

GRADUATE WOMEN OTAGO OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Next Branch Meeting - AGM

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When: Thursday, 22 October, 2020.

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 after the AGM. There will also be a Zoom GWI webinar on advocacy at 9 pm which is open to all (please see the flyer about this on p.7 of this newsletter).

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:

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Kia ora koutou,

What a month October has been! Two big elections this month – the general election, and of course our AGM. This report will be brief, as this newsletter is packed full of annual reports, but I'd like to remind you to please join us for our AGM this Thursday 22 October at 7:30pm. You're welcome to attend in person (Benham Seminar Room, Zoology department) or via Zoom (<https://otago.zoom.us/j/98174226444?pwd=MHBJbnp1MDVTcFN1bTZDT1V1Tk15UT09>).

If you'd like to stand for President, Treasurer, or a place on the committee, please do let me know at amydowdlenz@gmail.com. Nominations are also welcome from the floor on the night.

This marks my final President's report, as I'm stepping down from the committee at this AGM. I'm off to Australia (whenever the borders permit me to do so!) to begin my PhD at Deakin University, but I look forward to keeping in touch with the branch from afar.

See you on Thursday!

Amy Dowdle

President's Report 2020

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It has been a strange year for us all, as it has for everyone around the world. Lockdown meant we couldn't gather together, so we had to find new ways of keeping in touch; we held virtual committee meetings and sent bumper newsletters to our membership regularly. When we could hold meetings, we had some really thoughtful speakers, from a former refugee midwife re-qualifying here in Dunedin, to an update on the Sierra Leone rural classroom our branch raised funds to help build. We also held a successful winter lunch, gathering members together to hear from the city council's planning manager on the topic of Dunedin's waterfront vision. Earlier in the year, pre-lockdown, we held a packed International Women's Day breakfast and heard from Dawn Duncan, lecturer in labour law.

Despite the challenges 2020 has brought, we've stuck together and made the best of some difficult times. As my time in Dunedin draws to a close, I'll be very sad to leave this wonderful community of women. However, the upside of a post-COVID world is that we're all experts at keeping in touch virtually, so I'll never feel too far away!

I'd like to send a very warm thank you to each and every one of you – my life has been greatly enriched by being part of this branch, and it's been a formative experience. I'd particularly like to thank the committee for their friendship, their support, and their good humour. It's not often one finds themselves looking forward to meetings, but I always enjoy ours, and I will miss being a part of them.

Amy Dowdle, President

Treasurer and Membership Report 2020

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The rebuild of the membership list is virtually complete. Following the loss (due to a computer malfunction) of the membership files we had to pull together old lists and delve into financial records to rebuild a list. As a starting point our list contained over 280 names. However, this included many names that had not been removed for non-payment of dues for over 6 years. As at time of writing this report (5 October 2020) we have now received payment of 73 dues for the 2020/21 year. Those who have not paid by the time of our AGM on 22 October will be removed from our list. At that point we will have a "Master" membership list that we have confidence in and to avoid any future computer problems and multiple copies of lists, this "Master" will be stored in the cloud with a number of committee members having access to it.

The 15 new members this year was well short of the 31 who joined last year. This was possibly a result of COVID-19, with many younger members no longer joining to get the benefits of travel awards.

Maintaining and growing our membership will be of vital importance going forward. To remain viable, we must continually attract more women to join us. The most effective way to grow membership is for each of us to reach out to women and personally recommend the organisation. Inviting prospective members to our meetings or events is a good way to introduce someone to our organisation. The personal touch is much more effective than expecting membership to grow by any advertising on our website.

The financial standing of the Branch as at 30 June remains little changed from previous year. Aside from capitation, our biggest item of expenditure was \$3,300 for the second of three NHWT Jeanette Scott Awards. I reiterate the comment I made last year – that the Branch could not continue to operate without the support of the Academic Dress operations and this year they continued to cover many of our expenses.

Last year we indicated that we would be looking to raise the annual dues for the 2021/22 year. However, the committee has decided that due to COVID-19 and the pressure that this is putting on many of us, we will delay this until the following year and that dues will remain \$75 for graduate members.

Joanne Rogers, Treasurer/Membership Secretary

Coordinator of International Relations Report

From an international perspective 2020 for GWI has showed resilience and innovation after the gutting setback of the cancellation of CSW and associated GWI activities. This has been in the form of taking advantage of the internet enabling global connections achieved through ZOOM and webinars. In particular, a major highlight was the series of webinars on connected topics for the first half of 2020 run by the GWI membership committee. This fortunately correlated with the lockdown and was a fascinating diversion. These ranged from twinning, art, social media, international advocacy sexual and reproductive health, and concluded with "Intergenerational Leadership". A number of us from GWNZ branches attended these webinars.

Another highlight internationally has been seeing the visibility of our NZ members Pouya Saeddi on the membership committee and Amy Dowdle as president of the Young Members.

Communication with a small group of branch CIRs has provided an avenue for airing my thoughts and promoting ideas and GWI endeavors.

GWI joins the international community in observing, advertising and releasing press statements on vitally relevant world days such as the International Day of Peace, Global World Teachers Day, and the International Day of the Girl Child.

I have encouraged GWNZ members via the newsletter to join the GWI bi-monthly Update Newsletter which provides outstanding information about GWI advocacy work and news about its members to a readership of nearly 5000 subscribers across the globe.

A further highlight is the suggestion by Shirley Randall (CIR Australia GW) and Jaya Dantas (president of Australia GW) to embark on some kind of association between Australia, the Pacific and New Zealand.

The very recent GWI membership marketplace is a novel idea aimed to link up the resources in the network and there was a successful launch with 100 people registered on 17th September.

Future thoughts include the exciting prospect of connecting with Australia and the Pacific, continuing to work on friendships and working relationships with the international members as people are so much more proficient with the internet as a communication tool, continuing to support the GWI office, and continuing to promote the key value of GWI advancing the rights of women and girls through education enunciated in the lamp of learning.

Shirley Gillett - CIR



GWI Membership Marketplace

A GWI programme for peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and connection.



Graduate Women International (GWI) is excited to launch the Membership Marketplace as an innovative peer-to-peer and NFA-to-NFA programme for members across to world to foster friendship, share skills set and expertise.

GWO Spring Kōrero on Justice Theme

This branch funded event was a tremendous success. With 70-ish people attending, there was mingling over hors d'oeuvres and drinks before the main event, where each panelist spoke and interacted with the others. Although they were very different from each other, they complimented one another and each one had such interesting material to share. Mistress of Ceremonies Lorraine Issacs was outstanding!

The entire korero has been video-recorded for those who missed out or would like to watch it again. I certainly intend to, as there was so much material worthy of a second hearing. Perhaps a group of us could get together to do this.

The GWNZ AGM, the initial impetus for the above event, was held on Saturday followed by workshops around building the organization and building our relationship with the Pacific. Both were attended by ZOOM, in addition to the face to face attendees, including 12 from the North Island. The 34 all up was a great improvement on last year. An additional treat and something different was the chocolate tasting at lunchtime run by Anna Cambell from Ochre chocolate. The day was followed up with a dinner at Luna restaurant where we had the pleasure of two lovely girls from Queens High school singing.

Huge thanks to the committee of Joanne Rogers, Amy Dowdle, Sue Cathro, Rhonda Schlaadt and particularly Claudia Leong who managed all the IT for Saturday. GWO, as host, set a high standard for next year for the North Shore branch who will be hosting, and we deserve to be proud of our efforts. Also, grateful thanks to the branch members who attended the various events. It was very supportive. Overall, it was an excellent opportunity for sharing and promoting our branch with our banners, PowerPoint slides, and brochures.

Shirley Gillett (Chair of the Organising Committee)

Summary of the Charitable Trust Annual Accounts, Year Ending 30 June 2020

Total income from interest for the year was \$38,224, up \$1,352 from the previous year. This is mainly due to the timing of the SBS investment maturity date.

While the regalia loan rate was held at 7% for the 2020 year from the 1 July 2020, this was reduced to 4% to recognise the declining market rates. This will impact on income going forward, with \$14,700 less income.

Community Awards totalling \$10,101 were made compared to \$9,999 in 2019.

Helen Benson awards of \$3,000 were taken up, compared to \$4,500 the previous year.

Donations were made to GWNZ Fellowship \$15,000 and the Mildred Keir Fund of \$3,000, the same as in 2019, but no contribution to the Harriette Jenkins Fund as there were no awards given this year. Total donations and Awards being \$31,101 compared to \$35,499 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 \$7,072, compared to last year's surplus of \$1,322.

Trust Funds at 30 June 2020 totalled \$610,666 represented by the loan to Regalia of \$490,000 (unchanged), bank accounts and deposits amounting to \$120,666.

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

Christine Clegg - Academic Dress Accountant

Summary of the Regalia Annual Accounts, Year Ending 30 June 2020

With the outbreak of Covid-19 resulting in the cancellation of the May Graduation ceremony our income was significantly affected. Total income was \$182,900 compared to \$261,900 the previous year, an overall reduction of \$79,000. University hiring down \$72,290 along with incidental hires down \$5,507.

School hire remained in-line with the previous year, while Polytech increased by \$4,695 to a total of \$9,605.

Lower interest rates saw interest received on investments reduce to \$22,566, compared to \$28,554 last year. Interest had resident withholding tax of \$6,534 paid on this.

Gown Hire expenses decreased by \$4,803 to \$82,691 compared to \$87,494, the main drop being in wages with the reduced graduation ceremonies. Other expenses also decreased on the previous year, down \$33,566. Donations and Awards down \$25,475. This is again due to the impact of Covid-19 cancelling many conferences and the restrictions on overseas travel in the last quarter of the financial year.

There were 5 Travel awards, donations to NCW Dawn Ibbotson Prize, 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 for this year, but the rate has been reduced from 1 July 2020 from 7% to 4%.

There was a surplus before tax of \$10,301. Tax yet to be calculated.
Prior to taxation, Members Funds totalled \$436,970.

Total cash invested or on call was \$902,230, a reduction of \$36,528 from the 2019 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

Academic Dress Report

Otago University is to offer several “new degrees”. Students are able to combine a wider range of papers across different disciplines. We already have the BA/BSci combination, a black hood with pink and dark blue ribbons. The next to be introduced are the BA/BCom and BCom/BSci combinations.

The review of the MBCHB hoods has been completed; we have 294 hoods in stock. Next to be reviewed are the Physical Education and Law hoods. Preparation has begun for the schools’ prize giving hiring.

There are four graduation days in December. Wednesday 9th is an Acknowledgement Ceremony for any graduate who missed out in May or August due to Covid-19. Saturday 12th, Wednesday 16th and Saturday 19th are standard graduation days. Please save these dates in your diary – we hope that you will be available to help on a shift.

Rhonda Schlaadt

National Council of Women Dunedin



The **National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ)**, founded in 1896, is an umbrella organisation with a volunteer board, and 14 branches throughout the country attended by representatives of more than 200 organisations, as well as individual members. NCWNZ's function is to represent and promote the interests of New Zealand women through research, discussion and action. NCWNZ website www.ncwnz.org.nz

The **DUNEDIN BRANCH** began in March 1918. Our Patron is Dr Dorothy Page; there are now 3 Life Members - Sue Cathro, Pat Mark and Anne Rodger, 8 Representatives from 6 Organisations, and 11 Individual Members. The Branch is registered with the Charities Service, **Registration Number 40694**. During the year a total of 866 volunteer hours were recorded as being worked by the Branch members, for inclusion in NCWNZ's consolidated performance report for the Charities Service.

Like many organisations, Covid-19 had a major effect on limiting the number of Branch meetings able to be held. However, the Executive continued to meet through zoom meetings, organising the annual events, with the AGM usually held in May being delayed until July.

SPEAKERS DURING THE YEAR HAVE INCLUDED:

- Celia Davies, children's writer and adventurer. She spoke about her love of writing, including travel articles for the ODT and her promoting of writing by visiting schools and talking to the children.
- Joe Hunter, a teacher of history and Te Reo at Otago Girls' High School and who is on the PPTA National Executive, felt young New Zealand women should be aware of their history and to have more accurate accounts of colonial history.
- Donna, representing Rachel Butler of Startup Dunedin, spoke of the mission of the group which aims to provide Dunedin entrepreneurs the information, networks, advocacy and resources to build great companies.
- Two Dunedin Branch Life Members - Sue Cathro and Anne Rodger - both with a long and distinguished NCW history spoke about their experiences from the early 1980's when they first became involved. Their talks included the 1993 Centennial Suffrage celebrations, and the Bell Tea Parties held throughout NZ to raise funds for the 1996 NCWNZ Centennial Fund.
- Marion Hobbs, Chair of Otago Regional Council, and former Member of Parliament, spoke about the water situation in Otago, describing water rights and the National Policy Statements on water and air quality.
- Public Health Researcher, Associate Professor Kirsten Coppell, spoke about COVID-19 as it related to women, children, and families.
- Jane Ludemann, a young optometrist diagnosed with Ovarian Cancer, is raising awareness of the need for more research into this disease and has established a Charity - Cure Our Ovarian Cancer.

Our Branch mourned the loss of our Branch Life Member, and National Life Member, Dawn Ibbotson, who passed away in January 2020, at the age of 105 years. The Annual **Dawn Ibbotson Essay Competition** was able to be held in June 2020, with a small number of entries due to the Covid-19 lockdowns. Again, the Branch acknowledges with thanks the sponsorship of Graduate Women Otago for the 1st prize. Thanks were also extended to the judge, Professor Emerita Jocelyn Harris. Donations totalling \$1,339 were received from Dunedin Branch Members to cover prizes and expenses for the event, held at No 7 Balmac.

The fifth annual **Inspiring Women Breakfast** took place in August where 71 Years 12 and 13 students from secondary schools attended. Five inspiring women shared the journey that got them to where they are now in their careers, outlining obstacles they had met on the way and how they overcame them.

Candidates' Meeting 2020

On 28 September, in the Salvation Army Main Hall, six candidates representing Labour, NZ First, Social Credit, National, Greens and The Opportunity Party, from either Dunedin or Taieri electorates, spoke of their latest party policies, they were then each asked how their party would repair and develop the economy after Covid-19, and what specific policies did each party have to combat the climate crisis and what was the first thing they would put in place. There was some time for questions from the audience. Professor Nicola Peart chaired the meeting and she was thanked and presented with a bouquet of flowers by Dunedin Branch President Janice Sinclair.

NCWNZ Conference 2020

Delayed because of Covid-19 the National Conference; this is planned for 20 and 21 November, and will be a virtual conference.

Correen Rodger, NCW Representative

GWI Webinar



International Advocacy Webinar Series

**PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER AND
RAISING WOMEN'S VOICES
THROUGH STRATEGIC ADVOCACY
IN A CHANGING WORLD**



GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL (GWI)

This 4-part webinar series will explain
GWI international advocacy and demonstrate
how GWI members can create
strategic advocacy plans of their own.
*The series begins 22 October 2020 and continues with
weekly webinars through 12 November 2020.*
For more webinar series information [click here](#).

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[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)
(GWI Members Only)

Graduate Women International (GWI) is excited to announce the international Advocacy Webinar Series: "Raising women's voices through strategic advocacy in a changing world" beginning on 22 October 2020.

November Newsletter Deadline

The closing date for the September newsletter will be 6 November, 2020. Please contact Joanne Rogers, joanne62rogers@hotmail.com

Contact Us

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