



National Executive News

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www.nzfgw.org.nz

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EDITORIAL

Dot Page, National President

Worth a Thousand Words

This year is the fiftieth anniversary of two events of considerable importance for New Zealand society, the introduction of television and the introduction of the contraceptive pill. It would be possible to theorise about the combined impact of the two – and it's quite an entertaining exercise – but I don't want to go there. My focus today is strictly on the visual.

Over recent weeks our TV screens have been full of images of the past half century, great public events of international or national significance, individuals with outstanding reputations in a variety of fields, or perhaps just enjoying their fifteen minutes of fame. Some of the world images are familiar and heart-wrenching: a napalm-burned little girl running toward the camera down a road in Vietnam, the assassination of President Kennedy, the destruction of the Twin Towers on 9/11. Closer to home, as well as public events of acknowledged importance, there have been pictures of happenings and people we had almost forgotten, bizarre hairstyles and fashions and a lot of sport.

Watching these television images reminds us how important our own photos are to us. Families who have lost everything in floods or fire typically say they are most distressed at the loss of the family photographs, those intimate, irreplaceable reminders of cherished occasions. Wordsworth didn't have a camera to capture the daffodils he saw on his famous lakeside walk but he might well have been describing how a photo can recall the emotion of a special experience when he wrote of images that 'flash upon that inward eye which is the bliss of solitude'.



Family photographs go back to the beginnings of our colonial history. We have come a long way from the stern formal portraits of the earliest settlers, although I shall always be grateful that the settlement of New Zealand coincided with the development of the art of photography, giving us an incomparable record of mid to late nineteenth century people, places and events. Now it is all much more casual, as cameras have become smaller and simpler to use, through the box brownie to the digital camera and the cell phone. It is also much more intrusive and its uses more varied. Paparazzi hound the famous and their families to feed the insatiable appetite of mass-circulation newspapers and magazines. Indiscreet celebrities are photographed without their knowledge and their indiscretions exposed to the world. The internet has facilitated a flourishing international industry in pornographic images. Criminals captured on closed circuit television can later be captured in person by police.

These random musings on photographs have been touched off by a request from IFUW. This year National Federations have been asked to include illustrations in their triennial reports and I am struck by the fact that as an organization we are not very consistent in keeping a visual as well as a documentary record of our activities. When the National Executive moved to Dunedin from North Shore the outgoing Executive took immense care in labelling, packing and couriering South seven large cartons of materials – a variety of publications and papers, computer disks, lanyards, name cards and wooden stands used at conference, even a splendid kava bowl. The cartons did contain some photos on disk, of delegates and groups at Council or Conference, but far from a full record of the NZFGW's many activities. It is not standard practice for National Executive to maintain a photo archive (perhaps because most of the time we just sit around talking and looking worried?) and I suspect that Branch practice varies too. Probably a great deal depends on the

enthusiasm of particular individuals and it is likely that many interesting photos of Federation events remain in private hands. I know that some Branches keep scrapbooks, recording special people and special occasions, and this is admirable. But I would like to suggest a step further: that Branches set up and regularly maintain a photo archive, with full and careful captions, (including names, places and dates) stored on disk, as well as in hard copy. It will be interesting now and, who knows, fifty years on it could be invaluable.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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Bravo Pacific Graduate Women's Network (PGWNet)

Warm congratulations to PGWNet on the approval of its revised Constitution by the IFUW Membership Committee. Other good news is that the Australian Federation (AFGW) is taking active steps to nurture the beginnings of a Papua New Guinea association. NZFGW branches and members may be interested also to know that NZFGW takes on the leadership of PGWNet for a two-year term from November 2010. Historically, PGWNet has focused (and continues to do so) on South-West Pacific jurisdictions. Have you checked out our PGWNet website yet – www.ifuw.org/pgwnet?

Mexico Conference, 5 – 9 August 2010

IFUW POLICY RESOLUTIONS: Thank you to North Shore Branch for the carefully considered, detailed response. Your suggested changes to the Resolutions were forwarded to the IFUW Resolutions Committee. Four have so far been rejected by the various Proposing

Federations, which is disappointing but perhaps not unexpected. The limited time available for proposing NFAs to re-consult their membership on amendments is fairly challenging. The Call for Branch views and guidance (April and May NZFGW newsletters) elicited just the North Shore response.

SEXUALITY AND VIOLENCE: Bravo, Beverley Turner. Our PWW (Pacific Women's Watch) representative, Beverley has volunteered to contribute to a Special Session on Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health led by Dr Jennifer Strauss, AFGW's Immediate Past-President. Beverley will speak on the current situation in Auckland regarding Underage Cultural Marriages. (This is an area of concern on which NZFGW has recently taken some action.)

REPRESENTING YOU: Now finalised, the list is: Voting Delegates (4): Joy Dunsheath (Wellington), Margaret Ellett (North Shore), Dot Page and Claire Matthewson (Executive); Alternate Voting Delegates (3): Rae Duff (Wellington), Martine Cashell-Smith and Sheila Williams (Otago)

Internet IFUW Discussion – Membership

It has been really good to see NZFGW members engaging to share their views in this international discussion. The current lively topic is on membership and the crucial issues of recruitment, relevance and retention. Discussion has been so fruitful that the period was extended for a further week. Just a reminder that any Federation member may join the Discussion Network. To subscribe, please complete the form on www.ifuw.org/networks/subscribe.shtml.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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ACE National Project

It's good to see that several branches have included this project (loss of ACE (Adult Community Education) in meeting agendas. Information can be found on the NZFGW website under the PAC tab – look for National Project; or email me directly at roylinda@xtra.co.nz.

Age-friendly Cities

I recently attended the International Federation of Aging Conference in Melbourne where delegates were challenged to consider the impact of the predicted growth in numbers of older people. As Jane Parry states in her investigation of how cities around the world are catering for the explosive growth in the number of people aged over 60: "Between 1950 and 2050, the number of people over the age of 80 will grow from 14 million to 400 million worldwide. At the same time, the pace of urbanization continues unabated: by 2030 an estimated three in five people will be urban dwellers". The article goes on to discuss the impetus provided by WHO's Age-friendly Cities programme to provide a tangible way to address these trends. As she explains: "The programme encourages leaders in cities as diverse as New York and Nairobi to think constructively about how to improve life for older people, a process that has the potential to enhance city life for everyone. To this end, in 2006, representatives from 33 cities in 22 countries met and examined eight areas where cities might influence healthy ageing: outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication and information, and community support and

health services.” See Jane Parry’s report: www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/88/6/10-020610.pdf

In the WHO programme, healthy ageing is considered to be inextricably linked to an individual’s social context. This is interesting in the light of the loss of ACE funding which has effectively dismantled social processes that have linked people of all ages through the medium of education. The need to accommodate an increasingly larger proportion of older people in our cities needs vision. This is where the Global Network of Age-friendly Cities assists ... Is your city linked to this network?

Conference: Women Deliver 2010 – Invest in women, it pays

It may be an oft-repeated, but true statement that “the well-being of women determines the well-being of a country”. According to Jill Sheffield, President of Women Deliver, “Women deliver enormous social and economic benefits to their families, communities, and nations. Our leaders need to realize that this issue is at the core of global development, economic well-being, and even national security. When women survive, families thrive.” A conference called *Invest in Women it Pays* will be the world’s largest conference on women’s health and empowerment in more than a decade. It opens on Monday, 7 June, at Washington DC, USA, with a call to increase funding commitments for maternal, reproductive, and newborn health. The conference comes at a critical moment, three weeks before the G8 Summit, where host country Canada has made it a major focus, and represents the return of the United States as a strong partner, in promoting global maternal and reproductive health. See press release:

www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO1006/S00136.htm

WHAT’S NEW ON THE WEB

Recent updates on the NZFGW website – www.nzfgw.org.nz – include:

- Independent Membership: Membership form and updated details on benefits of joining.
- A pdf version of this newsletter, plus recent back copies.