Christine Low Ph 962 9687 [Christine@anglo-pacific.co.nz](mailto:Christine@anglo-pacific.co.nz)

\*The **Women’s Empowerment Principles** are the result of a collaboration between UN Women and the United Nations Global Compact. The development of the Principles included an international multi-stakeholder consultation process, which was launched in March 2009. Subtitled **Equality Means Business**, the Principles emphasize the business case for corporate action to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment and are informed by real-life business practices and input gathered from across the globe.

## **TOAST TO NZFUW**

*The Otago Branch recently printed in their newsletter the speech made by Young Member, Sarah Dawson at the Nelson Conference in 1985. Sarah's daughter, Hannah Franklin is now a member of our Branch and, as she says, parts of it are still relevant today so with Sarah's permission we are reprinting an abridged version.*

My earliest involvement with Federation consisted of being left at home to help my father with the dinner dishes while my mother collected my grandmother to go to Federation meetings. At this stage, I had no idea what went on at these slightly mysterious meetings of "blue stockings" as my father called them. There has been a lot of talk about attracting more members, especially younger members. But these new members must be interested enough to want to stay and become involved when they arrive. I would be sad if the organisation did not remain of interest to each new generation of graduates.

The first aim of the NZFUW Constitution is to promote understanding and co-operation among the university women resident in New Zealand. This aim is still very valid today, because of the diversity of women graduates nowadays, and I consider it is important to ensure that this aim continues to be pursued here. I think we must continue to ask ourselves, what proportion of women graduates from throughout New Zealand do we now represent; and to what extent does what we say represent the views of women graduates. There are so many alternative avenues these days through which women can express and pursue their more specialised interests and areas of concern.

If Federation wants to remain a real sisterhood of university women and a real focus for graduates of today and tomorrow, we must continue to assess our performance. We must ensure that it doesn't become just an old girls' club, with little relevance for many young women graduates. We can only do this by making sure that our attitudes and activities are such that a greater diversity of women want to become involved with Federation. I think we can start asking ourselves at branch level – what do our activities have to offer the radical young 21 year old graduate, graduates who come from less privileged backgrounds, young Maori and Pacific Island graduates, and young graduates who continue to move further and further into non-traditional fields of work, where the power structure is even harder to penetrate, such as senior business or management positions?

It is up to us in our branches to think about where we are heading and to create an environment that will ensure that Federation attracts and retains young graduates; and remains a representative focus for all university women.

## **AN UPDATE FROM MEMBER, BRYONY GIBSON-CORNISH**

*As well as being a branch member, Bryony received a CFGW Award in 2011 and was one of the speakers at last year's Awards Evening. She is studying music at the Juilliard School in New York and has very kindly sent us this report on her progress there.*

The classes that I have been able to take are quite different this year, now that I have completed my required courses in theory, history and ear training. I have had the opportunity to focus on more specific subjects, which has been really rewarding. I am taking three classes this semester: "Bach's Solo Works for Violin & Cello," Career Development Seminar and Alexander Technique.

The Bach class has been really interesting and we have focused on the solo violin partitas and sonatas, and the solo cello suites. This class has been really useful in terms of practical application to my viola playing, because we are studying works that I perform regularly. Career Development Seminar has been a very thought-provoking class. We do new and innovative things every week, from practicing public speaking, to having interesting class discussions about issues that musicians are facing today. My third class has also had a very positive influence on my viola playing – Alexander Technique has really helped me change my posture, both in general and when I play. So, I have a great balance of classes and my schedule has allowed for me to take on other ensembles very easily.

My chamber music ensembles have been really fun this year – I have a quartet and a quintet. My quartet is playing the Ravel String Quartet in F, a piece that I know intimately from when I learnt it in New Zealand. It has been really nice to revisit it and find new angles of interpretations for the work. Our coaches for that group are Karen Dreyfus (my Sonata class coach from last year) and Earl Carlyss, alum of the Juilliard String Quartet. My quintet was formed with a violinist I met at Taos over the summer and some other friends. We are playing the Dvorak Bass Quintet (string quartet plus double bass) and it has been a great experience playing with such wonderful musicians.

Orchestra has been pretty full on so far – I have just performed in my second orchestra concert for the semester. The first one was with an English conductor, Nic McGegan, who led the orchestra in a very memorable performance of Elgar's Enigma Variations, among other repertoire. He was a very entertaining

conductor and he got impressive results from the orchestra! The second concert that I have been part of is quite different to the other concerts, in that it is a chamber orchestra and we perform without a conductor. That said, we had a coach, Eric Bartlett of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, to show the orchestra how to function without a conductor. It was amazing to discover how much control each and every player had over the interpretation of the works that we performed. I also played principal viola for the Bizet Symphony, which was an exciting experience in itself! Next on the orchestral calendar is a special opera gala, in which Lindemann Artists from the Metropolitan Opera and Juilliard Opera Artists take to the stage with the Juilliard Orchestra under the baton of James Levine, Music Director of the Metropolitan Opera. We have just started rehearsing with Maestro Levine and it has been a somewhat magical experience working with such a legend of the musical world.

On the other side of the spectrum, I have been able to take secondary baroque lessons this semester. I have a baroque viola on loan from the Historical Performance Division and my teacher is Robert Mealy, the director of the program. I jumped into the deep end and took part in a concert with the historical performance ensemble, Juilliard415. Nic McGegan conducted the performance, so it was nice to have an element of familiarity there – he had also just been in New Zealand conducting the NZSO in between conducting the Juilliard Orchestra and Juilliard415! Playing in that concert was one of my highlights of the semester, because the ensemble has an incredible amount of commitment to performing and it is a very close-knit group. One of the biggest challenges of playing with the group is that it tunes to A=415Hz, as opposed to A=440Hz (modern pitch) – this was a huge challenge to adjust to, especially as my gut strings went out of tune on a regular basis! But all in all, it was a wonderful experience and I look forward to continuing my involvement with the historical performance division. I will be taking part in another concert in December, lead by Monica Huggett, and I am really excited to join Juilliard415 on their tour of the St. Matthew Passion over Spring Break in March next year. The tour will include concerts at the Juilliard in Aiken Festival, South Carolina; Atlanta, Georgia and of course in Alice Tully Hall, New York.

I am really excited about going home over Christmas, especially as I have managed to tie together work with play! I am looking forward to staying with my Mum in her new home city, Wellington, and getting away for a small holiday over the New Year. In January, I'll be performing at the Akaroa International Summer Music Festival and on my way back to New York; I'll be popping into the APO Summer School in Auckland to give a presentation to the music students there.

I am also starting to look ahead to the summer next year. I'll be coming home in late May to perform as a soloist with the Auckland Philharmonia for their Discovery Concert and then I'll be staying in New Zealand with the hope of working and presenting some solo concerts. I am thrilled to say that I'll be returning to New Mexico, although not for the Taos School of Music this time. Ida Kavafian has asked me to be her personal assistant at Music from Angel Fire, a festival that she runs in August that presents America's leading chamber musicians in concert. I am really looking forward to having the opportunity to meet some wonderful artists and to learn more about how a festival of this nature functions.

The most exciting news, above all, (and congratulations for reading this far!) is that I am very happy that Juilliard given approval for me to extend my Master of Music studies for an additional year. In exceptional circumstances where students are doing extremely well, they are allowed to extend their studies at Juilliard for specific reasons. My reason is my age - although it would have been very exciting to graduate with a Masters at 21, I think it will be far more valuable to continue studying here, now that I have established some important connections. At 22, I will still be one of the youngest students to ever graduate with a Master of Music from Juilliard. This extra year will also help me balance the short duration of my undergraduate studies and it will allow me to reach my full potential at the school.

I will continue to take academic classes to prepare for Doctoral auditions in the year after and most importantly, I'll have the opportunity to continue to learn with Heidi Castleman and Misha Amory for another year. I am also hoping to complete my Masters with "Scholastic Distinction," which is an additional program of study that carries no credit, instead the honour of being part of the program. Up to ten students are selected to pursue an independent study under the advisement of a faculty member, with the end result of a scholarly document that is reviewed by the Scholastic Distinction Committee. This will put me in the best position to be successful in my doctor auditions, as this kind of preparation is exactly what committees look for in potential doctoral candidates.

## **FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

### **Select Committee Inquiry - funding of specialist sexual violence social services**

We recently submitted to this Inquiry, and have asked to appear before the select committee to speak to the submission.

Our principal point was that women and girls who experience sexual violence should have access to support from specialist sector agencies to enable them to remain in the workforce and / or in education. If this support

is reduced or unavailable, there are negative impacts on these women's employment and education outcomes, whether they are tertiary qualified or not, and consequent costs to the health and benefit systems as well as negative social and economic impacts on families and whānau.

Current funding for specialist agencies providing support to victims of sexual violence is insecure, short-term and inadequate. We recommended that the inquiry requires government – both the current government and any future government – to commit as a priority to adequate and sustainable funding for specialist sexual violence social services. Because government currently does not do so, victims of sexual violence do not receive the support that they need to continue to function fully in society and the costs of this non-participation are passed on to other parts of the government's budget. It is manifestly a false economy to underfund specialist services, and then pick up the costs elsewhere in the welfare and health budgets.

**Christine Ross, National PAC**

## **Highlights of the National Executive October meeting**

### **Correspondence**

We wrote to the Minister for Social Development in July about the welfare reforms and the ability of women on benefit to study and obtain qualifications to enable them obtain higher paid work, rather than just taking low paid employment. The response was that the Minister did not share our view that focusing on work rather than full-time study will disadvantage women. We got the usual line that being in work brings more benefits than being on welfare. (This is true – but not if the work is low paid. Also the Ministry does not monitor the situation of low income people who do not seek state support - read are not eligible for state support). We were also told that Jobseeker Support does not rule out skills development, and that Studylink assistance is available to [some] women studying full-time. A small subcommittee is working on another letter to the Minister with a further research-informed argument on the short-sightedness of the policy.

**CIR** Discussion on follow-up on the IFUW resolutions has led to a decision to write to sister organisations about the resolutions, and to selectively write to Ministers on matters that are most relevant to New Zealand. Publicity about the WWSF 19 Days of activism to prevent abuse and violence against children and youth is to be sent to Branches.

**Website** A system is required for updating Branch information on the website.

**Other** Other topics discussed include MTC, the 2014 Conference, and matters covered elsewhere in the NZFGW newsletter (including PAC – select committee inquiry on the funding of specialist sexual violence social services, vacancies on the committee, and from the Charitable Trust meeting, ratification of the 2014 Fellows and Susan Byrne awardee).

### **Graduate Women Manawatu Charitable Trust - Academic Dress Hire Relocates**

After more than 12 years occupying a very workable site of three former classrooms at Massey's Hokowhitu Campus, Manawatu's academic dress hire business relocated to the main Turitea Campus in July. More than 1900 gowns, 4000 hoods and stoles and 1300 hats were relocated in the process.

The new light and bright premises consists of a large prefab in a central Massey site, and though slightly smaller than the former rooms, it has been thoroughly revamped to meet the business's needs. A very enjoyable 'Grand Opening' was held on Thursday 26 September. Massey University Vice Chancellor Hon Steve Maharey and other Massey staff who assisted in the relocation joined with Academic Dress Hire staff, GWM trustees and members to celebrate this significant move.

Trust Chair Jean Corbin Thomas noted that over the period the business has been operating donations of approximately \$2 million have been disbursed in grants for women's education, over \$100,000 annually each of the past three years. She also made special thanks to retiring Trustee Mary Skipworth who managed the business from 1973-2004 and who has continued to assist in a variety of roles since then.

### **Dr Adrienna Ember – 2014 Susan Byrne Memorial Awardee**

Prior to the Christchurch earthquakes Adrienna lectured in European Studies at Canterbury University. As well as a PhD in European Studies Adrienna has an MBA in Change Management from the UK, so worked as a volunteer to support fellow Cantabrians cope with trauma and change after the Christchurch earthquakes. However, due to the stress her children were experiencing, the family has relocated to Hamilton where Adrienna has found intermittent employment as a life coach, and again worked as a volunteer with traumatised migrants from Christchurch. With the encouragement of her community she is now formally retraining as a clinical psychologist (and has completed the preliminary Graduate Diploma in Arts (Psychology)).

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*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*