



New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (Inc.)

**CANTERBURY BRANCH,
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NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2012

SEPTEMBER BRANCH MEETING

This meeting will be held on **Thursday 27 September at 7.30pm in the Staff Room, Te Koraha, Rangi Ruru**. The Staff Room is where our meetings were held prior to the earthquakes and fortunately the historic house was able to be repaired and is now open again. There will be a guided tour of the building before the meeting starts, so this will be an opportunity to see over one of Christchurch's most imposing homes, built for the Rhodes family around 1886.

After the tour, two awardees will speak to us about their studies, **Cristina Silaghi** who received a CFGW Conference Travel Award and **Anna Thorpe** who received a CFGW Special Award. Cristina is a practising artist who is currently conducting doctoral research in Art History and Theory at the University of Canterbury. Her thesis is an enquiry into the relationship between representation and abstraction, two modes of art-making interweaving with particular intensity in the early years of the twentieth century. *Abstraction and Empathy* (1908), the seminal book of Wilhelm Worringer (1881-1965), demonstrated that both representation and abstraction could foster empathy, or emotional engagement. The Award has given Cristina the opportunity to further explore Worringer's ideas in 'Inner Process, Outer Form: Empathy, Representation and Abstraction in the Early Twentieth-Century Writings of Wilhelm Worringer', a paper she has presented at the 2012 Symposium of the Australian Modernist Studies Network. Cristina then travelled to Paris to study the works of Paul Cézanne, Claude Monet and Wassily Kandinsky, three early twentieth-century artists whose practices reveal the coexistence of representation and abstraction in memorable paintings. Anna is studying towards a PhD at the Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Otago University and is involved in the Canterbury Health, Aging and Lifecourse Study. She will be speaking on 'age identity' which will include concepts of felt and ideal age and subjective longevity. Age identity will be discussed alongside the prevalent chronic health conditions in New Zealand.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Canterbury Branch of NZFGW will be held on **Thursday 25 October 2011 at 7.30 pm** at Rangi Ruru School, Hewitts Rd.

The business of the meeting will be:

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous AGM
2. Presentation of Annual Reports and Financial Statements
3. Election of Officers
4. General Business

We are always looking for new faces on the committee, so do please consider coming forward.

Nomination forms are on last month's newsletter or may be obtained by emailing

thebranch@canterburynzfgw.org.nz

NEW HORIZONS FOR WOMEN TRUST AWARDS

The New Horizons for Women Trust Christchurch Awards Ceremony was held recently at the Macmillan Brown Centre, University of Canterbury and the following awards were made.

SECOND CHANCE AWARDS

The Peg Hutchison Award: Victoria Sawyer

Victoria is studying for a Bachelor of Commerce degree at Lincoln University and her goal is to gain employment in the financial/property valuation sector. She has had to overcome her own financial challenges while bringing up two daughters and one son on her own.

NZFGW Wellington Branch Award: Mish Lasseter

Mish is studying for a Bachelor of Languages, specialising in Te Reo Maori. She is active in the community promoting Maori culture and bi-lingual language development and once qualified hopes to work in the early childhood sector.

Alma McCrae Second Chance Award: Heather Humphrey-Taylor

Heather is studying for a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Chemistry and English Literature at the University of Canterbury. Heather is caring for two young children on her own and the award will enable her to purchase a computer so she can work at home rather than at the university.

NHWT (Anonymous) Second Chance Award: Rosalie Telea-Bradbrook

Rosalie is at the UC College of Education studying for a Bachelor of Education, specialising in PE and a Diploma in Secondary Teaching. She was recently acknowledged as the top achieving Pacific student at the college and is active in the Pacific community at the University, supporting other students.

RESEARCH AWARDS

NHWT Research Award: Amy Collings

Amy's research, 'Early Intervention Literacy Engagement' will provide information on the literacy skills of teenage mothers and their children. It will provide avenues to increase the literacy engagement and confidence of teen mothers and enable them to implement their skills as literacy teachers for their young children. Amy has been a Speech-Language Therapist working for Special Education at the Ministry of Education and is undertaking this study for her PhD in Education at the University of Canterbury.

SROW Research Award: Daphne Marsden

Daphne's research is into family violence, a current issue of concern to many New Zealanders. Her study, 'Family Violence and the Evangelical Church' is being undertaken through Laidlaw-Carey Graduate College, Auckland, exploring how the evangelical church responds and contributes to the issue of domestic violence in its midst. Her Master's thesis includes the questioning of forgiveness, marriage for life, redemptive suffering and patriarchy.

NZFGW TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE: Hegg Hoffet Fund

Joy Dunsheath, IFUW Hegg Hoffet Fund Committee

At the Conference, there will be a "shop" selling donated items and all money from the sale of those items will go to the IFUW Hegg Hoffet Fund. The shop will be organised and run by volunteer young members of the Otago Branch.

We would like one or two valuable items to raffle. It would be superb if a Branch or member was prepared to donate a gift basket for one of the raffle prizes. Please contact me at joy.dunsheath@xtra.co.nz if you are able to donate a prize for the raffle.

Now is the time for you to donate saleable items. Small items which you no longer use would be ideal: scarves, necklaces, bangles, earrings, small ornaments, coffee spoons, CDs - mystery packages or gift vouchers. Price the items reasonably, if you wish, or they will be priced by the organisers.

If any member has any of the above items to donate, please contact Geraldine Murphy, phone 3833 958 or email geraldinemurphy@xtra.co.nz and she will take them down.

“Cantabrians in Waikato” research - Gail Adams, NZFGW Fellow

I am currently in the second year of my PhD thesis in which I aim to combine established areas of geographical thought on disasters and natural hazards with emerging work on emotion and affect. I am focusing on the experiences of Cantabrians who have chosen to relocate to the Waikato as a direct result of the earthquakes and aftershocks. Last year I finished the proposal stage and took a fieldtrip to Christchurch in order to meet people and see ‘first-hand’ the damage and destruction wrought upon the city and surrounding suburbs. It was both a heart-warming and heart-breaking trip, that set in me good stead to be committed to my work. I finished the year by conducting in-depth interviews with 20 households in and around Hamilton. During the interviewing process it became overwhelmingly clear that the respondents to my research would benefit from meeting each other for support and sharing stories, and also to be around other Cantabrians who ‘know how it is’. What had surprised me most was that many families had not moved before or had any personal connection to the Waikato. Most had chosen relocation out of a grave concern for their children’s wellbeing, and Waikato is supposedly the most geologically stable place in New Zealand. On the 30 January this year approximately 45 Cantabrians and one researcher met in the Hamilton Gardens for a picnic. This is highly unusual for research, but it was one of the most rewarding moments of my time in academia, that my ideas had been able to help people come together.

Thus, the group *Cantabrians in Waikato* was formed. The membership has now swelled to around 75 people. I helped organise a memorial day for February 22 2012 which was a poignant, sad but hope-filled day and I was honoured to share it with amazing people. Social research is often about being open and flexible, and I have learnt a great deal about the human spirit and letting research participants needs direct my work. My strongest connection has been through being a parent myself. I have two daughters (Amber, 2 and Baylea, 5) and could understand the deep anguish of being separated during a disaster.

I have been to a symposium in Auckland to present a paper based on the fluidity of my methods. By this I mean I had initially proposed many different qualitative techniques to gather data, but found that face-to-face interaction, through sincere and empathetic listening was most helpful for participants. The guidance and encouragement I received at the symposium was affirming and fruitful. I am also conducting a grid-access session for the New Zealand Geographical Society Postgraduate Network based on the earthquakes in order to create conversations on a national level among geographers. I feel strongly about sharing knowledge outside of one’s own University and think postgraduate students are well placed to offer and practise their skills.

Concurrently, the thesis discussion chapters are being drafted and written. The methods chapter is finished and I look forward to another meeting with *Cantabrians in Waikato*. I am also applying to attend and present a paper at the Association of American Geographers Conference in Los Angeles next April (2013). Californian people are no strangers to earthquakes and I hope to share time with experts in the Disasters and Natural Hazards departments. Without your valuable assistance an overseas conference like this would be unobtainable for me, especially with childcare expenses being a large part of my financial obligations. This is why the fellowship is so meaningful to me, to be supported in recognition of being a graduate woman and mother carries with it a particular source of pride. I have met the most endearing and generous people through my research which has been a wonderful and humbling experience. You as members and supporters share this journey with me by validating my ideas, and I cannot thank you enough.

MORE OF CEDAW’S CONCLUSIONS ON NZ’S PERFORMANCE

The short CEDAW report, released on 27 July, is available online as **CEDAW-C-NZL-CO-7.pdf** Members without Internet are most welcome to contact matthewson.claire@gmail.com for a hard copy by post.

More NZ Commendations related to:

- The Campaign for Action on Family Violence (The “It’s Not OK Campaign”) launched by the Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families in 2008 aimed at changing attitudes to family violence;
- Legislative changes passed in 2009 which enabled criminal courts to issue protection orders on behalf of victims in cases where a perpetrator is sentenced for a domestic violence offence.
- The Employment Relations (Breaks, Infant Feeding, and Other Matters) Amendment Act of 2008 which promotes breastfeeding in the workplace;
- A national education campaign launched in 2007 aimed at encouraging women to screen themselves for cervical cancer which has increased testing for all groups of women; and
- the 2008 “Indicators for Change” developed by the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, which tracks the progress of women’s rights.

Further concerns that impede NZ’s implementation of the Convention include:

- the recourse to gender neutral language with respect to gender based violence, including domestic violence;
- pay inequality and pay equity;

- the status of vulnerable groups of women, including women with disabilities and minority women;
- the impact of the 2011 earthquake on women;
- the impact of policy changes such as the financial cuts in legal aid schemes;
- the adequacy of targets and benchmarks to advance women's rights; and
- the insufficient dissemination and promotion of CEDAW itself.

From Dot Page - Good-bye, thanks and thoughts on a double conference

Let me begin my last editorial with a cliché. When I became President of NZFGW in October 2009 the three years of my term in office seemed to stretch away into the mists of a quite distant future. Now I wonder where the time has gone. That is, of course, precisely what anyone who has served a term of office in any organisation would say – the thing about clichés being that they reflect common experience. It's all been a challenge and a pleasure. I feel very fortunate to have worked with such a cooperative and energetic Executive and had the opportunity to make new friends among members of Branches all over the country. The passage of time has been speeding up quite dramatically over recent months, with the end in view and, as I write, we are counting down to conference, less than three weeks away, and hoping the blossom and rhododendrons that are make Dunedin so lovely at the moment, will remain at their best to greet our visitors.

It's not going to be a huge conference. When Janet Angus described Federation for *Women Together*, a book on New Zealand women's organisations published by the Historical Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs in 1993 to mark the centenary of women's suffrage, she quoted our membership as close on 2000 in 17 Branches. We are now down to around 720, in less than half that number of Branches. With the exception of Auckland, the closures have been of post-war branches outside the University centres, without the income from academic dress hire that funds our fellowships and awards. This shrinkage is something mirrored in voluntary organisations of all kinds throughout the country – and I believe that in spite of it we are in good heart and well placed to face the future.

The conference will be held in tandem with that of the National Council of Women of New Zealand, which has also shrunk from the mid '90s when it had 38 Branches. However, reduced numbers have nothing to do with our joint decision to link the conferences. Just as NZFGW moved its Mid Term Council to Dunedin after the earthquakes in Christchurch made it impossible to hold it there, so NCWNZ's plans for a Christchurch conference had to be abandoned.

The linkage should not be seen as an awkward amalgam born of necessity or even convenience. It is much more; our organisations have a great deal in common. Of course NCW is older, having been founded by women who worked for the vote and, having achieved it, wanted to spread women's influence from the home out into society. I relish the fact that the first meeting of NCW was in 1896, the same year that Emily Siedeberg graduated in medicine, opening up the way for women to move into hitherto men-only professions. Later she was one of our stalwart members, serving (as Dr McKinnon) as President of the Otago Branch in 1931-2.

The story of NCWNZ is not an unbroken one. The Council faded and went into recess in 1906, reviving at the end of the First World War. This second-phase NCWNZ and NZFGW were thus products of the same environment, taking their place together at the forefront of a large group of new women's organisations in the 1920s and 1930s, stimulated by the peace movement, urbanisation, social change and widening horizons for women.

They were not, of course, identical. The second-phase NCW was unique in that it was composed of Branches, themselves made up of representatives of local women's organisations. In this new structure, NZFGW played, and continues to play, a key role. We affiliated to NCWNZ in our founding year, 1921. Many of our members have been office-bearers in NCW – including our founding President Helen Rawson, who as Helen Benson was NCW President in 1940. A number of people coming to Dunedin this October have had to choose which conference to attend, so we have made it easy to move from one to the other. This double conference may be a one-off and it may not always been easy to coordinate but it is shaping up to be double the enjoyment.