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NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014

****MARCH BRANCH MEETING ****

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 20th March at 7.30pm in the Staffroom, Rangi Ruru.**

It will take the form of a discussion on the topic:

Postgraduate Women: How realistic are their career goals?

The branch has been asked to contribute to a multi-country report for IFUW so do come along and make your views known on the status and fate of post-graduate women in Canterbury.

Don't forget the function to honour Judy Brooks and Carol Hart for their work on the Trust Board which is on **Tuesday 11th March at 2.30pm at 9 Creyke Rd.** Parking is available up the drive between 91 and 93 Clyde Rd.

REPORT OF LUNCH MEETING

About 20 members enjoyed an outing to the countryside and lunch at Sweethearts Restaurant. It was one of the hottest days this year but we were fortunate to have a shady room almost to ourselves with a very pleasant outlook on to trees and garden.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome to new members: Della Bennet who is a Masters student studying the Hutton's shearwater and Fiona Dalzell who has BVS and BA Hons degrees.

Sadly the death occurred recently of former member, Mollie Goosens. Mollie joined in

1980 after completing a late degree in languages. She was branch secretary from 1984 to 1986 and, as well as belonging to the North West Group, was also a regular attendee at branch meetings. She also assisted at graduations and she and Mavis Logan gave valuable help at the time of International Conference in 1984.

TRUST BOARD REPORT

The Trust Board met on 5th February 2014 for the first meeting of the year.

Donations are to be given to Movie Madness enabling disadvantaged families to attend movie entertainment and Rotary Club of Christchurch Sunrise enabling children to attend the Children's event 2014 Circus Quirkus.

The Trust has four endowed scholarships with the University of Canterbury and in recent times the endowed principals are not realising the required level of income to continue funding at the prescribed amount. Board members have recommended the undergraduate scholarships not be advertised this year. Judy Brooks and Ngaio Francis have undertaken to review our commitments with endowed scholarships with the Scholarships office of the University of Canterbury and canvas the options available. The Board confirmed the purchase of 20 Masters Gowns to maintain the Academic Dress Hire stocks.

A draft strategic plan aimed at informing board members and the wider community on the direction of the Trust is being finalised. Likewise the Trust Board Rules are being updated.

The Board has agreed to trial a formalised sheet defining the selection criteria used in the awarding of the CFGW Awards closing on 31 March 2014. Ngaio Francis is continuing to work on our Sadie Balkind Scholarship and Award advertising and selection process. Deborah Errington has accepted appointment as a Trustee.

The subcommittee tasked with reviewing the options for future housing of the Academic Dress Hire Business advised of having a valuable meeting with Jeff Field Registrar, University of Canterbury. Discussions with Commercial Real Estate Agents confirm inner city leasing has the potential to be an expensive option.

The value of having the assistance of a mentor in providing advice on the running of the Academic Dress Hire business was discussed and it was agreed we approach the Canterbury Development Corporation with a view to registering for an independent volunteer mentor.

Ellen McCrae - Chair, Canterbury Branch, NZFGW Trust

REPORT ON UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO, CHRISTCHURCH INAUGURATION OF THE 2014 ACADEMIC YEAR

I attended this event on Friday 14th February and you may be interested to hear some statistics about this campus which has just received its 42nd intake of 4th year MBChB students. This year they have 110 4th years and a total of 285 MBChB students covering 5th and 6th year students. Overall this campus has well over 1000 students. This number includes over 600 postgraduate students covering the disciplines of physiotherapy, nursing, pharmacy and medicine. Their budget is 40million and 23% of that income comes from Performance Based Research funding reflecting the high calibre of research. This is despite the overall low funding by comparison with overseas.

For every NZ\$1.00 spent, Australia spends NZ\$3.7; UK spends NZ\$4.00; and US spends NZ\$9.00.

GRADUATIONS

Helpers are required for the following graduations:

Christchurch Polytechnic

Thursday 27 March 8.30am to 1.00pm or
1.00pm to 5.00pm (at 9 Creyke Rd)

Friday 28 March 11.00am to 2.30pm or
2.30pm to 5.00pm (foyer, CBS Arena)

Canterbury University

Tuesday 14 April 8.00am to 1.00pm or
1.00pm to 5.30pm (at 9 Creyke Rd)

Wednesday 15 April 11.00am to 2.00pm or
2.00pm to 5.30pm (foyer, CBS Arena)

Thursday 16 April 8.00am to 1.00pm or
1.00pm to 5.30pm (at 9 Creyke Rd)

Friday 17 April 11.00am to 2.00pm or
2.00pm to 5.30pm (foyer, CBS Arena)

Lincoln University

Thursday 1 May 8.00am to 1.00pm or
1.00pm to 5.30pm (at 9 Creyke Rd)

Friday 2 May 11.00am to 2.00pm or 2.00pm
to 5.30pm (at Lincoln Univ.)

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

We were assured that money invested in the Summer Research Studentships is excellent value for money with high research output on money invested. Canterbury Branch NZ Federation of Graduate Women (inc) Trust Board funded Gabrielle Budd in her summer project “Investigating the contribution of hypoxia-inducible factor to cobalt-induced pseudo-tumour formation”.

Our best overall presentation prize went to Hannah Palmer for her project “Understanding how adipocytes in breast cancer make tumour cells more invasive”.

Referring back to the Inauguration, the Chairman of the Canterbury District Health Board, Murray Cleverly, encouraged us to follow five rules – 1). Give time and share what you know 2). Be active 3). Keep learning 4). Embrace new opportunities 5). Connect/talk/listen. Students were advised they were part of a leading facility both from a teaching and research aspect.

Jonathon Stevenson, President of Medical Student’s Association (who incidentally gained distinction in his 5th year studies and took out five of the eight prizes for the year), confirmed the calibre of training. He pointed out that his predecessor James Stewart had not only fended off a shark but had sewn up the resulting wound surely a graphic example of the competence of graduate produced.

Ellen McCrae, Chair, Canterbury Branch NZFGW (Inc) Trust Board

AFTERSHOCKS: the Psychological and Social Impacts of Disaster in Christchurch, New Zealand.

In 2012 a student from Cambridge University visited Christchurch and interviewed a number of people, including branch members about their earthquake experiences. She has now completed her thesis and kindly sent us a copy.

Some extracts from it are below and if anyone would like to read the whole thesis email geraldinemurphy@xtra.co.nz

Ideas of a society ‘bouncing back’ from disaster take their cue from the spread of notions of ‘resilience’ which have come to be employed in the discussion of the recovery of cities and more latterly individuals. This is a challenging notion of recovery because it is patently untrue that cities always recover rapidly in the aftermath of disaster.

Physical and institutional reconstruction is often slow or mainly benefits certain social groups. Similarly it is unreasonable and unhelpful to suggest that individuals can or should be able to bounce back from a disaster. It is a suggestion which ignores the cultural and psychological trauma inflicted by a disaster. In the context of slow response by insurance companies, institutional system failure, and cultural, social and psychological trauma, continued use of the word ‘resilience’ can be seen to provoke anger and frustration among the residents of Christchurch.

The psychological impacts of the earthquakes in Christchurch are numerous and deep running. They have been ignored by a discourse of resilience and compulsory optimism which constructs negative voices as abnormal and inappropriate. It is, in fact, the discourse itself which is inappropriate. A discourse which demands that people who have suffered extreme trauma turn immediately to the future, bounce back and continue with life as normal, is not only unrealistic but disrespectful and dangerous.

This weight of expectation perpetuated by politicians and the media, while potentially helpful to some, is so all encompassing that it cannot avoid serving to oppress and dishearten the portion of Christchurch’s population who feel considerably less than resilient.

FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF GRADUATE WOMEN

30th CONFERENCE

at Rydges Hotel, 75 Featherston Street,
Pipitea, WELLINGTON

on **26 - 28 SEPTEMBER 2014**

WOMEN EMPOWERING WOMEN AS LEADERS

CONFERENCE PLANNING

The opening (cocktail) function will be at Rydges Hotel and the Conference Dinner will be held in the Grand Hall at Parliament (Saturday night). The draft programme has been revised and we are paring down the business sessions by doing as much work in advance as we can, with the aim of key discussions being held and completed on Saturday

IFUW International Fellowships and Grants

The 2014 IFUW International Fellowships and Grants Competition is now open. The awards are for postgraduate research, study or training undertaken between 1 January 2015 and 15 March 2016.

Application deadline with IFUW is 30 June 2014. Applicants are reminded they must apply through the NZFGW National Executive – closing day for applications with National Executive are 15 May 2014.

Results will be announced by 1 November 2014.

For the Rules re Eligibility of Applicant and Proposal see the IFUW website

<http://www.ifuw.org/what/fellowships/>

SUPPORT FOR POST-GRADUATE WOMEN GEOGRAPHERS

As part of the NZ Geographical Society Postgraduate Network (PGN), several NZ postgraduate students will be attending the

IAG-NZGS Melbourne Conference (29 June – 2 July 2014) to present their individual ground-breaking research. Apart from individual papers, PGN students have proposed two panellist discussion sessions. Being directly involved in the conference not only creates visibility for the network, but also facilitates mentorship and knowledge sharing among postgraduate students and a wider international audience. This is a prime opportunity to show Australian colleagues what the New Zealand Network is achieving. Several PGN Representatives are NZFGW Fellows, Merit Awardees and recipients of Masters Scholarships. Support from Branches for these women would be warmly welcomed. For more information contact Gail Hutcheson (gaila@waikato.ac.nz).

Waikato Branch's Nov-Dec 2013 newsletter includes an article from member Dr Barbara L'Huillier who after completing her PhD in accounting at Waikato University is now working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Accounting and Finance at Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University (PMU) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. She says "While PMU caters for both male and female students the campus itself is divided along gender lines i.e. a male campus and a female campus but occupying the same site. There is quite a large wall that acts as the dividing barrier between the two campuses. Male faculty are allowed to teach on the female campus if there are insufficient female faculty to cover the classes but women are not allowed to teach male students."

<http://www.nzfgw.org.nz/branch-news-projects/waikato-branch-news/>

NGAIO MARSH HOUSE - TWO FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Summer Garden Party in March

Put on a festive hat and come along and enjoy wine, *hors d'oeuvres*, and the sound of a wandering minstrel! As well as good companionship, there will be readings from Ngaio's writings and tours of the house.

Date: Sunday 16th March, 5.00pm to 7.00pm.

Tickets: \$25 available from Philippa Bates, 16 Hounslow St, Ilam 8041, Phone 358 8763, email: philbates@paradise.net.nz

The 2014 Ngaio Marsh Memorial Lecture in April. Presented by crime fiction writer, Vanda Symon.

Vanda's novels have featured in the finals of the Ngaio Marsh Award for the best New Zealand crime novel in every year since the inauguration of the award in 2010. She is a degree-qualified pharmacist with a background in chemistry and is currently working on a doctoral thesis exploring Ngaio's understanding of forensics, which was an important feature of her writing.

Date: Sunday 13th April 5.00 to 6.00pm

Venue: Old Boys' Theatre, Christ's College

Tickets: \$25 available from Philippa Bates, 16 Hounslow St, Ilam 8041, Phone 358 8763, email: philbates@paradise.net.nz

Payment for both events by cheque to *Friends of Ngaio Marsh House*. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. Tickets will be posted on receipt.

UN International Women's Day

12:30pm – 1:30pm Saturday March 8th 2014 "Liberation of Kate Sheppard National Memorial Bronze Wall"

Mayor Lianne Dalziel will address the gathering. So bring a brown paper bag lunch, some flower(s), rug/chair, balloon & find a spot on the riverbank between Worcester & Gloucester Streets and join all the other women and men. Once 'Kate is free' we will float our flowers in the Avon River in celebration!

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