A message from GWO’s President:

Kia ora e wahine,

We have a big newsletter ahead - do read through the committee reports ahead of this month's AGM, where we're doing things slightly differently this year.

When electing next year's committee, we'll vote for a President and Treasurer, but the remainder of the positions will be elected as “Committee Member”, for portfolios to be divided at the first committee meeting following the AGM. This is to encourage inclusiveness — if you're interested in joining the committee, we'd love to have you! If you'd like to be nominated for next year's committee, please email me (otago@gwnz.org.nz) 24 hours before the AGM (which is 7:30pm on October 24). Feel free to get in touch with any questions, too!

It's possible to nominate from the floor during the AGM, so do think about getting involved. It's a lot of fun, a great opportunity to develop your governance experience, and there's a lot of space to be creative in our approach to empowering women and girls in education.

See you at AGM,

Amy
September Branch Meeting - Speaker Report

Bonnie is the Finance Officer at Otago University Students’ Association (OUSA), and in her role she oversees the OUSA financial holdings, investment of student funds, and develops the business strategy. At our branch meeting she spoke on the history of OUSA and its role in a modern university environment.

OUSA was founded in 1890 with 300 male student members (mostly from the debating society); the cost of membership was one shilling. By 1914 it was compulsory for Otago University students to be an OUSA member. OUSA advocated for student requirements, such as a holiday and common room — Allen Hall Theatre was the original common room, in which balls were frequently held.

In 2013 membership became voluntary due to changes in the law — one effect of this change is a significant drop in student voting turnout for OUSA elections and referenda. Historically such turnout was 90%; today it is down to 20%.

The OUSA executive are all university students, with a budget of $2+ million annually and 90 employed staff. Investments include Radio 1, Clubs and Societies (Club & Socs), Critic, and numerous events. Funding for OUSA comes via the service fee Otago University charges students, and a portion is re-negotiated annually between the University and OUSA upon presentation of planned activities for the year.

This year funds have been spent to safely run the Hyde Street party, provide substance testing, and publish Critic. In 2018 OUSA purchased Starters Bar, which has been refurbished to a high standard and offers cheaper prices for food and dancing. A safe environment for students to mix is the priority — the venue is unlikely to turn a profit.

The future goal for OUSA is to encourage more students to vote — on campus, locally and nationally. OUSA want students to have their say no matter who they choose to vote for. Student priorities today include: rental warrant of fitness, landlord licensing, climate change action, BYO regulations (a return to the policy of one bottle per person), improving mental health, and free buses for students. A history of OUSA is being released later 2019.

~Rhonda Schlaadt

NCW Meeting

Our speaker was Celia Davies, a children's writer and traveller. Celia collects ideas and photos all the time as possible story lines. She has written stories all her life and had been published in the ODT and Southland Times with her travel articles of interesting places — some of which have been done by bike eg on rather dangerous trails in Peru. But it is her children's books that are her main focus. She has published “The Shadow of the Whale” and “Beyond the Seas” — the latter is based on true stories of a young girl sent to Australia as a convict, who ended up in a Mission station in New Zealand in the time of Samuel Marsden. Celia was a lively speaker and showed many examples of her work and some of the lovely letters from young readers that she had received.

The Candidates Forum held on Monday was a success, with the candidates given space to speak to an audience of about fifty. It was ably run by Nicola Peart.
NCW Meeting (continued...)

Through the Otago Pioneer Women's newsletter it is announce that they are taking an interest in the development of Ethel Benjamin's Office in the Court House. Her name is on the door for the first time. At present, the office is empty although a desk and chairs and display cabinet are being installed. There is a need for donations of a hat stand, court wig, and relevant memorabilia and early law books. Can any GWO members help in this?

-Sue Cathro

GWNZ AGM

The national AGM is to be held in Nelson on October 19. The papers (including reports) are attached at the end of the newsletter, and include both agendas (GWNZ and the national charitable trust), as well as a nomination form for the National Executive and the registration form. Shirley Gillett will be attending the AGM, and we invite anyone who is interested and able to also consider attending. If you are unable to attend, please send an email to Pip Jamieson (president@gwnz.org.nz) to let her know you would like to nominate a proxy vote. You should also inform Pip of who your proxy voter will be. You must be a financial member to vote at the AGM (i.e. your dues must be up to date). If you have any questions, please get in touch with Amy (GW Otago Acting President, members@gwotago.co.nz).

-Amy Dowdle

Suffrage Lecture

This year’s speaker was Brigid Inder, a feminist advocate and founder of the Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice. The Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice is an international women's human rights organisation that advocates for gender justice through the International Criminal Court (ICC) and through domestic mechanisms, including peace negotiations and justice processes. Her Lecture was equal parts insightful, gripping, heartbreaking, and inspiring. Brigid is originally from Dunedin, and graduated from Otago Uni with a PE degree – her work with feminist NGOs led her to her creating Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice in 2004. An inspiration for not only NZ women but women worldwide.

-Amy Dowdle
Join Us - Pecha Kucha Night!

Pretty powerful.

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT?

PECHA KUCHA

A free event open to the public, organised by Graduate Women Otago (GWO).

Why?
Do you have something you think more people should know about? We want to hear it! GWO are celebrating Dunedin’s young women.

What?
Pecha Kucha is a style of presentation where you have 20 slides, with 20 seconds per slide. Open theme: tell us what you’re passionate about!

Who?
Competition open to all women. Sign up here to present before Nov 6 (spaces are limited): claudialcongo@gmail.com

Nov 20, 2019 | Wednesday
6 - 8 PM | Bark @ Dog with Two Tails

Prizes to be won!
Free nibbles provided.
All are welcome to come along!
Volunteer Opportunity - December Graduations

The Convenors are asking you for help over the December Graduation time. The time-frame between graduations is very tight and we do need all the help you can give us - even if it is only for an hour or two. The following times are for the graduands, but it would be helpful if you could be at the Regalia rooms 10 minutes beforehand. (NB that the collection times involve a lot of standing and moving around, if this is not for you, then the return times have more opportunity for you to sit down.) Please come and take part in such happy events for the grads and their families as they celebrate years of hard work.

The Convenors details are noted below, please email or text them.

**Saturday 7 December**

*Collection:*
- Thursday 5 December 5.30pm – 7.00pm
- Friday 6 December 11.00am – 2.00pm **OR** 5.30pm – 7.00pm
- Saturday 7 December 8.30am – 12 noon

*Returns:*
- Sunday 8 December 2.00pm – 4.00pm
- Monday 9 December 9.00am – 12 noon **OR** 12 noon – 2.00pm

*Convenors:*
- Jules Gross – 021 075 2772  jules@psy.otago.ac.nz
- Yvonne Goughlan – 454 4010   couglany@yahoo.co.nz

**Wednesday 11 December**

*Collection:*
- Tuesday 10 December 11.00am - 3.30 pm, 4.30pm – 7.00pm
- Wednesday 11 December 8.30am – 12 noon

*Returns:*
- Thursday 12 December 9.00am – 12 noon **OR** 12noon – 2.00pm

*Convenors:*
- Sue Cathro – 022 171 5513  b.s.cathro@xtra.co.nz
- Barbara Holborow – 021 7150353   barbh633@gmail.com

**Saturday 14 December**

*Collection:*
- Thursday 12 December 5.30pm – 7.00pm
- Friday 13 December 11.00am – 2.00pm **OR** 5.30pm – 7.00pm
- Saturday 14 December 8.30am – 12 noon

*Returns:*
- Sunday 15 December 2.00pm – 4.00pm
- Monday 16 December 9.00am – 12 noon **OR** 12 noon – 2.00pm

*Convenors:*
- Rhonda Schlaadt – 022 410 2936 (text)  Rhonda.schlaadt@otago.ac.nz
- Linda Dunn – 027 353 3443   Linda.dunn@otago.ac.nz

~Sue Cathro
I took over as Acting President in May 2019, and have continued to hold the Young Member (YM) Convener role since the last AGM. For this AGM report I've decided to combine into a single report, and there is a reasonable overlap between the roles in any case.

I'd first like to thank and acknowledge Carol Jess for her time as President, and our committee was very sad to see her go. Carol's invaluable wisdom and insight, as well as her sense of humour, are very much missed around the committee table but we continue to wish her the very best in her new role at the hospital.

I'd also like to thank Shirley Gillett, as Immediate Past President, who has provided mentorship, leadership, and (not least of all) friendship over the last year. I've really valued her perspective as I've navigated the unexpected responsibilities of stepping into the President's role. While I've thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of the role, I always appreciate hearing Shirley's advice and support.

We've had a number of governance issues arise this year, particularly around membership. We are still in the process of straightening these at the time of writing, but things are progressing well and I'm confident we'll be back on track before the end of the year. The experience has reminded me of the value of a good policy, so one of my self-delegated tasks is to write a number of policies for our branch to retain our institutional knowledge going forward. I'd also like to establish some new systems to help take advantage of modern technology and streamline a lot of our processes. While these problems have been frustrating at times, and have taken a lot of my time away from more exciting GW work, I'm determined to set a solid foundation for 2020 so we can hit the ground running. A huge vote of thanks to the committee for their work and support over the last few months — particularly Joanne Rogers and Sue Cathro, who have dedicated a lot of additional time and energy into resolving these problems.

We've had a number of YMs join our committee as well as express interest in getting involved in our up and coming projects, which I am personally very excited by. I'm really enjoying working with new members and taking on a mentoring role, as well as continuing to learn everyday from our more experienced members. I have a lot of ideas for capitalising on this momentum, as well as promoting our branch activities to new audiences. Watch this space!

Some other highlights:

- Otago had a really strong turnout at the GWI Conference in Geneva in July which generated a lot of interesting discussion both before and after our members attended
- Our Shoebox Project is in its second year, led by a new team in 2019 – this project involves the collection of thousands of dollars’ worth of stationery donations to distribute to primary schools in Dunedin
- Continued distribution of our various awards, as well as the establishment of a new award in collaboration with New Horizons for Women: Hine Kahukura, in honour of Jeanette Scott, a former GW Otago member
Acting President’s Report (continued...)

✴ This award is to support a woman in Otago/Southland who is studying in and preparing for a career in education

✴ Our inaugural awardee, Annalyse Bain grew up in Ranfurly before coming to Dunedin to attend St Hilda’s Collegiate and Otago University. She is about to complete her Bachelor of Teaching degree – specialising in primary education, and is looking forward to a teaching job in 2020. A placement at Macandrew Bay School reconfirmed her love of teaching, watching people grow in knowledge and skills, and children’s curiosity and imagination going wild. Into the future Annalyse has plans to undertake a Master’s degree.

✴ We ran our inaugural Pecha Kucha event, where we invited members to present on a topic they were passionate about (whether it be their work, their studies, a hobby, volunteering work, a social issue...) in the Pecha Kucha format (20 slides, with 20 seconds per slide). We had a fantastic turnout and are planning to turn this into a regular event, with a focus on promoting to YMs. The event was open to the public and most of the attendees were not current GW members, which means this is an effective outreach event as well as a way to get YMs together.

✴ We sponsored the 2019 Suffrage Lecture at the University of Otago, as we do most years — please see the report within this newsletter for more information on the Lecture itself.

- Amy Dowdle

Academic Dress Convenors’ Report

This is the last Annual Report that I will write as I am retiring at the end of the year. My first was in 1987 the year after I took over the Graduation hiring from Elizabeth Kerse and the making and organizing of hoods from Alma McCrae. There were two graduations at that time, one in May and one in December. Over the years the number reached twelve a year, August being added in 1993, but it has been at eleven since 2015. The John Knox cap was first used in December 1991. In 1986 there were 22 degrees listed in the University Calendar, now well over 100, with 64 added since 2000 and more to come.

This year has been very busy with not only our usual occasions like the February Convocation of welcome to new students and their parents, but other events. We had organized gowns for the aborted March street parade, and had issued about half before the parade was cancelled. In June was the Celebratory Convocation where graduates of Otago came from all over the world and needed academic dress. We had our usual Polytech staff hiring in March and December, Departmental mihis, farewell dinners for Halls of Residence and in October/November hundreds of hoods go out for school prize givings, both directly from Otago and through Southland, GWCanterbury and Nelson. Gowns and hoods are sent to the OU Wellington for their medical graduation, and to OU Auckland. There are numerous requests for other outside events throughout the year. We have lent academic dress for the 125 Exhibition in the Otago Museum, and a trencher and JKCap to the University Library for a new exhibition that is on now.

This year, Rhonda Schlaadt was assisted by Walter Lawrence to resize and renumber our bachelor and masters gowns. They also did a careful count of trenchers and their sizes, which has proved very useful in deciding sizes of new ones. We have added more gowns of all types this year and 80 new trenchers. 127 new hoods have been made including the new Arts/Science degree. And more hoods to be made for December 2019.
Academic Dress Convenors’ Report (continued...)

Although the number of Staff hirings remains fairly steady, being between 60 and 90 per ceremony, the numbers at each graduation continue to grow and except for August, they range between 600 and 700 plus per day. The Wednesday graduation in December continues to be difficult to organize with such a short turn around.

Our thanks to Glenice Johnston, Jeana Jackson and Janette Hart of the Graduation Office, for their assistance throughout the year. We are grateful too, to Damian Walls in the Geology Department, to the Security Centre for their help at graduation times, the staff of the Mail Room who play a big part in posting out academic dress for us, and the men from Property Services who return the gowns to the rooms from the Town Hall at the end of each graduation day.

On behalf of the Conveners - Jane Ashman, Yvonne Coughlan, Linda Dunn, Jules Gross, Barbara Holborow, Jane Malthus and Rhonda Schlaadt, I would like to record our personal thanks to all those members who come to help at Graduation times. This combined effort raises our profile and enables us to support many women and worthwhile causes with our grants and awards. It is a happy time for the graduates and their families, and it is it is acknowledged by the University that we make a very important contribution to the success of the graduation ceremonies.

Here we also acknowledge Anne Cuthbertson, who retired earlier in the year, and sincerely thank her for her many years of service as a Convenor.

Our grateful thanks goes to Christine Clegg, our Academic Dress Accountant, in dealing with our Academic Dress finances and our awards and grants. Our thanks too, to the Branch Committee for their support during the year.

Academic dress has been a very large part of my life over many years and it will leave a big gap, but it is time I moved over for others to take on this important work.

- Sue Cathro, Academic Dress Convenor 6.10.19

PAC Report

I joined the PAC committee as the Otago representative relatively late in the 2018/2019 year with no real appreciation for what I had signed up for. However, thanks to Amy's guidance, I now have a much deeper understanding and appreciation of advocacy processes capable of producing positive change in our communities, and I am really honoured to be part of the PAC team.

The biggest change the PAC team have introduced this year, is a change in how we approach advocacy. The primary thing we achieved, was making the submission process easier and more efficient for everyone involved. For this, PAC members now take turns at leading submissions as they arise. The first bill open for submissions following the introduction of the new approach was the Education (School Donations) Amendment Bill. As the most experienced PAC member, Amy took the lead on this submission.

Next, with Amy's guidance, I took the lead for the following submission on the Abortion Legislation Bill 164-1. As we were conscious that abortion may be a controversial issue for some members, and we wanted to make sure the membership was accurately represented when writing the submission, a Google Form was sent to our entire membership, enabling members to submit their opinions.
PAC Report (continued...)

I was thrilled to see that everyone who responded to the Google Form was in favour or writing a submission to support many of the proposed changes in the Abortion Legislation Bill. With the support of Amy and the other PAC members, I put together a submission that I am extremely proud to have contributed towards for such an important submission.

Our future goals as a committee is to be more proactive in our advocacy. I hope to pursue this as well as other initiatives to develop our proactive advocacy, so watch this space!

- Millie Johnston

CIR Report

2019 has been an eventful year for international relations. For the international Women’s Day breakfast for 2019 members were encouraged to join the livestream national IWD held at Parliament. The theme for this year’s event was #WeToo, and keynote speakers were: The Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Hon Julie Anne Genter, Minister for Women, and leading employment rights lawyer and Wellingtonian of the year, Steph Dyhrberg.

A dominating feature for 2019 for our international connections was the Centenary Celebration and Peace through Education conference and accompanying General Assembly held in July in Geneva, Switzerland.

For this I put together the triennial report for GWNZ required for the GA. This was a substantial document recording our numbers, our themes, our projects, our activities and other reportable facts for the three years leading up. The Otago branch was quite prominent in this collation.

The second major piece of work we contributed to the general Assembly was our GWNZ resolution. This was Resolution 1 - Diversity in Teacher Education as a Positive Contribution to an Equitable Education, proposed by Graduate Women New Zealand and seconded by the British Federation of Graduate Women. Approximately nine Otago branch members met in Ombrellos prior to the conference to discuss the resolutions proposed to provide feedback for Sita and myself who were voting delegates.

The conference was a huge success with over 400 attendees including eight mother/daughter combinations in attendance. The Otago branch was well represented with Shirley Gillett, Louise Croot, Lorraine Isaacs, Sheila Williams and Young Members, Amy Dowdle and Pouya Saeedi.
CIR Report (continued...)

GWO contributed 500 Swiss francs ($NZ739) to the Carolyn Spurgeon scholarship; and very significantly $4,000 for the GWI conference Speaker's award which funded the keynote speaker Zamaswazi (Swati) Dlamini Mandela, (Human Rights Activist). GWO also funded the accommodation for a young member from Sierra Leone, Davephine Tholley, daughter of Theabu Tholley a friend through our twinning project.

From our Otago branch there were successful GWI appointments of: Shirley Gillett as Convenor of Education, Pouya Saeedi as Membership committee member, and Amy Dowdle president of young members.

Workshops including contributions by GWO members: The diversity workshop (Sita Venkateswar, Gretta Mills and Shirley Gillett); The use of the Gender equality resource kit (Shirley Gillett) and Peace keeping and resolutions (Amy Dowdle and Kathleen Laurila). Beverley Turner was the Pacific leader and Lorraine Isacs was Meeting protocol expert. Amy Dowdle and myself filled in a survey with proposed goals for the combined vision and projected aims for NZ and the Pacific branches. GWO would like, if possible, to head up a project with the Pacific. Also, I am planning to involve some GWO members in a discussion group on the theme of diversity.

- Dr. Shirley Gillett CIR

Community Awards Report

This year has seen eight successful applications for funding. We have had a variety of applications from a range of organisations from those putting on Art exhibitions to those working with youth. Other applications were for those in the area of health both for research and support groups for people suffering debilitating diseases. (Details of the recipients and amounts are given in the Charitable Trust Financial report).

Many recipients have given interesting and sometimes inspiring talks about their work at our branch meetings. It is heartening to know how much our help is appreciated.

- Cathy Timperley, Convener Community Awards

Treasurer and Membership Report

We are currently nearing the end of a long exercise in rebuilding the membership list and will shortly be sending out a belated 2018/19 subscription notice to those who have not already paid. During this process we, as per the constitution, will have to drop around 40 members who have not paid their subs since the 2015/16 year. Offsetting this in the 2018/19 financial year we received 31 new members and since the end of June a further 5. However, we have no reason to expect that the high membership turnover and slowly declining total membership numbers that has been experienced over the last few years to have reversed.

The branch in the 2018/19 financial year was basically in a holding pattern. The membership list rebuild delayed subscription receipts which has flowed through to a much lower income for the year, however we expect to make this up in the current financial year. Following the use of bequest funds on the Books in Prison project interest and the fall in interest rates interest income has also fallen.
Treasurer and Membership Report (continued...)

We remain extremely fortunate to be a branch with academic dress operations. Without this we would be unable to fund many of the activities we undertake at the branch level. Of significance, income from these operations continues to supplement our subscriptions, but over time we will have to look at raising our membership subscription to a level that at least matches the GWNZ dues.

Despite the general downbeat tone on my report I fully anticipate we will be back to an even keel in the current year.

~Joanne Rogers, Treasurer/Membership Secretary

Projects Report

The Shoebox project had a great collection for the second year. We received support from more than 30 different departments in the University. The project also gathered the interest of the Shared Services Committee, who mentioned that they would be very willing to help out again and at a larger extent in our next round. The stationery donations such as pens, color pencils, erasers, etc, have been collected, sorted and will be sent out to the 2 schools (Concord and Bradford) in Dunedin by end of the year. We look forward to carrying out another drive next year.

With the addition of new members (Priya and Pascale) who are enthusiastic about the projects. More exciting projects are lined up in the near future!

~Claudia Leong

Summary of Charitable Trust Annual Accounts

Summary of the Charitable Trust Annual Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2019

✦ Total income from interest for the year was $36,872 down $725 from the previous year. This is mainly due to the timing of the SBS investment maturity date.

✦ The regalia loan rate was held at 7%.

✦ Community Awards totaling $9,999 were made compared to $7,740 in 2018.

✦ Helen Benson awards of $4,500 were taken up, compared to $5,500 the previous year.

✦ Donations were made to GWNZ Fellowship $15,000, GWNZ Harriette Jenkins $3,000 and the Mildred Keir Fund of $3,000 the same as in 2018.

✦ Total donations and Awards being $35,499 compared to $34,240 the previous year.

✦ As a registered Charitable Trust an annual filing fee was paid of $51 to file our accounts with the Charities Commission. The net result was a surplus for the year of $1,322 compared to last year’s surplus of $3,306.

✦ Trust Funds at 30 June 2019 totaled $603,594 represented by the loan to Regalia of $490,000 (unchanged), bank accounts and deposits amounting to $113,594.

These figures are subject to Audit which was not completed at the date of the newsletter.

~ Christine Clegg, Academic Dress Accountant
Summary of Regalia Annual Accounts

Summary of the Regalia Annual Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2019

✦ Total income was $249,140 compared to $227,735 the previous year. An overall increase of $21,405.

✦ University, incidental & School increased while Polytech hire decreased on the 2018 year. Interest received on investments was $28,554, an increase of $6,105 on the prior year. Interest had resident withholding tax of $8,248 paid on this.

✦ Gown Hire expenses increased by $4,044 to $87,494 compared to $83,450 the previous year. The main increase being in wages costs.

✦ Other expenses increased on 2018 by $13,204 with donations and Awards of $45,084 given compared to $30,400 the previous year. This includes 12 Travel awards totalling 27,834, donations to NCW Dawn Ibbotson Prize, Books in Prison project, Daphne Purves award, NCW grant, Grants in Aid for travel to GWNZ executive meetings and hardship Grants for struggling students.

✦ Interest paid to the Charitable Trust remained at $34,300.

✦ There was a surplus before tax of $42,582. Tax yet to be calculated. Prior to taxation Members Funds totalled $441,991.

✦ Total cash invested or on call was $909,026 an increase of $33,085 from the 2018 year. The liability still being the loan from the Charitable Trust of $490,000.

These figures are subject to Audit which was not completed at the date of the newsletter.

~Christine Clegg, Academic Dress Accountant

Newsletter Correction

Nelson Mandela’s grand-daughter who spoke at The Triennial Conference was Zamaswazi Dlamini-Mandela, not Saunoamaali’I Dr Karanina Sumeo as was stated in the reported summaries of Shirley Gillett and Sheila Williams.
**August Newsletter Deadline Date**

The next committee meeting is **Thursday, November 7th**

The closing date for newsletter items is **Sunday, November 10th**

~ Angela Spontelli Gisselman, Newsletter Editor

AGisselm@highpoint.edu

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**Contact Us**

**Otago Branch**

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**Graduate Women New Zealand**

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**Graduate Women International**

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