



Waikato Connection

Newsletter for the Waikato Branch of the NZFGW
P O Box 7065, Hamilton

September 2009

improving the status of women and girls, promoting lifelong education, enabling graduate women to use their expertise to effect positive change

Marylyn's Message

Spring is here, and I am still waiting for the renewed energy that is meant to accompany it! The count down to the AGM is now on – the date is **TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER** and the time and venue is **7.30 p.m. at THE SEMINAR ROOM, SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES, UNIVERSITY LODGE, KNIGHTON ROAD – OPPOSITE THE SHOPS.** Do endeavour to attend – we have important business to discuss concerning our subscriptions and the remits to NZFGW Conference in Auckland in October – those attending conference **NEED TO KNOW** how you would like us to vote! I promise our AGM will not be a long boring meeting – you will all receive the background material in good time to read and digest, and come to **OUR AGM** brimming with ideas on what you would like to see happen. **We need a quorum!**



Marylyn Hills
President

New members

Welcome to new members Jacinda Ardern, Daphne Bell, Lucy Bridgman, Glenda Jamieson, Janette Kelly, Peggy Koopman-Boyden, Coral Reed, Pat Stannard and Linda Twiname. The branch looks forward to working with them as their time permits, as well as seeing them at WGW's various activities. It is **your** organisation, and the Committee is always open to ideas and suggestions on they can make the programme more relevant to your needs.

Recent meetings

In July the Branch welcomed Louise Croot, the International President (all the way from Dunedin). A lovely weekend was had by all with her, and a summary of her address is attached. See the "Snippets" section for information on a local initiative that arose from Louise's talk.

Beverley Turner, the IFUW Membership Advisor for the Pacific Region, visited from Auckland in August, and spoke to the Branch about the Pacific Graduate Women's Network (PGWNet) an initiative she was instrumental in forming. A summary of her talk is attached.

Events to come (see Calendar)

NZFGW Conference – Auckland, 2-4 October. Papers on this are being sent to members. Members of WGW are very welcome to attend as observers, but as always at your cost. The National Executive have managed to keep costs to a minimum and 1 day only attendance is an option (details and registration form are posted on www.nzfgw.org.nz, for those on email, and mailed to other members.

11 November – Helen Benson Day. Newer members (and some of the older members) will be wondering just who Helen Benson was. Jillene Bydder (a member) provided Marylyn with this from the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography:

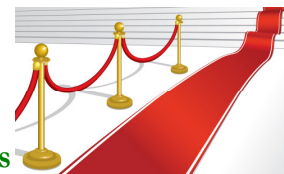
Helen Ranson became professor of home science and dean of the Faculty of Home

Continued overleaf

Resignation and new interim treasurer

The branch was sorry to receive Kay Kerr's resignation from WGW, effective from 30 June. Kay is currently preparing the year-end accounts and will present these at the AGM. Rosemary Whyte is acting as Branch Interim Treasurer, and there is a nomination to the AGM for her to continue as Treasurer. Thanks to Kay for her many contributions to the Branch.

Awards presentations



After a decision was made to take a different approach from the usual "an Awards Evening" in Hamilton, the Branch, so far this year, has arranged with local tertiary institutions for a special Awards Presentation Ceremony to be held for their students on their premises. Delightful events have been hosted by Wintec in Hamilton and Waiariki Polytechnic in Rotorua (which awardees from Bay of Plenty Polytechnic attended), and a similar event is to be organised at the University of Waikato.

Contact Details:

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Secretary: Jo Bailey, Ph: 839 9908 (wk), Email: jo@wilss.ac.nz

Membership Secretary: Cathv Bunting, Ph: 823 7116, Email: bunting@waikato.ac.nz

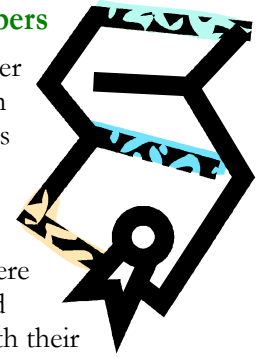
Events to come continued...

Science. She made better provision for the teaching of practical subjects, including the building of laboratories, and reorganised the school's courses. In 1919 she studied in Canada and the United States. On her return to New Zealand in 1920 she founded the New Zealand branch of the Federation of University Women, becoming its first president. Following her marriage, Helen Benson resigned from her university position and became increasingly involved in community activities.

It has been a long-time custom of this Branch to celebrate Helen Benson Day on 11 November. This year, WGW will have a talk by **Kay Morris Matthews**, a very well-known and highly respected researcher, author and speaker on women in education. Her topic will be **"Knowing Women: the origins of women's higher education in New Zealand"**. Kay is coming from Hawkes Bay to speak to WGW – 7.30 p.m. at the **Seminar Room, School Support Services, University Lodge, Knighton Road** (the same venue as our AGM).

Honoured members

At the formal dinner held in conjunction with Louise Croot's visit on 4 July, **Catherine Gurnsey** and **Sheryl Morgan** were awarded Honoured Member status, with their certificates being presented by Louise. These awards are made in recognition of long and dedicated service to the Branch. Congratulations to them both, and included with this newsletter is a copy of the citations read at the dinner.

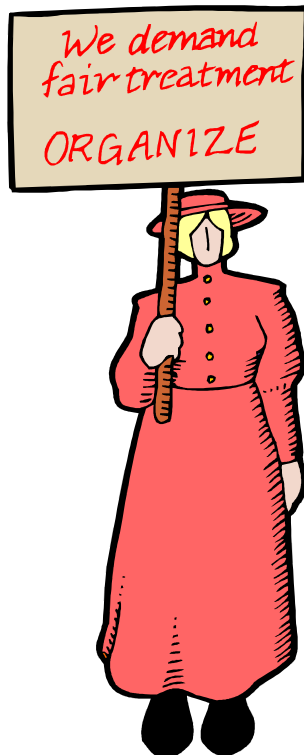


Snippets from Marylyn Over the Parapet

At Louise's talk, mention was made of a group formed in Otago called "Over the Parapet" to encourage "young" women to enter local body politics. Daphne Bell (City Councillor and a new member) thought this a great idea, and we now have an "Over the Parapet" group in Hamilton, with a public meeting for interested women being held at St Peter's Community Room on **Saturday 10 October**, from 9.45 a.m. – 2.30 or 3.00 p.m. You are most welcome to attend – for more information and for catering purposes please rsvp to marylynhills@gmail.com or phone 856 3548. Cost is \$15.

Great Dames!

Both Jocelyn Fish, and Dr Joy Drayton have attended a "reinvestiture" and have taken up the title of Dame". Our warm regards and congratulations to them both.

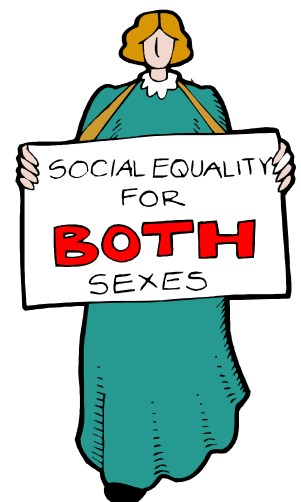
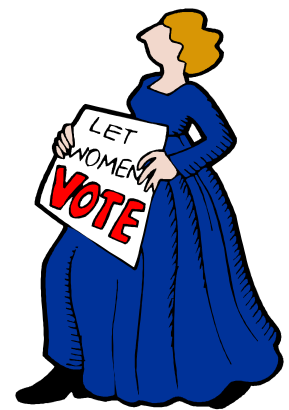


The Secret Suffragette

There was recently a magnificent performance, in Hamilton, of a new opera "The Secret Suffragette", depicting the story of Mary Griffiths (nee Muller) who kept her suffrage activities secret from her husband for 30 years, and who was the great great grandmother of David Griffiths, a well-known New Zealand singer and composer.

David Griffiths wrote the music for the opera and Lynn John wrote the libretto. I happened to be sitting behind the wife of the librettist and asked her after the performance whether she knew that Suffrage Day was still celebrated in New Zealand – she had NO IDEA OF THIS.

I contacted Jocelyn Fish, who was involved with the 1993 Suffrage Centennial Celebrations, and asked if there was a written record of the work undertaken in Hamilton leading up to the Centennial. There isn't, but we smelt a new project – to be commenced in October. **The opera is due to have another single, one-off, performance at the WEL Academy, University of Waikato, on Thursday 1 October - details from David Griffiths at the University.** I can recommend it, and may even go again!



WAIKATO GRADUATE WOMEN – CALENDAR PROGRAMME FOR 2009



General Branch Meetings and Functions

Please contact Jo: jo@wilss.ac.nz or 07 839 9908

Date	Day	Venue	Topic	Speaker
June	Saturday, 6th 7.30pm	Aotea Centre, Auckland	The Italian Girl in Algiers (Rossini)	Contact Marylyn Hills to reserve your seat or for more information 856 3548, marylynhills@gmail.com
July	Sat, 4th 11am 3.00- 5.00pm 6.30 for 7pm	Meet at Hamilton Gardens Café for walk and lunch Formal talk at Wintec Hub, Gate 4, Tristram St Garden Terrace Restaurant	IFUW – Changes, Chances and Choices	IFUW President, Louise Croot All members are invited to wander around the Hamilton Gardens with Louise and have lunch. Your opportunity to hear Louise speak and learn about IFUW Formal dinner at the Garden Terrace Restaurant with Louise.
August	Sunday 16 August 11am	Women's Room YWCA Pembroke St	PGWNet - Successes and Challenges	Beverley Turner
September	Tues, 22nd 7.30pm	Seminar Room, School Support Services, Knighton Rd	AGM	All members welcome
	Saturday, 26th 7.30pm	Aotea Centre, Auckland	Eugene Onegin (Tchaikovsky)	Contact Marylyn Hills to reserve your seat or for more information 856 3548, marylynhills@gmail.com
October		University of Waikato, Wintec and Waiariki Institute of Technology	Awards Presentations	To be arranged by the Awards Committee on recipients' campuses
	Fri - Sun 2 nd to 4 th	Auckland	NZFGW Conference	All members welcome to attend.
November	Wed 11 th 7.30pm	Seminar Room, School Support Services, Knighton Rd	In commemoration of "Helen Benson"	Kay Morris Matthews "Knowing Women: the origins of women's higher education in New Zealand".
December	Sun 6 th 12.00	Narrows Landing	Xmas Lunch	All members welcome