



# Auckland Graduate Women Newsletter

New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (Auckland Branch) Inc  
www.auckgradwomen.org.nz P.O. Box 74340, Market Rd, Auckland 1543

June  
2007

Please email Pam if you have news for the next newsletter: [pamela.higgins@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pamela.higgins@xtra.co.nz)  
Deadline for the July Newsletter is June 23, 2007

## Mark Your Calendars

| ACTIVITY                                       | DATE                      | PLACE  |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| NCW - Dame Dorothy Winstone Dinner             | Wed 30 May 6.30pm         | Barrycourt Hotel & Conference Centre Gladstone Road, Parnell |
| Public Issues Meeting<br>(all members welcome) | Tues 12 June Noon-2.00pm  | Café Monet, 55 Remuera Road, Newmarket (Plenty of parking)   |
| AGW Executive Meeting                          | Wed 13 June 7.00pm        | Old Government House   |
| NZFGW North Shore Mid-Winter Lunch             | Sat 16 June 12.00pm       | Masonic Lodge, Albany  |
| Special Monthly Meeting - Library Visit        | Thurs 21 June Noon-1.00pm | Auckland Central City Library                                |
| VIVA   | Thurs 22 June 10.30am     | 63 Norman Lesser Drive, St Johns Park                        |
| AGW Special Night Out                          | Wed 27 June 8.00pm        | Dolpin Theatre, 12 Spring Street Onehunga                    |

## AGW News

### Special June Monthly Meeting

AGW Visits the City Library  
Heritage Collection  
Thursday 21 June  
Noon - 1.00pm tour

Are you joining us on the tour?  
Don't forget to let Juliet know.

- \* The Heritage floor
- \* Special Collections
- \* Auckland Research Centre

Followed by lunch or coffee in the  
Art Gallery or the Library Café.  
Juliet: ph. 528-0581 or  
yatesinc@xtra.co.nz

### Auckland Graduate Women Special June Night Out

A RISE IN THE MARKET by Edward Taylor  
Dolpin Theatre, 12 Spring Street Onehunga

A Supper/Theatre benefit night arranged by Dame Barbara Goodman for the Parkinson's Society. Wednesday 27 June, Curtain raises at 8.00pm.

Tickets of \$30 includes a glass of wine beforehand and supper at interval.  
To book your place please send cheques made out to the Parkinson's Auckland to:  
Dame Barbara Goodman, 1/456 Remuera Road, Remuera.  
Your ticket will be posted back to you so please include a self addressed envelope.

**SYNOPSIS:** "A Rise In the Market" is set in a luxurious Penthouse in Paris. Sir Clive Partridge hopes to become president of the EEC but needs the support of the puritanical elder statesman Jacques Berri. It is bad news for Partridge when Berri visits on a day that Partridge is trapped in a luxurious flat in Paris, beset by glamorous young women he can't account for, plus an angry wife and an exploding boiler! Wild mishaps and comic confusion abound up to the hilarious climax in this sharp satire.

### From Dorothy Meyer - IFUW International Advocacy Liaison

We are looking for a member of AGW has the time and interest to monitor the IFUW International Advocacy On-Line Network so that important issues can be sent to our branch for distribution and discussion. It has been identified that it would be useful to have someone enrolled in that network that could pass on information to the branch about international and UN matters that get sent to members of the Advocacy Network. To subscribe go to [www.ifuw.org/](http://www.ifuw.org/) and click on International Advocacy and scroll down to Advocacy Network. Have a look at the site and contact [dfmeyer@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dfmeyer@xtra.co.nz) if interested.

## From the President

### Message from President Juliet Yates

This month I recommend to you to take up and run with two opportunities sent by the Ministry of Women's Affairs to promote women. The first will give due honour to the many women who have made a huge difference to their communities through volunteering. The second is a new chance to register your interest in company directorships. (See excerpt below).

Please join us in our June activities. Add your name to the Heritage and Rare Books Tour, or write for a Theatre Evening ticket. This will be a great social event, and the proceeds will be of great benefit for people with Parkinson's Disease.

**On Board - Ministry of Women's Affairs Nominations Service  
New Year Honours for Women – Increasing the Numbers**

In the 2007 New Years Honours list:

- 198 people received awards
- 71 were women (36 percent of the total).

We think there are many more women out there who deserve recognition, and would like you to consider identifying and nominating a woman to the Appointments and Honours Committee for the 2008 New Year awards.

More nominees are needed across all categories: business women, scientists, environmentalists, health professionals and community volunteers – and especially the volunteers. We need to better recognise the women who work week after week and year after year, running our essential voluntary services such as community centres, advice bureaux, marae committees, elder

care, social services, after school care and so on – the women who are always there to lend support.

If they are the sort of women who might get nominated for TV's 'Mucking In' programme, then they would be perfect for a New Year Honour!

The criteria for nominations are "Service to the community or nation, going beyond the normal requirements of duty or office....." The nominating process is straightforward. There is a form to complete, and letters of support required, but the main thing is to provide 'evidence' of service and achievement.

You can find out everything you need to know about the nominating process at

<http://www.dpmc.govt.nz/honours/nominations/index.html>

The closing date for the next round is **1 August 2007**. So we urge you to consider nominating a woman for the next Honours round.

#### Invitation to Register with FindDirectors.com

We signalled in On Board at the end of last year that three private sector databases were being developed to provide a greater selection pool for governance appointments in the private sector.

We are pleased to announce that the first of these is now off the ground. It is a web-based match-making site developed by Sandy Maier and Jens Madsen with the support of Waikato University. It offers a search engine for independent directors, and is supported by several large NZ firms and organisations (PWC, ANZ, National Bank, Business NZ, Simpson Grierson and CCMAU).

It is hoped that this development will help boards looking for new members, to recruit independent directors from a wide and diverse recruitment pool.

There are two options on the site:

- You can register as a director

- If you have a company/business/firm, you can register to search for directors.

#### To register as a director:

- Membership for MWA database women is free for the first two years. (After that the annual fee will be \$98 per year.)

#### The process:

- 1) Log on to [www.FindDirectors.com](http://www.FindDirectors.com)
- 2) Press the 'Register' button on the menu bar
- 3) Select 'Registration as a Director Candidate'
- 4) Complete contact and registration information, choosing 'Premium Listing'
- 5) Press the 'Next >>' button to continue to the payment page
- 6) Use this Discount Coupon Code, '**MWA1700**' to get your free listing and then press the 'verify' button. This skips you over having to enter your payment details which are not required with your free listing.
- 7) Press the 'Save' button to create your account and complete your registration by entering your professional profile.

#### We think it is important to:

- Set aside time to complete your registration as fully as possible. Depending on your background, we estimate this could take between 15 to 40 minutes.
- Fill in all the fields in detail to make it easy for firms scanning for names to get a complete picture of your skills, attributes and work record.
- We strongly urge you to include your current CV.
- Remember: the database search is only as good as the information you put in.

#### To register as a company/business/firm:

- If you have a company/business and you are looking for directors, listing is free for the first year. (After that the annual fee will be \$150 per year.) *Juliet Yates*

## Public Issues

### **\* Note PIC Meeting in Calendar Above**

#### AGW Public Issues Survey

##### Women and Aging: Hearing Loss

An AGW member who is an Audiologist has responded to the session notes from the NZFGW conference in Wellington 2006. Her concern and follow-up has produced an important public issue topic that we believe has a significant impact on the health of women and our members.

We are asking members to respond to the following questions so that we are able to contribute a statement towards this important debate. We are including a recent press release from the NZ Hearing Association for your information. Thank you for your participation!

#### Survey

1. Have you or family member recently obtained hearing aids?
2. Did you or family member get any govt financial assistance? What was the value of the assistance?
3. Did you obtain them via public or private clinic?
4. Did you find the costs as expected/higher/lower?
5. Did the hearing aids meet your expectations?
6. Do you think buying hearing aids is in the financial grasp of the average retired New Zealander?
7. Do you think NZFGW and affiliates should lobby government to assist older New Zealanders more in the provision of hearing devices/aids?

Please respond to Alison Booth [alison.booth@xtra.co.nz](mailto:alison.booth@xtra.co.nz)

Or post to: 571 South Titirangi Road, Titirangi, Auckland 0604

#### **BUDGET BOOST IN COCHLEAR IMPLANT FUNDING IS ONLY PART OF THE ANSWER** 18 May 2007

The boost in funding for cochlea implants will help dozens of adults whose hearing loss is so severe it cannot be helped by conventional hearing aids, but the Hearing Association warns it is

only part of the answer for the 400,000 New Zealanders suffering hearing loss.

Health Minister Pete Hodgson's office confirmed today the extra funding announced in Thursdays budget will see up to 50 adults and children receive implants each year, while there is one-off funding for 50 implants for adults who have been on a lengthy waiting list.

Hearing Association public affairs manager Chris Peters today welcomed the news which comes after lengthy advocacy by the association and other parties.

The focus for cochlea implants has been newborn children, and there is no question babies must come first in having the gift of hearing, he said. But until last year, adults were virtually shut out of the implant programme, and the waiting list earlier this year topped 100, simply because of the lack of funding at a time when the government is running huge surpluses.

For adults with severe hearing loss, an implant is a hearing aid of last resort. They have the right to the gift of hearing as well, and an implant has the potential to restore them to productive lives. The minister is to be congratulated for recognising this. However, there appears to be little else in the budget for the hearing-impaired., especially those who do not qualify for hearing aid funding essentially the elderly, who are the largest demographic group with hearing loss.

A quarter-million New Zealanders have a hearing disability; we're talking about those with hearing loss here rather than those who are Deaf. Hearing aids are subsidised for those who are working or in education, but that means most elderly people are left with the paltry subsidy of \$196 per hearing aid at a time when hearing aids cost \$600-\$1000 each and more and the elderly are generally surviving on limited incomes. Those who can't afford to go to a private audiologist are forced on to crowded waiting lists for hospital audiology clinics, and hospitals themselves are now starting to levy part-charges of sometimes hundreds of dollars.

The Hearing Association has been campaigning for better government support for these people, and so far we've drawn a blank. The hearing disability sector is largely being ignored. We're grateful for the significant boost to cochlea implant funding, but that's only part of the answer.

## Our Members

### Welcome to our New members:

**Lilly Mastilovic** has recently transferred from the North Shore branch of NZFGW. Lilly is interested in psychosocial studies including women's studies, culture shock (and overcoming it), life changes, children especially teens and pre-teens, life balance for women, trauma studies, overcoming trans-cultural barriers and single parents' lives.

**Ree Kempster's** main research interest areas are 20th century philosophy, gender studies and theology.

### Meet some of our long-standing members:

**Joyce Ivory** is past president of AGW, and has also held the posts of vice-president, minute secretary and membership coordinator for AGW. She has been active in PAC as a delegate of NCW. Her interests include involvement with student exchange programmes over a number of years. Joyce is a member of U3A and Probus. She also enjoys travel, reading and her grandchildren.

**Joy Lewis** is interested in conservation through the Native Forests Restoration Trust. Her special interest in education means keeping informed on current issues especially secondary schooling and facilitating retraining for women, hence her involvement with the Tressa Thomas Awards. Joy is also interested in public issues and is associated with the National Council of Women. She has a keen interest in politics. Joy's interests also include radical theology and peace education.

**Terri McClintock's** current special interests revolve around teaching and children's education.

**Diane Strevens** is currently writing a second book about a women's religious congregation. She continues to be interested in film, theatre, music, opera, ballet, New Zealand art and craft, travel, tramping and skiing. Diane is also interested in ecological issues, peace issues, and the welfare of children.

## NZFGW News

### Volunteer Researchers Needed by National Executive

A person with research and analytical skills is needed to do a literature search on 'Changes in women's lives'. People interested in being part of a working party that will reflect on findings from the Branch questionnaires and other current materials are also needed. If you have people in mind please leave a message for Jean Silver, ph 4805576.

### From National Executive Publisher:

The National Executive publisher is looking for brief stories in Graduate Women (the NZFGW Magazine) from immigrant women, who have become branch members of

NZFGW. If this applies to you and you are able to write something interesting for the Graduate Women Magazine please let us know.

Graduate Women editor is interested in story lines about what brought you to New Zealand and your settlement experience. You will be working with an editor if English is not your native tongue. 600 words maximum length with optional photos (if digital at least 300dpi)

If you are interested in contributing please contact the Graduate Women editor Helen Sturm directly: [helensturm@xtra.co.nz](mailto:helensturm@xtra.co.nz) or for further information phone Alison Booth 816-9455. Deadline: Friday 15 June.

## IFUW News

### FROM INTERNATIONAL connections website:

These are brave words forwarded by some of our International 'ears' that heard words from the General Assembly President speaking about women's rights in the Middle East.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT ISSUES CALL FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN MIDDLE EAST New York, May 17 2007 4:00PM

The President of the UN General Assembly, a lawyer and rights advocate from Bahrain, has issued a strong call for addressing the social, educational and other constraints impeding the equality of women in the Middle East.

"The concept of human rights is based on the notion that all human beings are born with equal and inalienable rights and fundamental freedoms," Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa noted in an address to a panel discussion Wednesday evening on Women and Human Rights in the Middle East at Rutgers University, New Jersey, United States. See:

<http://www.un.org/ga/president/61/statements/statement20070516-awards.shtml>

"Yet, in the Middle East women face multi-layered and multi-dimensional discrimination that is embedded in our culture, government policies, educational systems and the legal framework."

She said the situation stems in part from the interpretation of Islamic text. "Women are subject to family laws that are Sharia based which strictly follow the interpretations of Islamic scholars that lived 1000 years ago at the beginning of Islam. These interpretations are applied

now without making any allowances to the very different social contexts of today," she said.

"In fact, these interpretations are sanctified as holy which prevent them from criticism and change. This is one of the main reasons behind the discrepancy between personal status codes on the one hand and the current social circumstances on the other."

Under family law, women cannot conclude marital contracts without a male guardian and cannot obtain a divorce without a court proceeding. Men can divorce their wives by a mere verbal declaration.

"These rules deprive women of their basic right of self determination," said Sheikha Haya. "These rules deprive women from maintaining peace and security within their home as they are constantly threatened by divorce or polygamy."

The General Assembly President blamed a "lack of rational interpretations of the text that integrate the current social circumstances" and called for "new interpretations of Islamic text in light of contemporary circumstances and needs."

She said social structure also plays a part, especially the concept of the family versus the individual as the nucleus of society. This has led women to conform to the needs of men who in turn offer protection and financial support. "It has led women to accept a level of control and submission, even violence at times for the preservation of the family," she said.

The structure has also "created a mentality that fears the autonomy of women, viewing it as a threat to the centrality of the traditional family, a threat to marital relationships and a catalyst to sexual freedom," added the President. "These attitudes which were based on traditions

are now associated with religion, making it harder to criticize or change them.”

Politically, women remain under-represented in parliaments and at higher government positions. “Even when they are ministers, they are often assigned ministries that reinforce their traditional roles,” she observed, citing a number of reasons, including the opposition of women themselves to their own involvement in politics. “We saw this in Bahrain in 2002 when the majority of voters were women but not one woman out of the eight female candidates was actually elected.”

Despite these circumstances, women have been active in influencing policy making and public opinion through other means, including the media, in petitions to Members of Parliament and government officials, and through their memberships in unions, political parties and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). “Today, the Middle East is witnessing a proliferation of NGOs, many of which are active in women empowerment issues.”

Although the Middle East has come a long way in educating women, “the fact of the matter is that critical thinking, and the teaching of philosophy and theology are absent in our curricula; and they are essential in laying the foundation to review, evaluate and criticise the ideas that shape our societies,” she said.

“We are left with a fertile ground for fundamentalist ideologies and we have reverted to the past to solve our problems of the present.”

Stressing that the status of women must be examined in the light of the regional and international circumstances, she

noted that the Middle East “continues to face the devastating effects of war, occupation, civil unrest, weak governance as well as the challenges of globalization, economic volatility, impoverishment, demographic changes and counter-terrorism measures which may negatively affect human rights and further constrain freedoms.”

Amid a prevailing determination within the Middle East to modernize and reform so that people can live without fear and want, “it is now, more than ever before, that the voices of women need to be heard,” declared the Assembly President.

“We must not only hear these voices – we must listen to them, and then act. So much of our future depends on our response.”

Sheikha Haya was honoured at the event sponsored by the University’s Center for Middle Eastern Studies along with Iranian human rights lawyer and Nobel laureate Shirin Ebadi for their dedication to women and human rights in the Middle East.

“Over the past three decades, I have strived to defend women’s rights in my home country, in the region of the Middle East, and more broadly on an international level,” said the Assembly President. “It therefore immensely gratifies me to see Rutgers recognize our struggle, not only as women from the Middle East but also as women who have dedicated their lives to advancing the rights of other women.”

For more details go to UN News Centre at <http://www.un.org/news> To listen to news and in-depth programmes from UN Radio go to: <http://radio.un.org/>

## Other News/Events

### New Zealand Diversity Forum Saturday 25 to Tuesday 28 August 2007

A New Zealand Diversity Forum is held annually by Human Rights Commission in August as part of the New Zealand Diversity Action Programme. It is open to all members of the public.

Last year in Wellington over 650 people participated in various parts of the forum.

This year’s forum will be held in Auckland. There will be community events on 25 - 26 August, professional meetings and general workshops on Monday 27, and a plenary day at Auckland Museum on Tuesday 28.

For more information visit <http://www.hrc.co.nz/diversity>.

Auckland Graduate Women are invited to attend

### North Shore Branch Annual Mid-winter lunch

WHEN: Saturday 16 June at 12.00 noon for 12.30pm  
WHERE: Masonic Lodge, Albany  
SPEAKER: Dr. Mary Birdsall a gynaecologist specialising in reproductive medicine.  
TOPIC: ‘Making Babies in the 21st century’.

This is the North Shore fundraising for the year.  
Send cheques \$25 made out to NZFGW by 11 June to:  
Lyn Holbrook, Treasurer  
NZFGW North Shore Branch  
PO Box 33 1050 Takapuna Auckland 0740

## Executive Committee – 2006/2007

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>President</b><br>Juliet Yates<br><a href="mailto:yatesinc@xtra.co.nz">yatesinc@xtra.co.nz</a>               |   | <b>Acting Treasurer</b><br>Kate O’Connor<br><a href="mailto:kc.oconnor@auckland.ac.nz">kc.oconnor@auckland.ac.nz</a>                                  |  |
| <b>Membership</b><br>Liz Kiata<br><a href="mailto:liz.kiata@auckland.ac.nz">liz.kiata@auckland.ac.nz</a>       | <b>Public Relations</b><br>Alison Booth<br><a href="mailto:alison.booth@xtra.co.nz">alison.booth@xtra.co.nz</a> | <b>Awards/Liaison with KEECT</b><br>Liz Godfrey<br><a href="mailto:l.godfrey@auckland.ac.nz">l.godfrey@auckland.ac.nz</a>                             |  |
| <b>Hospitality</b><br>Kathie Ellis<br><a href="mailto:j.m.ellis@xtra.co.nz">j.m.ellis@xtra.co.nz</a>           | <b>Publisher</b><br>Pam Higgins<br><a href="mailto:pamela.higgins@xtra.co.nz">pamela.higgins@xtra.co.nz</a>     | <b>Webmanager/Administration</b><br>Ashley Remer<br><a href="mailto:ashley_remer@hotmail.com">ashley_remer@hotmail.com</a>                            |  |
| <b>GROUP LEADERS</b>   |   |   |  |
| <b>Public Issues Committee</b><br>Juliet Yates<br><a href="mailto:yatesinc@xtra.co.nz">yatesinc@xtra.co.nz</a> | <b>VIVA</b><br>Rae Hammer<br><a href="mailto:rmhammer@kiwilink.co.nz">rmhammer@kiwilink.co.nz</a>               | <b>Kate Edger Educational Charitable Trust Chair</b><br>Charmian O’Connor<br><a href="mailto:cj.oconnor@auckland.ac.nz">cj.oconnor@auckland.ac.nz</a> |  |