



New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women

CANTERBURY BRANCH

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NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

You are reminded that the Annual General Meeting of Canterbury Branch of NZFGW will be held on **Thursday 22nd October 2015 at 7.30 pm** in the Staffroom at Rangī Ruru School, Hewitts Rd.

There is plenty of parking in the grounds and there will be someone to direct you to the Staffroom.

We hope as many members as possible will come along and take the opportunity to find out what has been happening in the Branch over the past year and what is planned for the future. Don't worry, we have enough nominations for the committee so you won't be pressured into joining. Of course there is always room for more so if you would to join a friendly group of women (and the duties are not onerous) you would be most welcome.

Supper will be provided at the end of the meeting with the chance to catch up with and chat to members you may not have seen for some time.

NEXT BRANCH MEETING

The next meeting is the Christmas meeting which is combined with the Senior Morning Tea and will be held on:

Saturday 28th November at 10.00am

Venue: 9 Creyke Rd

REGALIA HIRE REPORT

– Jean Sharfe, Regalia Hire Manager

Regalia hire is now into one of the busiest periods of the year. Enrolments for the University of Canterbury December graduations have officially closed. A comparison of our figures with the university's figures shows approximately 190 outstanding. It is expected that approximately 1200 will graduate in the three ceremonies.

There will be a large number of PhD graduands again at these ceremonies, a growing trend for December graduations.

The annual school prizegiving season is also upon us with regalia being shipped off to branches and schools. Then it will be the turn of local schools, most of which hold their ceremony in the first week of November requiring quick turn-around of regalia. It is a time when our great team of volunteers is really under pressure.

Sadie Balkind Awards

A reminder that applications for the Sadie Balkind Scholarship and Awards close on 31 October. Information and application forms are on the website www.canterburynzfgw.org.nz

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN REPORT

Bernadette, Ellen and I attended the Annual Suffrage Function – a very pleasant occasion – on Tuesday 15th September at the Linfield Recreation Centre. The speaker was Karleen Edwards, CEO of the Christchurch City Council.

Comments are invited on the following provisions of the *Parental Leave and Employment Protection (Six Months' Paid Leave and Work Contact Hours) Amendment Bill*:

1. **The extension of paid parental leave from the current 18 weeks to 26 weeks, phased in from 2016 to 2018.** (1 April 2016 increased from current 16 weeks to 22 weeks; 1 April 2018 from 22 weeks to 26 weeks).
2. **The entitlement of working parents to the flexibility of returning to work for a certain amount of time during the leave period, without losing their entitlement to paid parental leave.**

Please send your responses to Margaret Ledgerton at m.ledgerton@xtra.co.nz cc: office@ncwnz.org.nz by 21 October. (*NCW supports the extension of paid parental leave to 12 months.*)

Marlene Smith NCW Representative

Independent Members Network -

NZFGW National Executive appoints Convenor

Pat Sivertsen has been appointed by the National Executive of NZFGW Inc as the interim Convenor for Independent Members. This action was taken by National executive to give us our vote at the Council meeting to be held on 3rd October and to ensure that Independent Members are informed of the outcomes of the Council discussions.

At Conference last year NZFGW made a constitutional change that effectively established the Independent Members Network and the position of Independent Members Convenor.

The change also gave independent members, through the Convenor, representation on

NZFGW Council. If a Convenor is not elected by Independent Members then she is appointed by the National Executive of NZFGW Inc.

Pat is an Independent Member. She is currently Treasurer for NZFGW Inc and the NZFGW Charitable Trust.

FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE NEWS

Dr Rebecca Olive is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the Department of Sport and Leisure Studies. Her feminist cultural studies approach complements the established tradition of sport and leisure studies at the University, especially in relation to action sport – which is at the heart of her current research based at the Home of Cycling in Cambridge.

Participating in the sports we study is an important research method, and can give important insights into lived experiences. For example, my research about surfing experiences all began with a response to media representations. In particular, I was frustrated by the constant use of surf magazines to make sense of women's experiences in the water. Of course, media is not a cultural mirror. From my own experiences as a surfer, I knew the gender politics in the water was much more nuanced than the ways magazines sexualised and marginalised women. In my research, going surfing has allowed me to develop a shared understanding of surfing experiences with research participants, which has been valuable in making sense of surfing cultures, relationships, spaces, and places.

In the case of women who surf, looking at (publicly available) social media profiles has given me insight into the worlds of women I wasn't able to speak to, or groups of women I don't culturally connect with. As much as we hate to admit it, when we research we are often limited to certain groups of people, and techniques like snowball sampling can mean we access networks of like-minded folk rather than those who might throw a spanner in the analytical works. It can be hard to speak with people who don't want to talk or who don't agree with your project. Of course, they're the ones we want to talk to! My project was based in my own community, so the risk of this was even higher, and there was a growing group

of women who did things very differently – more aesthetic, more ‘girly’, more visibly, more body focused – than the women I’d spent five years talking with. I struggled to make sense of this alternative approach and wondered how to access these perspectives.

After a while I noticed that the women I’d missed or not been able to access were telling surfing stories on their public social media pages, so I used a combination of media analysis and fieldwork to make sense of the narratives posed, as well as how they were reproducing, resisting and disrupting established gender politics in surfing culture. They were performing their place in surfing culture, asserting their relationships to place and local identities, and emphasising the role of women and the sisterhood in their surfing lives. Perhaps this sounds small, but it’s not – these are the very images and cultural narratives that surf media has excluded women from being a part of for many years, and here they are – online and getting thousands of ‘likes’. And they’re not the product of fancy photo-shoots. They’re representations of the everyday, mundane aspects of cultural life.

While there are certainly threads of the same discourses of sex/gender power relations that we see in mainstream media and everyday culture – for example, the female surfers I mentioned above continue to emphasize, feminise and sexualise their bodies in their images – the potential of social media for cultural politics and resistance is exciting. And this extends further than what researchers can learn about place and culture. As academics, the potential of social media offers us access to communicate with communities and contribute to public discussions, something many scholars have struggled to do. What I mean is that social media is a great space for resistance and disruption – for activism. Producing content for and commenting on blogs, Facebook and Instagram has allowed me to speak directly to the surfing community without worrying about a magazine editor gate-keeping my words and ideas. I’ve been able to share my research ideas and findings with an international surfing community, as well as share and promote the work of other researchers, writers, photographers, film-makers and artists.

Participating on social media might seem a funny way to think about community engagement, but

for me, it’s been effective. Not always easy, not always significant, not always straightforward, but effective. Taking responsibility for my findings in a way that is so definitely on the cultural record reminds me that the work I do is about people, not abstract subjects. It also keeps me moving in and out for the proverbial ivory tower that researchers are so often accused of never leaving. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, blogs, Snapchat can seem a distraction, and they definitely can be. But when used thoughtfully and politically, we can make use of the new media shaping the ways people think about the world and their place in it. And with the popularity of images and video across these platforms, accounting for bodies movement, relationships, and sensuality opens up new ways for researchers to explore, know and participate in everyday life.

AFGW – ACT INC ACCOMMODATION BURSARY

The Australian Federation of Graduate Women – ACT Incorporated offers residential accommodation for up to four (4) weeks at the Australian National University, Canberra to a woman graduate or final year honours student from a university or equivalent institution in Australia, New Zealand, Papua-New Guinea or South Pacific countries. Preference may be given to applicants who are members of the **International Federation of University Women**. Canberra residents are ineligible.

The Bursary will be available during 4 to 30 January 2016.

The award is open to women of any age who wish to carry out a short project, in any field, which will benefit from a short stay in Canberra, for example, to use libraries, museums or special equipment. The successful applicant will be required to make a brief report to AFGW-ACT Inc. following completion of her project.

Previous distinguished winners of the Bursary include Dr Janet Butler whose book *Kitty’s War* won the 2013 NSW Premier’s History award and has been nominated for the Magarey Medal for Australian biography. While in Canberra, Dr Butler undertook research at the Australian War Memorial based on records of World War I nurse Kitty McNaughton. Another Bursary winner was Dr Fiona Hanlon, whose research was the basis of a chapter in *Public Sentinels*, covering evolution of senior legal

positions such as Attorney-General and Solicitor-General.

Applications close on 30 October 2015 with Ms Heather Nash, AFGW-ACT INC, GPO Box 1453 Canberra ACT 2601 Email: heather.nash4@bigpond.com Ph (02) 6295 9214 and 0405 056 533

GWI Members' Corner (from CIR Bernadette Devonport)

The Members' Corner continues to fascinate me. This month I began exploring the Toolkits section which gives us 'help in project and advocacy activities'. There are a number of files here which in general supply explanations, templates and ideas from both GWI and member organisations. I shall focus in this item on what GWI can do to help us in our role as advocates for women in education.

There are four major files on advocacy- the first two of the GWI three part advocacy toolkit, an advocacy basics file and an education advocacy handbook. GWI is in the process of supplying member organisations with information, ideas and actions on how to advocate at local, national and international levels. The first two (local and national) are out and so helpful that I have brought them to the notice of our members, encouraged them to look at the GWI website and placed them on our Branch computer desktop so that they are available to our Branch members. The advocacy basics file, however, is probably a good first step in learning how to be effective advocates for women in education. The education advocacy handbook is a large document (Note: All the files are PDF and easily accessed) consisting of 24 pages. But it provides a fuller explanation than the other toolkits. If you are looking for detailed information on when, how, where and why to advocate for women in education this is the place to come. The toolkits give you the legal framework for the right to education, ideas for action and importantly, how to review and monitor the situation in your area or country.

Go to the Members' Corner of the GWI website. It is easy to register and very interesting to look through.

Report on the September National Executive and Charitable Trust Board Meetings

Charitable Trust

1. The 38 applications for the Fellowships are being considered by the Panel. It is expected that applicants will be notified of their success or otherwise by 24 September. Total awards distributed will be within the agreed guidelines of \$80,000 to \$120,000.
2. The 19 Susan Byrne Memorial Award applicants will also be considered by early October. (One award of up to \$10,000)

National Executive Publicity:

NE members' photos and bios for the website are being updated, and work is underway on updating the brochure. A job description for the Marketing and Publicity Convenor is being compiled and a search is underway for a branch or IM member to take on this role and join the National Executive. With the reduction in membership across NZFGW branches we now have only three votes at GWI (previously 4). These are currently held by the President, CIR and the Secretary.

GWI is seeking delegates to attend the 60th Commission on the Status of Women in New York 14-24 March by 1 October 2015. NFAs may only send delegates if our dues have been paid (NZFGW has paid its dues). The theme is "Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development" (through the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls).

Finances:

1. A non-NZFGW chartered accountant is sought to undertake the annual review of the NZFGW accounts and the Charitable Trust accounts.
2. The \$9,500 surplus for the year is to be allocated to the Travel fund (in anticipation of travel required in 2016 particularly for the GWI conference and PG Net conference in Fiji).
3. Dues: The NZFGW annual membership dues remain unchanged at \$52.00 per graduate member, for branch members; and \$55 each for Independent Members. Dues payable by branches to NZFGW for the financial year ended 30 June 2016 are to be allocated as follows: GWI \$25 per graduate member, \$12

to the travel fund, \$15 to the general fund. Dues payable by independent members GWI \$25 per graduate member, \$12 to the travel fund, \$15 to the general fund, and \$3 to the Independent Member Expenses Fund. Note that for dues paid in July for the year ended 30 June 2015 the allocation was \$17 to the travel fund and \$20 to the GWI fund (note that due to exchange rate fluctuations we

need to retain a buffer of around \$10000 in the GWI dues fund).

4. An opportunity to donate money for NZFGW awards is now available on the *Give a Little* website <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/nzfgw/>

Ann Pomeroy, President

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



**Tour of Seven Christchurch Heritage
Houses and one Historic Area**
18 October 10.00 am to 4.00pm



Tickets which are essential cost \$25 and may be purchased from Ballantynes or Paper Plus Merivale.

Houses to be visited are in Ilam, Papanui, Fendalton, Harewood and Cashmere along with the Englefield historical area.

A tour in support of the Ngaio Marsh Heritage House, a Category one Historic Place



Quake Break Trip To Geraldine – Saturday, Nov 7th

A special invitation from Rosa and Graham Peacock of Orari Gorge Station, near Geraldine, has been received for people severely compromised with post earthquake building and health issues over the past five years. We are taking a bus trip to view their beautiful rhododendron garden and share a day out in South Canterbury. Miles Toyota are kindly sponsoring the tour and all refreshments will be provided so you can enjoy a FREE day out away from everyday cares and woes.

We are inviting you to register for this tour along with your partner or a friend or family member/s. As this whole event is run by a few volunteers then the registration process needs to be smooth and replies by email, fax or text will be most appreciated by the due date.

If your circumstances change after registering and you are unable to make the day out then we ask you to find a replacement if possible and notify us. It would be a great pity to have empty seats on such a generous free tour.

You will have a good long day out and will need to make your own arrangements for meeting the bus and on return. You will only need to bring comfortable clothing and walking shoes plus raincoat/umbrella and a warm outer layer PLUS drink bottle and sunhat too of course! There will be no postponement day and trip only cancelled in major storm! If the buses are overbooked we will notify you and place you on a waitlist although generally we find demand exceeds supply for these wonderful days out!!

The cutoff date is **Wednesday, October 28th - 10pm**. For more information or to book, contact **Helen Heddell** as follows: Email helenheddell@xtra.co.nz or telephone 0274-361-389
Postal Address: QuakeBreak Trip, c/- 1592 Tram Rd, RD5, Rangiora 7475

Name/s (First name) (Surname)

ADDRESS.....

.....

Postcode

Telephone Numbers (include mobile).....

Email

Next of Kin (Name & Tel).....

Any medical issue we should be aware of – please describe

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Your suburb/nearest town/main road

Ages of anyone under 16.....

Anything else you would like us to be aware of to make this a great day out for all

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