



New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women

CANTERBURY BRANCH

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NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2014

CHRISTMAS BRANCH MEETING

This year we have decided to combine the usual November meeting and the Senior Morning Tea, which is normally held on the first Saturday in December, and hold a special Christmas Morning Tea of strawberries, mince pies and Christmas cake for all members. An invitation is included with this newsletter.

The Yevres Exchange Student for 2014, Sarah MacDonald has just returned from France and will give a short talk about her trip.

There is street parking available as well as limited parking behind the building. If you would like a ride, please phone one of the committee members listed above.

Date: Saturday 29th November. Time: 10.00am.
Venue: 9 Creyke Rd

A date for your diary...

The first branch meeting for 2015 will be a lunch at Rosebank Winery, Johns Rd on Saturday, 21st February. There will be more details closer to the time.

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We had a lively AGM this year. 19 members attended and we quickly went through the items on the agenda: accepting the audited accounts, selecting a Branch Committee for 2015 and changing our Constitution to accommodate changes in accounting legislation. We followed the AGM with an interesting discussion on the future of the Branch and more particularly what we can do in the next year or so for women in tertiary education.

I wish to thank those members who came to the AGM. We had a quorum and were able to have a good discussion as well as change the Constitution. The change was necessary because the accounts show that in each of the past few years our spending has been roughly 2/5 capitation fees (to National Executive and hence to IFUW), 1/5 general spending (meetings and other expenses) and 2/5 accounting and auditing fees! The proportion of our spending on accounting is far too great and we have now altered our Constitution so that we can get our accounts reviewed at far less expense. We intend that the money we save go to an award or scholarship for a female tertiary student.

I also wish to thank the 2014 Branch Committee. We have worked well this year and arranged a variety of meetings for Branch members. In addition some of us were active in doing research used by National Executive. This Branch was also the only one to contribute extensively to the Hegg Hoffat table at the National Conference in

September and we were also the only Branch to submit original remits at the Conference. Deborah Errington and Philippa Bates have stood down from the Committee but I am delighted that the remainder of the Committee remain. We shall again have different meetings for you to attend in 2015. The 2015 Branch Committee is- Bernadette Devonport, Geraldine Murphy, Hilary Stubbs, Barbara Peddie, Jean Sharfe, Ellen McCrae, Marlene Smith, Annette Etwell, Enid Smith and Judy Brooks.

There is a full list of names, positions and contact details on the last page of this newsletter. Our discussion after the AGM was led by Ursula Rack and Hannah Franklin. As women still in employment and tertiary education they gave us an insight into the usefulness of NZFGW to their work and studies, provoking us to examine where our allocation of awards and scholarships could be improved. We came up with lots of ideas and early in 2015 the Committee will take these ideas and we shall see what we can do to help women who need to further their education. Keep an eye on our Branch website and the newsletters. We will be advertising our activities and meetings there. If you are interested in anything we intend doing you are most welcome to contribute.

Bernadette Devonport, President

MEMBERSHIP

The annual subscription accounts are included with this newsletter and as always we would appreciate payment as soon as possible. We do not have birthdates for all members so if you are now in one of the following two categories and your account is incorrect would you please let the membership secretary know.

Senior Members qualify for a reduced subscription of \$45. This means a member who:

- a. Graduated more than 40 years ago and has been a member of a branch of the International Federation of University Women for the previous 15 years; or
- b. Is aged 65 years or more and has been a member of a branch of the International Federation of University Women for the previous 15 years.

Honorary Senior Members no longer need to pay. This means a member who is aged 90 years of age or over.

GRADUATIONS



Helpers are required at either 9 Creyke Rd or the CBS Arena for the following Canterbury University December graduations:

Tuesday 16th December 8.00am to 1.00pm or 1.00pm to 5.30pm (9 Creyke Rd)

Wednesday 17th December 11.30am to 3.00 pm or 3.00pm to 5.00pm (CBS Arena)

Thursday 18th December 8.00am to 1.00pm (9 Creyke Rd)

Friday 19th December 11.30 am to 1.30pm (CBS Arena)

If you can assist at any of these times, please ring Kay Holyoake, phone 351 9738

TRUST BOARD REPORT - Ellen McCrae - Chair

Charities Commission workshop on accounting standards for Registered Charities.

Bernadette Devonport, Jean Sharfe and I each attended one of these workshops. The aim was to update participants on the new reporting standards for not for profit entities. The External Reporting Board determines what to report and the NZ Accounting Reporting Board sets the standards for reporting financial data. Essentially the Trust will be required to present a performance report that adds transparency to who we are, what we do, how we did it in the past year, what it cost and how it was funded. Our year ended June 2016 will reflect these new standards.

Round the Square

Glyn Strange has completed the PDF file of Round the Square. It is now ready for transfer to the web. We envisage this being in Dropbox or similar and having a paywall i.e. it will not be available to all and we are looking at ways to allow access to approved readers and researchers. Arnold Acres

are to guide us with this process. Therese Minehan has given much to seeing this through reviewing photographs and providing another preface to accompany this version. Our aim will be to advertise the publication on our website.

Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology

Members of the Trust Board have agreed to offer a scholarship for a CPIT student and negotiations have commenced on realising this. Initial thoughts are we will discuss this possibility with the faculty offering Medical Imaging which to date has no scholarships available.

Travel Awards

A **Conference Travel Award of \$800** has been granted to Annalise Fletcher who is attending the Convention American Speech Language and Hearing Association in December 2014 in Orlando. She is presenting a paper on intervention in neurological disease with a focus on working in the area of Parkinsons.

A **Special Travel Award \$400** was granted to Harriet Maher to attend the Sydney College of Arts conference on Curating Feminism in Oct 2014. Harriet has written a report that will go on our website.

Managed Funds

Jennie Moreton from Craigs Investment Partners spoke to Board members at our last meeting. In the nine months since we invested \$150,000.00 in a diverse portfolio the value has grown to \$170,632.00. Jennie reminded us that, while this is excellent growth fluctuations will occur, however it is keeping our funds ahead of options offered through the banks currently and is equally liquid.

Trust Chair

Ellen McCrae accepted appointment as the Trust Chair for a further 12 months

From the National Executive News

Our Experience at Women's Worlds Congress, Hyderabad, August 2014- Shirley Gillett and Fiona Bakas (a young member)

In August we attended the 12th International

Interdisciplinary Congress on Women (WWC) held in the University of Hyderabad, India. We were the only New Zealanders there and contributed to a panel and workshop on "The Role of Education in Empowerment for Women" and with Meera Bondre (CIR India) and Yeabu Tholley (Sierra Leone), represented IFUW. Each of us presented a different aspect of empowerment – through crafts, sport, secondary education and women setting up industries. We followed our introductions and short 10 minute power-point presentations by a workshop based on the World Café Style.

The theme of this Congress was "Gender in a Changing World". There were 1,000 participants representing 37 countries. The oldest was 75 and had attended every WWC and the youngest 17 years. Under the sub themes of Gender and Culture, Gender and History, Gender and Management, Gender and Violence, Digital divide, Globalisation, Women and Work, and Gender and Law, around 850 papers and workshops were presented in three days which was more than a little overwhelming and mind-numbing.

A memorable set of five papers for Shirley was around the issues involved in a women's decision to wear the head scarf or Hijab in the 21st century. This provoked some loud arguments in question time. It was a political topic and will be increasingly so. Another paper called "Transforming Gendered Spaces: An Overview of Indian Culinary Narrative" described the changing role of women in the kitchen. Some of the most interesting seminars Fiona attended included the ones on gender within Indian media, which discussed how gender is embedded within performances, and a panel about the moon-time teachings of First Nation Canadian women, which discussed practical interpretations of indigenous gender-related knowledge in classrooms.

There were keynotes and also a panel of women high achievers, and two evening Indian cultural dance events. On the Thursday there were three amazing documentary film screenings with a discussion with the director of the film, including one called "Pink Saris" and on the Friday we went on a trip to a village to see cotton and silk being made in grassroots crafts and others went on tours of Hyderabad.

As well as the panel we also gave individual papers. Fiona presented on her PhD topic of female Entrepreneurship through handicraft tourism in Greek villages and Shirley presented the themes from analysis of focus groups with the Malaysian teacher education females looking at the influences of International Education on gender identity.

WWC 12 had a strong Indian flavor from the dominance of Indian presenters to the very spicy food that was served a lunch-time, to the luscious tropical plants that adorned the University Campus and a board displaying the large variety of snakes that could be found on campus (luckily no snakes were encountered!). We found the congress an informative and inspiring experience with good opportunities to network with gender professionals and academics from across the globe.

A MESSAGE FROM IFUW re change of name

Dear NFA Presidents, CIRs, Treasurers and Members

IFUW needs to keep advancing!

In Istanbul in 2013 we voted to turn IFUW around, which meant changing our methods of operation, strengthening our public profile through activities, communications and advocacy, and increasing our services to members. We rebranded with new colours, giving us a new look and feel, and extended this into all the communication materials we produce, from press releases to policy position papers and manifestos. We have a new, improved website, with ever changing content, a Facebook page and a Twitter feed that is being followed and retweeted by key opinion leaders. We have actively participated in various UN-related meetings as well as creating some of our own policy seminars in different cities. To take the next steps, however, that is to develop and grow projects, expand our membership base and obtain external funding, we have to be able to appeal beyond our existing membership. To do that we must have an identity that is understood. We are finding that funders and partners alike believe our organisation to be either a group or professional union of university staff or else a university wives club. We are not perceived as a group of graduate women united with a common purpose to empower girls and

women everywhere through education. In the 21st century's outward-looking, competitive and collaborative context such failure to establish our identity hampers our achieving that purpose. Increasingly NFAs are recognising that membership criteria must be expanded to grow the Federation, and this includes at an international level. This is a discussion to be had at the next triennial General Assembly. In the meantime, part of the expansion of IFUW and the development of an alternative income stream is the plan to turn the IFUW Conference into a public conference that attracts a wide audience, including leading educationalists and educational funders.

This will be the first Conference of the new order. The Board believes that it needs to operate under a new brand that is understood and memorable and that this new brand must be established **before** we start marketing our conference.

Discussion of changing the name International Federation of University Women has been going on for years; indeed a number of NFAs have already changed their name to reflect more accurately who we are, namely graduate women rather than solely university women.

At its October Board Meeting, the Board decided it was time to act and agreed unanimously to recommend an expeditious name change to Graduate Women International.

A name change for IFUW brands the Federation as an entity, but does not affect the branding of each individual NFA, so that each NFA would be free to keep its own name unchanged.

The Board believes that the decision to change the Federation's name is urgent and necessary. We have too often been held back by the slowness with which change could be effected under the old system. It is therefore asking the General Assembly to exercise its power to make a constitutional change by electronic voting. Notice is accordingly given of a Resolution *that the name International Federation of University Women be changed with immediate effect to: **Graduate Women International.***

The usual rule will apply that the proposal must gain a two thirds majority in order to be accepted.

The Board recognises that this is a momentous decision for the Federation. With this in mind, the

vote will be open from 24 November 2014 to 15 March 2015 in order to allow each NFA to consult with members so that their General Assembly delegates have clear instructions as to how their NFA wishes them to vote.

For questions and further information please contact H el ene Queyrane at hgq@ifuw.org.
If any member has any comments or queries would they please get in touch with Bernadette Devonport.

From the Antarctic Society, Canterbury Branch

John Thomson will be giving a lecture on his latest publication, *Frank Worsley*, followed by book signing.

**Thursday 11 December 2014, 6–8 p.m.
University of Canterbury Staff Club, Ilam
Homestead, 87 Ilam Road, Christchurch**

Cash bar available at the Staff Club. Nibbles provided.

RSVP by Tuesday 9 December to
ursula.rack@canterbury.ac.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

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