
GRADUATE WOMEN OTAGO

MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

Community Award Recipients | IWD 2020 Highlights | Māori Translation of GWO

A message from GWO's President:

Kia ora koutou,

The world certainly seems a different place to what it was a month ago, when I was last writing this report. Last month I was making last-minute preparations to attend CSW in New York. Just days before I was due to fly out, CSW was cancelled by the UN due to concerns about the spread of Covid-19. While this was a disappointing development, it was the right call. Both Shirley and I had to make our own decision about whether to continue our travel (as did other delegates), and we both decided it was too risky. I can only speak for myself, but with each passing day and the news it brings, I am very glad I made the decision I did.

Given that we should be practicing social distancing in order to limit spread of the virus, this month's branch meeting has been cancelled. While we don't yet have confirmed community transmission in NZ, it is important to take precautionary measures before that problem arises. Avoiding non-essential social contact is an effective tool in preventing viral transmission. We'll consider the status of future meetings on an ongoing basis and keep you all up to date. While it is disappointing to cancel our meeting, it is in the best interests of our members' health.



This is an uncertain and unprecedented time. Take care of yourselves, and continue to look out for one another. I have no wisdom to offer that others far more qualified haven't already provided, so in the words of our Prime Minister: "We all have a role to play. Look out for your neighbour, look out for your family. Look out for your friends." If anyone needs help stocking their pantry, running errands, or with anything at all over the next few months, please don't hesitate to get in touch: amydowdlenz@gmail.com or 0278681086 are the best ways to reach me. Your branch committee is ready and willing to help, both with practical tasks or a friendly chat over the phone – please do reach out.

Until next time,
Amy

Minutes of the Graduate Women Otago Branch meeting

27 February 2020

Bentham Seminar Room, Zoology Department, University of Otago

Apologies: Christine Clegg, Shirley Gillett, Elizabeth Hanan, Anna Holmes, Amy Dowdle.

Welcome: Member, Amber Fraser-Smith, introduced her guest, Alia Al Mohamad, who is from Syria where she spent 15 years working as a midwife. Having learnt English since her arrival 3 years ago, she intends requalifying as a midwife here in NZ.

Minutes of the 28 November 2019 meeting: were agreed to be a true and correct record. There were no matters arising.

Correspondence: were all accepted

Emails:

1. Community award applications
2. Otago Settlers Association newsletter
3. Other queries of administrative nature

Matters arising from correspondence: None

General business:

1. Acting President and Young Members: International Women's Day breakfast (Claudia) to be held at Ombrellos, Friday 6th March 7.30-9.00 am. Guest Speaker will be Dawn Duncan, Lecturer in Labour Law at University of Otago.
2. Branch meeting time (Margaret). The possibility was raised and discussed of beginning Branch meetings 30 minutes earlier in future, i.e. 6.45 pm doors open for 7pm start. Agreed that the Committee should formally put this to members.
3. Brenda Shore Awards: applications close 28th February for grants of \$10,000 in the natural sciences areas. The Awards Committee is seeking additional committee member/s with Science Degrees to sit on the committee. Agreed to circulate in the Newsletter.
4. Members noted the sad loss of our Life Member, Dawn Ibbotson, CBE, who died at the age of 105 on 10 January 2020.

Convenors' Reports:

1. **Academic Dress:** Rhonda advised that Gowning would be relocating to the basement of the Clocktower Building sometime this year while earthquake improvements and refurbishments are being made to our current premises.
2. **CIR**
3. **Projects:** Claudia spoke to the Shoebox Project raising stationery to end to Shikuru School in Tanzania, to be sent in conjunction with local Rotary Clubs.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Celebrating International Women's Day 2020

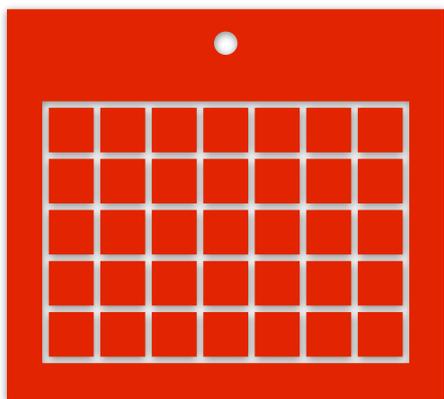
In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly invited member states to proclaim March 8 as the UN Day for women's rights and world peace. GWO celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) with a breakfast at Ombrellos on 6th March 2020. The event was co-organised with Staff Women's Caucus. 42 women attended the breakfast. Shirley gave a short introduction about the history of IWD and provided information about GWO. We had a thought-provoking speech by Dawn Duncan, a lecturer from Labour Law, from the University of Otago. Her topic on "Women's rights at work 2020" was in line with UN's theme for IWD 2020, "An equal world is an enabled world". Our discussion and attention was centered on pay equity amendments in NZ, pay equity reforms, and lessons from other countries such as the Workplace Gender Equality Act in Australia. It is known that risks differ by occupations (male vs female dominated occupations). However, we still find differences in treatment and ACC cover. Some of the conclusions brought up included future reforms needed such as pay transparency obligations on employers, agencies that can educate and enforce pay equity issues, and ACC cover for all work-related injuries and illnesses. We had time for three questions and Sue presented a small gift of appreciation to Dawn for her wonderful speech. In the following days we had a number of positive correspondences of appreciation from attendees regarding this event.



- Shirley and Claudia, Co-Vice presidents

Academic Dress Report

The Academic Dress Rooms opened for 2020 on February 5th and we have been busy since then. Property Services has fixed the leaking hot water cylinder and water filter - Thank you. Convocation for the first year students was held on Monday 17th February, at the Stadium. Rhonda, Walter and Sue helped with the hand out of the Regalia. We provided approximately 45 sets of Academic Dress for attending staff. On the 19th February a convenors meeting was held to debrief from the December graduations. Thank you to all the December graduation helpers we couldn't manage without you. Planning is already underway for the May and August graduations. Approximately 45 new bachelor gowns have arrived from Etude Classique and will be used in May. As with the trenchers and gowns, a review of the hoods has begun. The strategy is to have consistent quality, colour, and therefore experience for the graduating students.



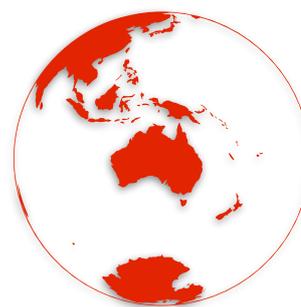
☑ SAVE THE DATE: May graduations are on Saturday 9th and Saturday 16th. Next month we will be seeking helpers. As usual, the times are Thursday 5.30-7pm; Friday 11-2pm, Friday 5.30-7pm; Saturday 8.30-12 noon; Sunday 2-4pm; and Monday 10-2pm.

~Rhonda Schlaadt

Earth Hour

On Saturday 28 March, between 8.30pm and 9.30pm we are encouraged to join millions of people around the world and switch off non-essential lights, in support of nature and our planet.

Earth Hour, organised by World Wide Fund for Nature, is a global grassroots movement, started as a lights-off event in Sydney 2007. Since then it has grown to engage more than 7,000 cities and towns across 187 countries to raise awareness for energy consumption, climate change and effects on the environment.



-Sue Cathro

Are you a Science Graduate?

The GWO is responsible for selecting the annual Brenda Shore Awards recipient(s) and the selection panel is looking for science (preferably natural science) GWO members to join us in this rewarding task.

Dr Brenda Shore taught in the Botany Department of Otago University from 1945 to 1983 and left a generous bequest which allows us to award \$10,000 to \$20,000 to natural science (e.g. Botany, Geography, Geology, Ecology, Marine Science, etc) women graduates carrying out research for a postgraduate degree.

The panel meets once a year in March to make the award(s) and we are looking for new science panellists to join us next year in 2021.

- ➔ If you might be interested, please contact Lorraine Isaacs: lorraine.isaacs@outlook.com or phone 487 9439 to discuss.

-Lorraine Isaacs



Community Awards

The First Community Awards for the year have just been awarded. We were happy to be able to give awards to all four organisations who applied:

- ★ Able South Family Support for staff training in mental health support
- ★ The Parenting Place for a laptop to help in their suicide prevention presentations to Otago schools
- ★ The Methodist Mission's early childhood centre in Dunedin to purchase a mud kitchen for their play area
- ★ The Parkinson's Association to assist with staff training in community education in Otago.

- Cathy Timperley

National Council of Women Meeting

At our March Branch meeting, Sue Cathro and Anne Rodger as two Life Members of the Branch, spoke about their time as members of NCW. Sue began in 1984 as a Delegate from NZFUW and Anne a little later as an Honorary member because her husband, Stan, was a Cabinet Minister in the Government.

The membership of the branch through the 1980s and 1990s was high with 35 organisations and 76 delegates. That meant that we were able to run public meetings and forums eg the Branch organised an “End of the Decade” where 80 women attended, and the 1992 “Women in New Zealand: the new Social Fabric” when there were over 100 women in attendance.

Sue was President in 1992-1994, which covered Suffrage year. Just a few of the activities that the Branch organised were two Bell Tea Parties raising money for the Centennial Fund, organised monthly tea-time lectures for the public with interesting speakers, and ran a very successful Suffrage Year forum in the Dunedin Centre called “Towards a non-violent Society” – Anne Rodger and Joyce Herd were two of the organisers. We took part in the Otago Museum “Carrying the Banner” exhibition with an NCW display, and marched in a street parade in September, donated and planted a Kate Sheppard camellia in the Dunedin Botanic Gardens. The DCC planted out the Suffrage Logo in suitable coloured flowers at the entrance to Dunedin from the Northern motorway.

Anne, who has been as involved as Sue and they featured together in many photos and activities, talked about the wonderful women who had gone before: Mavis Tiller, Grace Hollander, Jocelyn Fish, Alison Roxburgh and our own Dorothea Horsman and Joyce Herd.

Other business included the information that the next Dawn Ibbotson Essay Competition (open to year 12 girls) would be held on the 11 June, and another ‘Inspiring Women’ breakfast for senior students would be held on Wednesday 26 August.

This month items were donated for the Women’s Refuge.

- Sue Cathro

Māori Translation of Graduate Women Otago

I had the idea last year to consult with the University regarding a translation of Graduate Women Otago for any official uses we would have for this. It was a long wait for the response but well worth it. I, and the committee, were delighted with the response below.

New māori signage translation:

English

The māori translation of the phrase "Graduate Women Otago"...and the co-ordinating translation of "Graduate Women New Zealand".

Generic Māori

Ngā Wāhine Whakapūmau o Ōtākou - Ngā Wāhine Whakapūmau o Aotearoa

Southern Dialect

Kā Wāhine Whakapūmau o Ōtākou - Kā Wāhine Whakapūmau o Aotearoa

The University of Otago engages the services of an external certified translator and requests for bilingual translations can be made for divisions, departments, buildings, programmes, roles and services.

Translations are provided free-of-charge to staff for University purposes. Where possible, translations are provided in both generic Māori and southern Māori (Ngāi Tahu) dialect. These translations are provided to the Treaty of Waitangi Committee for endorsement.

~Shirley Gillett



April Newsletter Deadline Date

The next committee meeting is **Thursday, April 2nd**

The closing date for the April newsletter will be

Sunday, April 5th, 2020

~ Angela Spontelli Gisselman, Newsletter Editor

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