Next Branch Meeting

**When:** Thursday 26th November.

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

**Time:** 7:15 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Please join us for a cuppa and cake beforehand.

**Speaker:** Professor Mary Butler, School of Occupational Therapy, Otago Polytechnic.

**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 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:

Welcome everyone, present and new GWO members,

Recently we showcased our branch with our public panel event and hosted the GWNZ AGM. It was encouraging to see the attendance of members at both of these and, more recently, at our own AGM, which was quite well attended (for an AGM)! We had the formal business meeting which went straightforwardly, followed by some rigorous debate around the proposed constitutional change of allowing the possibility of co-presidents after which, fuelled by a yummy very rich chocolate cake, some brainstorming around how to build our membership and how to celebrate our centenary 2021.

It was great to hear suggestions and thoughts from branch members, because after all the branch IS GWO, the committee there agreed to facilitate the wishes and workings of the branch. We all agreed quality speakers are important.

At our next and final meeting for the year we will hear from Mary Butler, the first full professor of OT at the Otago Polytechnic and will share in some Christmas cake and friendship. We hope as many as possible can join us.

A brief background as a GW - my first degree was a BSC in Psychology at Auckland University, followed by seven years living and teaching in Oxford UK, then an MA and PHD in education at Otago. I love teaching and learning in many areas and am involved in the university and schools.

Education is the missive of GWI (Graduate Women International), who are currently running a series of webinars on advocacy, the final one being on “Education and its future post COVID”, which I am leading as convenor of EDUCOM with international speakers. It will be by ZOOM, 7 PM our time, Thursday 19th November, to which all members are welcome.

As president I am looking forward specifically to encouraging our YMS, to celebrating our GWO centenary in 2021, to building up our membership, and also to contributing to developing a relationship with the Pacific.

As this is our final newsletter of 2020, on behalf of our committee I wish you a wonderful Christmas and season’s greetings,

Shirley Gillett (President)
Minutes of the 99th AGM of GWO, 22 October, Benham Seminar Room

Present: Joanne Rogers (Chair), Catherine Cocker, Anna Campbell, Sue Cathro, Christine Clegg, Mayford Dawson, Shirley Gillett, Lorraine Isaacs, Claudia Leong, Jane Malthus, Claire Matthewson, Tanya Major, Dot Page, Correen Rodger, Rhonda Schlaadt, Florence Stone, Mary Stuart, and Shelia Williams.

Welcome: The Chair, Joanne Rogers, welcomed members to the 99th AGM. President Amy Dowdle apologised for not being able to join the meeting.

Apologies: Margaret Bahr, Yvonne Coughlan, Louise Croot, Amy Dowdle, Angela Gisgelman, Beatrice Hale, Elizabeth Hanan, Jocelyn Harris, Lyn Howe, Michelle Moffat, Nicola Peart, and Michelle Walker.

The Chair Moved that the apologies be accepted. Carried.

Minutes of the 98th Annual General Meeting: were distributed in the November 2019 Newsletter, and were taken as read. There were no matters arising.

The Chair Moved that the 2019 AGM minutes be accepted. Carried.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Annual Reports to be received: All reports were printed in the October 2020 newsletter and were taken as read.

1. President and Young Members: as tabled by Amy Dowdle
2. Coordinator International Relations: as tabled by Shirley Gillett
3. Branch Treasurer & Membership: Joanne Rogers spoke to her report and added the following: Work is well underway on sorting out the 2018, 2019 and 2020 Branch accounts. Despite not being able to table finalised accounts she wanted to note that subscription income was significantly lower in 2019 than 2018 and down, but less so, in 2020 year. Also, of concern is that the two funds that we use the interest to pay for awards, Marion Fyfe and Medical Women’s Assn, no longer earn enough interest to cover the cost of the awards and that is something that will have to be addressed in the coming year. As covered in the printed report, she recommended that subscriptions remain unchanged.

Motion: that “The Subscription for the 2021/22 year be unchanged at $75 per Graduate Member, $65 per Senior Member and $60 per Associate Member”
Moved: Joanne Rogers
Seconded: Rhonda Schlaadt
Carried

Following the massive tidy up of the membership lists, Joanne reported that there had been 16 resignations and three deaths in the 2019/20 year. An additional 167 members need to have their membership terminated as per clause 3(j)(ii) of the constitution which states that any member whose subscription were in arrears from the previous financial year ending 30 June may be terminated at the AGM. She noted that this list was so large as it had not been done since 2017. The list of members to be terminated was tabled. Following this there were currently 75 members and a further 25 members who were still being contacted.

Motion: that “The list of members tabled have their membership terminated for non-payment of subscriptions, with the exception of Judith Bateup”
Moved: Joanne Rogers
Seconded: Correen Rodger
Carried
Minutes of the 99th AGM of GWO, Continued...

4. Academic Dress Convenor: Rhonda Schlaadt updated members on her report and explained that she expects academic dress income to not be hugely affected by the cancellation of graduation ceremonies in May and August because of COVID-19 due to extra ceremonies being planned for December and March. Additionally, many graduands for the August ceremonies hired gowns for photos despite there being no ceremony.

5. Academic Dress Accountant: Christine Clegg spoke to her report and commented that in the financial year ended 30 June 2020 revenue was down by approximately $70,000 due to May ceremonies being cancelled.


7. Projects Convenor: Claudia Leong discussed the progress made during the year on the Shoe Box project.

8. Community Awards: No report

   Motion: that "The reports be accepted as tabled and/or presented"
   Moved: Joanne Rogers
   Seconded: Jane Malthus
   Carried

The meeting moved into the Charitable Trust AGM at 7.54pm and back into GWO AGM at 8.05pm.

9. GWO Charitable Trust: Report and accounts as tabled.

   Presentation of Report: Christine Clegg spoke to the report printed in the October 2020 newsletter. She noted that donations had been reasonably consistent with previous years.

   There had been seven community awards made in the year with a total value of $10,100 compared to eight awards made in the previous year. A total of $21,000 had been donated to GWNZ, but she noted that no donation had been made to the Harriet Jenkins award as no awards were being made this year.

   Christine noted that the falling interest rates were beginning to impact and the rate charged on the loan to GWOtago (regalia account) had been lowered from 7% to 4% effective 1 July 2020.

   Motion: “That the Charitable Trust report and financial accounts as tabled be accepted”
   Moved: Christine Clegg
   Seconded: Sue Cathro
   Carried

Constitutional Changes: Shirley Gillet proposed a constitutional change: clause 4(a)(i) to insert “(or Co-Presidents, where applicable)” after President. The rationale: going forward, it may get harder and harder to find personnel prepared to take the leadership; it may help if the role is able to be shared. It is a viable and powerful feminist leadership model rather than a hierarchical model, and not a requirement, simply another option for leadership.

   Robust discussion ensued with members expressing opinions both for and against the proposal. At the conclusion of the discussion, it was agreed that all the committee roles, with the exception of CIR and PAC, should be reviewed in light of the current needs of the organisation. For example, there is little need for a Secretary any longer, but someone to be responsible for the website and social media could be useful. After the review any recommended changes including Shirley's could be put to members at a SGM.
Minutes of the 99th AGM of GWO, Continued…

Election of Officers
President:
Joanne Rogers moved: “That Shirley Gillett be elected as President”
Seconded: Rhonda Schlaadt
Carried

Joanne vacated the chair in favour of Shirley Gillett.

Treasurer:
Shirley moved: “That Joanne Rogers be elected as Treasurer”
Seconded: Jane Malthus
Carried

Joanne resumed the chair.

Committee: The committee to be elected as a slate with individual committee roles to be allocated by the incoming President in discussion with the new committee members.

Margaret Bhar;
Sue Cathro;
Amy Dowdle;
Claudia Leong; and
Rhonda Schlaadt.

There being no nominations from the floor -
Jane Malthus moved: “That the Committee members as listed be elected”
Seconded: Anna Campbell
Carried

It was noted that the Committee will be looking for additional members once roles had been allocated.

Appointments: The following appointments were reconfirmed:
Academic Dress Accountant: Christine Clegg
Charitable Trust Accountant: Christine Clegg
Newsletter Editor: Angela Gisselman

The Chair proposed a vote of thanks for the work done by Christine and Angela, as well as Claire Amos who had been covering for Angela while she was on maternity leave. Joanne also thanked retiring committee members Millie Johnson, Pouya Saeedi, and Cathy Timperley for all their hard work. The vote of thanks was carried with acclaim.

Appointment of Auditor: Christine Clegg moved: “That Colleen Law be re-appointed as auditor”
Seconded: Mayford Dawson
Carried

General Business: Lorraine Isaacs asked for volunteers to serve on the Brenda Shore Awards Committee who have a background in natural sciences. The award is made once a year, so it is not a large commitment.

In Memoriam: Since last listed: Dr Elizabeth Goulding; Mrs Dawn Ibbotson; Mrs Jennifer Matheson
Minutes of the 99th AGM of GWO, Continued...

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm and was followed by supper and a general discussion regarding ideas for branch meetings and 100th Anniversary in 2021.

Academic Dress Report

If any Graduate Women Otago member has a suitcase (hard or soft sided) that is no longer needed, Academic Dress would love to take them off your hands, phone 479 8765 (answerphone) for collection, or drop them to the Academic Dress Rooms, north end, Geology basement (we’re open between 12 and 2 on Wednesdays). It is the time of year to send regalia to schools for their prize-givings and the suitcases fit the job perfectly.

Stocktake and review of the Physical Education hoods has been completed. Although this degree is no longer offered by the University, the hoods are still used extensively for school prize-giving.

Preliminary numbers for the four December graduation days show higher than expected numbers for some degrees, therefore more hoods are being made or have been ordered from Etude Classique.

The Dental School mid-course “demi graduation” ceremony takes place early November. This year, 40 of our decommissioned trenchers are fated to be cut in half. In 2021, the trenchers will be replaced.

Please watch out for an email calling for volunteers to help at the December Graduations or a sign-up sheet at an upcoming branch meeting; we really appreciate any help you can give.

Rhonda Schlaadt
December Graduation Call for Volunteers

Kia ora GW Otago members,

We need your help with the December graduations! This year, the University is holding 8 ceremonies across two Wednesdays and two Saturdays. It is very rewarding work and a happy time for the graduands and their families. We hope that our early evening times – on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday – would suit those who are working during the day, but still want to help. The longer opening sessions on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 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 the Academic Dress email address: 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/62nkrfwmtuqr9gs7y?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link

GRADUATIONS WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2020
Collection from Academic Dress Rooms:
Tuesday 8 December 11am-1.00pm OR
Tuesday 8 December 1.00-2.30pm OR
Tuesday 8 December 4.30pm – 7.00pm
Wednesday 9 December 8.30am – 10.30am OR
Wednesday 9 December 10.30am – 12 noon

Returns to Academic Dress Rooms:
Thursday 10 December 9am – 11am OR
Thursday 10 December 11am – 2pm
Convenors: Jane Malthus and Jane Ashman

GRADUATIONS SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER 2020
Collection from Academic Dress Rooms:
Thursday 10 December 5.30pm – 7.00pm
Friday 11 December 11.00am – 2.00pm OR
Friday 11 December 5.30pm – 7.00pm
Saturday 12 December 8.30am – 12 noon

Returns to Academic Dress Rooms:
Sunday 13 December 2.00pm – 4.00pm
Monday 14 December 10.00am – 12noon OR
Monday 14 December 12 noon – 2.00pm
Convenors: Linda Dunn and Walter Lawrence

GRADUATIONS WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2020
Collection from Academic Dress Rooms:
Tuesday 15 December 11am-1.00pm OR
Tuesday 15 December 1.00-2.30pm OR
Tuesday 15 December 4.30pm – 7.00pm
Wednesday 16 December 8.30am – 10.30am OR
Wednesday 16 December 10.30am – noon
December Graduation Call for Volunteers, Continued...

Returns to Academic Dress Rooms:
Thursday 17 December 9am – 11am OR
Thursday 17 December 11am – 2pm
Convenors: Jules Gross and Andrea Warburton

GRADUATIONS SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER 2020
Collection from Academic Dress Rooms:
Thursday 17 December 5.30pm – 7.00pm
Friday 18 December 11.00am – 2.00pm OR
Friday 18 December 5.30pm – 7.00pm
Saturday 19 December 8.30am – 12 noon

Returns to Academic Dress Rooms:
Sunday 20 December 2.00pm – 4.00pm
Monday 21 December 10.00am – 12noon OR
Monday 21 December 12noon – 2.00pm
Convenors: Yvonne Coughlan and Rhonda Schlaadt

Ngā mihi,
Jules, Academic Dress

Request for Help on an Awards Committee – Are You a Science Graduate?

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 agree on the award(s) and we are looking for other science graduates to join us next year in 2021.

If you might be interested, please contact Lorraine Isaacs by email (lorraine.isaacs@outlook.com) or by phone (487 9439) to discuss.

Lorraine Issacs
Some International and National News:

Webinars:

GWI has been running a series of webinars on advocacy, the final one being on “Education and its future post COVID” which I am leading as convenor of EDUCOM with international speakers. It will be by ZOOM, 7 PM our time Thursday 19th November to which all GWNZ members are welcome and a time that was specially argued for as good for Pacific NFAs.

CSW 2021

- Consultation Day and Forum CSW65 is that the entire session will be virtual.
- The platform is still being sorted out but has capacity for 30,000!
- GWI will be able to host parallel events.
- UN Women has not yet announced its platform for the actual Commission meetings. So, GWI are unsure how delegates will be handled, if there are any.
- The priority theme: Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Pacific Project:

At national level we had been thinking of such for most of last year, but with COVID this had come to a standstill. At the AGM I ran a workshop interviewing Ronna, president of the Fiji national group, about herself and their various projects. She spoke, in particular, of their walking mentoring programme. The participants workshoped this in groups. Going forward, a short list of these will be discussed with Ronna and her colleagues to come up with one or two to present to the Board. There was lots of positive feedback received from participants regarding the value of the workshop.
The November Branch meeting was held on Wednesday 4 November. There was no speaker this month as we had to discuss the remits and proposed Constitutional changes for the upcoming conference. This is to be held on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st November and Dunedin Branch is meeting for the Zoom meeting in the William James Room in the Psychology Building at the University.

The remits are:
1. That NCZNZ actively supports and advocates for an intersectional approach to gender equality.
2. Access to online or digital services and support should be made available for those who are not digitally enabled, and investment should be made in increasing digital literacy.
3. That the National Council of Women NZ include the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities within the framework for developing all NCW strategy, policy, submissions, and campaigns; and act at national and branch level to ensure NCWNZ is welcoming and inclusive of women who are disabled.
4. That NCWNZ opposes the arming of Police with guns as the norm in our communities.

These were supported, although there a number of questions raised that could be asked when these remits are under discussion.

The proposed constitutional changes cover the make-up of the nominating committee for membership of the Board, the experience that is required for the Board, changes to the way the President and Vice-President are chosen, more transparency and accountability around financial reporting, establishing Topic Hubs and their convenors, and the Parliamentary Watch Committee.

If anyone would like to know more about these or have a question, please email me: b.s.cathro@xtra.co.nz.

Our President, Janice Sinclair, reported on the President’s meeting, held once a month by Zoom. Several areas of concern were raised, which may be raised at conference.

Sue Cathro

Final Projects Report, 2020

This year, we donated what we had left from our collected stationery from the “Shoe Box Project” last year to Shukuru’s Village School Project. We also put the $80 donated to the project towards the container shipment. Shukuru came to New Zealand at age 23, but has never forgotten her village school. Every time she visits the African village of Kelema, she takes a suitcase with stationery to give to pupils. Over the last few years, she has become determined to do more.

We have also started making connections with Māori & Pasifika groups in the University of Otago, in hopes of starting a “Friendship Bridge” project with GWO. More details to come in the next year!

We are always looking for new projects to embark on, and members to join us in carrying out these projects. If you are interested or have any ideas, please get in touch!

Claudia - Projects Convenor 2020
Kia ora koutou,

This is our first Annual Report since Sue Cathro retired last year and Linda Dunn and I took over the shared role of Academic Dress Manager. It has been a relatively smooth transition thanks in large part to the systems that have been in place for many years and to the extensive notes that Sue left for us. We are also very grateful for Sue’s ongoing support; she is still on speed dial in my phone and I have had several occasions where I’ve had to contact her with an urgent question. Not unexpectedly, Sue has always been able to provide the answer immediately!

What a year it has been … It started off as usual with the supply of regalia in February for the University’s Convocation ceremony to welcome new students and their parents to Dunedin and the University; and staff hiring for the Polytech’s March graduation ceremony.

Rhonda Schlaadt and Walter Lawrence also began a planned review of all of our hoods. Over the years, we have needed to add more hoods to our inventory, however, due to the difficulty in sourcing appropriate fabric, this has sometimes resulted in there being quite large color variations within a degree. Our aim is to have consistent quality and color across each degree to provide a better experience (product) for graduating students. We started with reviewing the degrees that have hoods with the greatest number of variations in color. To give you an idea of the extent of the problem, for the BAppSc hoods, Rhonda and Walter found that there were 9 different colors across 78 hoods; for the BSc, there were 24 colors across 395 hoods, for the MBChB, there were also 24 colors across 294 hoods; and for the BPhEd (even though the University no longer offers this degree, we use all of the hoods for school prize givings), there were 17 colors across 133 hoods. As a result of the review, we have ordered 150 new BSc hoods and 50 BAppSc hoods from Etude Classique to be delivered in time for the December graduations.

And then COVID hit. It became pretty clear even when we moved down to Alert Level 3 after a month in lockdown that the University would not be able to hold graduations in May. Rhonda very quickly prepared an extensive COVID-19 Health & Safety plan for the Academic Dress Rooms that was approved by the University with no revisions – Rhonda did this when the campus was still out of bounds, so a big thank you to her for the considerable work involved in putting the plan together under difficult circumstances.
Academic Dress Conveners’ Report 2020

Back in Alert Level 1, June and July were busy months, with a steady stream of people borrowing regalia for photos in lieu of graduation. Normally, we don’t allow people to take regalia out of town but this year, we have accommodated those requests as well as requests to send regalia to people living out of Dunedin.

In August, it was very disappointing that because of our return to COVID Alert Level 2, the University had to cancel the August graduations less than a week out. We decided that since we had all of our Health & Safety procedures in place and had already arranged helpers, that we would go ahead and provide regalia for people who wanted to have photos taken. This proved to be very popular; just over half of the graduands collected their regalia and we received extremely positive feedback about providing the service. Given the more laid-back atmosphere, it was also a good time to introduce Andrea Warburton, our new academic dress convenor, to ‘gowning,’ and it brought in some income for the Branch.

In October, we sent out hundreds of gowns and hoods, not only to schools in Otago and Southland for their prizegiving but also to other gowning organisations who provide regalia to their local schools. There were numerous requests for other outside events throughout the year, mainly handled by Rhonda, Walter, and Jane Ashman during our Wednesday opening time.

We have had a bit of a spend up with new gowns and trenchers arriving throughout the year. Our stock, particularly the trenchers, are looking much more presentable as a result.

Our thanks to Viv Hepburn, Jeana Jackson, and Jade van Heezik of the Graduation Office, for their assistance throughout the year. We are also grateful to Damian Walls in the Geology Department; to Campus Watch for their help at graduation times; to the staff of the Mail Room who play a big part in sending out academic dress for us; and to 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, Rhonda Schlaadt, Walter Lawrence, and Andrea Warburton, 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 acknowledged by the University that we make a very important contribution to the success of the graduation ceremonies.

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

And finally, we would like to acknowledge Barbara Holborow, who retired earlier in the year, and sincerely thank her for her many years of service as a Convenor.

Jules Gross - Academic Dress Manager
## Contact Us

### Otago Branch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Email</th>
<th><a href="mailto:info@nzfgwotago.org.nz">info@nzfgwotago.org.nz</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>gwotago.co.nz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>03 479 8765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>PO Box 6334, Dunedin North, Dunedin 9059</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Graduate Women New Zealand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website</th>
<th><a href="http://www.gwnz.org.nz/">www.gwnz.org.nz/</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>PO Box 2006, Wellington 6140, New Zealand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Graduate Women International

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website</th>
<th><a href="http://www.graduatewomen.org/">http://www.graduatewomen.org/</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>+41 22 731 2380</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>