



GRADUATE WOMEN CANTERBURY

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NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2016

NEXT BRANCH MEETING

The next branch meeting is our combined Senior Morning Tea and Christmas meeting to be held at **9 Creyke Rd on Saturday 10th December at 10.30am.**

If you would like transport, please contact the President or Secretary as above.

2017 Meeting

Branch President, Helen Heddell has very kindly offered to host branch members at her home at Clarkville for breakfast at **11.00am on Sunday 12 February**. There will be more details closer to the time.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscription accounts are included with this newsletter and as usual prompt payment would be appreciated.

REPORT OF AGM

Sixteen members attended the AGM held recently and the details of the 2016/17 much depleted committee are on the last page of this newsletter.

As you can see, there are vacancies for a Treasurer and a Membership Secretary as well as for general committee members. We urgently need to fill these positions so please do think about putting yourself forward. The previous

holders are available for advice and guidance if necessary.

The Trust Board is also looking for new members and if you have some governance experience, please contact

trust@graduatewomencanterbury.nz

The President's Report along with the Regalia Hire Report are below and other reports are available by emailing

branch@graduatewomencanterbury.nz

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This report is, by necessity, brief due to time constraints but we have enjoyed a relatively active year. The 'social' side of our branch is important to us all and we incorporate others as often as we can encourage them to join us, particularly the younger student generation. We tend to cluster round events with a 'foodie' aspect too! For all this activity our membership is waning and the energy of former times is too. I find it disheartening to learn of members who can no longer remain active in the branch due to immobility and failing health. Our city is not as easy to negotiate post- earthquake and several of our team are still struggling through 'quake rebuild' problems.

Highlights

Our pinnacle event is the Awards Evening in May and this was well supported and very interesting with as much diversity in the topics our young women are studying/researching as ever. Parents, partners and tutors join this event for presentations of 5 minutes in length ably supported by increasingly sophisticated graphics.

We support both postgraduate and undergraduate students at Canterbury, Lincoln, Ara (Polytechnic) and Otago University Medical Imaging Courses.

February saw us fine luncheon dining at Hotel Montreal – rebuilt with a strong Spanish influence – all very ambient! We held a winter event with the local Nepal Friendship Society and enjoyed a Nepali luncheon along with their members. Nepali engineers and a female doctor then gave poignant Powerpoint talks on the tragic ongoing circumstances following the 2015 earthquakes. Earlier this month we visited a newly rebuilt Arts Centre precinct with Rutherford's Den and the Great Hall both remodelled to incorporate their history with modern flair. Our year is not yet done.....Xmas will maybe call for a 'garden event' and a morning tea for senior members. Website usage is increasing and most members utilise emails so communication is quick and accurate. We constantly have to remind ourselves about the necessity for photos and the reports for web interest. Maybe we too will have to choose individual membership and just keep a healthy website going to foster our young tertiary women in the social sense.

The issues faced by our students are not necessarily improving - domestic violence, gender equality *et al* need advocacy from the senior generations – and New Zealand has increasing problems in these areas. We have a real NEED to stay involved in the tertiary and employment sectors particularly. Other countries pull our heart strings but there is need on our doorstep.

Going Forward

We have some serious thinking going forward - our branch may well go into recess or disband - a tragic shame but a sign of the times in many organisations. We are fortunate to have a very healthy 'business' in Graduate Women here in Canterbury with our Regalia Hire ably run by Jean Sharfe and a hardworking band of our members who donate many, many Tuesdays to R&M of hoods and gowns and then dispense same to all the local graduation ceremonies. Our Trust Board is very active too and along with strategic planning is actively seeking wider uptake from Lincoln and the Ara Institute for our available scholarships and travel awards. 2017 may well see changes as it is increasingly difficult to encourage new members and office bearers.

Helen Heddell President GWC

Regalia Hire – Annual Report 2016

The Regalia Hire business is pleased to report another very busy year with a steady demand for our services from established and new customers. A priority for this year has been the ongoing rejuvenation of our stock, particularly gowns and trenchers.

Business Systems: A full year's experience of using the Xero accounting system plus this year introducing SmartPayroll has streamlined management of our accounts.

As part of the drive to improve the efficiency of our stock control and handling processes we employed group of student consultants from 180Degree Consulting to examine our stock control procedures. They have produced a useful report with suggestions for use to consider for the future.

Future Developments:

In line with government requirements our focus for the immediate future is the development of a new Health and Safety plan for the business, to include staff and visitors to our premises.

The key to our success as a business is the great commitment of our staff and volunteers. Without their regular and ongoing contribution we would not be able to run such an efficient business and so to provide the Trust Board with funds to provide our scholarships, awards and prizes.

As always I extend my sincere thanks to the staff for their help and support, to Ellen McCrae and the Trust Board for their encouragement and guidance and the graduation staff of the University of Canterbury, Lincoln University and ARA Institute who are always willing to provide help.

Jean Sharfe Regalia Manager

Trust Board Report November 2016

This was the final meeting of the year and focussed on 2017. We welcomed Kellie Oliver-Morrish to the Board. Kellie is a partner in an accounting firm and we will value her financial skills.

Rebranding Graduate Women Canterbury

Rachel Teen spoke to her recommendation that the Board create a marketing plan to include the website. Rachel with a sub-committee took responsibility for developing this plan to cover identifying the audiences we are targeting, how we want Graduate Women Canterbury to be perceived and the events we want to be associated with. She highlighted this should be done in consultation with our current webmistress.

Succession Planning and management of day to day trust activities – Governance Committee Review

Jill Van de Geer spoke to the this review and confirmed it was the belief of the Governance Committee that the board had moved beyond the era of administrative work being done in a volunteer capacity and in particular being in the hands of the Trust Chair. It was agreed that the Governance Committee inclusive of Kellie Oliver-Morrish and Deborah Errington be responsible for facilitating the contracting of a paid person to undertake Trust Board administrative responsibilities within the timeframe of 8 – 10 weeks. In addition there will be a review of the systems used by the Academic Dress Hire business with a view to making recommendations on methods that might be adopted to effect efficiencies.

Election of Trust Chair

Jill Van de Geer was elected as Interim Trust Chair

Update on GWC Scholarship programme

Ellen highlighted the valuable links established with the academic institutes and their provision of data on numbers showing interest in advertised scholarships. Also their agreement to assist with following through on additional Masters scholarships offered. Tribute was paid to Deborah Errington for her dedication and persistence in the development of the new direction for the GWC Scholarship Programme.

Farewell to Trust Board Members

We gave a farewell to Ellen McCrae and Bernadette Devonport. Ellen has served on the Trust Board for six years, the last three as Chair.

Bernadette served for a period before a break and resumed membership in 2013.

Ellen McCrae Immediate Past Chair Graduate Women Canterbury Trust

TRAVEL AWARD REPORT

Earlier this year the Canterbury Graduate Women Trust awarded **Wendy Hoddinott** a Conference Travel Award to attend the European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools Conference in Rapperswil Switzerland from 10-14 September, 2016. She has sent us this report.



I've recently returned from two months study in Europe, during which time I presented the preliminary findings of my PhD research at this year's ECLAS conference in Switzerland. My research investigates the nature of the landscape architect's design expertise and how this engages with communities and the design of public space.

Over 200 participants from 30 countries attended the conference. The theme was "**Bridging the Gap**" and I was invited to give an oral presentation titled, *Bridging the Gap between Expertise and Engagement: an exploration of elegance and design process*.

While much is understood about the importance of community involvement in the design of public space, relatively little research has been carried out on the application of the landscape architect's design expertise in this context. This is of course surprising given that landscape architects are interested in the relationship between people and place and in generating new possibilities for transforming communities through design.

Christchurch is a rich context in which to explore the nature of design expertise given the tensions that have emerged in the city post-earthquake. My research investigates the design and public engagement process of Albion Square in Lyttelton, which was one of the first urban space projects

designed and constructed in Christchurch since the earthquakes.

Public engagement is most often focused on appropriate process and inclusion, which appears to use different decision making processes than designers typically adopt. The relevance of my research to the conference was in sharing my findings of how landscape architects 'bridge this gap' in their engagement with the public to achieve both inclusive and elegant design outcomes.

One of the benefits of presenting at the conference was that it enabled me to gain feedback on my findings given the large network of educators that were present, representing universities and practices across Europe. I met and talked with many other PhD students engaged in landscape architecture research and it was valuable being exposed to a diverse number of research initiatives that are relevant to my area of interest. The ongoing contacts will be very useful.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Canterbury branch of the NZFGW for your generous support in helping me to attend this conference.

**Wendy Hoddinott, NZILA (Registered),
MICOMOS, BSocSci, MLA, PhD candidate
School of Landscape Architecture, Lincoln
University. wendy.hoddinott@lincolnuni.ac.nz**

Report of the Strategic Thinking Session at the GW NZ AGM held on 8 October 2016

Strategic Thinking is a process of systematically reviewing and assessing GW NZ's operating environment: the current strengths of the organisation, and identifying opportunities we see for improving our organisational performance and effectiveness against our mission. The current strengths are a platform from which we can build.

We also noted areas where we would like to do better and potential threats to the organisation and the achievement of its mission to enhance the lives of girls and women through education.

Strengths of GW_NZ on which we can build:

The fellowship of women connected to the cause of education for girls and women;
Our diversity as a global organisation with a voice at the UN;
The networks created through conferences, award ceremonies and the conferring of fellowships and awards;
Charitable trusts and well-run gowning businesses which provides a funding stream for the granting of awards;
The as yet unrealised potential for advancing girls and women's access to education.

Things we currently do that work well:

Award ceremonies and celebrations (national and branch);
Awardees speaking at branches and providing written copy for GW_NZ News;
Social opportunities for networking (regular coffee mornings);
Events such as topical debates done jointly with other women's organisations;

Opportunities where we could do more, do differently or do something new:

Have all the Branches, IM network and Charitable Trusts work more hand in glove with each other and each actively leverage what others do.
Awards create a network – capitalise on this more by reconvening women who have received awards in the past;
Make more use of windows created by GWI or the UN such as *International Day of the Girl Child (11 October)* to blog or do a post on Facebook, or hold an event.
Post more actively on Facebook and consider a LinkedIn group as the natural vehicle of connection with younger members;
Make more noise about our awards and the total \$ of GW_NZ Branch and National Awards;
Use Facebook to publicise the achievements of our awardees and direct people to our *Give a Little* site to make donations towards Awards and Fellowships;
Attract more younger women, not just new graduates, but also women at home with babies, women in the workforce;
IM Network are supportive of the 'paying it forward' philosophy and we could make more use of this idea to recruit members;

Charitable trusts could 'value' the donated time commitment of members and offer reduced subscriptions for older members in return for their time. E.g. GWW charitable trust currently makes an untagged donation to the GWW branch which is applied across all members for the activities of the Branch but it could instead be tagged to a purpose (such as a dues rebate for some members);

Clarify our expectations of awardees and ask for more – such as expect they join;

Make more of our Pacifica connections through PGWNet;

Connect more with the universities and their current staff and students

We need to be mindful that:

Face to face is hard to do because of cost, planning and time commitment;

Our membership is aging and numbers are falling because the recruitment of new (younger) members has not kept pace with the natural attrition.

Zonta Says No Campaign Breakfast Friday 25 November 7am at The Elms 456 Papanui Rd. Tickets \$37

To book your place at this breakfast:

Email Zonta Club of Christchurch South:
eventschchsouth@zonta.org.nz

Payment:

Direct Credit to Zonta Club of Christchurch South Inc bank account: 03 0855 0408896 00

Cheque payable to: Zonta Club of Christchurch South Inc. PO Box 25196, Christchurch

New Zealand has the worst record of any of the developed countries for domestic violence - twice the level of Australia!

☑ 4 billion dollars is the total cost of domestic violence to the country spent through government agencies

☑ 1.4 billion is the cost of police responding to complaints of domestic and sexual violence

☑ In New Zealand half of homicides result from domestic violence

☑ on average 29 women per year are killed in family violence incidents

☑ Incidents of domestic violence reported every 5 minutes

Join us to support White Ribbon Day and raise your voice to end violence against women

Our guest speaker is **Hon Amy Adams, Minister for Justice** and other portfolios, with a special interest in turning the tide of domestic violence in New Zealand

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.

GRADUATE WOMEN CANTERBURY BRANCH COMMITTEE 2016/2017

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