



New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (Inc.)

**CANTERBURY BRANCH,
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NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2013

SEPTEMBER BRANCH MEETING

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the next branch meeting will be held at **7.30pm** on **Thursday 26th September** in the **Rangi Ruru Staffroom** (entry from Hewitts Rd). You are most welcome to invite family and friends and/or any one else who is interested.

The speaker will be Dr. Ursula Rack, Adjunct Fellow Gateway Antarctica, University of Canterbury who will give a talk entitled: **A blizzard of the worst type: diaries and logbooks as providers for weather phenomena.**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Canterbury Branch of NZFGW will be held on **Thursday 24th October 2013 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 always welcome new faces on the committee, and this year we are particularly looking for a Vice President and a Membership Secretary, so do please consider coming forward. If you wish to be nominated, or to nominate someone (with their consent of course), please fill in the form below or contact one of the committee listed above who will arrange nomination.

NOMINATION FORM 2013/2014 COMMITTEE

We nominate _____

for the position of _____

Nominated by _____
(name and signature)

Seconded by _____
(name and signature)

I agree to be nominated _____
(signature)

NOMINATION FORMS TO THE SECRETARY, PO BOX 6733, UPPER
RICCARTON, CHRISTCHURCH BY 16 OCTOBER.

SADIE BALKIND AWARDS

Applications for the Sadie Balkind Scholarship and Awards close on the 31st October.

The Scholarship which is a single award of \$6000 (or it may be awarded as \$3000 to two candidates) is open to Masters and Doctoral students only. The Awards, of \$500 to \$1500, are open to all full time Post Graduate students including those completing Honours or undertaking PG study outside a Masters or Doctoral programme. Applicants must be New Zealand citizens and graduates or graduands of Canterbury or Lincoln University.

Application forms are available from the website www.canterburynzfgw.org.nz or by emailing thebranch@canterburynzfgw.org.nz

NEW HORIZONS FOR WOMEN TRUST

These awards were recently presented in a ceremony at the McMillan Brown Centre. The guest speaker was Alex Tino, 2010 Pasifika recipient of a New Horizons for Women Trust Second Chance Award.

The following Awards were granted:

The Ria McBride Research Award, Presented by Mavis Shuker

Awardee: Sarah Christie

Sarah has recently started her PhD at the University of Otago, Department of History and Art History. Her research topic is Equal Pay and New Zealand: the history of an idea and its implications 1945-1972. Sarah completed her Master of Arts with Distinction in 2003 on a topic which looked at NZ women missionaries and their cultural interactions with Indian communities from 1876-1920. Since then she has been involved in multidisciplinary research projects which looked at: the evaluation of the Code of Practice for International Students, leprosy in the Pacific, NZ's relationship with the EEC, the EU and ANZAC in primary education. For seven years Sarah has been involved in research management roles with tertiary education settings which has given her a good understanding of planning research projects. Sarah has recently had a chapter on NZ's WW1 nurses accepted for publication.

Christchurch Second Chance Foundation Award

Presented by Mavis Shuker

Awardee: Tracy Lilley

Tracy is studying for a Certificate in Alcohol and Drug Studies (Support Work) at Wellington Institute of Technology (WelTec) Christchurch Campus. The money from this award will be used to buy relevant text books for her course, a laptop and will also go towards supporting her children's education. Tracy is focused on being a positive role model to the three children in her care by studying and doing the best she can for them. She has a 10 year old daughter, an 18 month old son and also has her 10 year old nephew in her day to day care.

Alma McCrae Second Chance Award

Presented by Ellen McCrae

Awardee: Dalice Pinnell

Dalice is studying for a Diploma of Social Work at Nga Maata and has a 15 year old son whom she is immensely proud of. On graduating Dalice plans to work in the local community, supporting and helping where she can. She is committed to Christchurch, particularly after the earthquakes, and wants to continue to be part of the rebuild and to see our city and its people 'rise up' again.

FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Mid-Term Council – Saturday 2 November 2013 (11am-12noon)

According to the constitution we are required to hold a council meeting immediately before the biennial conference (which we will do as part of the 2014 NZFGW conference) and on at least one other occasion between successive biennial Conferences as determined by the National Executive. With the shift to a two yearly conference cycle, our mid-term council becomes, in effect, an Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Provision is made in the NZFGW Constitution for voting through either face-to-face or electronic meetings, which suggests that this meeting could be done through audio-conferencing. National Executive will be holding its next face-to-face meeting on Saturday 2 November, and we have agreed to hold a one-hour meeting of Council members as part of this, by means of a teleconference call (from 11am to 12 noon). Each Branch is entitled to one representative, and the quorum is 2/3rds of the Branches. Of course for Council members who live close by, or who happen to be in Wellington on that day, you are very welcome to attend in person. Nevertheless, this will be a trial to see if we can in fact do AGM business in our non-conference year via a teleconference call, and save on travel funds.

A letter will be going out to all Branch Presidents to advise of this plan in the next few days - but we also thought it would be of interest to members generally to alert them to this proposal, and to seek agenda items for the AGM. Documentation requiring voting (such as the annual accounts, and some tidy-up constitutional changes) will be sent out with that letter.

Agenda Items: Please send any agenda items/remits via Branch Presidents to Secretary Elizabeth Eppel elizabeth.eppel@xtra.co.nz.

One agenda item we do need to discuss is building membership. In this respect we would like to encourage branches to start a conversation – both with their members and those who are not members. Why are some women members and why are other women not members? How do you keep the balance between the ‘ladies who lunch’ and the core business of NZFGW – changing the world by degrees?

One of our new members had this to say: *I know for myself – the groups I enjoy spending time with are those where we have a common interest and spend time pursuing that interest in a social atmosphere. No boring business meetings. The other thing I like about the groups I belong to is the diversity of members – we have some very interesting conversations totally unrelated to [the ostensible purpose of the meeting] fibre art, quilting or bridge.*

If this applies to our meetings – what are we doing to facilitate this kind of interaction?

Harriette Jenkins Award – 2013

At the 1970 Conference of NZFGW, Nelson Branch initiated a fund for short-term grants and suggested that other Branches make donations to maintain the fund. When Harriette Jenkins, a life member of the Nelson Branch, died later that year the Fund was named after this gracious and generous lady.

Harriette Jenkins was deeply interested in, and willing to help, women keen to enhance their learning. Since graduation from Victoria University in 1912 she worked consistently for the advancement of women's training and education

A Harriette Jenkins Award may be for you if you are:

a member of NZFGW of 6 months or more standing,

completing a piece of research or furthering studies at a university or other tertiary institution resident in New Zealand while undertaking the work, though it could be through an overseas institution,

requiring financial help with incidental expenses such as books, equipment, child care, travel within New Zealand, up to a maximum of \$3,000.

For more details and application forms please see: <http://www.nzfgw.org.nz/scholarships-grants-and-awards/the-harriette-jenkins-awards/>

2013 IFUW CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS (Dorothy Meyer)

BUSINESS SESSIONS:

New President: Catherine Bell from South Africa was voted in with great enthusiasm and acclaim. Catherine has been Treasurer for IFUW since 2007 and has a very good grasp of the IFUW financial situation. She's a Computer Systems and Training Consultant, accustomed to managing training projects for large computer system implementations.

No election was required for the Vice-Presidents, as only four stood for the position. They are: Jennifer Strauss (Australia); Ayden Birerdinc (Turkey); Susan Russell (Canada); and Margaret Tait (Britain).

The new Treasurer is, I think, the Swiss (former Deputy Treasurer) Sheila Buemi-Moore.

The new convenor of the Status of Women Committee is our own former NZFGW President, **Rae Duff**. This was also a very popular choice.

Joy Dunsheath has been re-appointed onto the Hegg Hoffet Fund committee and was in her element working hard to raise a substantial sum from the sale table. **Lorraine Isaacs** provided very able advice on the Rules of Procedure. Young member **Christine Tay** was a timekeeper, and **Martine Cashal-Smith** worked on collecting voting numbers and the quorum count. **Bev Turner** chaired the PGNet meeting. Delegates were (in addition to myself), IFUW Council representative CIR **Dorothy Meyer**, **Rae Duff** and **Sian Halcrow**, and alternates **Pushpa Wood**, **Christine Tay**, **Margaret Ellett** and **Mitra Etemaddar**.

Resolutions

Emergency resolution: Proposals 1 & 2

I am also pleased to be able to report that **Proposal 1** (put forward by Catherine Bell and Executive Director, Danièle Castle), which was supported by NZFGW's branches, was resoundingly supported by the required two-third majority of the Board and National Federations and Associations (NFAs). The Proposal 1 programme focuses on using the existing staff from the Geneva Office (rather than outsourcing administration as in proposal 2) to work on activities such as:

- building membership by for example, introducing new categories such as a non-voting corporate membership which may include companies, institutions of higher learning etc; and using the services of an advisory board made up of members from top companies that are willing to participate financially and provide expertise
- strengthening IFUW's visibility by doing more advocacy work at CSW, CEDAW and ECOSOC levels on the four pillars (education for empowering women and girls; freedom from violence, financial independence and entrepreneurship and sustainable futures), and working more closely with the media
- fund raising (to reduce dependence on dues), through for example opening the conference to non-members, running training-courses
- new projects

Dues

There will be no dues increase in the triennium 2014-16, in the expectation that the Action Plan 2014-16 will successfully raise needed income. The Action Plan will utilise IFUW's reserves to grow membership and raise income from activities with non-members as noted above.

Key Resolutions

All 12 resolutions were passed. NZFGW CIR (Dorothy Meyer) spoke in support of Resolution 5 (on Trafficking).

In line with Branch wishes we supported 11 of the 12 resolutions, and did not support the first part of Resolution 10. This Resolution resolved that NFAs urge their respective governments to enact legislation to prohibit the purchasing of sexual services wherever it occurs (including print media, internet and other technological tools); and impose criminal sanctions on the purchasers of sexual services (but not on the person providing the service).

New Zealand made a statement to explain why we were voting against the first part of this resolution and our stance was supported by several other NFAs including Turkey. Nevertheless, both parts of the resolution were passed.

THEME DAYS

NZFGW members were highly active in making the programme a great success. In particular **Rae Duff** is to be congratulated for the huge amount of work she put into organising the seminars, which resulted in an outstanding and really interesting collection of papers. (NB abstracts of all papers are

on the IFUW website – see the members section under conference documentation). The papers were particularly worthwhile in providing background stories that illustrated the necessity of the Resolutions.

Seminars were complimented by practical workshops which looked at action that can be taken to deal with the issues raised in the seminars. Here again members of the NZFGW delegation were active. **Dr Pushpa Wood** from Graduate Women Wellington ran several workshops (Women in Leadership, Financial Literacy); and with **Christine Tay** also from GWW, a workshop which explored the importance of providing quality education that empowers women as a Return on Investment (costing the economic loss of not educating women). **Mitra Etemaddar, Louise Croot, and Shirley Gillett** from Otago Branch ran a workshop on women and governance (on using domestic skills in the public sphere).

FROM IFUW – Non-Violent Peacekeeping

During the recent International Federation of University Women's Triennial Conference, Women Graduates-USA proposed a Resolution that the Federation support "unarmed civilian peacekeeping" (UCP) as one means of implementing the UN Resolutions on women, peace and security. The resolution passed and is now one of the Policies for the 2013-16 Triennium.

This methodology has been successfully used in Sri Lanka, Philippines, the South Caucasus and South Sudan during the past ten years, primarily by the organization, Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP). Teams of women and men from all over the globe are highly trained before going into the war-torn areas to live, work and train the local people in the methodology.

Last summer, at the invitation of Syrian civilians not involved in the violence in that civil war, but being highly impacted by it, the Nonviolent Peaceforce conducted protection training. After a recent presentation by one of the women most recently returning as a peacekeeper in South Sudan, a Chicago-based journalist wrote the following column describing how the world is overlooking another option besides guns and diplomacy, especially in the current situation in Syria.

By Robert C. Koehler

"Imagine if we sent 5,000 well-trained nonviolent peacekeepers from throughout the world to protect civilians and work with local civil society in building the peace." Indeed, imagine if we knew that doing this was an option.

Mel Duncan, cofounder of an organization called Nonviolent Peaceforce, was talking about Syria, the country we almost bombed and maybe still will. In lieu of tossing godlike lightning bolts at Bashar al-Assad, "The CIA has begun delivering weapons to rebels in Syria, ending months of delay in lethal aid that had been promised by the Obama administration," the Washington Post reported last week.

So our war with Syria is only partially averted, apparently. It plunges back into something covert, minimally publicized, silently lethal, silently insane: our normal relationship with so much of the world. ". . . the efforts have lagged because of the logistical challenges involved in delivering equipment in a war zone and officials' fears that any assistance could wind up in the hands of jihadists."

The aim of peacebuilding is peace, not strategic advantage. It's not an "international chess game" or any other sort of game. It's basic humanity. With an extraordinarily small commitment of money — and a large commitment of courage — we could have peace and stability on this planet in relatively short order.

The work is intense, culturally engaged, disciplined and professional. Field workers, who receive serious training before they are placed, build trust with every side in local conflict situations. They have succeeded in defusing violent tribal feuds and establishing weapon-free zones — always the long, slow, hard way, from the ground up, by working with local peacemakers and convincing all parties that their best interests are served by cooperation. This isn't easy, but it's doable.

"Peace can never be achieved using a one-size fits-all model, and effective, long-term projects that last are those that are created by the communities themselves," concludes a Nonviolent Peaceforce paper on the establishment, by widespread mutual agreement, of a weapon-free zone in the town of Yirol, South Sudan.

A group of Nonviolent Peaceforce members visited the country in May. On their return, Duncan wrote in MinnPost: "At this very moment, courageous Syrian women and men are working for a peaceful settlement.

They are mostly ignored by the world. Most of them are opposed to the government. Some lean toward the regime. They are doing peacebuilding and reconciliation work. They are establishing local cease-fire zones. While differing in viewpoints, they share a commitment to a peaceful, pluralistic and democratic Syria.”

If an international team of trained peacemakers could assist the locals and, at the same time, give their efforts global credibility and a place at the negotiating table — my God, give *women* a place at the table — the gangbangers wouldn't have it all their way. As another Nonviolent Peaceforce paper notes: “. . . in many cases, belligerent parties are not necessarily legitimate representatives of their societies.”

Duncan told me that it costs his organization about \$50,000 a year to keep one peacekeeper in a given country. Compare this to the million dollars per year it costs the United States for each soldier in Afghanistan, or the billion dollars per month that Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, estimated it would cost to maintain a full-scale military operation in Syria of the sort originally planned.

The Post article about weapons delivery notes that the U.S. has committed itself to “a \$250 million effort to support moderate factions of the Syrian opposition” — a mere trickle of spare change, in Defense spending terms. Yet that's what it would cost to sustain Duncan's vision of sending 5,000 trained peacekeepers to Syria for a year.

*Robert Koehler is an award-winning, Chicago-based journalist and nationally syndicated writer. His new book, **Courage Grows Strong at the Wound** (Xenos Press) is now available. Contact him at koehlercw@gmail.com, visit his website at commonwonders.com or listen to him at **Voices of Peace** radio.*

Landmark legal decision on pay equity

The Employment Court recently gave its decision on a case taken by the Service and Food Workers Union on behalf of their member, Kristine Bartlett, who works as a caregiver in a rest home for the elderly. She has 20 years' experience and is paid \$14.32 an hour. The aged care sector has some 33,000 workers, 92% of whom are women. Caregiver rates range from \$13.75 to \$15 per hour. There are 104 women and 4 men employed at the rest home where Ms Bartlett works and the men are on the same rates as the women.

The Court found that there was gender discrimination in Ms Barlett's pay and said that it has jurisdiction to inquire into current, historic, structural and cultural gender discrimination and state general principles for pay.

An appeal by the employers is likely, so we will have to wait and see if the decision is upheld or modified. Once the final outcome is known after any appeal process, the SFWU is likely to ask for a determination on caregivers pay. It will also be open to other people in female-dominated occupations to take cases.

This is a landmark decision for all women workers, and the Court has decided that it wishes to state its decision about gender pay discrimination in the strongest possible terms, for the avoidance of doubt. There was a view that the Equal Pay Act 1972 lacked teeth and that it would be very difficult to take a successful case – clearly this is now not the case.

HEART FOUNDATION BREAKFAST

Come and join us for breakfast

When: 25 September 2013

Where: Addington Events Centre Silks Lounge

Time: 7-15 – 9.00 am (arrivals from 7am)

Tickets can be purchased on the Heart Foundation website www.heartfoundation.org.nz

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.