



New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (Inc.)

**CANTERBURY BRANCH,
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NEWSLETTER JULY 2012

NEXT BRANCH MEETING

It is still not too late to put your name down for the annual mid winter lunch to be held at the **Chateau on the Park, Deans Ave/Kilmarnock St, at 12.00pm on Saturday 21 July**. The cost is \$26.50 for a choice of three mains, two desserts and tea or coffee.

This is an opportunity, especially for our new members, to come along and meet other members and enjoy an excellent lunch in pleasant surroundings. There is plenty of parking both within the grounds and on the street.

If you are coming would you please advise **Enid Smith, phone 3589492 or email aesmith2@clear.net.nz by Thursday.**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There will be no branch meeting in August and the next meeting will be on **Thursday 27 September**.

The Battle of Heritage, 2012 - 2.30pm Sunday 22 July, Villa Maria College Auditorium, Peer St

A lecture by Jenny May, architectural historian and heritage consultant to the Christchurch City Council. This will be the annual Jim Gardner Lecture sponsored by the Canterbury History Foundation. Jenny May is dealing with many aspects of post-earthquake preservation, storage, changes in conservation principles, debate between professional groups and day to day concerns about damage to heritage sites and buildings.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONVENOR AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REQUIRED

We are still looking for a Public Affairs Convenor and surely someone in the Branch has an interest in current affairs and would be willing to take on this role. One of the committee members has offered her home as the venue for meetings so all you would need to do is organise a topic and contact members. In the past, meetings have attracted a good number of members.

Also, our very capable membership secretary Val Bailey is resigning from the position at the AGM in October so we are looking to replace her. You would need to have basic computer skills, be a committee member and attend meetings once a month on Wednesday afternoon.

REGALIA HIRE REPORT (Jean Sharfe)

The preparation of the annual accounts is well under way, the drycleaning of the gown stock is progressing well, and the volunteer staff are busy checking and cleaning hoods. The next step is stocktaking.

Preparations are beginning for the University of Canterbury December graduation ceremonies and enrolments for these will be taken from 1 August.

EARTHQUAKE INTERVIEWS

We have been recently approached by a young student from Cambridge University who is visiting Christchurch and wishes to interview residents about their earthquake experiences as part of her degree.

If you are interested, please contact Ruth at rellenby@googlemail.com

FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Elections to National Executive, 2012-14

It is with a real sense of excitement that the NZFGW Executive is calling for nominations for five seats on the next Executive. You will recall that while we are moving to a fully national Executive that will work largely through electronic contact, we agreed at Mid Term Council to facilitate the transition by basing the first Executive under the new system in Wellington. Under this system there will be a core group of three Executive members (the President, Secretary and one other) at "headquarters". Our incoming President, Dr Ann Pomeroy, has selected her Secretary, Dr Elizabeth Eppel and PAC, Christine Ross, to make up this core group.

To fulfil the desire for continuity of experience that members have strongly expressed (but which cannot be reflected constitutionally in arrangements for selecting this transitional Executive) our present CIR, Dr Claire Matthewson, has agreed to serve another term and PAC Dr Linda Robertson will join the new PAC sub-committee as Deputy Convener.

The arrangements for the Charitable Trust have not been affected by the change from a regional to a national system. An experienced Awards Convener, Rowena Taylor (Manawatu) has agreed to serve. Lyn Howe, Charitable Trust Treasurer on the current Executive, is willing to continue informally as financial adviser to the Trust.

We are now calling for nominations for the following positions by 31 July.

National Treasurer

Charitable Trust Treasurer

Publicity/ Publications/ Website officer

Two further Executive Members who will handle the portfolios of Membership (Independent Members), Young Members and Archives, and some ad hoc tasks as appropriate.

That will make up an Executive of 10 persons, as at present.

(If anyone in the Branch is interested in any of the above positions, or wishes to suggest anyone, please contact the President or Secretary). Job descriptions are available.

CONFERENCE UPDATE Dot Page

Conference, 5-7 October

The first phase of the conference, from 1.30 on Friday afternoon, will take place in the Otago museum - a great place to have lunch or a coffee, or to fill in some time before we get under way. We'll be in the Marjorie Barclay Theatre, for our Council meeting, and out NCWNZ colleagues will be in the Hutton Theatre. We'll join them there for the first speaker, probably from the Ministry of Women's Affairs, later in the afternoon.

We'll all move to the main venue for the weekend, the St David Theatre complex at the University, for an early evening reception. Dunedin's mayor is supporting this very generously. He will welcome visitors to Dunedin and present awards to any new members emeritae and NCW's Honoured Members. Then you can join friends to eat at one of the numerous cafes around North Dunedin.

Saturday will be a busy day, with business sessions, a panel discussion (a joint session with NCW) and late afternoon a keynote speaker specially from Dublin, Eileen Fegan, a lawyer specialising in human rights and women's rights and remembered with admiration from those of us who heard her speak in Mexico City.

Conference dinner on Saturday, for participants in both conferences, guests welcome, will be at Larnach Castle - we'll go there together by bus. The Minister of Women's affairs will be our speaker.

As well as business, Sunday morning will feature an address to the combined conferences by Professor Nicola Peart of the University of Otago Law Faculty.

We are scheduled to finish at 1.30.

This 29th triennial conference will be our last, as we move to a biennial cycle. It's going to be a fine occasion – don't miss it.

Information and enrolment forms for the Conference are available on the national website www.nzfgw.org.nz or from the branch secretary.

WELLINGTON BRANCH CELEBRATES 90 YEARS – Dot Page

On 29 May members of the Wellington Branch celebrated its 90 years of work for New Zealand women's education and well-being. They did it in style with a cocktail hour party graciously hosted by the Hon Jo Goodhew, Minister of Women's Affairs, in the beautiful and formal Grand Hall at Parliament. President Joy Dunsheath welcomed guests, including Mr Ian McKinnon, Chancellor of Victoria University and Deputy Mayor of Wellington, and Mrs Jenny McKinnon, and Professor Pat Walsh, Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University, representatives of other women's organisations such as UN Women and the New Horizons for Women Trust, and NZFGW members from far and wide: Louise Croot, Immediate Past of President of IFUW, and Dot Page from Otago, representatives of the Manawatu, Hawkes Bay and Waikato Branches and a fine array of local members. In pride of place were five scholarship winners and their families.

Joy acknowledged with appreciation the presence of a group of thirteen members who had been active members of the organisation for over 40 years, having joined during or before (some of them many years before) the 50th anniversary of the Branch. She spoke of the first President, the larger-than-life Dr Agnes Bennett, whose academic gown from the University of Edinburgh was on display, worn by a rather sexy mannequin.

'She became the first woman to gain a science degree with honours at Sydney University. She could not find employment and made a decision to study medicine and graduated from Edinburgh University.

In 1908 she was appointed medical officer of St Helen's Hospital, Wellington, where she worked hard to reduce the number of infant and maternal deaths.

Later she became the first woman doctor to be appointed to Wellington Hospital. You might like to know that she was the first woman to own and drive a car in Wellington!

Throughout her life she worked consistently to help women. An example of this is when she defended the right of women to higher education in an article in the *Dominion* by negating claims, made by Dr Truby King and obstetrician Ferdinand Batchelor, that higher education for girls was dangerous....dangerous to their health and dangerous to the health of their future children.'

Joy then announced the establishment of a special one-off award, named after Agnes Bennett, to celebrate the Branch's 90th year. The award, to the value of \$10,000 is to be used towards professional development to assist a woman from the Wellington region who is at the threshold of her development as an aspiring or new director.

The Hon Jo Goodhew spoke next, paying warm tribute to the Branch and also to Dr Agnes Bennett. Dr Sally Hasell then introduced the five scholarship winners, who were presented with certificates and flowers by the Minister. Each winner had a few minutes to speak about her work and each took part of her allotted time to thank the Branch warmly for its support.

In proposing a toast to the Branch at the end of the programme, I also mentioned Agnes Bennett. (It says a lot about this extraordinary woman, whose personality was so strong, and whose life was so long and full, that there was virtually no overlap in what three separate speakers chose to say about her.) I drew attention to her service in both World Wars, but I also talked about her immediate successors as Wellington Branch President in the Interwar period. All three women who followed Agnes Bennett were also medical doctors, at a time when this profession offered daunting challenges to a woman. Agnes Bennett's friend, Dr Ada Paterson, was the first. A steady advocate of preventive medicine and one of the first medical officers to inspect children in schools, she rose to become Director of the schools service and helped found the first health camps for underprivileged children. Then came Dr Sylvia Chapman, who was influential in the family planning movement in Wellington before the Second World War and worked for refugees in Britain and Greece after it and the much-loved Scotswoman, Dr Elizabeth Bryson. What a legacy of service these women left to the Wellington Branch and how well the Branch has built on it.

We can all join in honouring the Wellington Branch of NZFGW – its past, present and future.

BRANCH NEWS

The North Shore Branch celebrated the first IFUW Day by hosting a very well attended Charitable Trust High Tea Award ceremony at the Massey campus. Professor Brigid Heywood, Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Research, addressed the gathering, which the Branch plans to make an annual event. In Palmerston North Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey addressed the annual Awards Lunch of the Manawatu Branch at Massey University. Incoming President Ann Pomeroy represented NZFGW on this special occasion, which is a highlight of the Branch year.

Great promotional flyer: five years of IFUW achievements

In June IFUW released a splendid flyer for public downloading. Here is the covering release statement:

“We’ve all heard the questions before: “**What does IFUW do?**” and “**What is special about IFUW?**” Perhaps you have not been sure how to answer? In response to these questions, we have prepared a flyer highlighting **IFUW’s purpose and mission, and showcasing a selection of IFUW’s achievements** from the last five years... Remember that as a member of IFUW you personally are part of the leading girls and women’s global organisation run by and for women, advocating for women’s rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality education and training up to the highest levels. This is something to be proud of.”

Download the IFUW flyer from www.ifuw.org/docs/activities.pdf and share it with others.

IFUW Conference 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey: first and only call for seminar papers

A first and only call has been made for papers for the Interdisciplinary Seminars for the 2013 Conference. Interested members are asked to submit abstracts on the provided proposal form directly to **idsem@ifuw.org** by **Friday 31 August 2012**. Abstracts received after this deadline will not be considered. (Please note that IFUW is unable to provide any funding for seminar presenters to attend the Conference.)

1. Call for Interdisciplinary Seminar Papers
www.ifuw.org/ifuw2013/seminars/2012-idsem-call.pdf
2. Form for Proposal of an ID Seminar Paper
www.ifuw.org/ifuw2013/seminars/2012-idsem-form.doc
3. Writing an Abstract
www.ifuw.org/ifuw2013/seminars/2012-idsem-abstract.pdf

NEXT NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Dr Ann Pomeroy of the Wellington Branch was the successful candidate in the recent election for next national president.

She has a BA (Hons) and MA in Geography from Otago University, and a PhD in Sociology from Essex University. Ann has represented New Zealand at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). She was awarded a New Zealand Suffrage Medal in 1993 for work with rural women. She is a Vice-President of the New Zealand Geographical Society, a Trustee of New Horizons for Women Trust, and the most recent former president of the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (Wellington Branch).