



New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (Inc.)

CANTERBURY BRANCH, PO BOX 3088, CHRISTCHURCH

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NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2009



***** CHRISTMAS MEETING *****



The final meeting for the year will be held on **Thursday 26 November at 7.30pm at Rangi Ruru**. The speaker this month is Paula Crean from the Methodist Mission who will give an overview of the Mission's work and specifically focusing on the impact of the recession on low to middle income families. The Te Kete Oranga team provides budgeting and advocacy support both one-on-one and as part of a walk-in service four mornings a week. The latter includes provision for people to apply for emergency food parcels. They also provide some group education on budgeting; cooking nutritious meals on a budget; literacy & numeracy as well as a women's self confidence/self esteem course and a separate men's group to combat social isolation. The Mission also runs, every year a Christmas Appeal – Support a Family - where a donor is matched with one of the families the Mission has worked with during the year. The donor provides a Christmas food hamper and a gift for each child in the family.

You are therefore asked to please bring a small article, either a food item or a child's gift to put in one of these hampers.

The committee will be supplying a festive supper and there will be a Christmas raffle.

GROUP REPORTS

Friday Morning Group

The next meeting will be on Friday 20 November and members will be advised of the venue and topic.

GRADUATIONS



Helpers are required for the following December graduations:

Canterbury University

Tuesday 15 th December	8.00am to 1.00pm or 12.30pm to 6.00pm
Wednesday 16 th December	11.30am to 3.30 pm or 3.00pm to 6.00pm
Thursday 17 th December	8.00am to 1.00pm
Friday 18 th December	11.30 am to 3.30pm

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

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new members, Jennifer Dunn who is a physiotherapist specialising in spinal injuries and Shantha Parthan who is doing a PhD in Civil Engineering. We look forward to seeing you at branch meetings.

Annual subscription accounts are included with this newsletter and as always we would like to receive payment as soon as possible.

TRUST BOARD

There were 11 applications for the Sadie Balkind Scholarship/Awards and the Board will be considering these at its next meeting in early December.

BRANCH COMMITTEE

At the recent AGM the following committee was elected:

President: Shirley C'Ailceta, **Vice President:** Bernadette Devonport, **Immediate Past President:** Barbara Peddie, **Secretary and Newsletter Editor:** Geraldine Murphy, **Treasurer:** Hilary Stubbs, **Membership Secretary:** Bernadette Devonport

General Committee: Philippa Bates, Annette Etwell, Enid Smith

Ex Officio: Trust Board, Judy Brooks, **Hoods and Gowns,** Jean Sharfe

A list of these names and contact details is included with this newsletter. If anyone would like a copy of the annual reports, please contact the secretary.

After the election of officers, Louise Croot, IFUW President spoke about the 2010 International Conference to be held in Mexico from 5-9 August and strongly encouraged members to attend. The theme is Education, Empowerment and Development and speakers will include the new woman head of UNESCO and an academic from Ireland on the topic of 'Women and Ageing'. (There is a call for workshops on the next page of this newsletter)

Regarding the IFUW dues paid by members, Louise explained that 80% is used to pay the five part time highly skilled, multi-lingual staff (one member can speak five languages) who run numerous projects and meetings. IFUW is based in Geneva which is most suitable as many international organisations are based there and it is not very expensive as inflation is low. Most of the rest of the money goes to provide scholarships. Louise also stressed that IFUW has tried to keep its expenses as low as possible and other international organisations pay more. The website www.ifuw.org is becoming increasingly important in involving members in activities and keeping them in touch with one another. (For more information on , see below.)

WANTED – SUITCASES

If anyone has any large suitcases that they no longer need, the Hoods and Gowns team would be very grateful for them to use for transporting regalia. Please phone Jean Sharfe, 349 8366, or the Basement 366 2804 (Tuesdays 9.30am to 2pm).

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Shirley C'Ailceta)

The next and last meeting of our Saturday morning informal PAC discussion group for 2009 is scheduled for 10:00 am Saturday November 21, at the home of Phillipa Bates, 111 Glandovey Road. Anyone is welcome to attend. We are a small, friendly group. We would like to hear of your concerns and topics that you would like discussed further during 2010 – or better still come along and join in the discussion.

At this meeting we will continue our discussion on outcomes from the recent NZFGW Conference, briefly reflect back on 2009 and give consideration to possible Canterbury Branch themes to embrace during 2010, for example, (i) climate change (ii) dysfunctional families. Come and have your say. All suggestions welcome.

SAMOAN AND TONGAN RELIEF

Some of you may be wondering if NZFGW will be organizing anything nationally in support of Samoa and Tonga in their post-tsunami challenges.

In the first instance, at the beginning of the recent Triennial Conference in Auckland, NZFGW sent messages of concern and support to our graduate women friends in the Samoa and Tonga associations.

During the Conference subsequently, donations were collected at the formal dinner. This contribution from Branch delegates, Members Emeritae, and observers has since been dispatched to Samoa and Tonga on NZFGW's behalf, by Stephanie Hutchinson, outgoing Convenor of International Relations.

The National President, Dorothy Page and I have resolved therefore not to embark at this stage on canvassing further for contributions involving all branches. Our reasoning is that opportunities for NZFGW members as individuals, or within other organizations, to contribute relief funds for Samoa and Tonga have been comprehensive and varied. Many members will have already contributed generously, or as best they can, and in more ways than one. We know also that one

Branch has already completed its own collection and others may be in the process of doing so. We would not wish to cut across these admirable local initiatives.

I hope this decision seems reasonable.

Claire Matthewson, National Convenor of International Relations

FROM THE NEW NATIONAL PRESIDENT, DOROTHY PAGE MULLING OVER THE CONFERENCE: CHOICE AND CHALLENGE

When the first woman to graduate from the University of Otago was capped in 1885 the principal speaker, Dr William Brown from the Medical School, made an eloquent plea for higher education for women. He urged the entry of women to professional training, dismissing the popular concept that men and women should occupy 'separate spheres' and quoting Harriet Taylor Mill's ringing words: 'The proper sphere for all human beings is the largest and highest they are able to attain to. What this is cannot be ascertained without complete freedom of choice.'

I was reminded of how far we, as educated women, have benefited from such encouragement and from freedom of choice as I listened to the series of outstanding women who addressed the recent NZFGW conference in Auckland. Their individual addresses and presentations are summarised on our website but, taken as a whole, the range, unassuming manner and broad humanity of the speakers was simply stunning. They wore their own achievements lightly. Some shared their life experiences with us, while others looked further afield to remind us of our opportunities and obligations in New Zealand, the Pacific and the world. It would be difficult to imagine a better commentary on the conference theme, 'Taking Effective Action'.

A good conference is always invigorating, but this one will always stand out for me, not only because it marked the commencement of what I know will be three demanding and exciting years as President of NZFGW, but also because of the stimulating ideas and collegial atmosphere. The National Executive and Jane Bellamy's Local Arrangements Committee, who combined to do such a splendid job on the

details of conference planning, deserve our warmest thanks and congratulations for a memorable occasion.

More generally, too, I should like to pay tribute to the effective work on our behalf of the 2006-2009 Executive. It has not been an easy triennium - and the next one will not be easy for the 2009-2012 Executive either. The turmoil in the financial market has affected our savings and a decline in membership has led to the shock closure of some old-established branches. A reduced membership obviously means reduced income from dues, which may well impinge on our ability to offer awards and scholarships at the customary rate.

Then there is the question of how we operate most effectively at both national and branch level. The new Executive has been charged with the task of reviewing the structure and role of NZFGW to ensure its relevancy to educated women of the 21st century. Should we consider moving away from the system of an Executive that shifts location - a major operation - every three years? How should branches react to the challenge of declining numbers and, in many cases, an aging membership? We look forward to a wide-ranging discussion with branches, and with the rapidly growing group of individual members, about what they want: how to appeal to the richly varied age and interest groups in the organization, what kind of meetings to arrange, at what time of day, how far to replace face to face contact with internet and email, without losing the vital sense of community among members. There are opportunities here as well as challenges.

At the same time as this self-analysis, we are looking outward. Through a sales table and auctions at conference, organised by Joy Dunsheath, we raised an impressive \$3,000 (which may well rise further) for the Hegg Hoffet fund to assist graduate women refugees displaced by war or other calamities. We donated generously to the post-tsunami appeal for Samoa and Tonga. When we honoured two new members emeritae it was in large part for their work on a stage broader than the New Zealand one: Beverley Turner for her work in setting up and fostering the Pacific Graduate Women's Network in IFUW and Louise Croot as President of the International Federation. With the conference's international perspective in mind we can move on to take part in a whole series of IFUW email discussion groups on topics of universal significance to graduate women. I recommend them to you.

IFUW MEXICO CONFERENCE, 5 – 9 AUGUST 2010

CALL FOR WORKSHOPS: The National Executive invites Workshop Proposals on any of the four themes:

1. Advancing Women through Lifelong Learning

May focus on any aspect or level of education, especially formal education spanning from girl-child pre-school education to higher education.

2. Challenges to Women's Empowerment in the 21st Century

May focus on any social, economic, political or legal issues that pose challenges to women's empowerment.

3. New Challenges for Sustainable Development

May address any issues that affect, threaten or promote sustainable development/growth, especially as manifested in the proposer's environment.

4. Towards A Just Society

May address issues of human rights especially as they relate to girls and women in various parts of the world and also in various professions.

See <http://www.ifuw.org/ifuw2010/workshops/guidelines.pdf> for further details.

Please note especially that:

- Each national federation or association (NFA) may propose only FOUR workshops using the form <http://www.ifuw.org/ifuw2010/workshops/form.doc>
- Multi-affiliate workshops with partners from other NFAs are encouraged.

The NZFGW deadline is 1 December 2009 (to meet the IFUW Deadline of 31 December 2009). Please send your Proposal to claire.matthewson@otago.ac.nz or NZFGW, Convenor of International Relations, P O. Box 6566, Dunedin.

Email Networks

IFUW's email networks are an excellent way for members to learn about what is happening at the international level and in other countries, yet many at the local level are not even aware that these networks exist. The largest of our networks is reaching only 1100 of the nearly 30,000 IFUW members. We would like to see this number at least triple in the next year.

IFUW Update Network - ifuw-networks@ifuw.org
circulating monthly IFUW Updates and official announcements

IFUW Advocacy Network - advocacy@ifuw.org
providing information about what is taking place at the United Nations and other international centres

IFUW Discussions Network - discussions@ifuw.org
offering thematic discussions on key issues of concern to women and girls, from education and economic empowerment, to sustainable futures and political participation

IFUW Young Members Network - young-members@ifuw.org
linking IFUW members under 40

IFUW Connections Network - connections@ifuw.org
providing a space where individual members can introduce themselves, share information and establish contacts with members in other countries

IFUW Environment and Development Network - environment@ifuw.org
linking members interested in environment and development issues, especially those related to women and environmental education, whether from volunteer activist or professional viewpoint.

To join one or more of these networks, members should complete the on-line form available at <http://www.ifuw.org/networks/subscribe.shtml>.

UNIFEM NZ and Pacific Women's Watch (PWW) (NZ)

As one of the required three independent organisation members, NZFGW has been member of UNIFEM NZ from its establishment in 1991. Beverley Turner finished her term on UNIFEM New Zealand National Committee in October after nine sterling years including three as National President. NZFGW's nomination of Joy Dunsheath to follow Beverley as its representative was warmly accepted by the National Committee. Beverley Turner will continue to represent NZFGW on the PWW (NZ) Board.

CANTERBURY BRANCH COMMITTEE 2009-2010		
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