



New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women CANTERBURY BRANCH

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NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2015

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Canterbury Branch of NZFGW will be held on **Thursday 22nd October 2015 at 7.30 pm** at Rangi Ruru School, Hewitts Rd.

The business of the meeting will be:

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous AGM
2. Presentation of Annual Reports and Financial Statements
3. Election of Officers
4. General Business

We would love to see new faces on the committee and if you wish to nominate yourself or another member (with their permission) please fill in the form below.

Nominations can also be taken from the floor at the meeting.

NOMINATION FORM 2015/2016 COMMITTEE

We nominate

for the position of

Nominated by
(name and signature)

Seconded by
(name and signature)

I agree to be nominated
(signature)

Nomination forms to the Secretary, PO Box 6733, Upper Riccarton, CHRISTCHURCH (or email as above) by 15 OCTOBER

TOUR OF COURT THEATRE

Last month 11 members were privileged to be taken on a tour of the Court Theatre in Bernard St, Addington by Rachel, a very knowledgeable and enthusiastic guide. We had the opportunity to speak to those staff involved in various aspects of the successful production of a play, including creating and sewing the costumes, building and painting the scenery, finding and adapting suitable props, along with maintaining a very large collection of clothes, shoes, jewellery, make-up etc. It was most fascinating to see and hear all this and has certainly made us very aware that a crucial part of a live performance happens behind the scenes.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A warm welcome is extended to new member, Jessie Garland. Jessie has a BA Hons and an MA from Otago University and her interests lie in the fields of archaeology, anthropology, sociology, human geography and history.

TRUST BOARD REPORT - Ellen McCrae Chair

The Board met on 26th August 2015, we received apologies from Jill van de Geer and Ngaio Francis

Investment Portfolio

Following a discussion on diversifying our investments a further \$50,000 has been added to our portfolio with Craig's Investment Partners. The initial investment of \$150,000.00 has realised a very competitive return and we have agreed a policy that meets our defined ethical requirements

The two partners responsible for our portfolio Jennie Moreton and Alex Dalzell attend our meetings on a regular basis.

Rightway Accountants and the Xero Accounting system

Sam Cherry of Rightway accountants has led us through the adoption of the Xero Accounting system which provides an online system of accounting offering immediate access to figures on income and expenditure both for the Board and Academic Dress Hire business. Sam attends Board meeting on a regular basis to keep members updated on trends and provide advice and direction. Rightway have produced the end of year accounts and these are to be audited by H P Hanna & Co.

The Lincoln Student Health Hardship Grant

Each year the Trust Board allocates \$3,000.00 for use by the Lincoln University Student Health and Support Service. It is a fund well utilised by the students at the recommendation of staff at the service. We aim to retain anonymity and staff members assure us it is greatly valued by those students who have been assisted by the fund.

Sadie Balkind Scholarship and Awards

These awards were set up by the Canterbury Branch of the NZ Federation Women in memory of the late Sadie Balkind, a member who made a generous bequest to the Branch following her death in June 1985. The object of the Scholarship and Awards is to help successful students to undertake postgraduate studies at any university or specialist post-graduate institution. The subcommittee who will review applications and make recommendations to the Board include Deborah Errington, Ngaio Francis, Gloria Moyle and Hilary Stubbs.

Succession Planning for the Trust Board

Members took the opportunity to discuss where they see their strengths lie in regard to Trust Board activities; how they see themselves contributing to the Board; their thoughts on what

the Board should be achieving; and their future commitment to the Board. The responses will form the basis of future discussions and planning.

University of Otago, Canterbury Summer Studentship Programme

It was agreed that two studentships valued at \$5000.00 each be sponsored and the chosen preferences were the Geoff Shaw led Project - Early warning of the deteriorating patient and the Liz Macdonald led project -Vulnerability of infants admitted to a regional Mothers and Babies service.

Conference Travel Award

Paddy Gibson has been offered an award to assist her in travelling to present a paper at New Zealand Microbiological Society conference in Rotorua in November.

Sadie Balkind Awards

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

REGALIA HIRE REPORT

– Jean Sharfe, Regalia Hire Manager

Regalia was provided for the New Zealand Graduate College of Education graduation on 24 August. At present we are preparing for CPIT Spring Graduation next week.

Enrolments for UC December Graduation are slowly coming in. The University have informed us that 59 applications have been received from students graduating with PhDs at the Engineering Science ceremony. The final numbers will need to be monitored carefully as it is likely we may have to have extra regalia made.

Orders for school prize-givings are also coming in steadily. With changes to the NCEA exam timetable schools are holding their major prize-givings earlier, with the majority taking place in the first week of November.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN REPORT

A large part of the August meeting was spent discussing the 2015 Conference Remits.

Remit 1:

That NCWZN urges Parliament and all political parties to increase women's representation in Parliament through changes to processes of candidate selection and the electoral system.

Remit 2:

That NCWZN urges Parliament to develop a well-resourced long-term strategy to change social norms and eliminate violence against women.

Remit 3:

That NCWZN urges the Government to enact legislation and implement policies that protect and promote the rights of workers engaged in insecure employment, including the right to collective bargaining.

Remit 4:

That NCWZN supports: Increased access to existing mental health services in NZ and increased and ongoing sustained funding for provision and evaluation of maternal mental health services.

Remit 5:

That NCWZN urges Parliament to amend the Domestic Violence Act 1995 to explicitly allow protection orders to include animals.

Remit 6:

That NCWZN supports a total ban on the sale of "legal highs" and psychoactive substances in NZ. The first four remits were supported (with the Midwives' Association delegate talking to us about the reasons for supporting Remit 4), but doubts were expressed about the last two.

National Council of Women Christchurch Branch CELEBRATING SUFFRAGE DAY

Guest Address: Hon. Lianne Dalziel, Mayor of Christchurch

Date: Saturday 19th September 2015

Time: 12.30pm – 1.00pm

Venue: Kate Sheppard Memorial, Oxford Terrace, Christchurch

All Welcome – bring a flower

Making Women Visible: A Conference in Honour of Barbara Brookes

Making Women Visible honours Professor Barbara Brookes, one of New Zealand's most important scholars, who has worked at the cutting-edge of historical enquiry for several decades. Over the course of her career, Barbara's scholarship has encompassed diverse topics (including reproductive politics, mental health, film, photography, performance, race relations, disability, sexuality and feminism). These topics have been approached in imaginative ways (biography, the histories of emotion, comparative and transnational approaches), but throughout she has consistently placed women at the centre of her work.

In addition to streamed paper sessions, the conference will feature special forums led by two prominent New Zealand historians, Professor Charlotte Macdonald and Professor Margaret Tennant. Professor Barbara Brookes will offer a keynote address, to be followed by a conference reception, and the launch of her new book, *A History of New Zealand Women* (Bridget Williams Books, 2016). A key outcome will be the publication of an edited volume of essays arising from the conference.

15-17 February 2016 University of Otago, Early-bird registration opens 15 October, Closes 31 Jan 2016

NEWS FROM OTHER BRANCHES

Graduate Women Manawatu

Two high profile events, open to the public, were organised by GWM members Dr Sita Venkateswar and Jane Russell Bowen during July in the Palmerston North Library.

Panel Discussion: TPPA – Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement 29 July

Little could Jane have imagined how timely this meeting would be when she proposed a discussion or debate on the TPPA much earlier in the year as the agreement was in the news daily during the last week of July. The panel discussion was highly organised by Jane and well supported by GWM members and the public, with over 100 people attending. After a welcome by President Andrea Thomson, Jane explained how the debate would run and offered the apologies of two potential Federated Farmers speakers who were indeed in Hawaii at the TPP talks as we met.

Chairperson Associate Professor Bill Fish from Massey University provided an excellent link between speakers as they addressed the three questions that had been provided beforehand and then questions from the floor. When reflecting on the debate, Jane considered that our panellists Liam Hehir and Dr Shamin Shakur cautiously supported the signing of the TPP agreement while Dr Jeff Sluka and Dr Deborah Russell were strongly suspicious of its intent and any benefits that might ensue.

South Asia Film Series @ PNCC Library

A consistently large number of people including GWM members gathered on Saturday evenings from 11 July to 1 August, as well as one Wednesday evening, for this series of films from filmsouthasia. Dr Sita Venkateswar (School of People, Environment & Planning at Massey and GWM member & trustee) has organised a very interesting film series each July over the past three years, starting in 2013 with seed funding received from Creative New Zealand and sponsored by Massey University. Some of the films were also screened at Massey.

In 2014 and again this year, GWM has also been a sponsor of this series which Sita reports has grown from with fluctuating attendances the first two years to consistently high attendances at all six screenings this year. The focus on gender and social justice issues within South Asian countries has attracted wide interest. The Saturday evening screenings were so popular that one regular attendee said "What am I going to do with my Saturday evenings now the series has ended?" The screening on Afghanistan was particularly well attended.

Sita reports that the point of difference with this programme is that she has organised Skype access to the film's producer or another expert in the country so that an informed discussion is held after every film. The Library provides tea & coffee during the discussion. The money raised from the final film screening will provide school supplies in the Alampu region of Nepal that was shown in one of the films. GWM are very pleased to be part of this initiative and look forward to the 2016 series.

WAIKATO BRANCH 1955-2015

The last function of Waikato as a Branch was a 60th Jubilee luncheon, held on June 7th, continuing a tradition of mid-Winter lunches.

Unfortunately, as is usually the case with functions, some people were not able to attend, including NZFGW President Ann Pomeroy. The lunch was a most pleasant occasion and enjoyed by all. President Catherine Gurnsey welcomed 30 members and guests, including Jan Tan (NZFGW Membership Convenor) and Carolyn Harvey from North Shore Branch. Among the attendees were 14 of the 17 Honoured Members of Waikato Branch who were still alive, Jean Bodmin Member Emerita and Joan Swarbrick who was at the 1955 meeting that decided to reconvene the Branch. Jan spoke about Independent Membership and it is hoped that Waikato Branch members will take up this option. Catherine intends to arrange get-togethers of past members as "friends of NZFGW". We continue to hope that this is another "recess" rather than a final ending.

Harriette Jenkins Awards for Members only

Closes 30 September at 5.00pm

Awards of up to \$3000 are provided for costs associated with research or study such as equipment costs, travel associated with research within New Zealand, childcare, publication, transcription and other costs.

Applicants must provide proof that they have been a financial member of NZFGW, either as a branch or independent member for the six months prior to applications closing. For example, a letter from your Branch Chair or the Membership Convenor Jan Tan if you are an Independent Member would be suitable. Applications are submitted digitally on the website <https://nzfgw-applications.org> or www.nzfgw.org.nz and click on the Awards Button on the top banner.

**Dr Rowena Taylor NZFGW Charitable Trust
Awards Convenor**

awardsconvenor@nzfgw.org.nz

GWI Website

Continuing my exploration of the GWI website, Members' Corner, this month I shall stay in Tools and Resources and have a look at two sections, Discussion networks and Best Practice Case Histories.

Discussion Networks outlines GWI's Connections Network. In this section GWI encourages members to connect with others around the world. In this way members can share ideas and news on a more personal level than through their own organizations newsletters and websites. Discussions arranged by GWI are thematic, focussed on topics related to GWI's mission. In the discussions participants explore particular issues, sharing experiences and information. The Best Practice Case Histories are especially interesting.

At the moment there are three projects in this section, one each from Turkey, Finland and Germany. The Turkish project, Promoting Access to Quality Secondary Education for Girls, is called 'I am the future.' Here the Turkish organisation is trying to raise awareness of the importance of education in the parents of girls attending a rural boarding school. They have been helped with EU funding. The Finnish project is called Let's Read Together and is focussed on teaching Finnish to immigrants. Zonta and Unifem are working with the Finnish organisation to provide practical advice on how to set up reading groups. The German project is Come, Act in MINT Fields. (MINT is the German equivalent of our STEM subjects). This project is aimed at encouraging girls into STEM subjects. It has been organised within an initiative of the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research.

I found the Case Histories interesting not just for the variety of projects undertaken by national organisations but also because they are all joint initiatives. That is, the organisations are working with other groups, whether government or private. We could use these projects as templates for ourselves if we were to undertake projects here in New Zealand.

News about former NZFGW Fellows

Lydia Cave, 2013 Fellow, is now Dr Lydia Cranston. A plant scientist, Lydia is a lecture in Sheep Production Systems at Massey University, and has joined join Massey's International Sheep Research Centre. For more information, click on http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/about-massey/news/article.cfm?mnarticle_uuid=38F0A691-DE04-4346-9743-12E66185DCEA

Lakshini Mendis, 2014 Fellow, has stepped up to the role of Co-Editor-in-Chief at The Scientista Foundation <http://www.scientistafoundation.com/about-us.html> Over several years during her studies in neuroscience, Lakshini has been finding a niche in science journalism. Lakshini is very happy to be representing New Zealand and being part of this US-based national team. She plans to travel to the USA later in the year to meet the other team members. She hopes to complete her PhD next year.

Penelope Milsom, 2014 Fellow, was interviewed on TV3's Sixty Minutes on Monday 22 June about her work in Liberia with the Ebola crisis about which she spoke at our Awards ceremony in June.

Elyse Dunn, 2015 Fellow, has just graduated with her PhD in Microbiology from The University of Otago and is all set to commence post doctoral work in metabolic disease research at Otago next year. She has attended two international conferences this year and has a research contract to keep her busy until her post doc starts in 2016.

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.