



# New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women

## CANTERBURY BRANCH

**PO BOX 6733, CHRISTCHURCH 8442**

Website: [www.canterburynzfgw.org.nz](http://www.canterburynzfgw.org.nz)

**PHONE 364 3530 & FAX 364 3583**

E-mail: [thebranch@canterburynzfgw.org.nz](mailto:thebranch@canterburynzfgw.org.nz)

PRESIDENT: Helen Heddell Phone 03 312 0404  
SECRETARY: Geraldine Murphy Phone 383 3958  
TREASURER: Bernadette Devonport Phone 358 6245  
MEMBERSHIP: Barbara Peddie Phone 377 0246

email [helenheddell@xtra.co.nz](mailto:helenheddell@xtra.co.nz)  
email [geraldinemurphy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:geraldinemurphy@xtra.co.nz)  
email [bernadettedevonport@gmail.com](mailto:bernadettedevonport@gmail.com)  
email [ppeddie@clear.net.nz](mailto:ppeddie@clear.net.nz)

## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2015

### Christmas Branch Meeting

The combined Christmas Branch meeting and Senior Morning Tea will be held on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30am at 9 Creyke Rd.**

The Yevres Exchange Student for 2015, Grace Partridge, a student at Christchurch Girls' High, will give a short talk about her trip.

As well as street parking and limited parking behind the building, you can also use the carpark down the drive at 15 Creyke Rd (next to No 9). If you would like a ride, please phone one of the committee members listed above.

### A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The first branch meeting for 2016 will be a lunch on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February**. There will be more details closer to the time.

### REPORT ON THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Fifteen members attended this meeting and the committee list for the coming year is on the back page of this newsletter.

Prior to the business part of the meeting Travel Award recipient, Hannah Charan-Dixon spoke on her trip to Tonga to study the effects of indigenous fishing techniques on sea cucumbers.

These sea cucumbers which are an important source of food and income for Tongans are salted and dried and then exported. A report on Hannah's trip is on page 3.

If anyone would like a copy of the annual reports and/or financial statements, please contact the Secretary as above.

### GRADUATIONS



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

#### Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

8.00am to 1.00pm or 1.00pm to 5.30pm  
(9 Creyke Rd)

#### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December

11.30am to 3.00 pm or 3.00pm to 5.00pm  
(Horncastle Arena)

#### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

8.00am to 1.00pm (9 Creyke Rd)

#### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

11.30 am to 1.30pm (Horncastle Arena)

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

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership subs are now due and accounts are included with this newsletter. As usual, prompt payment would be appreciated.

## **TRUST BOARD REPORT** – Ellen McCrae, Chair

### **Resignation of Ngaio Francis**

We received the resignation of Ngaio Francis and acknowledged the contribution Ngaio had made from the 1980's as she worked with other key members of the Branch to establish the Trust and become the first Chair of the Trust in 1991. We will miss Ngaio's extensive institutional knowledge. In recent years Ngaio has worked tirelessly to guide the awards process to establish consistency and clarity with criteria, associated forms and selection.

### **Report from Sam Cherry Rightway Accountants**

Sam Cherry attended the meeting to update Board members on the last three months and explain our 2014/15 annual accounts. Using the Xero package has meant we are gaining greater transparency although there remain coding issues as the process beds in and those of us using the package gain confidence. A historical investment in NZ Finance Holdings has been written off being of no value for some years. Our 2015/16 accounts will be required to meet new reporting standards and the Trust will provide a Statement of Service Performance and has agreed to continue with the auditing our accounts.

### **Policy and Process Paper**

Members were presented with a discussion paper from Ellen McCrae proposing three committees be established under the processes of Grants; Finance and Governance.

Each would have defined Terms of Reference and Responsibilities. Membership need not be confined to Trust Board members. Full discussion will follow at a subsequent meeting.

### **Trust Board Membership and Direction**

At the previous board meeting members provided an overview on their strengths, areas of contribution, ideas on direction and their commitment to the Board. A resume of the comments from each member was presented and will provide a basis for further discussion.

### **Conference Presentation & Study Travel Awards**

**Lydia Keast** Conference Presentation Travel Award to attend the Amer. Speech and Language Therapy Conference Colorado - \$800.00

**Gabriela Roldan** Conference Presentation Travel Award to attend an Antarctic studies seminar at the School of Humanities Tasmania - \$400.00

**Nicola Lissington** Study Travel Award to assist with her Masters of Speech Therapy placement in Illinois - \$1000.00

### **Sadie Balkind Scholarship and Awards**

Applications have closed for these awards and Hilary Stubbs is leading the process of selection and review and will present recommendations to the November meeting.

## **NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN REPORT** – Marlene Smith

Bernadette and I attended the October branch meeting. Rosemary Du Plessis spoke about Gender Equality and the NCWNZ targeted focus. What can Christchurch do to advance this issue? Summary diagrams of the white paper on *Enabling Women's Potential* (see correspondence) were issued and we formed buzz groups to discuss different aspects, namely;

- Safety & Health (includes domestic violence – physical & psychological)
- Equality in education & work
- Economic independence
- Influence on decision making

Members were asked to talk to the organisations for which they are delegates, or others in their networks, about an aspect of the Specific Initiatives & Programmes that was of interest to them. Bernadette and I chose Equality in education and work.

Quoting from Rosemary's recent email: "The plan is for further discussion in small groups at the next meeting and to gradually identify what work we might do as a branch in any of these areas, or work we could do collaboratively with others in our networks. This is an evolving field of action."

## **REGALIA HIRE REPORT** (J. Sharfe)

Regalia is flying in and out of the gown room as local high schools hold their senior prizegivings this week.

In the last few weeks we have been offered two Canterbury PhD sets by people who no longer need them. We are most grateful for these offers. Donated regalia is labelled with the donor's name as a record.

The Regalia hire business will close for the year on Monday 21 December and reopen on Tuesday 2 February.

## **REPORTS FROM RECENT TRAVEL AWARD RECIPIENTS**

### **Hannah Charan-Dixon**

In the middle of this year, I was privileged to go to the Kingdom of Tonga to conduct 10 weeks of research for my Master of Science project. My study is investigating the effects of indigenous fishing techniques on sea cucumber populations, and looking

at their abundance and diversity at different sites of varying pollution levels around Tonga. In addition, I am characterising the levels of trace metals in sediments and sea cucumber tissues around the island group of Tongatapu, Tonga.



Throughout the duration of this work, another research student and I lived in a guest house in Tonga, where we developed a close bond with those who we stayed with. It was an incredible experience to be among the Tongan culture, and a privilege to meet such wonderful and generous people. Our work was based at the Ministry of Fisheries in Nuku'alofa, where the staff were exceptionally helpful, facilitating, and supportive of our research. Working with the staff was an excellent experience, and highlighted the importance of incorporating indigenous knowledge into science. The staff were able to help me think about my experimental design and were very knowledgeable about sea cucumbers and their marine systems, and this knowledge was greatly appreciated at all times.

I hope that the findings of my research can contribute towards developing sustainable fishing practices in Tonga. Sustainability is important for the livelihoods of the Tongan people who depend on sea cucumbers as a food and income source. Furthermore, sea cucumbers are important for marine ecosystem health. Therefore, sustainable management of this resource is beneficial both to the community and to the ecosystem and this is something that I hope will be promoted by my study.

The Study Travel Award from NZFGW was fundamental in allowing this research trip to happen. I am extremely grateful to NZFGW for this award and it was used to facilitate a huge learning experience both on a personal and professional level.

## Grace Jones

I am really pleased to have been given a scholarship by CFGW. I am in my third year of a four year Bachelor of Forestry Science at the University of Canterbury and, as part of my study, I was able to go on an exchange programme for the first semester of this year and study at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. It was an incredibly fun exchange and interesting to see how a different university operates. There were a few minor cultural differences, with some people struggling to understand my accent and vocabulary! I learnt about the forestry sector and structure of different timber industries in Canada, comparing the different species, and seeing benefits and challenges to New Zealand's own systems. The University of British Columbia also offered a class in Aboriginal forestry which was a very different perspective as it was taught by a female First Nation's lecturer. Canterbury did not offer an equivalent course so studying abroad gave me access to a wide range of different educational opportunities.



Going on student exchange is also about trying new things and meeting new people. There is a large social component to University life and it was great fun to meet new people and join new clubs. I joined the BrUBC club, which brew and drink beer together. Most of the members were studying biology so again I was able to meet people with similar interests and studies. For fun and exercise I played casual futsal and indoor hockey, and joined a quidditch team. Quidditch is based on the books by J. K. Rowling but has been adapted for the real world into a new and developing team sport. I played for a social team, but we travelled to tournaments where I was able to meet people who were from other Universities and different regions. With the university brew team I went on a brewery tour of Victoria on Vancouver Island and completed the university challenge 'storm the wall'. Storm the wall involved five stages where competitors swim, sprint, cycle and run, then have to climb over a 12 foot wall.

I am the only female in my year at Canterbury University as it is a job that does not attract many women, but at UBC the gender ratio was

more even. There are so many opportunities in this industry and I am glad I have chosen forestry as my future career. I really appreciate this scholarship which has helped towards the cost of being on exchange and decreased my debt on my return.

Studying abroad gave me an opportunity to learn about the Canadian forestry industry and broaden my knowledge of international forestry. Meeting people and travelling is fantastic, and I felt incredibly welcome and included by my new Canadian friends. I doubt I would have learned half as much about Canadian policy, or made the same connections, visiting Canada as a tourist. Thank you again to CFGW for your support.

## YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A SPECIAL NETWORKING COCKTAIL FUNCTION TO CELEBRATE UN WOMEN IN NZ

**DATE:** 24th November 2015  
**TIME:** 6pm – 7.30pm

**VENUE:** Rydges Hotel (event proudly supported by Rydges Hotel)  
Savoy West room – 30 Latimer Square, Christchurch

**RSVP:** [dalojest@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:dalojest@slingshot.co.nz)

**COST:** \$25.00

**Payment** UN Women Aotearoa,  
Canterbury Branch  
Westpac 03 1594 0070456 00

We are very pleased to announce that we will be joined by special guest speaker Barbara Williams – President of UN Women NZ

## TERTIARY STUDENT DEBT

Discussion of the *2014 Income and Expenditure Survey* (conducted in 2014 by the NZ Union of Students' Associations) with data added from the Ministry of Education's *Student Loan Scheme Annual Report 2014* (compiled by A Pomeroy)

The *2014 Income and Expenditure Survey* uses the same questionnaire as the set of surveys originally conducted by CN Research and TNS/Conversa in 2004, 2007 and 2010. The 2014 survey was emailed. It had responses from 5000 students from eleven universities and polytechnics. The sample is large enough to draw statistically valid conclusions (at national and regional levels).

Among the key findings are:

- 90% of students are in debt.

- 70% of students say their debt load will affect their ability to buy a house.
- 44% do not have sufficient income to meet basic needs.
- 36% say their debt load will impact on their decision to have children.
- 20% of students discontinuing their studies state they can no longer afford to study.
- Only 15% of students get financial support from parents that they don't have to repay.

## Comment

By combining a review of the survey results with data available from the Ministry of Education (which includes Inland Revenue and Statistics NZ information), the following trends emerge:

- Numbers engaging in tertiary education are declining. This is against a trend of increasing numbers of people in the age groups 18 to 29 years (so participation rates are also falling)
- Numbers receiving student allowances peaked in 2011 and are declining. While this matches the decline in the proportion of people post-school attending university and polytechnics, it is counter to the trend in the numbers borrowing (which is increasing).
- Not only are more students borrowing, but the amount they are borrowing is increasing.

## From Pat Sivertsen, Treasurer NZFGW Inc and NZFGW Charitable Trust

### Financial planning and Travel Costs

Travel is the largest expense that NZFGW has. It's the price that we need to pay to remain connected to the global community of Graduate women and to be connected to each other within New Zealand. NZFGW budgets for travel costs on a three or four year cycle depending on when the GWI and NZFGW conferences fall.

Both the GWI Conference in South Africa and the NZFGW Conference fall into the 2016/2017 financial year. Our travel costs in the financial year ending 30 June 2017 will be substantial. We plan for our travel costs by setting money aside in the Travel Fund each year. From the membership dues for the year ended 30 June 2015 we were able to decrease our allocation to the GWI Dues Fund and put more into the Travel Fund. This year, because of the falling NZ dollar we will have to allocate more to the GWI dues payable fund. In order to ensure that we will be able to support our delegates to the GWI Conference, and assist several of our Young Members to attend, the surplus from the financial year ended 30 June 2015 has been allocated to the Travel Fund.

	Domestic students in tertiary education (SLS 1)	Participation rates all ages (SLS 1)	No. receiving Student Allowance (derived from SLS 22)	Number of borrowers at 30 June (SLS 30)	Loan borrowing \$ million (SLS 11)	Average loan balance at 30 June \$ (SLS 26)	Median Loan balance at 30 June \$ (SLS 26)
2005	454,193	14.0%	56,806	445,074	929	14,997	10,404
2006	447,623	13.6%	59,431	470,507	1,042	15,883	10,652
2007	444,168	13.3%	62,479	499,259	1,106	16,833	11,087
2008	420,905	12.4%	65,702	530,289	1,156	16,129	10,883
2009	425,202	12.4%	82,633	561,799	1,294	16,213	11,090
2010	420,305	12.1%	95,945	587,499	1,448	16,731	11,399
2011	383,223	10.9%	99,271	621,158	1,471	16,731	11,880
2012	374,785	10.6%	96,908	701,232	1,472	18,494	12,849
2013	369,565	10.3%	85,099	710,968	1,599	19,076	13,307
2014			79,670	721,437		19,731	13,882
Source: Data tables from MoE's <i>Student Loan Scheme Annual Report 2014</i>							

**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**

<b>OFFICIAL BRANCH ADDRESS</b>	P O Box 6733 CHRISTCHURCH 8442  Phone: 364 3590 Fax: 364 3583	Email: <a href="mailto:thebranch@canterburynzfgw.org.nz">thebranch@canterburynzfgw.org.nz</a> <a href="mailto:trust@canterburynzfgw.org.nz">trust@canterburynzfgw.org.nz</a> Website: <a href="http://www.canterburynzfgw.org.nz">www.canterburynzfgw.org.nz</a>
<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>Helen Heddell</b> 1592 Tram Rd RD 5 RANGIORA 747	03 312 0404 <a href="mailto:helenheddell@xtra.co.nz">helenheddell@xtra.co.nz</a>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Position not filled	
<b>SECRETARY and NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>	<b>Geraldine Murphy</b> 36 Royalist Avenue CHRISTCHURCH 8083	03 383 3958 <a href="mailto:geraldinemurphy@xtra.co.nz">geraldinemurphy@xtra.co.nz</a>
<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>Bernadette Devonport</b> 70 Greers Road CHRISTCHURCH 8053	03 358 6245 <a href="mailto:bernadettedevonport@gmail.com">bernadettedevonport@gmail.com</a>
<b>PAC</b>	Not filled	
<b>CIR</b>	Not filled	
<b>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY</b>	<b>Barbara Peddie</b> 602A Madras St CHRISTCHURCH	03 377 0246 <a href="mailto:bpeddie@clear.net.nz">bpeddie@clear.net.nz</a>
<b>TRUST BOARD CHAIR</b>	<b>Ellen McCrae</b> 16 Gordon Ave Christchurch 8014	03 355 4391 <a href="mailto:ellenandgraeme-m@clear.net.nz">ellenandgraeme-m@clear.net.nz</a>
<b>HOODS AND GOWNS REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<b>Jean Sharfe</b> 97a Brynley St CHRISTCHURCH 8042	03 349 8366 <a href="mailto:sharfe.family@xtra.co.nz">sharfe.family@xtra.co.nz</a> <a href="mailto:regaliahire@canterburynzfgw.org.nz">regaliahire@canterburynzfgw.org.nz</a>
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Enid Smith</b> 14 Rosedale Place CHRISTCHURCH 8042  <b>Annette Etwell</b> 33 Rollesby St CHRISTCHURCH 8025  <b>Marlene Smith</b> P.O. Box 20316 CHRISTCHURCH 8543	03 358 9492 <a href="mailto:aesmith2@clear.net.nz">aesmith2@clear.net.nz</a>  03 338 5077 <a href="mailto:etwellna@xtra.co.nz">etwellna@xtra.co.nz</a>  03 359 9225 <a href="mailto:g.e.smith@clear.net.nz">g.e.smith@clear.net.nz</a>
<b>NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES</b>	<b>Marlene Smith</b> <b>Bernadette Devonport</b>	