



## **Auckland Graduate Women Newsletter**

**New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (Auckland Branch) Inc**  
**www.auckgradwomen.org.nz**      **P.O. Box 74 340, Market Rd, Auckland 1543**

**August 2009**

Dear Everyone

Although the Branch has wound up it is still important that newsletters are sent out from time to time to keep you in touch with some events and news. Joyce and I are both thrilled to see that a number of you have enrolled as Independent members. This is a good way to keep in touch with NZFGW and if anyone else would like to become an Independent member the forms are available on the website - [www.nzfgw.org.nz](http://www.nzfgw.org.nz) or can be mailed out to you by phoning me on 529 2062 - leave details if I am out. Membership of North Shore is another alternative but I do not have details of their fee for the next year. However if you contact me I can put you in touch with someone at the Branch.

It would be great to organise some informal social gatherings for former Branch members and Independent members from time to time to keep in touch with you all.

Yours

**Jane**

### **Future Events to Note**

- **VIVA - Thursday 20th August - 10.30am at 63 Norman Lesser Drive, St Johns.**

**SPEAKER : Allan Baddley from the Music Department**

**TOPIC: Rescuing/Repairing Fragments of Music Manuscript**

Dr Baddley specializes in 18th Century music but his overall experience is wide-ranging.

This will be a very interesting and entertaining talk. As always friends will be welcome.

- **WOMEN TO WATCH - Monday 24th August at 5.00pm**

Graham Hill Lecture Theatre, Level 12, Auckland Hospital

(Enter through the main entrance of the old Auckland Hospital building, proceed straight ahead and take lift **from Lift Bank C to Level 12** )

**Speaker: AP Suzanne Wilkinson, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Auckland**

Suzanne Wilkinson graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering and a PhD in Construction management from Oxford Brookes University, UK. Her research interests include project management, construction management and construction law. She is currently involved in two large Government funded research projects examining management problems associated with post-disaster reconstruction and retrofitting NZ buildings to protect them against seismic damage.

*Drinks and Nibbles will follow with an opportunity for interaction and discussion. Free parking is available at the Staff Carpark, next to the Childcare Centre in Park Avenue, Grafton after 4.30pm. For catering requirements, please RSVP to Jane Bellamy by Friday 21 August on 529 2062 or [janebellamy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:janebellamy@xtra.co.nz)*

## **Women to Watch**

This successful series of seminars will continue, sponsored by The Kate Edger Educational Charitable Trust. At the June meeting Charmian O'Connor spoke of her career pathway. She has been and continues to be an inspiration to many students and staff at the University Of Auckland where she has been a role model for many, especially women. This belief in offering educational opportunities and mentoring has continued into her work with The Kate Edger Educational Charitable Trust where she has worked hard to ensure that the funds from hire of regalia is wisely invested so that as many women can be helped as possible by the award system.

Future speakers for this year's seminars are :

19th October - Professor Margaret Brimble from the Chemistry Department, University of Auckland who has gained numerous awards and honours, both national and international, for her work and research.

30th November - Professor Helen Danesh-Meyer who is noted for her research and work in the field of ophthalmology, especially glaucoma.

These two are both leaders in their fields and we hope that some of you will come to the seminars to listen to them speak of their career pathways and how they, like other speakers we have heard, manage their busy lives.

## **2009 Garden Party**

Those who attended the Garden Party will remember we were given the opportunity to purchase jewellery. The young graduate, Shane Lal, generously donated her time and her commission so that we could donate a sum of money to assist a student. As Shane is a graduate in Food Science it was decided to find a student in that field who needed assistance. Danae Larsen, a Post-graduate student was selected and the money was able to help with her expenses to travel to Australia to present a paper at a Conference. She is considered to be an outstanding student by her teachers.

## **2009 NZFGW Conference**

I am enclosing the Conference Programme and a Registration form in the hope of encouraging more of you to consider attending some or all of the sessions. An interesting programme has been planned with some very good speakers and the organisers are hoping for good attendance from the locals. This does mean those of you who have belonged to Auckland Graduate Women - all are most welcome to register and it will be a chance to meet up with friends from other parts of the country.

I have a few volunteers to help over the weekend but it would be wonderful to have a few more to meet and greet our visitors and to help set up for the Friday Reception or Saturday dinner. If you can do a few hours let me know.

## **National Executive News - July 2009**

Charlene Lutes, the National President noted the recent death of Joan Wiffen, the "Dinosaur Lady", an amateur palaeontologist and the link to an item that has been in the news recently.

"The fact that her interest in fossils was sparked by a geology night class is very relevant to the current educational scene. The Budget included an 80% cut in funding for Adult and Community Education in schools, leaving funding for literacy, numeracy and foundation courses only (Te Reo Māori, ESOL, sign language). Funding for continuing education at universities and polytechnics was less affected, but in many small communities the local high school is the only source of community education. The Joan Wiffens of tomorrow may not be inspired by a night class in geology, because night classes in geology are no longer funded. Or a seventeen-year-old boy, as my husband once was, may not become interested in a scientific career through a night class in natural history, sponsored by the Workers' Educational Association. Not every enrolment in an adult education class will lead to a lifetime pursuit, of course. But the potential value is enormous. Consider a class in 'Moroccan cooking'. A person in such a class may just learn to cook Moroccan food. That in itself is valuable, as the cook will tend to prepare healthy, home-cooked food in place of getting takeaways. Furthermore, the student (likely to be an adult woman) will enjoy an interesting social activity preferable, I would think, to an evening at the movies or a night out in a bar. But it could be that the budding Moroccan cook is a person with limited reading skills, who tries reading cookbooks, discovers that she enjoys reading, enrolls in a literacy class, eventually goes on to earn a degree, becomes interested in politics and becomes Minister of Education in 2025."

*This matter will be discussed at Conference but I hope that some of you will have signed petitions or sent correspondence to MPs re the cut in funding. So many of us have benefitted from such classes and have learned skills that we can use today ie computing, languages.*