



New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women

CANTERBURY BRANCH

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NEWSLETTER JUNE 2016

Next Branch Meeting

The next branch meeting will be a Luncheon Forum with the Nepali Community on **Saturday July 9th from 12 noon to 2.00pm** in the Central Lecture Theatre (C1), accessible off Arts Rd, Clyde Rd or Forestry Rd, Creyke Rd.

A finger food light luncheon will be served (Gold coin donation) followed by an Open Forum with discussion and footage on all things Nepal post-quake.

Please bring your friends and family to join us for this enlightening event. Further enquiries to: thebranch@canterburynzfgw.org.nz

Report on the Awards Evening

Last month a large group of awardees, their families and friends along with a small number of branch members attended a very enjoyable and informative Awards Evening in the Jack Mann Auditorium.

The thirteen speakers covered a wide range of topics as follows:

WENDY HODDINOTT

Wendy's research topic is **Designing with Communities: Expertise, Engagement and Elegance in Landscape Architecture** and at the heart of her research lies the question: How can landscape architecture expertise engage with the public to achieve both inclusive and elegant design outcomes? Investigation into the nature of design expertise can offer landscape architects insights into not only working more effectively with communities, but also increasing the creative scope of design work. This has the potential to

influence both teaching practice and where council funding and resources are best applied.

AMY HILL

Antibiotic resistant bacteria are becoming an increasingly serious threat to human health worldwide. Amy's research centres around how different herbicides alter the response of bacteria to a range of antibiotics. Previous work has shown that exposure to herbicides can cause temporary, reversible changes in the antibiotic resistance of bacteria. Her work is focused on whether these temporary changes in antibiotic resistance can lead to permanent, mutational resistance that remains even when the herbicide is removed from the environment.

DELLA BENNET

Foraging behaviour of the Hutton's shearwater

The Hutton's shearwater (*Puffinus huttoni*) is an endemic seabird that nests naturally only within the alpine zone of the Seaward Kaikoura Mountains. Although the breeding biology of Hutton's shearwaters has been well studied and the populations are subject to ongoing monitoring, little is known about where birds forage, their diet, or how much they rely on the coastal waters of Canterbury during the breeding season. The objective of this study is to use lightweight global positioning system (GPS) trackers and time-depth loggers (TDR) to follow the foraging pathways and diving depths of breeding Hutton's shearwater adults within the marine environment. This will allow Della to determine the locations in which birds forage, the frequency of these foraging trips and whether this foraging behaviour differs between the sexes or over the season. Together with stable isotope analyses of the carbon and nitrogen composition

of Hutton's shearwater feathers, coastal zooplankton and larval fish that are being used to identify the diet of Hutton's shearwaters, her work will provide the first complete picture of the foraging behaviour of this species while at sea.

JENNIFER SCHORI

The Robust grasshopper, *Brachaspis robustus*, is an endangered braided river species which is endemic to the Mackenzie Basin, New Zealand. Jennifer's first focus is to improve conservation translocation techniques for the Robust grasshopper. She will be looking specifically at the role of introduced mammalian predators and the composition of the founder populations for translocation success. Her second focus is to develop accurate monitoring methods for this highly cryptic species. She is investigating how the detectability of this species changes over their active season, and compares transect walks and plot searches as monitoring methods.

ELLEN TURNBULL

Ellen is currently in her second year at the University of Canterbury studying towards a Bachelor of Science, Majoring in Psychology. Following her undergraduate degree she hopes to do a Masters in Child and Family Psychology. She received her scholarship to assist her when she goes on exchange later this year to the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. She thinks it is such a wonderful opportunity to be able to study abroad and it is made possible because of the scholarship she has received from the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women.

JANET NICOL

Thesis on Emotions in the Classroom

What emotions are allowed or disallowed in the classroom and why? What messages do children receive about emotions, theirs and others, from a teacher's "emotional presence"? In what ways can teachers support children to become more emotionally aware and abled? Janet draws on her experience as a teacher and Pascha Therapist (counselling that guides clients to listen to and honour their feelings) in consideration of these questions in her Masters of Education thesis. Janet's long-term goal is to raise the profile of emotion in schools through deepening teachers' awareness of and responsiveness to feelings in the classroom.

ALEX BEAL

Alex Beal is a fourth year student at the University of Canterbury studying towards a double degree in Law and Arts, with a double major in Political Science and History.

AMANDA INGLIS

Effective and sustainable wastewater treatment is paramount to improved public health worldwide. Janet's project looks at enzymatic virus inactivation in wastewater and how this could lead to sufficient treatment without the costs involved with high technological solutions.

SIOBHAN SCOTT NIELSEN

Over one billion children in the world under 18 years old are affected by armed conflict. The United Nations is tasked with maintaining and restoring international peace and security, and deploys peacekeepers to protect vulnerable populations suffering from the effects of conflict. Yet are children being protected when peacekeepers are reportedly abusing these children? When children are considered as important agents in the peacebuilding process, abuse of children has the potential to affect the future of post-conflict societies.

BECCI LOUISE

Becci a recipient of an undergraduate Award, is a University of Canterbury Bachelor of Arts student majoring in Political Science, minoring in Media Communications. She is an active member of campus clubs and an advocate for social change. Future research goals; Political apathy and political commentary, sustainable development and community engagement, and the prevalence of intersectional inequalities in today's globalized society.

AMY TAYLOR

As a third year undergraduate student studying English and Sociology at the University of Canterbury Amy's studies have centred on the coalescence between literature, ideas, and people. Her intentions for post-graduate study include looking at the implications of social responsibility between and within groups throughout society. Over the next five years she intends to complete a PhD in this area.

SAMANTHA LEE

With travel scholarship funding from the NZFGW, Samantha Lee, a current PhD candidate studying

at the University of Canterbury, attended the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) annual meeting in Baltimore, USA in late April 2016. PAS is the largest international meeting focused on research in child health, and selection for presentation at this conference is considered highly prestigious. Samantha was selected to present her previous Master's thesis research findings from a longitudinal study, then led by Professor Lianne Woodward, that investigated neurodevelopmental outcomes of 4.5 year old children born to mothers enrolled in methadone maintenance treatment during pregnancy. Findings from this research highlight the risk of multiple developmental domain impairments for children born to methadone maintained mothers at 4.5 years of age, compared to a regional comparison group. More delay at 4.5 years for these children was observed in the domains of physical and motor development, language, cognition, emotional and behavioural adjustment and learning-based skills. Samantha is currently studying the educational outcomes of the same two groups of children at 9.5 years of age as part of the larger longitudinal study, now led by Dr Jacki Henderson.

AINSLEY McLEAN

Ainsley is currently studying towards a Master of European Union studies at the University of Canterbury. Her current research project focuses on conflict risk analysis from the European Union's perspective.

Formerly a registered nurse who has worked in conflict zones like Sierra Leone, Ainsley became inspired to return to studies and pursue a career in foreign policy and international security.

REGALIA HIRE REPORT

Although the winter months are a quiet period for our business there is still a variety of things going on.

While the main activity for the coming month continues to be cleaning and stocktaking, a small team of our members have been working on cataloguing our "special" gowns and hoods. Planning for the University of Canterbury's December graduation ceremonies will also begin this month.

Jean Sharfe Regalia Hire Manager

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN REPORT

At the May meeting Liz Gordon was a last minute speaker and she gave a very interesting talk on Grandparents as Caregivers. Liz is surveying grandparents who are caregivers and will produce a report from this. In the latest census there were 9,500 families that included grandparents raising their grandchildren. Half of these were Maori (mostly for cultural or family breakdown reasons). 3,000 grandparents belong to the organisation: Grandparents raising Grandchildren. Liz is doing the survey 'child by child', getting details of every grandchild being cared for by the more than 950 who have responded to the survey. Responses are by telephone or email.

Some Results: Parents addicted to drugs are the main reason for grandparents caring for their grandchildren. Many grandparents have to go to the Family Court to get custody of the children and there are financial and health issues for both grandparents and the children. Grandparents can access the unsupported child benefit, but only if they are looking after the children for more than 12 months! Grandparents often suffer violence from the children or wider family. Relevant organisations will use the survey results to increase their advocacy and presence in the community.

Other Issues Raised

Proposed organisational changes that will be voted on at the annual conference in September will be discussed at a special meeting on 30th May. The changes incorporate a review of the membership and operating models and the national board is seeking comment on individual membership becoming possible at national level, modernising the branch structure and having a national board comprising three elected directors, three appointed directors and one appointed young woman.

AGM

The 99th Annual Report was presented. Christine Low stepped down as interim President and Ellen McCrae was appointed the new President. The Branch is looking forward to celebrating its 100th anniversary next year.

Marlene Smith – NCW Representative

FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE NEWS

Please go to the GWI website (Members' Corner) and review the articles on major issues that will be discussed and voted on at the conference. Please contact secretary@nzfgw.org.nz with comments. National Executive will be collating and summarising all contributions so that your delegates will vote according to the wishes of NZFGW members.

Conference attendees that we know about are: (Delegates) Dr Ann Pomeroy (lead), Louise Croot, Dr Rowena Taylor (Alternates) Dr Shirley Gillett, Rae Duff, Dr Amy Taylor (Note that both Rae and Shirley have been nominated for GWI positions) Beverley Turner, Dorothy Meyer

NZFGW Triennial Report to GWI

Our triennial report will be available on the GWI website but here is an excerpt from it on membership and communication.

Membership Development

As at 30 June 2015: Full members = 521; Associate members: 6

The organisation has introduced a new category Independent Members' Network, with a convenor and full voting rights for Network members on the same basis as branches. In effect this is a virtual Branch.

Branches continue to use a number of strategies including advertising meetings among members (but only rarely among non-members), having interesting guest speakers, advertising the organisation and Branch (for example, distributing brochures at graduation events), and making contact with post graduate students. Some branches hold panel discussions open to the public which generally attract larger audiences than would normally attend. Awards events are now held around the country each year in a bid to raise our profile, and Branches attract new members by offering scholarships/ awards and travel grants to members. National Executive is in the process of developing a marketing strategy. In addition, the NZFGW website is being updated to make it more interesting, more current and more accessible.

Communications

At the national level, executive meetings which are conducted by telephone/conference calls are now attended by Branch Presidents (or a branch

representative) and this has improved communication.

The national conferences/council meetings were well advertised though not particularly well attended. To keep costs down, but raise the level of communications, Council meetings are now being conducted by conference call. An annual face-to-face meeting is also held of the Council (consisting of the National Executive and Branch Presidents). In a new move, Chairs of the Branch (or former Branch) Charitable Trusts (which government legislation have required of us) are also being invited to attend the face-to-face meetings as these are the fund raising entities of our organisation but are now mostly less closely associated with NZFGW.

NZFGW's participation in related organisations, such as the National Council of Women, continues to raise our profile. NZFGW also has a site on facebook. Useful advertising comes through offering scholarships and awards, including travel awards, to women undertaking tertiary studies. These methods have been moderately successful in attracting new members.

The GWI website is an excellent source of information and resource material. We like the straight-forward voting process used by GWI out of session. This provides a needed immediacy to decision-making.

PROPOSED GWI DUES INCREASE – FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

(from NZFGW Charitable Trust Treasurer, Pat Sivertsen)

This article covers the financial implications of the GWI proposal for increased dues.

The proposal

The dues proposal we will vote on (at the GWI Conference in August) is that the annual dues be increased from CHF18, to CHF35 (i.e. about NZ\$54). This is for dues that will be paid by national federations and associations in January 2017.

Financial implications for NZFGW if the proposal is passed

2016 dues – to be paid in January 2017

The GWI Dues will cost NZFGW about NZ\$13,000 (exchange rate dependent) more than budgeted for. The extra will need to be funded from reserves

2017 dues – to be paid in January 2018

Unless Branches and the Independent Members (IM) Network are willing to revisit subscriptions that have already been set for the year ending 30 June 2017 the GWI Dues payable in January 2018 will cost NZFGW about NZ\$13,000 more than budgeted for. The extra will need to be funded from reserves.

2018 onwards

NZFGW will set annual dues to cover the increased GWI dues

Timing of the GWI decision

NZFGW pays annual dues to GWI for each member. The amount forms part of the dues that NZFGW collects from each member. Dues are paid to GWI in January each year. The dues paid are the dues paid to NZFGW for the financial year ending 30 June the previous year. That is the GWI dues paid to NZFGW for the financial year ending **30 June 2016** are payable to GWI in **January 2017**. The GWI proposal is that the dues increase will take effect for dues payable to GWI in **January 2017**.

NZFGW membership dues for the year ending 30 June 2016 have already been paid by our members. (Branches will pay their dues for the year ending 30 June 2016 to NZFGW in July 2016. Independent Members have already paid their dues directly to NZFGW.) Dues were set on the understanding that the GWI portion would be approximately NZ\$28. If the proposal before the GWI conference is passed then in January 2017 NZFGW will have to pay to GWI about NZ\$54 per member. On an estimated 500 members this will cost NZFGW around \$13,000 more than budgeted for.

In most cases Branches will have already set their dues for the financial year that begins 1 July 2016 and ends 30 **June 2017**. They will have been set on the understanding that the level payable to NZFGW and GWI will remain around the same. Independent Member dues for the year ending 30 June 2017 will be paid to NZFGW in July 2016 – i.e. before GWI Conference.

For both branches and the Independent Network, dues for the year ending **30 June 2017** cannot be increased without agreement of the Branches or Network. The most likely scenario is that NZFGW will have to again fund the increased GWI dues from reserves in **January 2018**.

Not able to predict increase

Because there has not been a reasonably regular and therefore somewhat predictable increase in GWI dues, NZFGW have not been increasing the amount collected from its members to pay GWI dues. Only exchange rate fluctuations have been budgeted for.

Why will NZFGW have to pay so much extra?

As we noted in February, GWI should have put up its dues much earlier to cover its costs. GWI is the only body that advocates for women's education. They are performing small miracles, but they can't keep doing it on a shoestring.

The proposal has generated a heated international debate. We'd like to hear your views. Email ann.pomeroy@xtra.co.nz

WE'D LOVE TO KNOW WHY YOU JOINED NZFGW

One of the key goals of our NZFGW marketing strategy is to "**Raise the public image and profile about who we are, what we do and why**" Please help us out by taking our quick survey. By telling us why you joined NZFGW, we can better understand our role and why we do what we do.

[Why did you join NZFGW?](#)

The survey link is also on the left hand side of the Home page of the [NZFGW](#) website. Please don't take the survey more than once.

HISTORY FOUNDATION ANNUAL JIM GARDNER LECTURE

Sunday 24th July at 2pm.

Venue: Central Lecture Block, University of Canterbury

The speaker this year is **Dr Christopher Pugsley**, Military Historian and authority on World War I

The lecture will as usual be followed by afternoon tea.

New Horizons for Women Trust

The NHWT are holding their annual awards ceremony in the Foyer - Te Ao Mārama Aotahi - School of Māori and Indigenous Studies and MacMillan Brown Centre University of Canterbury at **2 pm, Sunday 24 July 2016**

Please RSVP by Monday 19 July to Rosemary Du Plessis, NHWT Trustee
rosemarydup@gmail.com

Programme

2.00 pm Welcome – Rosemary Du Plessis (NHWT Trustee) introduces Christchurch City Councillor Ali Jones

2.15 Dr Jo Innes – Chair - New Horizons for Women Trust

2.25 pm Speaker – Sacha McMeeking (Ngāi Tahu) - Head of Aotahi: Māori and Indigenous Studies, Ministry of Awesome co-founder and Ministry for Women Inspiring Woman

2.45 pm Presentation of the Society for Research on Women (SROW) Research Award to Helen Fitt
Helen will talk about her interests in issues relating to gender and transport after receiving her award

3.10 Afternoon tea

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