



## New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (Inc.)

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### **NO BRANCH MEETING IN APRIL**

There is no branch meeting in April because of graduations and the next meeting is the very important Awards Evening on **26 May** about which you can read more in the committee report below from Shirley.

### **Committee Report**

**1 Evening meetings:** Attendance at evening meetings has declined so the Committee is reconsidering the format of our Branch meetings. Actual dates are set early in the year but only eight members attended our March meeting. Unfortunately the March meeting date did coincide with a very busy week for several members and thanks to everyone who sent in an apology. However this trend has been apparent for some time. Member support is crucial if we are to stay viable. There are many ways to keep in touch nowadays.

***Have you checked out the NZFGW website recently?***

***Do you read your Newsletter?***

The Committee needs your feedback so:

***What meetings do you want?***

***What time of day would suit you best?***

We want to hear from you so send us an e-mail [handgcanty@xtra.co.nz](mailto:handgcanty@xtra.co.nz) or give Shirley a call (326 5231).

### **2 Two important NZFGW events are coming up**

- (i) Our Awards evening at St Barnabas Church Hall, Fendalton on **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm**. Supper will be served. Members are strongly encouraged to attend this evening and support these outstanding young women as they tell us about their studies.
- (ii) Don't forget our Mid-Winter Lunch which is coming up on **17 July** (details later).

### **3 Public Affairs Committee and the Adult Community Education (ACE) funding cuts**

National Executive has asked us to collect stories from people in the general community who have been affected by the cuts. We have been given a questionnaire to help us collect this information. This should be a very interesting task for anyone willing to help. Come along to our friendly PAC Group meeting at 9:30 am Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May at Ellen's McCrae's house, 16 Gordon Ave (off St Albans St). Find out more - we will be talking with Maryke Fordyce, Convenor of night school classes at Risingholme. Phone Shirley (326 5231) if you would like to help.

**4** Note no further evening meetings are being scheduled over the next couple of months so be sure to mark all these events on your calendar.

**Shirley C'Ailceta President Canterbury Branch.**

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Two of our members are involved in courses in Continuing Education at the University of Canterbury in Term 2. Enrolments for Dr Rack's lecture close on 28 April and for Dr Gibson's course on 10 May.

### WHO IS THE BOSS? HIERARCHY AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE SOCIAL LIFE OF POLAR EXPLORERS Presented by Dr Ursula Rack

On German Antarctic expeditions in 1901/03 and 1911/12 the question arose: "Who should be the leader of an Antarctic expedition – the captain or the scientist?" How this question was answered had a significant impact on the social life during these expeditions. This lecture will discuss everyday life on German Antarctic expeditions and how social life was influenced by the leadership and hierarchies on the ships. Comparisons will be made with other Antarctic expeditions (e.g. British, Norwegian, Swedish and Scottish expeditions) occurring around the same time.

**Ursula Rack** moved to Christchurch in 2006. After studying history and theology at the University of Vienna, Austria, and teaching history, religion and politics for 17 years in German and Austrian secondary schools, she recently completed a doctoral degree in social history. Ursula is an Adjunct Fellow at Gateway Antarctica and is affiliated with the Department of History, where she works as a tutor for mediaeval and modern history.

### LOOKING IN THE MIRROR: DO PAKEHA NEW ZEALANDERS HAVE A CULTURE AND DOES IT REALLY MATTER?

#### 6 evening sessions. Topics include:

- Who are we? Introduction and discussing culture - Some global characteristics of culture
- Where do we come from? How do we know - The past today
- What do we carry? Simulation activity – feeling culture. Insider/outsider views on culture
- What impact does my culture have for others and me? Cultural dominance or is it just numbers - Final summary session

**Helen Gibson** began her working life as a health professional and for some years has been involved in exploring intercultural understanding and constructive intercultural relations. She has a PhD in Education from the University of Canterbury. She has lived and taught in varied intercultural settings both within and outside New Zealand.

### CAN YOU HELP?

Ingrid Verkaaik, Collection Services, Victoria University of Wellington Library Phone +64 4 463 6046 or e-mail [Ingrid.Verkaaik@yvu.ac.nz](mailto:Ingrid.Verkaaik@yvu.ac.nz) is looking for a copies of:

*New Zealand women in Literature* / by Joan Stevens

*Highlights from the first fifty years* / by Olga E. Harding.

[Wellington, N.Z.] : Wellington Branch, New Zealand Federation of University Women, 1972

If you can help, please contact Ingrid.

### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

The branch has lacked an NCW representative in recent years but now we are fortunate to have two, Barbara Peddie and Val Bailey so we look forward to regular reports from them.

#### Highlights from recent meetings include:

Dr. Annabel Taylor, currently on the staff of Canterbury University and previously a social worker at Christchurch Women's Prison for nine years, spoke on the need for accommodation and support for women leaving prison as a significant gap exists in the system for women with complex needs involved with the criminal justice system. It was suggested that a remit be prepared for the next conference over the lack of community housing for released women prisoners.

The Human Rights Commission conducted a workshop– part of a National Conversation about Work at which Dr. Judy MacGregor was present. This along with other workshops in the region will contribute to a regional report which will be used to create a new Equal Employment Opportunities framework.

Topics being worked on as possible remits for the 2010 Conference are:

- Carer's sleep-over allowance
- After hours medical care costs for children
- Raising the age for purchase of liquor
- Disparity in treatment for men and women prisoners up for parole
- Limited availability of accommodation for younger disabled people.

## **FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

### **From Dot Page, National President**

This year another push is under way to publicise and reduce the gender pay gap. We have been reminded that the CEDAW committee has urged New Zealand to adopt 'special temporary measures' - affirmative action – to address the issue. We have watched with dismay the disestablishment of the Department of Labour's Pay and Employment Equity Unit, its functions taken over, without adequate resources, by the Ministry of Women's Affairs. Amidst the economic uncertainty we are increasingly aware of inequities in income for specific groups of women: older women poorly placed to supplement universal superannuation with savings from employment, women in undervalued and underpaid feminised occupations such as care-giving, women graduates entering professions where the average gender pay gap of 6% immediately after graduation expands to 17% five years on.

Our Wellington Branch has centred its first two meetings this year on equal pay, both reported in its newsletter with a vividness that makes you want to roll up your sleeves and join in. If you haven't seen the newsletter, look up the NZFGW website for what Anne Else had to say on pay equity, including her belief that individual contracts under the 1990 Employment Contracts Act make it harder to monitor, and Celia Briar's description of tools she helped develop to enable businesses to undertake pay and employment equity reviews. There's too much in the report of the second meeting, a lively panel discussion on the graduate gender pay gap, chaired by Professor Margaret Clark and with enthusiastic audience participation, to attempt a summary. But you get a very clear impression that participants believed it was time for action, time to uncover pay inequities and challenge them.

### **IFUW CONFERENCE 5-9 August 2010**

Nine Policy Resolutions will be considered at the 30<sup>th</sup> IFUW Triennial Conference. These areas of vital interest and concern are:

- Worklife balance
- Numeracy and women
- Financial literacy
- Abuse of female migrants
- Human Trafficking
- Bioethics and women
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Cluster munitions
- Peacekeeping.

The Resolutions – together with well documented Plans of Action and Supporting Statements – are available on the **ifuw.org** website. (Click on "2010 IFUW Conference" and then on "Documents".)

**Any comments, guidance or further information from Branches or individual members would be very welcome and much valued by your Conference delegation.**

Also on this Documents webpage, you will find five Internal Resolutions and six proposed amendments to the IFUW Constitution and By-Laws. Any views on these from Branches or individual members are likewise welcome.

### **The New Zealand Contingent**

It now looks likely to be 13-strong: Louise Croot, Martine Cashell-Smith, Rae Duff, Joy Dunsheath, Lyn Foote, Shirley Gillett, Sian Halcrow, Lorraine Isaacs, Claire Matthewson, Dorothy Meyer, Dorothy Page, Beverley Turner, and Sheila Williams.

Based on membership numbers, NZFGW is entitled to three voting Delegates. These are Dorothy Page, Joy Dunsheath and Claire Matthewson. Alternate voting delegates are Rae Duff and Sheila Williams.

### **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.

### **INDEPENDENT MEMBERS**

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.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO PACIFIC WOMEN'S WATCH NZ**

Pacific Women's Watch (NZ) has been advised that its application for special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has been successful. It will be formally confirmed when ECOSOC meets mid-year. PWW (NZ) applied for special status because of the significant amount of work the organization has done on UN matters and President Jane Prichard reports that it was a very demanding process, achieved with huge support from the New Zealand Permanent Mission to the UN. Jane herself went to the Committee meeting in a chilly New York in February (two days were minus 10 degrees) and 'sat, very visibly, for seven and a half days, lobbying when required, but not so much as to become a nuisance' – or, we hope, an iceberg. Hearty congratulations to our sister organisation.

### **WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB**

The NZFGW website – at [www.nzfgw.org.nz](http://www.nzfgw.org.nz) has extra information and detail that many may find interesting. Recent updates include:

**Public Affairs** page has details of two recent submissions: Education (Freedom of Association) Amendment Bill and Alcohol in our lives.

**CIR** Page has copies of the Internal and Policy Resolutions Proposed to the 30th IFUW Conference, 90th IFUW Council and 91st IFUW Council. Comments on these from Branches or individual members would be very welcome. Please send by email to the CIR no later than 30 April. Updated Wellington Branch news: The Graduate Gender Pay Gap: A Panel Discussion  
There is a link to the new PGWNet website([www.ifuw.org/pgwnet](http://www.ifuw.org/pgwnet))

### **RARE AND SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT THE NGAIO MARSH HOUSE**

Leading Christchurch architect Samuel Hurst Seager was a cousin of Ngaio Marsh's mother. He designed the astonishing **Daresbury House** in Fendalton for prosperous wine and spirits merchant George Humphreys.

The present owners, Libby and Denver Glass have generously offered to open Daresbury to support Ngaio Marsh House.

**Date:** Sunday 23 May 2010

**Time:** 4.00 – 6.00pm

**Entry fee:** \$25

Tickets from Philippa Bates Phone 351 5030 or [philbates@paradise.net.nz](mailto:philbates@paradise.net.nz)