



National Executive News

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P O Box 6566, Dunedin, New Zealand

www.nzfgw.org.nz

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Rebecca L Lynch's parents, AJ and Mo (front), with eight previous holders of the Rebecca L Lynch scholarship. From right: Marie Hayley (2008) from Akaroa; Jessica Lewis (2008) from Christchurch; Helen Thomas (2001) from Christchurch; Bridget Royce (2000) from Dubai; Libby Spooner (1999) from Auckland; Lucy Laitinen (1998) from Auckland; Sarah Gibbs (1994) from Auckland; and Lynley Kelly (1983) from Sydney.

Reunion celebrates 30 years

Celebrating 30 years of the Rebecca L Lynch Memorial Scholarship, Rebecca's family and eight past recipients gathered in Nelson this month to be part of the scholarship's first reunion.

Some brought their families and two women brought husbands whom they met at the University of Idaho. Attendees flew in from Australia, Dubai and throughout New Zealand. Mo and AJ flew from Alaska for the reunion, hosted by NZFGW Nelson Branch on 12-14 March, and to visit their daughter Lisa and her family, who live in Nelson.

The one-year scholarship is for a young Kiwi woman to attend the University of Idaho. The Nelson FGW Trust provides the selection committee and the University of Idaho administers the scholarship.

Rebecca (Becky) L Lynch was born 9 April 1960 in Virginia, USA to Maurice (Mo) and Alice (AJ) Lynch, who met at the University of Idaho in 1951. The Lynch family moved to Christchurch in 1964 where Mo flew C-130s for Operation Deep Freeze in the Antarctic.

The family moved to Nairobi, Kenya in 1969, where Becky died in a tragic car accident in 1970. In 1971 the family moved back to Idaho.

Rebecca spent the best years of her short life in New Zealand, it seemed fitting to Mo and AJ to give Kiwi girls an American opportunity—and therein began the Rebecca L Lynch Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship was established in 1981. The first scholarship was awarded in 1983. By 2010, 34 young Kiwi women have been given the scholarship. The scholarship recipients lead exciting lives and are scattered all over the world: 14 in NZ, 9 in the US, 5 in the UK, 1 in Ireland, 3 in Australia, and 1 in Dubai.

Mo and AJ take a great interest in the women who receive the scholarships, often visiting recipients when they attend the U of I.

EDITORIAL

***Dot Page,
National
President***



Bread and Roses

I wonder how many of you celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) on 8th March. UNIFEM, which has a well-established role in organising IWD breakfasts, reported twenty-two functions round the country. Here in Dunedin I could begin the working day with an NZFGW (Otago Branch) breakfast and end it with wine and cheese put on by the University Staff Women's Caucus – reluctantly bypassing a lecture by Jeanette Fitzsimmons, hosted by Zonta. I heard two

excellent speakers, both trained in fields where women are thin on the ground, Associate Professor Rachel Baskerville of the School of Accounting and Commercial Law at Victoria and Dr Gretchen Kivell, a former chemical engineer, now head of Otago's postgraduate residential College. It was very enjoyable and the tone was suitably buoyant.

I haven't been especially conscious of IWD until recently and although I've gone to a few breakfasts, it takes quite a lot to prise me away from the kitchen table and the newspaper early in the morning. But the realisation that IWD will celebrate its centenary next year set me off on a quest to find out more about it. The United Nations accorded it official recognition in International Women's Year, 1975, and sets a special theme for each year. In 2010 it is 'Equal rights, equal opportunities: progress for all'. Over the years the elimination of violence against women has featured strongly as a theme, but countries can choose their own, or not have one at all. Cities, professions, women's organisations and neighbourhoods celebrate in ways that range from lectures, social gatherings and art exhibitions to neighbourhood parties. In the United States the whole of March is designated Women's History Month. The 8th March is a public holiday in some fifteen countries, including China, Bulgaria, Russia and Vietnam. Although IWD may now have a higher profile here than formerly, internationally we don't rate.

So where did it all begin? I had a vague impression that it had been connected with a strike of women textile workers in New York some time after 1900. The women had carried placards that said 'We want bread but we want roses too': that is, fair wages but also acceptable working conditions. James Oppenheimer used the evocative phrase 'Bread and Roses' in a stirring poem, later set to music, and the slogan caught on.

Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes.

Hearts starve as well as bodies;
give us bread, but give us roses.

The placards might have been apocryphal but the struggle of American women workers against the brutal industrial conditions of the day was not. In New York 75,000 women demonstrated in 1908 for shorter hours, better pay and the vote. A National Women's Day was held the next year. The tragic and needless loss of 146 women workers' lives in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire in New York in 1911 added urgency to the women workers' movement in the US.

The impetus for international action, however, came from Europe. In 1910 a conference of some hundred women workers, from the unions, socialist parties and working women's clubs of seventeen countries, met in Copenhagen and voted unanimously for an International Women's Day. The resolution was the work of the extraordinary Clara Zetkin, feminist and communist, respected member of the German Reichstag from 1920 till its destruction in 1932. The first IWD took place in 1911 in Germany, Austria, Denmark and Switzerland. The actual date was settled slightly later, when women rallied for peace in 1913-14 and was confirmed in 1917 when Russian women, appalled by the loss of life in the war, demonstrated on 8th March for 'Bread and Peace', in what proved to be the first act of the Communist Revolution.

In recent years, after a long period of quiescence, the tone of IWD has emerged as celebratory rather than confrontational. The political element has all but disappeared in some countries, where women typically receive appreciative greeting cards and gifts of flowers from their menfolk. Here in New Zealand it is affirming to be able to celebrate the achievements of women in the 21st century, but it is also satisfying to note that 8th March press releases from both the Council of Trade Unions and the National Council of Women reflect an older, tougher tradition. The CTU focused on a lack of progress towards pay equity, inadequate representation of women on the Government's new policy working groups on tax, accident compensation and the 2025 task force, and changes signalled by Government, potentially

disadvantageous to women, in personal grievance procedure, the Holidays Act and a review of vulnerable workers' legislation. The NCW saw little significant progress towards gender equality in recent years, reminded the Government of its obligations under CEDAW and called on it to take active measures to improve women's lives, in personal safety, economic well-being and status.

Give us bread, and give us roses.

CIR

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PGWNet New Website

At the December 2009 PGWNet Council, Convenor Dr Jenny Strauss undertook to work with IFUW on developing a PGWNet site on the IFUW website (as happens for the European group). Although development is still happening, the site will include:

- Statement of purpose and eligibility for membership
- List of national members, office bearers and addresses
- Links to members' websites
- Reports to PGWNet Council
- How to manage electronic conferencing
- "what's happening" and "what's new" pages
- Some examples of interaction – e.g. the bag, projects, scholarship donations
- Photos of PGWNet meetings

The website is now up and ready for your inspection at www.ifuw.org/pgwnet

IFUW Fellowships and Grants 2011-2012

The closing date for IFUW fellowships and grants is **1 October 2010**. To allow sufficient time for their consideration, the NZFGW closing date for receiving applications is **31 July 2010**.

Please note that, as IFUW requires applications to be submitted electronically, your application will also need to be submitted to NZFGW electronically.

Information on IFUW fellowships and grants and the Application Form are available on the IFUW website www.ifuw.org

If you know any likely candidates, please encourage them to apply.

Mexico Conference, 5 – 9 August 2010

The www.ifuw.org website provides a wealth of information about the programme, related events, tours and accommodation.

REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN for the 30th IFUW Triennial Conference on *Education, Empowerment & Development*. Please note that an “earliest bird” fee for Full Registration (USD670) applies only **until 31 March**. A “later bird” fee (USD870) applies until 30 June.

NEW ZEALAND CONTINGENT: Including our IFUW President, Louise Croot, we think that the New Zealand contingent will be 14 or 15 strong. All four NZFGW workshop proposals were accepted for the Conference. A seminar proposal from Dr Shirley Gillett (Otago Branch) has also been accepted.

Call for interest in IFUW Special Committees 2010–2013

IFUW has called for suggestions of committee members for the Hegg Hoffet and Projects Development Committees. We have already received an expression of interest from a very suitable candidate for the first of these. In brief:

The **Hegg Hoffet Committee** allocates and promotes grants offered through the IFUW Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates. These provide assistance for graduate women (in special cases tertiary women students) who have been displaced as a result of war, political upheaval or other serious emergencies.

The **Projects Development Committee** is a technical advisory body responsible for assisting NFAs in the development and implementation of viable, sustainable community development and capacity building projects addressing IFUW goals and priorities.

Detailed information about the experience and qualifications being sought and the forms to submit can be downloaded from the following four websites:

- [Call for the 2010-2013 Hegg Hoffet Committee](#)
- [Hegg Hoffet Biodata Form](#)
- [Call for the 2010-2013 Projects Development Committee](#)
- [Project Committee Biodata Form](#)

The closing date for applications to reach IFUW is **1 May 2010**. Please let me know well before that date if you are intending to apply.

Consultation on IFUW Programme for Action– Phase 3

Members are still welcome to join and contribute to this consultation by emailing discussions@ifuw.org up until **30 April 2010**.

Otago (New Zealand) IFUW President's Choice Speaker Award

The proposal from the Otago Branch to establish the above award was formally approved and accepted by IFUW in February. The grant “to recognise that in the first 88 years of the history of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) only two Southern Hemisphere women have had the honour of serving as President and both have been members of the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (NZFGW)’s Otago Branch” takes immediate effect for the Mexico Conference. The grant will continue to provide funding for one Speaker, proposed by the President, at each IFUW triennial conference.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

*Linda Robertson, National Executive
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Local initiatives

Waikato: Panel discussion on HIV/AIDS: Education Needs for New Zealand Girls

“The need for addressing this issue was brought to our attention by Hamilton YWCA members, following their attendance at their international conference in Nairobi in 2007, at which WHO representatives predicted the next global HIV/ AIDS epidemic would be amongst heterosexual women in Australasia and the Pacific. A remit on this topic was passed at NZFGW's triennial conference last October, and a similar remit is being presented to NCW's conference later this year. All three women's groups mentioned consider HIV/AIDS education an important topic to be fully covered in schools, and the purpose of the meeting ... is to determine the way in which this could best be done. Lisa Hayes, an attendee at the Nairobi Conference, will be our guest speaker and facilitator”.

This notification of an innovative panel discussion was written by Marylyn from the Waikato branch and demonstrates an initiative to unite women's groups in an education programme. The remit from conference and action plan can be seen in the 2009 conference proceedings.

North Shore: Branch History Project

Work has begun on the History of the North Shore Branch of NZFGW. A steering group have met and are now beginning a programme of contacting possible writers, having discussions with relevant groups and interviewing members.

Early Childhood Education

North Shore is planning a project that will research the costs, accessibility, needs and educational opportunities and how they affect children when they reach primary school.

Follow up on conference remits

1. National project on the impact of loss of Adult Community Education (ACE) funding:

Press Releases from the New Zealand Labour Party anticipated that there would be ongoing effects from the loss of ACE funding that would impact on communities in negative ways. These include families affected by the recession losing an affordable, grassroots community solution to up-skilling and the possibility that the ACE redundancies will cost more than the ACE cuts resulting in significant financial hardships for high schools (if they have to find money to pay redundancies to night class co-ordinators or tutors).

Are these observations scaremongering or is there a tangible community loss following the loss of the ACE funding? National Executive is implementing a national project that will draw together stories from different communities all over New Zealand. The information will be collated into a report to reflect the local impacts and may be sent to the Minister of Education and other ministers as appropriate.

Guidelines are being developed and will shortly be sent to the branches. The purpose of this project is to gather information that will provide clarity about what impact the funding costs have had on individuals, schools and communities. It is anticipated that all branches will be able to participate as well as independent members. Stories could be included from those who organise and teach (or used to teach) on the ACE programmes to more personal stories of how the cuts have impacted on individuals who were class members. All stories are welcome and we are happy to have 1 or more from branches or from individuals. We hope to have all information collated by the end of July 2010.

2. Letters are being drafted by members of the branches to inform government minister regarding the other two remits passed at conference.

Waikato will be addressing the concerns over the spread of HIV/Aids and the role of women in preventing this.

Hutt Valley branch have undertaken to draft a letter to be sent to the Prime Minister and others as appropriate on the importance of intensive, early intervention programmes as a means of improving the life of children born into 'dysfunctional' families.

National Standards

2/2/10 Anne Tolley stated: If parents are to be active participants in their child's education, they need to have a clear idea of how their child is progressing and the quality of education their school is providing.... Labour claims that: 'The process is rushed and untested and there is a huge amount of concern that the proposed testing scheme will do more harm than good.' The conflicting issues of consistency across the schools versus the value of individual enterprise at schools will no doubt be hotly debated at all levels. There are many issues that should concern NZFGW over the education of NZ children.

MEMBERSHIP

Jean S Fleming, National Executive
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Independent Members can now meet each other, exchange addresses and discuss NZFGW issues via a new Facebook page. The group has been set up for a trial period of six months, to ascertain the level of its use and usefulness. It is open to Independent Members (IMs) only, currently, and is a closed group. Members can access each other, but cannot access the personal pages of other members, unless invited.

The objectives of the Facebook group are to allow IMs in the different parts of the country to:

- meet and communicate with each other;
- get together if they live in the same area;
- support IMs to form new Branches; and

- allow IMs to participate in discussions on local or international issues and contribute to NZFGW submissions.

If you want to join the group, please email Jean Fleming (jean.fleming@otago.ac.nz) to receive an electronic invitation.

A big welcome to our new Independent Members, Sasha Holden (London, UK) and Marina McCartney (Sandringham, Auckland).

PUBLICITY

Brigid Feely, National Executive
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NE News Change

National Executive receives a steady stream of interesting news and updates from members and fellowship/grant holders. They are stories that should be shared, so we will be looking to include them in future copies of NE News.

We would also like to see more branch news in the NE News – especially stories which will be of interest to other branches. While we appreciate that branches do send newsletters directly to other branches, we also see a role for the monthly NE News in facilitating the flow of information between branches.

If you have any items from your branch newsletters – including photos – that you would like highlighted to other branches, please alert me at brigid@tobefrank.co.nz and we will include in the following NE News. We aim to publish NE News on the 15th of each month, so items would need to be with me by about the 8th of the month.

Please contact Brigid if you have any queries or suggestions.

SPORTSWOMEN MENTORING

NZFGW has been approached by a leadership and business mentoring

programme looking for inspiring women who can spend one-on-one time with athletes up to three times a year. The programme has a strong emphasis on life after sport and alternative careers.

For more information: www.nzcpa.co.nz

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Dorothy Page

Women in Academia: Making the Invisible Visible

The elusive story of women in New Zealand universities is increasingly coming into the light.

In Their Own Right, Kay Morris Matthews' impressively researched and very readable account of women and higher education in New Zealand before 1945, appeared in 2008, published by the New Zealand Council for Educational Research.

Members who were at conference last October will remember the outstanding women Professor Matthews described for us in her after-dinner talk.

Outsiders or Equals? Women Professors of the University of New Zealand, 1911-1961

Now, hot on its heels, is *Outsiders or Equals? Women Professors of the University of New Zealand, 1911-1961* by Tanya Fitzgerald, published by Peter Lang AG, International Academic Publishers, Berne, in 2009. The title intrigued me. Who were these NZU women professors who had escaped my notice in a period when there were only a handful of tenured women staff at any level? In one sense the title promises more than the book provides. There were no women professors appointed in competition with men in any of the Colleges over these fifty years; the book is about the first four professors in the Faculty of Home Science at the University of Otago.

That said, however, Professor Fitzgerald (formerly of Unitec, Auckland and now at

La Trobe, Melbourne) has done us a service by adding to our understanding of four remarkable women, Winifred Boys-Smith, Helen Rawson (later Benson), Ann Gilchrist Strong and Elizabeth Gregory, and their impact on the changing university environment in which they operated. Her work rounds out the information on each available in the *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography* by the extensive use of their professional and personal correspondence to highlight what she calls 'the complex, contradictory and at times competing voices and actions of the woman professor' and their collective attempts to establish 'a level of status, prestige, expertise and authority within the Academy'.

WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB

The NZFGW website – at www.nzfgw.org.nz has a lot of extra information and detail that many may find interesting. Recent updates include:

- Updated Wellington Branch news: Pay Equity - Now you see it, now you don't!
- Details of awards for 2009/10.
- A pdf version of this newsletter, plus recent back copies.