



New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women

CANTERBURY BRANCH

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NEWSLETTER APRIL 2015

AWARDS EVENING

The next branch meeting will be the Awards Evening to be held in the Undercroft which is a seminar room beneath the Central Library at Canterbury University on **Wednesday 27th May at 5.30pm.**

As is usual at this event you are assured of a most informative evening as a selection of students granted awards by the Trust Board provide presentations on their exciting and challenging research.

There will be more information in the next newsletter about the speakers, along with a map of the venue and parking arrangements.

TRUST BOARD REPORT

Members of the Trust Board met on 18th March 2015.

CFGW Awards

A small number of applications for our CFGW Awards have been received and it will be important to review why the numbers are down. The University of Canterbury does not advertise scholarships/awards made by independent bodies such as ours and we are obliged to advertise on UniCareerHub a nationwide website used for advertising both scholarship opportunities and career opportunities.

This site is used by the majority of universities save I think Waikato.

Aside from this advertising I did communicate with every faculty at both Canterbury and Lincoln Universities

Conference and Study Travel Awards

We continue to receive applications from students seeking assistance to travel overseas either to present a paper at a conference or undertake a project overseas. We have supported two postgraduate students Hannah Charan-Dixon and Beth Vanderhaven from the school of biological sciences to complete part of their Masters research on fish in the Tongalatu Lagoon. These women will also spend time teaching techniques of science research to secondary students. We are endeavouring to put them in touch with Tongan Women Graduates although sadly the Tongan Graduate Women Association is in recess currently.

Catherine Grace O'Donnell Jackways who is studying LLB and BA Politics and Sociology received a Study Travel Award application to attend the ARC4 Students Forum 23-24 March 2015 in Hangzhou China.

Jennifer Crowther currently undertaking PhD in Biological Sciences (biomolecular research) has received a Conference Presentation Travel Award to attend and present at the Gordon Research Conference on proteins in New Hampshire USA.

Timeline for Trust Board Activities

The Board has accepted a document outlining a timeline for Trust Board activities this is to be reviewed at least yearly and will be referenced at each Trust Board meeting.

Strategic Plan

We affirmed our commitment to continue working to the stated vision, mission, values and strategic goals in the current year.

Hardship Grants

Members will be aware that the Trust provides money to be utilised at the discretion of staff at the Student Health and Welfare services at Canterbury and Lincoln Universities respectively. These funds are well utilised and provide a valuable resource when the cost of health needs can be put beyond the reach of some students.

Ellen McCrae Chair

REGALIA HIRE REPORT

The focus of the Regalia Hire business for the last few weeks has been on graduations. Canterbury University graduations are being held this week followed by Lincoln University next week. A successful CPIT graduation was held in late March with almost 900 graduands. This was the largest graduation ever for CPIT and quite a challenge.

Jean Sharfe, Regalia Manager

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN REPORT

I attended the March branch meeting held at Dovedale Village, College of Education. A new venue is being sought for meetings from June onwards.

There was no speaker. Instead, members were asked to complete a questionnaire about the Victoria Square redesign. The results will be collated to form a submission. At the March meeting members were unanimous that the present layout should not be changed. The AGM will be held on 19th May and the guest speaker will be the Deputy Auditor General, Philippa Smith. It was suggested that she be asked to speak on the topic: *Charitable Trusts – What is their Role?*

Emails & Correspondence:

- Fwd – Food Resilience Network Hui at WEA on 29 March
- From National Office – Media Release – Roastbusters Issue wider than the Individual Police Officer Practice
- Fwd – Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch re talk at WEA on 8 April 7:30 – 9pm
- Fwd – Consultation on Environment Canterbury's proposed work programme for next 10 years – open until 13 April

- Fwd – Public Forum on Victoria Square at Knox Church 31 March
- Action Item – Parliament's response to future national emergencies – response by 15 May
- Invitation to join NCWNZ's facebook group
- Fwd – April COSS News
- Fwd – BPWNZ – Leadership Forum at Rydges Latimer 2nd May 1:30 – 5pm.
- Agendas, Minutes and *Circulars*

Marlene Smith, Branch NCW Representative

Message from IFUW:

It is with great pleasure that we announce that the name change from IFUW to Graduate Women International (GWI) has been approved by a large (70%) majority. 67 of 91 NFA delegates voted, and the six board members, representing 73% of the voting body. A total of 73 votes were cast, with 50 voting in favour of the name change, 21 voting against, and 2 abstentions.

To the Board, it is a signal that the organisation is supportive of the changes we are implementing and that the membership is beginning to look to a brighter future.

We shall be publicly launching the new name at the same time as we launch the first Conference call.

FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE NEWS

Report of the face-to-face meeting of the National Executive held in March

The meeting opened with a discussion on the future of NZFGW, based on various papers, particularly the key points for action and follow up in our revised strategic plan, and our plan for progressing the IFUW (now GWI) 'Manifesto for Education of all Girls and Women'.

We agreed our tag line: 'Changing the world by Degrees' is still both relevant and catchy.

We see our value proposition is to:

- Provide scholarships for women (at National level, particularly for post-doctoral research, and at branch level at all stages including secondary-school, second chance education, women entering trade training, and for

research on issues relevant to women and girls in New Zealand etc)

- Advocate on policies and issues affecting the education of girls and women (this is principally in NZ but also in the near Pacific. We also aim to draw attention to international campaigns such as supporting the education of girls and women in Rwanda).

We can see that in time we are likely to be an organisation of independent members, some of whom may also belong to a Branch. As we move in this direction the National body should attempt to have a relationship with all members of NZFGW and work to attract more independent members. This requires improved communication and targeting (for example women who may support our causes such as funding Fellowships, while not necessarily wishing to join). We should target intermediary organisations which might give us access to the group of women we are wanting to target e.g. meetings of Alumni organisations of each of the Universities.

GWJ's Education for all manifesto: we will review the 40 areas of focus to assess the highest priority areas for our own focus.

Financial Planning

- Membership dues for 2016/17 will remain unchanged
- The bequest from Dame Dorothy Winstone is to be used for scholarships and in particular the Susan Byrne Memorial Award Fund.
- The GWW untagged donation will also be used for the Susan Byrne Memorial Award Fund.
- Bequests are to be encouraged and our Treasurer is drafting suitable wording for the website.

Awards event The support of Otago Branch is being sought for the next awards event.

2016 Conference based on 2014 experience preference is:

- for a one day event timed such that people do not have to stay overnight;
- that Conference is tagged to a specific women and girls education issue/ making progress on that issue;
- that in principle we should plan to open the event to non-members;

- that the Conference be held in the regions.

Succession planning

- Vivienne Bryner has agreed to Shadow Rowena as Awards Convenor/Charitable Trust secretary
- Amanda Taylor has agreed to take on website / facebook from Vivienne
- Shadows are needed for the role of PAC and CIR for 2017 9i.e. in 2016)
- VP and Membership Officer Jan Tan will stand down at end of 2016 creating vacancies for these roles. *Dr Ann Pomeroy President*

The National Association of WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION (NAWIC)

On a recent visit to the Wellington City Library I came across a photo exhibition advertising this not-for-profit organisation which supports and promotes women in the construction industry. NAWIC was founded in Texas in 1952 by a group of 16 women. Since then it has grown to be an international organisation with groups in the USA, UK, Canada, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand. NAWIC New Zealand has been active in Wellington since 1996, and has recently established chapters in Auckland and Canterbury. Its members include quantity surveyors, project managers, suppliers, planners, designers, architects, engineers, tradespeople and lawyers.

According to its blurb, NAWIC encourages women to pursue, establish and sustain successful careers in the construction industry. Its vision is to be the leading voice for women in the New Zealand construction industry. It holds regular events to inform and up-skill women in construction and to promote networking and information sharing for the betterment of the construction industry as a whole.

On 7 May 2015 it will celebrate the inaugural Hays National Association of Women in Construction Excellence Awards. Entry for this year's awards closes on 9 April 2015 at 9:00pm go to <http://www.nawic.org.nz/excellence-awards-2015>

For further information email info@nawic.org.nz

Ann Pomeroy

OTHER MEETINGS

The Friends of the Ngaio Marsh House are offering an encore

ANOTHER BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR NGAIO AND THE BARD

An hour of fun and laughter at Christ's College Old
Boy's Theatre,

Thursday 23rd April at 6.00 -7.30pm.

Readers' Theatre and Emerging Young Talent.

Cost \$25 for Performance, Wine and Nibbles

Tickets: Philippa Bates

philbates@paradise.net.nz or phone 358 8763

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