
GRADUATE WOMEN OTAGO

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

Brenda Shore Award Recipients | 100th Anniversary - Save the Date

Upcoming Branch Meeting!

When: Thursday, 22 April, 2021

Where: Benham Seminar Room, 2nd floor in the Zoology Department, 340 Great King Street

Time: 7:15 pm - Please join us for a cuppa and casual catch-up before the meeting, which will formally begin at 7:30 pm

Guest Speaker: Yvonne Coughlan

Topic: Yvonne will speak about being in Botswana where she was in a team building houses with Habitat for Humanity.

Details: Members may use the car park in front of the Zoology Building and the elevator inside, and will be welcomed by a member 'personing' the locked main entry door between approximately 7.15 - 7.35pm.

Apologies: If you are unable to attend a branch meeting, please email your apology to: info@nzfgwotago.org.nz



A message from GWO's President:

This post COVID year seems to be galloping by at a scary pace. I do hope it slows down as I want to enjoy every second of this centenary year for GWO and GWNZ. In relation to this, our upcoming members centenary branch celebration is planned as a time of friendship around the commonalities of GWO experiences. At this special May branch meeting we will be recapping on the past events, people, endeavours, and successes, and the changes for women during those hundred years. All current members are warmly invited and with friends/ guests and associates we might hit the hundred attendees to match the hundred years. In fact if every member came, we would be nearly there!

In line with the centenary we are emphasizing our own members as our speakers this year and Lorraine Isaac's talk on her men in prison book group was fascinating. GWI and the international scene was dominated by weeks of hundreds of online papers and presentations for CSW and there are two articles later in the newsletter from this. Good reading,

Shirley Gillett, President

Graduate Women Otago Branch Meeting 25th March 2021

*Bentham Seminar Room, 2nd floor, Zoology Department, University of Otago, Great King Street Dunedin.
Commencing 7.40pm*

MINUTES

1. Welcome: Joanne Rogers welcomed members and visitors and reminded everyone to sign the book. Speaker, Lorraine Isaacs Two years at the men's prison book. It was agreed that Lorraine would speak after the formal business was completed.

2. Apologies: Anna Campbell, Martine Cashel-Smith, Claudia Leong, Barbara Smith, Elizabeth Purdie, Mary Stuart. Shirley Gillett apologised as she would arrive late.

Acceptance of the Apologies: Moved from the Chair AGREED

3. Agenda:

Acceptance of the Agenda: Moved from the Chair AGREED

4. Minutes of the meeting of 25th February 2021:

a. Corrections – none

Motion: That the Minutes are true and correct.

Moved Christine Clegg Seconded Correen Rodger All Agreed

b. Matters arising – none

5. Correspondence:

Inwards: Six applications for Community Awards; NCW Thank you letter for conference fee payment; Queries of an administrative nature re gowning; Membership queries of an administrative nature.

Outwards: Responses to above membership and administrative queries.

Motion: That the Inwards correspondence be accepted and the Outwards correspondence be endorsed. Moved from the Chair. AGREED

6. Matters Arising from the Correspondence: None

7. Business Reports: to 4/3/21

a. Charitable Trust Account presented by Christine Clegg

Moved: Christine Clegg Seconded Ioanna Katiforis AGREED

b. Academic Dress Account presented by Christine Clegg

NCW paid, Conveners have been paid

Moved: Christine Clegg Seconded Ioanna Katiforis AGREED

c. Branch Treasurer / Membership Report presented by Joanne Rogers

3 new members total now 71; Owe Regalia account money, Interest FGWNZ.

Funding Awards, the interest earned on the remaining capital does not cover the total award payments i.e. lack of income. Discussion occurred.

It was the recommendation to the GWO Committee from Branch Members that the following occurs: Wind up Margaret Cameron fund and transfer remaining balance to Marion Fyfe fund. Jeanette Scott fund last payment 2021 any remaining balance to be transferred to Marion Fyfe fund. It is likely there will still be a shortage of funds after the September payment. Information will go into the newsletter. This will be brought back to members for further discussion.

Motion: That after the Jeanette Scott award is paid in 2021, Funds remaining in the Margaret Cameron and Jeanette Scott accounts be transferred to the Marion Fyfe Fund. Proposed Joanne Rogers Seconded Lorraine Isaacs ALL AGREED

Moved: Joanne Rogers Seconded Louise Croot AGREED

8. Conveners Reports:

a. CIR: Anna Campbell There was no report this month

b. Academic Dress: report to be in newsletter

Moved: Rhonda Schlaadt Seconded Correen Rodger AGREED

c. Centenary Celebration Update: Shirley Gillett

Planning for the celebrations are underway, several events to take place

February Soiree Anna organised for younger and new members

27th May 6-8pm University Staff Club GWO member focus, food and drinks, cake cutting & photos

Update history book to 2021; Presidents Board; Display of gowns and photos

September / October Town & Gown event

Watch out for emails & updates on web page

9. General Business:

Louise Croot spoke about her participation in an international zoom meeting, 95 participated for 2 hours; about Central and South America. The women's view covered issues with people trying to get into America, corn subsidy vs cannabis crop, detention centre overcrowding, and separation of children from families.

Business Meeting closed at 8.07pm

CALL FOR HELP: ACADEMIC DRESS FOR MAY GRADUATIONS

Kia ora GW Otago members,

We need your help with the May graduations! It is very rewarding work and a happy time for the graduands and their families. The more volunteer help we get, the more income that GWO has to distribute in the forms of scholarships, awards, etc. We hope that our early evening times – on Thursday and Friday – or our Sunday afternoon time will suit those who are working, but still want to help. The longer opening sessions on the Monday have been divided into two, so one of these times may be more convenient.

The following times are for the graduands. Helpers, please come 10/15 minutes earlier. Please note that collection times involve a lot of standing and moving around. If this is not for you, then return times have more opportunity for you to sit down.

Any help, even for part sessions, would be much appreciated.

★ Please email Jules on academic.dress@otago.ac.nz; ring her on 021-075-2772; or even better, click on the following link to go to our doodle poll and fill in your availability: https://doodle.com/poll/s3zvvetabvca3azp?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link

GRADUATIONS SATURDAY 8 MAY

Collection from Academic Dress Rooms:

Thursday 6 May 5.30pm – 7.00pm

Friday 7 May 11.00am – 2.00pm OR

Friday 7 May 5.30pm – 7.00pm

Saturday 8 May 8.30am – 12 noon

Returns to Academic Dress Rooms:

Sunday 9 May 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Monday 10 May 10.00am – 12noon OR

Monday 10 May 12noon – 2.00pm

Convenors: Jules Gross and Andrea Warburton

GRADUATIONS SATURDAY 15 MAY

Collection from Academic Dress Rooms:

Thursday 13 May 5.30pm – 7.00pm

Friday 14 May 11.00am – 2.00pm OR

Friday 14 May 5.30pm – 7.00pm

Saturday 15 May 8.30am – 12 noon

Returns to Academic Dress Rooms:

Sunday 16 May 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Monday 17 May 10.00am – 12noon OR

Monday 17 May 12noon – 2.00pm

Convenors: Yvonne Coughlan and Rhonda Schlaadt

Ngā mihi,

Jules Gross, Academic Dress

Brenda Shore Award Recipients

The 2021 Brenda Shore Awards have been made by a panel of Otago Graduate Women members: Lorraine Isaacs (Convener), Amy Dowdle, Jules Gross, Pouya Saeedi, Sheila Williams and Sue Cathro.

From four applications for the post graduate award for Otago University women, preferably studying natural sciences, we chose to distribute the \$10,000 Award from the Brenda Shore Post Graduate Research Trust administered by Trustees Executors among three Masters' candidates:

- ★ **Saskia Foreman** researching (for a Master of Marine Science) multiple anthropogenic stressors on amphipod feeding and reproduction;
- ★ **Tarentaise McLeod** researching (for a Master of Science) a novel way of measuring snow depth in McMurdo Sound, Antarctica;
- ★ **Frances Perry** researching (for a Master of Marine Science) whether NZ invertebrates species would survive in a warmer Antarctica.

Brenda Shore gained her MSc in Botany at Otago University and taught in the Botany Department from 1945 until her retirement as Associate Professor in 1983. She held the 1951 NZFUW Fellowship for study abroad, spending three years at Cambridge and gained a PhD in plant anatomy. She generously bequeathed money held by Trustees Executors for an Award which a panel of GWO members grant to the best applicant(s) annually.

Thank you to the panel who made the choice this year, and congratulations to the Awardees!

~ Lorraine Isaacs, Convener

NCW Reports - April

The April 2021 speaker was one of our Members who told us of her research on the fire at Seacliff Hospital, 20kms from Dunedin, in which her grandmother lost her life together with 38 other women on 8 December 1942. The women were in a locked block and unable to make their escape. 75 years after the fire some of the families of the victims have now been able to access their loved ones' medical records, and were able to raise sufficient funds to erect a memorial plaque recording the names of the women, at the Andersons Bay cemetery, where some of the women were buried.

Due to a delay in organising the Dawn Ibbotson Essay Competition, the event will not be held this year, but arrangements for the Inspiring Young Women's Breakfast are well in hand.

Founders' Day 13 April will be the 125th anniversary of NCWNZ. The Branch and NCWNZ will be organising celebrations during the year.

- Correen Rodger

Save the Date - 100th Anniversary of GWO!

We are thrilled to invite GWO members and a guest to a very special May meeting, the 100th anniversary of the founding meeting of the Federation of Graduate Women held in 1921. The proceedings for the evening will include complimentary celebratory drinks and nibbles, followed by a series of guest speakers from our very own membership; Memoirs of GWO Through the Years. We hope you are able to join us, even if it is your first GWO meeting.

- * Date: 27 May 2021
- * Where: University Staff Club, Leith Walk, University of Otago Campus
- * Time: 6.00pm - 8.00pm
- * Who: GWO members and guest



Please RSVP before Monday 10th May to info@nzfgwotago.org.nz or 021453355. Further reminders will be sent out over the coming weeks.

~Anna Campbell

Academic Dress Report

March was a busy month, and April a short month closed for mid-semester break. May will be busy, please refer to Jules' request for helpers over the two graduation weekends.

The March Acknowledgement Ceremony held at the Town Hall attracted 200+ Graduates. Jane Ashman and Walter Lawrence, the two conveners, reported that the graduates really loved the 'graduation ceremony' and were all very positive and happy the Otago University organised this extra and special event.

Linda Dunn has ordered new trenchers from Etude Classique, which, Covid willing, we should have available for the December graduations. The hood review continues, currently underway are the blue and gold BEd hoods from the College of Education.

- Rhonda Schlaadt



CIR Report

There have been a number of significant events happening around the world calling for cultural change. Here is a snapshot of those events:

Hijabs in France

Influencers from all around the world have been speaking up about the controversy in response to the hijab ban that the French Senate voted in favour of on March 30. The Separatism Bill, if approved by the French Parliament, would ban Muslim women under the age of 18 from wearing hijabs in public. It would also allow public swimming pools to refuse entry to women in burkinis and will prevent hijab-wearing mothers from accompanying their children on school field trips. Hijabs are already banned in all public schools and some private schools in France, and cannot be worn by women working in the public sector. The Separatism Bill will further promote the segregation and oppression of muslim girls in French society as well as human rights issue, telling women what they can and can't wear.

Asian American Hate in US

Significant Asian American violence has broken out in the US in response to the rhetoric that China is to blame for Covid-19, endorsed by Donald Trump. The hate crimes are linked to anti-Asian sentiment in the US. California congresswoman Judy Chu, chair of the Asian Pacific American Caucus, called the recent incidents "a crisis point" for the community. She and other lawmakers are pushing for the US Department of Justice to expand efforts to report, track and prosecute hate crimes. This has opened up a global conversation around how the Asian American community feels invisible, and are often excluded from American culture. Community groups and organisations are calling for people to educate themselves on the various Asian cultures and experiences.

The Hill We Climb

Amanda Gorman was named the first-ever National Youth Poet Laureate of the United States and was the youngest ever US Inaugural poet. She touched the world with her inspiring poem *The Hill We Climb*, asking us all to unite in our challenges. Recently her poem was published as a story book, and this month, Gorman is the first poet to ever feature on the cover of *Vogue* magazine. She is a shining example for young girls everywhere to pursue their dreams.

Generation Equality Forum

UN Women are convening the Generation Equality Forum in June in Paris. Melinda Gates is campaigning for the rights of women affected by Covid-19, recently tweeting, "Women have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and are central to the recovery. The Generation Equality Forum in Paris is the moment for leaders to make real commitments to address gender equality and accelerate an inclusive economic recovery."

-Anna Campbell

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) - March 2021

From the UN 65th Commission on the Status of Women-NGO Parallel Sessions.

Reclaiming Our Humanity: The Urgent Need for Women's Leadership in Addressing Migrant Issues.

The sponsoring organization was Women Graduates USA. They worked in conjunction with the Canadian Federation of University Women and The Mexican Federation of University Women in planning and running the session. Run on Zoom through the UNCSW NGO website on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 9am, I participated in this parallel event, part of the 65th UN Committee on the Status of Women's (CSW) Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) programme online. About 100 participants took part. The whole 65th UNCSW had 25,000 registrations and ran for a fortnight. There were many opportunities, though quite a few sessions were at 3am NZ-time, not the most conducive to our attendance.

The introductory statement was, "When we heard about the government-sanctioned separation of asylum-seeking families at the US southern border, we were afraid we had lost our humanity".

In the session, we listened to the courageous statements of women detainees, learned about the largely unacknowledged causes of migration in North America and recognised why only women's leadership can make the necessary systemic changes at the intersection of migration and North American economic policies to address the most egregious migration issues.

Much of the information was revealing for me. I learnt that besides children being separated from parents, that Central American and Mexican women asylum-seekers were raped at Detention Centres in North America, sterilised against their will and trafficked by the very guards who were supposed to keep them safe.

My question to the group was, "where will you advocate and what action is planned?"

The action proposed was that women leaders can first bear witness to the testimonies of women detainees, learn about the largely unacknowledged causes for migration to North America and collaborate in support of the NGOs working in the field, as well as lobby for change to improve trade and economic policies. This includes policy work to cut corn subsidies and so-called free-trade in the Nafta and Cafta agreements. These have benefited only the elite groups and sidelined environmental and human rights. Consequences of policy are not assessed before they are enacted in so many cases. Since 1992, I have argued for a Department of Consequences - maybe one day?

Suggestion of well-being budgets were made, which resonated with our New Zealand-direction to build better measures beyond GDP.

I felt it was two-hours of time well spent. It showed clearly how economic policies influence rural livelihoods, can deplete soils and aquifers, disrupt lives, pressure urban settings and impact on women.

Thank you to the three member countries of GWI. All best wishes for the hard work ahead.

Louise Croot MNZM, Otago Branch, GWO New Zealand, Past President IFUW 2007-2010

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) - March 2021 (continued...)

Website for the UN CSW 65th meeting Virtual Forum for Non-Governmental Organizations 2021
www.ngocsw65forum.us2.pathable.com

Read the papers below:

Professor Carmen G Gonzales references:

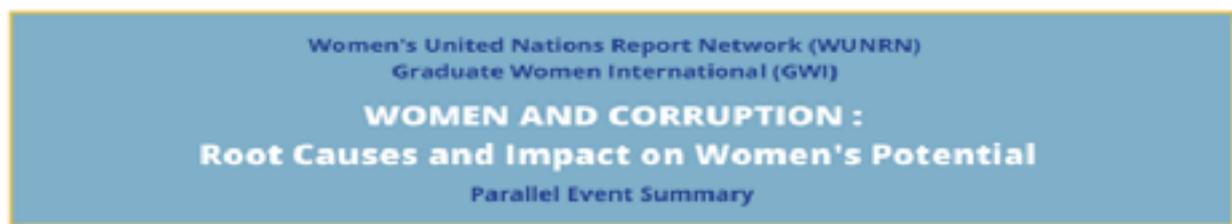
- ❖ On Central America: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3727725
- ❖ On Mexico: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1260048

In addition, Public Citizen has done excellent work on CAFTA - read this piece and the other linked pieces:

- ❖ <https://www.citizen.org/article/central-america-free-trade-agreement-cafta/>

I understand a report is going to be posted on the WG USA website, probably in full.

- ❖ www.wg-usa.org Reflections of my experiences.



CSW65 Special Edition is to be released in April by GWI

A summary of all activities including the hundreds of parallel and side events, Consultation Days, the closing rally and more will be published in April so please stay tuned.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) - March 2021 (continued...)

In March this year for two weeks there was an amazing array of papers and presentations...parallel and side events... for this year's fully virtual Commission for the Status of Women(CSW65). I had registered online as an advocate along with 20, 000 or so and was lucky to chance upon the very first event- the Global Consultation Day co-sponsored by GWI with our GWI Stacy as co-chair. This was just as wonderful as when I had attended it in New York in person with high level speeches and stirring songs.

As part of this megaconference I had been asked as EDUCOM convenor to be on the planning committee(which involved many ZOOMS!) for a GWI event called a Mock Trial and the educational challenges and inequalities stemming from the emerging distance learning culture.

At the time I did not realise that a mock court is a form with its own recognized structure and processes similar to the judicial system complete with judges, debaters and an audience of onlookers. "Mock trials are an engaging way to raise awareness about critical issues, in this case, challenges and inequalities in distance learning". I had assumed it followed the structure of a debate but whilst there were similarities in that there were two contrasting sides, the timing was more weighted to judges and there was no rebuttal. The statement for which I was affirmative was: "Classrooms will give way to IT based home education by IT trained teachers. School buildings and premises will then be mainly used for social interactions, sports, and other extra-curricular activities."

I was first speaker for the affirmative and with two fellow debaters, Shaila Rao Mistry(LA) and Radwa Mohamed(India) dressed in purple as defenders (opposers in orange), we put our case strongly. I spoke of the historic deschoolers movement and the negatives of traditional classrooms, Shaila presented on the changing nature of jobs and business and Radwa on the benefits of using classrooms primarily for music and PE. The opposition emphasized the loss of social life, the inequities in learning from home and the risks of relying on IT. Although it was a fun type of event we had worked very hard for our two minute elevator pitch and it was slightly daunting when the poll vote was 90% for the negative. However, judge Cynthia Burek spent considerable time summarizing our talks and then pointed out that the statement stressed the future orientation. As she said, we could never have imagined hand writing being replaced by the computer so on the basis of going forward she, along with the other judges, overruled the poll vote and declared the statement valid. Yahoo!

Big thanks to the enthusiastic GWI VP Eileen Focke-Bakker who put a great deal of time and positivity into organizing this Mock Trial.

I also attended the Corruption GWI Parallel Event co-sponsored by Transparency International with prestigious expert panellists, and also joined, along with many others, the very high level professional Panel by Canada, USA, and Mexico Graduate Women which Louise Crot has written about and I also jumped into some other random papers including, believe it or not, a yoga session.

- Shirley Gillett GWNZ CIR

May Newsletter Deadline Date

The next committee meeting is **Thursday, May 6th**

The closing date for the April newsletter will be

Sunday, May 9th

~ Angela Spontelli Gisselman, Newsletter Editor

AGisselm@highpoint.edu

Contact Us

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