

## Providing a Quality Service Since 1935

The University of Canterbury Graduation ceremonies in April this year will mark the eightieth year of Canterbury Graduate Women providing regalia for graduands.

The service had humble beginnings in 1935, when hoods, gowns and trenchers were borrowed from local teachers and hired to students. The first year 30 students were provided with regalia, half of the £16/2/6 which was received being reinvested in purchasing fabric and fur which volunteers then made into hoods.

Gowns and trenchers were imported from England until 1963, when the refusal of an import license led to the beginning of an association with local firm J Ballantyne & Co. This relationship continues with Ballantynes still providing us with quality gowns and hoods.

Those first 30 graduands gowned in 1935 have grown to several thousand as we now provide regalia year round for both Canterbury and Lincoln universities, CPIT, Christchurch Graduate School and many other local tertiary providers.

Where once regalia was borrowed from local teachers, today secondary schools from Nelson to Timaru and the West Coast, as well as Christchurch schools hire hoods and gowns for their annual prize-givings.

The income from this volunteer service provides educational scholarships and awards and charitable donations to our community.