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NEWSLETTER MAY 2014

ANNUAL AWARDS EVENING

The next meeting which is our Annual Awards Evening will take place on **Wednesday 28th May at St Barnabas's Church Hall, Tui St (off Fendalton Rd) at 7.30pm.**

This is the most important branch meeting of the year and your chance to hear about the research and studies of some of those whom the Trust Board have considered worthy of an award over the past year. As in previous years there will be a wide range of topics and you are assured of a most informative and educational evening. We do hope branch members will come along and support those highly enthusiastic and knowledgeable young people. There will be an opportunity to chat with the speakers and other awardees and their families over supper.

REPORT OF APRIL MEETING

Last month a group of about 20 members and guests enjoyed a talk by Samantha Kenneth-Ny, the Yevres exchange student. Samantha (below) was introduced by Glynn Strange, who runs the School for Young Writers which sponsors the exchange, and she gave in English the talk she had given in French in France last year. Unfortunately Eva Conforto, her exchange partner from France was unable to be present so Samantha delivered her talk as well. This contained a fascinating account of the lives of the villagers in Yevres during

WW2 and how they supported the Allied soldiers' camp and kept it hidden from the Germans at great risk to their lives.



Yevres Exchange Student, Samantha Kennett-Nye addresses the meeting.



Lunch for members and guests.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S VISIT

The Branch was privileged to receive a short visit recently from Ann Pomeroy who was in Christchurch on business. Ann came to the CBS Arena where she met a number of members who were working on the return of regalia from the Canterbury University graduations and was most interested in comparing Canterbury's regalia hire methods with those of her own Wellington Branch. Ann was also able to meet for the first time branch President, Bernadette and the two of them had a fruitful discussion which resulted in Bernadette agreeing to take on the role of Convenor of International Relations (CIR) in the next National Executive.

NATIONAL REVIEW OF PROGRESS ON THE STATUS OF EDUCATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN NEW ZEALAND

In response to the request of national office, the Canterbury Branch of New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women agreed to participate in the United Nations-led twenty year review of progress on the education of women and girls in member countries, as per the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action. Because our Branch has no track record of research or expertise in education we decided to confine ourselves to a small subset of the area of education and women. We decided to focus on the Emerging Priorities section of the review and to consider only women in postgraduate education in the Canterbury community.

Methodology

We approached the four major tertiary education institutions in Christchurch – University of Canterbury, Lincoln University, University of Otago Christchurch Clinical School and Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology. We asked them for information on the percentage of postgraduates who were female in the past five years; estimated figures for the coming years; and percentage of female academic staff. We also contacted recipients of our awards and invited their comments on their experiences as postgraduate students. Finally, we held a branch meeting and discussed the findings.

CPIT does not undertake postgraduate education and ignored our request for information on their female staff. The Christchurch Clinical School, at the time of writing this draft, has not responded. The University of Canterbury and Lincoln University did respond to our request. The questions we asked of awardees and our members were based on the educational objectives from the Beijing Declaration. We had a response from four awardees and ten members.

Note: The data collected from the education institutions in Canterbury must be considered in the light of the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes, which have had a profound effect on enrolment levels.

Findings

As expected we did not learn anything new. The data we collected and the anecdotal evidence from our branch members and awardees confirmed what we already knew- that there is equal access to postgraduate education for women in Canterbury but women feel that they have fewer

advantages than their male colleagues. That is, the situation could be better.

The data from the two universities shows little change in the past five years in the percentage of women undertaking post graduate education. This is in spite of the Christchurch earthquakes. The percentage of women postgraduates is also respectable and generally on a par with that of males in postgraduate education. However, the figures for those studying in STEM remain lower than for All Subjects, indicating that women are concentrated in subject areas such as social sciences. This is a concern because employment prospects are not as certain in non-STEM areas of the economy. The New Zealand Government, for example, currently considers subjects other than mathematics, engineering and the 'hard' sciences as less valuable to the economic future of New Zealand and they are funding research and development accordingly.

Young women continue to favour studying in traditional, non-STEM, areas. From the anecdotal evidence this appears to be a consequence of social attitudes here in New Zealand where girls are encouraged to focus on social sciences and don't feel able to engage in science and maths at school. Even though the tertiary institutions actively go into schools to encourage girls to consider STEM and schools themselves try to boost numbers in these areas, progress is disappointing. The effects of years of social attitudes continue to outweigh these efforts.

Another concern from anecdotal and other evidence (educationcounts.govt.nz) on women in postgraduate education is that women postgraduates have a lower rate of employment and a lower rate of hourly wages. This may be one consequence of the public and private

sectors favouring science and engineering but we also note the effects of cultural factors- in particular the effects of women taking time out from paid employment to have children.

Recommendations

It is possible to change social attitudes, and we feel that government can lead this, as evidenced by social changes to drink driving and smoking. Here government policy has been used to effect change with significant success. More measures are needed from the government along these lines to increase the number of women undertaking postgraduate research in STEM.

Such measures could include-

- Changing student loan regulations to make it possible and easier for women to undertake postgraduate study in STEM. This could mean higher allowances in these areas or at least restoring postgraduate student allowances.
- Improving childcare provisions in tertiary education for students undertaking postgraduate study.
- Providing more flexible working arrangements in the public sector and producing policies that direct the private sector to follow. This will enable women to have careers while allowing them to take time to attend to family matters- and this includes caring for older family as well as children. The government should again lead by example and address issues that include the gap in entrance pay levels and opportunities for advancement within the public sector.

Furthermore, the government needs to acknowledge that one of the advantages of postgraduate study is the ability to undertake research and not only in STEM subjects. New ideas and thinking do have value financially and economically and New Zealand can only benefit from these. Tertiary

institutions are struggling financially; staffing is becoming more tenuous, making it even more difficult for women to obtain employment.

TRUST BOARD REPORT

This year a subcommittee of Judy Brooks, Ngaio Francis and Hilary Stubbs made recommendations to the Board members on the recipient and value of the CFGW Awards for 2014. The quality of the applicants was high and the recommendations of the subcommittee were adopted. Those granted awards and their degree courses are as follows.

CFGW AWARDS 2014

Category 1 Mature Student Award

Jeanna Marie Rodgers, Grad Dip.

Category 2 Undergraduate Award for 3rd or subsequent year of study

Sarah Askey, BA Hons, Rebecca Boyers, BA, Roseanna Grundy, BE Hons, Emily Peach, BA/BSc, Hazel Swanson, BForSc, Simone Templeton, BSc, Justine Waterson, BSc

Category 3 Post-graduate Award for Honours at 400 Level

Sarah Cragg, MPA, Roseanna Gamlen-Greene, BSc, Joanna Pawson, MSc

Category 4 Post-graduate Award for Masters Course

Della Bennet, MSc, Sophia Hunt, MSc, Eugenia Wright, MCom

Post-graduate Award for PhD Course

Katherine Donovan, Rachel North, Caralyn Purvis

Judy, Ngaio and Hilary are working on the regulations and forms associated with our awards alongside the assessment form which was trialled with the latest group of applicants.

Endowment Scholarships

We have now clarified with the University the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (Inc.) Canterbury Branch endowment scholarships to include the Doctoral Scholarship, the Masters Scholarship and the Bachelor/Hons Scholarship. The university is honouring the Capital Gift given in respect of each scholarship. The regulations relating to the Masters scholarship have been brought in line with those of the University of Canterbury Master's Scholarship.

Relationship with the University of Canterbury and Hire of Premises

In the latest report the Academic Dress Hire Premises sub committee of Jean Sharfe, Bernadette Devonport and Marlene Smith have made a recommendation that the Trust Board look to develop a memorandum of understanding with the University of Canterbury both in respect of Hire of Academic Dress and use of premises. A similar Memorandum of Understanding should be pursued with other institutions hiring Academic Dress such as Lincoln University and CPIT

Ellen McCrae, Chair Trust Board

FROM IFUW

New Zealand featured recently in two articles in the IFUW newsletter, an obituary of Dame Dorothy Winstone and a report of the national Awards Evening held at Old Government House in Auckland.

DAME DOROTHY WINSTONE

New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (NZFGW) is sad to announce that Dame Dorothy Winstone passed away on Thursday 3 April 2014. Dame Winstone had a remarkable life of contribution to NZFGW, National Council of Women New Zealand, University of Auckland, her church and her wide circle of friends locally, nationally and internationally. She was a wonderful woman who supported IFUW, NZFGW, local branches, and VGIF over many decades. She will be missed for her wise advice and strong commitment to our organisations and many others in Auckland and New Zealand.

New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women Engage Young Members at their Awards Evening

On the eve of International Women's Day, the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (NZFGW) held an awards evening to recognise their 2013 and 2014 scholarship awardees studying at the University of Auckland, the University of Waikato and Massey University. The enthusiasm of the awardees, their proud parents and supervisors revealed that the event was greatly appreciated and should become a regular feature of the NZFGW

year. The awardees enjoyed meeting each other and networking. The NZFGW Charitable Trust Fellows are honorary members of the association for the year of their scholarship. This is a great way to engage young members and get them involved in NZFGW work so that we can build sustainable and long-lasting organisations. If you have an initiative to engage younger members please email it to Caroline Staffell, cs@ifuw.org. Join the discussion on engaging young women in our associations on LinkedIn.

FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE The NZFGW Charitable Trust

Over the past few years, the amount that NZFGW Charitable Trust has been able to provide for the national awards dropped significantly as the result of investments in a finance company during the global economic crisis. We have been able to significantly increase our awards in the last two years with \$98,000 donated in the 2012-2013 financial year and \$167,600 in the 2013-2014 year.

Donations to the awards administered by the NZFGW Charitable Trust from Branches and Branch Charitable Trusts vary according to mea

Branch	Total to year ending 30.06.2013	NZFGW Fellowships	Harriette Jenkins Award	Susan Byrne Memorial Award	Mildred Keir Second chance ed.	
Canterbury	\$18,000	\$15,000	\$3,000			
Manawatu	\$22,000	\$20,000	\$2,000			
Nelson	\$200		\$200			
North Shore	\$10,100	\$10,100				
Otago	\$18,000	\$12,500	\$3000		\$2500	
Waikato	\$10,000			\$5000	\$5000	
Wellington	\$53,000	\$50,000	\$3,000			
Totals	\$131,100	\$107,600	\$11,200	\$5000	\$7500	\$131,300

Source: Lyn Howe, Treasurer NZFGW Charitable Trust Board

We urge all Branches and Charitable Trusts to consider increasing their donations to the scholarships and awards already set up. We are disappointed that we are not able to offer the Susan Byrne Memorial Award this year due to shortage of funds, yet we had a large field of 38 applications for this award last year, many of a very high standard. We have been setting up an improved applications process by moving to online applications, similar to the website now used by New Horizons for Women Trust. To this end, the Scholarships and Awards page of our NZFGW website will be changed from 1 April to enable The Scholarships and Awards home page is set up under three banners for online applications:

Post Graduate Awards
Members' Only Awards
Career Change Awards

plus a banner for **Branch Awards** which will link though to the current list online.

Not only will the online applications ease the administration load of the Awards Convenor, it brings our site in line with the way job applications are submitted these days as well as other scholarships and awards applications. It could be possible to link significant Branch awards through to the redeveloped Scholarships and Awards home page for greatly visibility.

This is therefore an appropriate time for Branches, their Charitable Trusts and individual members to review their donations in light of the website developments, the prestige of the national awards and the energy generated by the Awards Evening.
Rowena Taylor Awards Convenor 2012-2014

FROM THE NATIONAL SECRETARY (Elizabeth Eppel)

You will be aware that preparations are now well underway for the **Biennial Conference of NZFGW: WOMEN EMPOWERING WOMEN AS LEADERS**, which will be held at the Rydges Hotel, 75 Featherston Street, Pipitea, WELLINGTON on **26 - 28 SEPTEMBER 2014**

The current Constitution and Rules of NZFGW state that there will be a Biennial Council meeting consisting of the members of the National Executive and one representative from each Branch of NZFGW. The Council is to meet immediately before each Biennial Conference and to report to the Conference. The Council is also to meet once in between Conference meetings and in the period since the 2012 Conference that meeting occurred via teleconference on 2 November 2013. A notice of Business to be conducted at the Council Meeting (now following the pattern of the November 2013 meeting called an AGM), must be circulated at least 28 days prior to the meeting.

Advance Notice of NZFGW AGM 2014

One of the concerns of National Executive is ensure that both the AGM (Council) and Conference meetings are conducted in the most efficient and expeditious way possible, the next Council meeting will again be held via teleconference on 6 September 2014, 11am-12.30pm (the usual meeting day of National Exec immediately prior to the NZFGW Conference). Holding a teleconference call prior to the Conference aims to remove unnecessary repetition between Council and Conference and ensure time spent on business at Conference is used as effectively as possible.

Among the matters that will need to be agreed by the AGM is the Remits that are to be referred to conference. Therefore to enable the agenda for the AGM to be constructed, and also to inform how much time might be needed at Conference for the discussion of Remits, the National Executive is now asking Branches to put forward any Remits they would like to see considered by the AGM/Council Meeting and voted on at Conference.

Scope of Remits

Remits for conference must **fall within the scope of NZFGW's mandate**. That is they must relate to the education of girls and women to enable them to achieve their potential. Branches are asked to consider any Remits they wish to have brought to Conference and to submit these to the National Secretary **by 15 June 2014**:

elizabeth.eppel@xtra.co.nz

Canterbury Branch is working on a remit on Student Loans and if any member wishes to contribute to this or has any suggestions for other remits please contact Bernadette Devonport as soon as possible.

MORE FROM IFUW

Make 2016 the European Year to End Violence against Women and Girls!

The European Union has no binding legislation on violence against women. This is important because violence against women affects approximately 45 per cent of women across Europe. IFUW's regional group, University Women of Europe (UWE), has signed a petition by the European Women's Lobby for a European year of violence against women. UWE lobbies in the European Parliament and is a member of the executive board of the European Women's Lobby. We encourage you to read more and sign the petition.

From Canada:

Following their presentation at the IFUW conference last year on University Women Helping Afghan Women, Hally Siddons, Convener, Canadian Federation of University Women-Ottawa writes that their project is now on Facebook (search UWHAW Facebook).

<http://cfuw-ottawa.org/Default.aspx?pageId=1293931> She says:

Our goal is to make this site a useful and convenient way to share information about the status of women in Afghanistan and about the programs and events of our study and interest group. In this latter regard, we will be leading a Parallel Session at the March UN Commission on the Status of Women Forum 2014 in New York. Perhaps our proudest accomplishment continues to be that we are able to raise sufficient funds to provide scholarships for ten young women studying at the Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education in Kabul. These women are eager to earn a university degree so that they can contribute to the rebuilding of their country and the support of their families.

"Until hiring and promotion practices change, women can 'lean in' all they like, graduate in record numbers from top universities, and dominate buying decisions--but they still are much less likely to make it to the top," read more at:

<http://www.inc.com/will-yakowicz/how-to-help-end-gender-bias-while-hiring.html>

When asked about leadership traits you should have to reach the top, one woman answered: "we can do better by focusing on what our communities

and institutions need from each of us, what strengths we each bring to the table and how we work collectively to lead towards the future”.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michele-nealonwoods/what-women-leaders-bring-to-the-table_b_4945040.html

**THE CHRISTCHURCH ART SHOW
OPENING NIGHT
7.30PM THURSDAY 19TH JUNE**

The Christchurch Art Show is the new art show in town and it debuts 7.30pm to 9.30pm at the Events Centre, Wigram Air Force Museum. There is a variety of wonderful original works available from a range of talented New Zealand artists. This is an exclusive opportunity to preview and buy art before the public viewings on the weekend show days. Be treated to a night out with the Christchurch Art Show’s closest friends and be present for the Christchurch Art Show’s awards announcements.

Tickets for Opening Awards Night on sale now!
Book online: www.chchartshow.co.nz.
For more information please contact us at tickets@chchartshow.co.nz

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