

# NEWSLETTER



1/08

March, 2008

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***AFUW is the voice of graduate women promoting advancement of women worldwide and their equality of opportunity through initiatives in education, friendship and peace.***

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### **Greetings to Members.**

Welcome back to another year of AFUW-NSW news, intellectual stimulation and friendship through your branch and limited state activities. I trust you found time to relax and enjoy the holidays with family, friends, and intermittent sunshine. It is gratifying to see the abundance of rain although commiserations to anyone affected by storm damage and flooding.

I had a most enjoyable AFUW week visiting North Shore and River Branches for their Autumn Luncheons. It is always satisfying for me to visit and meet members in their local environment as it increases my determination to share the benefits of our organisation and help it grow.

The week culminated with the Council meeting on Saturday where the National Executive, all the State Presidents, Proxies and Conveners gather to report and discuss business. It was an enthusiastic and lively day. We learnt of extensive advocacy by National President Jenny Strauss, CIR Dalma Jacobs and Status of Women Convener Juliette Woods, of which further details are included in this Newsletter or will be presented in the National Newsletter to be distributed shortly.

The National Treasurer, Deborah Haydon, wishes to limit international transactions as the same fee is charged whether \$1 or \$1000 is sent. Any branch wishing to send donations to IFUW please have them in to AFUW-NSW office no later than 31 May.

We were reminded that the closing date for AFUW awards is 31 May 2008. Please check AFUW website for full AFUW scholarship information.

AFUW-NSW reported on the progress of its preparations for the AFUW Conference dates which it will host from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 at Sancta Sophia College, University of Sydney, Camperdown. Please let me know if you have any suggestions to make it a more 'member focused' event.

### **Congratulations Central West Branch**

Although this is the first newsletter for 2008, a lot has been happening, particularly in the Central West. They successfully launched The Dr Barbara Wright Scholarship on 16 February at a dinner attended by 185 people after a public appeal for contributions which has raised in excess of \$42,000. I felt proud and excited in hearing the outcome and praise the President, Anne Holloway, and members of the committee for the initiative, persistence and enthusiasm required to achieve such an outcome.

### **AFUW-NSW NCW Australia Day Award**

This successful function saw eleven postgraduates recognised with an award of \$1000 each sponsored by NGOs, businesses and the Office for Women before a large audience of over 300 at Parliament House. It is a worthwhile event to be part of, not only in that we sponsor a very worthwhile woman but also AFUW-NSW takes its place and our name becomes familiar with other peak organisations. More details about the function and our awardee, Sandra Copeland, appear later in the Newsletter.

Congratulations also to River branch member Alice Oppen who was one of 12 finalists short-listed for the Premier's Woman of the Year Award. Alice has drawn attention to the issues of family planning and sexual and reproductive health and set up two charitable trusts in the Sydney region, including the Women's Plans Foundation which was a donor organization in the Australia Day awards.

## **Reforming AFUW**

All branches have been busy holding special meetings to discuss the future of AFUW and I thank you for your input which allowed me to write a response for the AFUW Council Meeting discussion held 8 March 2008.

After reading all submissions I have concluded that we in NSW are almost evenly divided between Option 1: Maintain the status quo in structure but initiate cost-cutting efficiencies and Option 3: Radical reform with dissolution of the States. Option 1 appears to have a slight majority support. The majority certainly favour an improved, interactive website and a membership drive to target retirees or those about to retire.

Discussion at Council elicited much the same response with the majority favouring Option 1, drawing on elements of Option 3 such as name change and much improved website. If you wish to have input into the redesign of the AFUW website, please email me with your suggestions or phone to discuss.

It seems inevitable that the name will be changed, possibly *Graduate Women Australia* as IFUW have opened membership to a wider choice. We will receive more information as the working party on Membership qualifications arrives at its conclusions.

## **Office Administrator**

Unfortunately we are without an office person at present as Carolyn Vaughan has moved to Melbourne.

## **Sophia Holland Lecture**

This will be held on Tuesday, 13th May 2008 at 11.00 am in the Mitchell Lecture Theatre of the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts. I encourage you to send in your response quickly as it should be most interesting and informative. Christine Hosking is an expert on Aboriginal Art, so much so, she is moving to Alice Springs to manage an Art Gallery there. A Bush Tucker lunch will follow. This will be our major fund-raising activity.

## **AFUW-NSW AGM**

Early news on the AGM which will be hosted by Central West Branch and held Saturday, 25 October, in The Japanese Gardens Cowra. We appreciate the efforts being put in by President, Anne Holloway, 13th and members of the committee. A motel with ground floor accommodation has been reserved. Dorothy Betty, President of North Shore Branch, is organising a 20-seater bus to leave Sydney Friday and return Sunday with side tours included. I urge you to mark these dates in your calendar.

## **VALE**

It is distressing to have to report that Beverley Pavey died on Friday evening, 7 March. Bev was a great supporter of AFUW, a much-missed member of the Executive and Central Committee, generous with her time and always participating with grace and wisdom. She joined the Central Committee first as the North Shore's representative and was in her second term as the Co-ordinator for International Relations when she became ill. Our thoughts are with Bev's family at this time.

As the Newsletter goes to print we have learnt sadly that Gaynor Reeves' husband, Jim, died on Good Friday after a long illness. I am sure you join with me in offering our condolences and support to Gaynor in her time of grief and loss. For many months she has been devoted in her care of Jim. Gaynor, a member of Hunter Valley Branch, is a past president of AFUW-NSW and is currently NSW Convener Program for Action and AFUW National Fellowships Convener.

Members will be sorry to learn that Daphne Buckley's husband, Lindsay, has died. Daphne, a member of AFUW Qld, is the present National Convener for Education. She was National Convener for International Relations in the previous triennium and will be well known to many of you.

- Ivy Edwards

*Following the successful award ceremony for members who have achieved 40 years or more of AFUW-NSW membership, the Central Committee has decided that we should give recognition to members who in each year reach the significant milestone in their lives of their 80<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays.*

*Our warmest congratulations to VERA MCKEOWN OAM of Wollstonecraft who celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in January this year.*

*Our best wishes to members who, from our records, will celebrate their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday during 2008.*

*BERYL COLLIER, BARBARA STODDARD, KATHLEEN MCCREDIE AM, MARY KANE,  
MARION MAXWELL, NOLENE BAKER, MARIE SHELSTON, MINNA SHAW-SMITH, ROMA SINCLAIR*

## A TRIBUTE TO BEV PAVEY



We are very appreciative of the willingness of Andrew Pavey and his son and daughter to provide us with the text of the family tributes to Beverley at her funeral on Friday, 14 March.

### *Andrew's Eulogy*

Beverley and her sisters suffered an early trauma when her father's fishing boat struck a mine shortly after the war. Beverley graduated from the selective State High School in Brisbane and became a teacher. A friend encouraged her to take a few miscellaneous courses at Uni of Queensland, and she did well eventually getting a scholarship and becoming a full time student. She graduated with two degrees.

At uni she showed her adventurous spirit joining the Bushwalking Club and eventually the Speleological Society where she became Editor of their magazine.

I was also editing a Speleological Society magazine at UNSW and as fate would have it we met at the biennial ASF conference in Hobart. I noticed her entering a cafeteria because "she walked funny" (as I later found out June Dally Watkins was responsible for that). I was attracted to this feisty and very independent minded young woman. After the Tasmanian conference, Bev had a choice of a job in Melbourne in a month, a job in Sydney now or a job in Brisbane sometime "soonish". She chose Sydney. We met again through our common interest in the outdoors and caving.

We married in June 1973 and shortly thereafter headed off to PNG to go exploring for deep caves in the high altitude jungles. In 1975 we used our "life savings" to fund a 12 month round the world backpacking trip, starting on Easter Island where we used as a guide Thor Heyerdahl's book "Aku Aku" to visit the various statue groups on the island. Then we worked our way from southernmost Chile up through Peru and Bolivia, spending four days walking along the Inca Trail over a 14,000 foot pass to arrive above Macchu Picchu and exploring various caves from the jungles of the Matto Grosso to the highest altitudes of the altiplano.

A night at the opera in La Paz with the "Admiral of the Bolivian Navy" - Bolivia is a land-locked country, a trip across Lake Titicaca and a visit to the gold museum in Quito, Ecuador were highlights of the trip. We arrived in Portugal just after the famous revolution and spent most of the rest of the year exploring Europe. I tell you these things to indicate Bev's adventurous spirit and her continual quest for new experiences.

On our return to Australia we started a lengthy renovation of an old terrace house in Glebe, had two wonderful children and pursued our careers. Bev worked for the Commonwealth Department of Education and later Health and Community Services. She travelled extensively, met some wonderful people and worked hard. After we moved to Lindfield, I became interested in gardening. Bev's concern was to keep the grass cut, I likened myself to a gardener - Bev, I saw as a florist. I grew them, and she cut their heads off!

After a successful career in the Public Service, she took an opportunity for early retirement and threw herself enthusiastically into a variety of good causes and women's organisations. A friend introduced her to The Women's Club and she later joined the Board and was elected President."

She also took leadership roles with the National Council of Women, the Pan Pacific and South East Asian Women's Association and the Australian Federation of University Women. She worked on campaigns to encourage peace through the Conflict Resolution Network. She took an active role in organising the Jean Arnot Memorial lunch held annually in Parliament House and frankly many other activities I was barely aware of. To all these activities she brought a kind and considerate approach and a real "Can Do" attitude. I know she was deeply loved and admired by many, many people she met in this phase of her life.

Just over year ago, Bev was suddenly struck with a pain in the gut. Following a visit to her GP she called me saying she had to go to hospital immediately. There followed a long operation and I woke the next morning to learn that significant portions had been cut out and internally re-arranged. The diagnosis was a rare peritoneal cancer. We spent 2007 travelling into Royal North Shore Hospital for chemotherapy. At first things went well but towards the end of the year not so well and after a quite dreadful time, Bev was admitted to Royal North Shore Hospital in January with an infection in the gut. Despite another operation and the best efforts of a truly dedicated and inspiring medical team lead by Associate Professor Ross Smith and Clinical Professor John Levi, Bev eventually succumbed to the combined effects of the infection and the cancer. The end was quite sudden and I was unprepared for it, I had hoped we'd have a few more years together.

She was kind and generous and thought only of others. We had been together for more than 35 years, and the kids and I will miss her terribly. I'd like to thank you all for the many sympathy cards and emails we have received in recent weeks.

During the Service Christopher Pavey read a poem “The Dash”, written by Linda Ellis in 1996, which began:

*I read of a man who stood to speak  
At the funeral of a friend  
He referred to the dates on her tombstone  
From the beginning to the end  
He noted that first came the date of her birth  
And spoke the following date with tears,  
But he said what mattered most of all  
Was the dash between those years*

### **REMINISCENCE - Catherine Pavey**

I would like to speak about my mother's *dash*, although I only know a part of it. It is a tribute to Beverley Pavey that it would take all of us here today who loved her, to know what that little line between 3 September 1944 and 7 March 2008 is worth.

Over the past week many of you have shared your memories of my mother with us. Thank you. Many of your words have helped me to put my love of my mother into words.

One persistent comment was what an optimist she was. But for all of her optimism, she knew what was true and real. As a friend of mine put it, although she wasn't at all cynical, she delighted in cynics, which was lucky for our family, I guess.

Many of you mentioned her empathy, her understanding and ability to make us feel better about ourselves and our world. She was able to express her love in very touching way. She was always able to reduce me to tears at my many airport farewells just in time for Dad to capture the moment with a family photo.

I have learnt a lot from my mother. She was a patient, insightful teacher. She struck a balance between listening, observing and offering advice in a way that was involved and yet not overbearing. I'm sure many of you would have benefited from her good advice or astute observation.

I have always valued Mum's cheeky insistence on being herself. She revelled in being eccentric and had a child-like joy of the simple things of life. She delighted in polishing off a block of chocolate, and only a few months ago, made herself spectacularly ill by indulging in creme brulee despite lacking most of a working digestive system.

Another recurring comment has been Mum's beautiful smile. She loved to laugh and was good at encouraging laughter. Mum said that she led a wonderful life. We have found so many photos that are a testament to that, showing Mum laughing or smiling, which we have laid out in our dining room at Lindfield.

Mum was selfless. She had a need to serve, regardless of the cost to herself. Even in her last days, she was very concerned about not putting her visitors to any trouble and was very solicitous of their comfort.



*Bev among the Banksias at Palm Beach*

Many of you here knew Bev Pavey because of her strong sense of social justice and her commitment to causes which were important to her, which spanned a range, from the treatment of women to the resolution of conflict, but which to me always came back to her love of freedom. In a very real sense, she made the world a better place. I believe one of her proudest moments was a successful tour of a Sydney mosque which she organised with the National Council of Muslim Women.

Mum loved spice. Many of you here knew her from her various outdoor and underground pursuits. While she ceased to go bushwalking, camping, canoeing and caving, she always retained her love of nature, the New and the Different.

My father likes to joke that it is important to choose your parents carefully. I couldn't have chosen better parents. To know my mother was to love her. She was our beloved and we miss her horribly. We treasure the time we had with her.

## MEMBERSHIP

At a time when our membership in NSW is at its lowest point in our known records, it is urgent that we consider all aspects our membership which is vital to our continuance.

At the IFUW Conference in Manchester in August, 2007, changes were adopted to Article III of the constitution which would broaden the membership of the organisation and hopefully draw in new members.

*1. The academic qualifications required for membership of a national federation or association admitted as a member of the IFUW shall be subject to the approval of the Council. They shall be determined with a view to encouraging a high level of education for women.*

*2. The requirements for individual membership in a national federation or association and for independent members shall be study at an institution of higher education followed by the award of a degree, diploma or equivalent qualification.*

*3. Notwithstanding any requirements in paragraph 2, all women who have been accepted for a master's or doctoral programme at a recognized tertiary institution are eligible for IFUW membership.*

### AFUW WORKING PARTY ON MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Following this decision the AFUW Council agreed to establish a working group to look at the membership eligibility provisions in the constitutions of AFUW Inc and each S/TA to make sure they are compatible with the new provisions of the IFUW Conference and the Guidelines passed by the IFUW Council. If needed, the working group will also consider and suggest appropriate amendments.

The group working predominantly by e-mail is to undertake the following tasks and report to the AFUW Council no later than the August 2008 Council Meeting and AGM. The Convener is Kathryn Seymour, with Dalma Jacobs, National CIR, and representatives of the states and territories.

- (a) investigate and agree on a definition of 'institution of higher education' in Australia
- (b) familiarise themselves with the new IFUW provisions
- (c) taking into account and assessing relevant clauses on eligibility in the constitutions of each S/TA and AFUW Inc
- (d) consult over any discernible problems and
- (e) provide a full report to AFUW Council including any recommendations for action/no further action.

### SOME THOUGHTS ON MEMBERSHIP

In the AFUW-NSW Newsletter of February, 1995, the editor, Shirley Hokin, included a précis of a talk given by Dr Minna Shaw-Smith, then President of AFUW-NSW Inc to the North Shore Group. She presented an excellent survey of the history, structure and activities of our organisation in which she said:

*"I see the relationship between IFUW and individual members as a wheel with the hub being the international organisation, the spokes being the National associations as AFUW Inc and the rim being the State Associations which are in turn composed of local branches and groups. All these components must work effectively for the wheel to turn and each is dependent on the other, for if one part is defective so is the complete wheel."*

The address concluded: There are two questions I believe we need to ask ourselves at regular intervals.

*What is the purpose of membership?* Is it social intercourse, a need to increase knowledge and experience, to broaden our horizons, to build networks, to gain scholarships, to share reciprocal national and international hospitality or to have an influence on policy decisions affecting women? I suggest it has been or will be these to all of us dependent on our own needs, personalities, the stage in our careers, or our years of age.

*Are you getting the greatest benefit from your membership?* Like everything in life what we get out of activities results from what we put in. One of the ways Branches/Groups can participate is by involvement in the Study and Action Programme (now Programme for Action) which will focus on the Girl Child for the next triennium. Standing for office at either Branch/Group or state level, indicating your willingness to be a member of a Task Force or Standing Committee, contacting your Central Committee representative about your interests, concerns and suggestions and remembering to complete your Membership Registration Form are all ways in which you can fulfil one of the IFUW aims: *"to encourage the full application of your knowledge and skills to the problems which arise at all levels of public life and to the solution of these problems."*

**National Register Form** The same urging emits from the recent Council Meeting. National Registrar, Wendy McCarthy of WA, uses the material on these forms to build a profile of the qualifications and interests of all Australian members and their willingness to use these in appropriate opportunities. The most recent form was included in "Graduate Women." A new form is included for those who have not previously responded. Please forward to Wendy to help strengthen our knowledge base of members.

**An opportunity to put Minna's suggestions into practice.** Ivy has just forwarded this request:

Our Public Officer, Carol Quinn from Armidale has phoned to say she will not be renewing membership as her branch no longer functions. Carol has generously held the position of Public Officer for both NSW and the National body for which we are grateful.

It means however, we need to fill this position when it becomes vacant. Carol said it is not an onerous duty as all she has had to do is sign a form which the treasurer sends her and post or deliver it to Dept of Fair Trading.

Please consider if you or one of your members may wish to nominate for this position and let me know before Friday 18 April. It doesn't matter where you live.

### **PUTTING OUR MONEY WHERE OUR MOUTH IS**

The Education Programme of the Australian Federation of University Women –  
over AUD\$1.2million in 2004-2007 Triennium.

A paper presented by National President AFUW: Dr Jennifer Strauss. It went as part of our submission to IFUW detailing what AFUW has achieved. It also was sent to the Minister for Women.

We thank Tricia Blombery, wearing her National Secretary hat, for making this available.

From Argentine Ants to glial blood cells, from high school bullying to Nanotechnology to Gender and Social Change in Vietnam – these are only a few of the university research projects supported by funds from the Australian Federation of University Women (AFUW), a not-for-profit organization of women graduates that during the 2004- 2007 Triennium provided just over AUD\$1.2m for scholarships, grants and other funding to students across Australia. Founded in 1922, AFUW has as one of its main goals the facilitating of women's access to education in order to enable them to develop their personal intelligence and abilities and also to become active and informed participants in public life. The strategy for realizing that goal is the scholarship program of the national body and the State and Territory Associations that make up the Federation.

Where does the money come from? The hard work and generosity of AFUW members! All Associations and the national body benefit from donations made by the members, either directly or through fund-raising functions. Bequests from past members are gratefully received, and in AFUW Victoria bequests are named after donors who are the major source of the funds. The other source of funds in that Association has for many years been sequestration of part of membership dues. In the Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia, the academic dress-hiring services for university graduation ceremonies are central to fund-raising but puts considerable demands on our volunteer labour.

The annual amount of the individual awards may vary considerably between different sections of AFUW, with a range from \$200 to \$64,500 and have totalled a massive \$200,000 in one year from just one State Association. There is no Association in the Federation that does not make a contribution. Here are all of the Association contributions during 2006: AFUW \$11,250; AFUW-ACT \$2,000; AFUW-NSW \$22,060; AFUW-Vic \$23,000; AFUW-SA \$117,000; AFUW-Qld \$205,350; AFUW-NT \$4,000; and AFUW- WA \$26,800. (A detailed report of all projects during 2006 is available on request).

In the larger Associations, funding is kept separate from general funds in some form of Trust or Foundation, and varying degrees of administrative separation exist: e.g. AFUW-Queensland has a Fellowship Fund Branch which is separately incorporated. The Scholarship Secretary is responsible for the operation of the AFUW-Victoria Program, supported by a sub-Committee of the central Committee. Separation is also ensured in the assessment processes by which scholarships are awarded, with independent panels set up to draw on the expertise and donated time and effort of members and, if appropriate, sympathetic and qualified non-members.

Is there still a need for scholarships specifically for females? When asked in a recent audit of the scholarship programs, this question drew an emphatic 'Yes' from respondents. They pointed to the continuing under-representation of women in the upper ranks of the professions, the universities and business and in particular to the continuing gap in income between the sexes. Certainly the number of applications received and the gratitude expressed by recipients indicates that there are many women who experience the need for support. We noted in particular that older women, whether returning to higher education or entering it for the first time, generally found it difficult to attract funding, and our scholarships are not age-discriminatory, although AFUW does have an exemption from Equal Opportunity provisions relating to sex-specific awards.

Who gets these awards? Traditionally, most AFUW scholarships have been for postgraduate PhD or Masters degrees and they have been awarded on the criterion of academic merit, a position reflected in the fact that the earliest undergraduate scholarships offered were for students entering an Honours year of their degree course.

Balancing merit against need has begun to become an issue, although only AFUW-Victoria has taken the position that disadvantage (widely defined) is a pre-requisite for all its awards, although this also applies to some South Australian awards. There has also been a shift in the nature of awards in response to changing patterns in university degrees and an awareness of the lack of financial support available for certain ways of continuing tertiary education, notably in the area of postgraduate diplomas and Masters by coursework.

The recognition of new areas of need, like the re-assessment of criteria, is one of the challenges of continuing relevance to be met by our scholarship programs, and indeed all our activities. Since the 1998 Conference on Indigenous education, AFUW has recognized a special need to involve Indigenous students in education at all levels. They are of course eligible to apply for any AFUW award, but questions can be raised as to whether they do so from an equitable basis. For this reason some awards specifically for Indigenous women are offered in the Northern Territory, South Australia and Victoria.

While only a handful of awards are restricted to specific disciplinary areas, the majority do have restrictions as to locality, with Associations offering scholarships to students graduating from or enrolling in a university within their particular state. The major scholarships supporting overseas study are the national AFUW Fellowship, some AFUW-Western Australia Bursaries and the richly-endowed Freda Bage Fellowship of AFUW-Queensland, which is offered for a three-year term, whereas other awards are annual.

The majority of our scholarship funds, then, go to support Australians and the national education system, but members also recognize international obligations. While African poverty has drawn AFUW-South Australia's support for the Burundi Go Girls Appeal which provides high school education to orphaned girls, emphasis on our region has become strong: the AFUW-Australian Capital Territory Bursary is open to women from New Zealand, Papua-New Guinea or South Pacific countries; AFUW-Northern Territory offers 2 awards for Timor Leste women studying agriculture at the National University of Timor Lorosae.

AFUW-New South Wales has recently sent \$1,000 to support education projects in Cambodia; AFUW-Victoria is sending \$1,000 for 5 years for the rebuilding of a tsunami-destroyed school in Aceh and AFUW Inc contributes through donations to the IFUW Bina Roy to a Samoan project to provide dictionaries to all schoolchildren. AFUW-Queensland supports local refugee women graduates and students through secondary education bursaries, assisting attendance at English language courses, arranging swimming lessons for Muslim girls, and by mentoring a Hegg Hoffett Fund awardee from Ethiopia.

Until the ideal world of universal access to affordable education arrives, AFUW is committed to easing the financial burden that many students carry on their educational journey.

## **AFUW SUBMISSION TO THE TREASURER'S COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ON THE BUDGET**

### **Education Funding: a Public Priority** *If you think education is expensive, try ignorance*

Submission presented on behalf of the Australian Federation of University Women by Dr Jennifer Strauss, President, AFUW Inc 15 January 2008

#### **Background**

The Australian Federation of University Women Inc. is an organization of graduate women with associations and branches in all States and Territories. Established in 1922, it has as its aim the advancement of women through access to affordable quality education, so that they can fulfil their personal potential, achieve economic independence and make informed contributions to civil society. Through its Australia-wide scholarship program AFUW provides over half a million dollars annually in education scholarships.

This submission advocates for more, and better targeted, funding for education. Most of its proposals are relevant to both males and females, but some issues of gender equity are raised. The two-page summary is supported by endnotes of explanatory and supporting material.

#### **The Current Situation**

AFUW considers that education is so clearly a factor in national well-being that it must receive sustained and substantial public funding. Consequently, AFUW is disturbed by:

- The decline in the proportional contribution of Federal government funding to overall education expenditure as identified in the recent OECD Report;
- The increasing costliness of education, especially – but not exclusively – in the university sector. The impact is likely to be greater on women, whose income overall is significantly lower than that of males;
- The widening gap in resources between schools, mostly – but not exclusively – between public and private schools, and consequent equity issues in accessing the benefits of education;

A distribution of poor educational outcomes that indicates some demographic groups (notably Aborigines, those from CALD backgrounds or with parents of low socio-economic status) are disadvantaged with respect to educational opportunities at all stages of education;

- A shortage of properly qualified teachers in certain important disciplinary areas, notably maths, science and languages, that is impairing the quality of primary and secondary education and having a flow-on effect into tertiary education and available workforce skills; problems in recruiting and retaining teachers and academics for schools, post-secondary institutions and universities as a result of factors associated with under-funding, especially excessive casual or rolling short term contract appointments, the rise in student/staff ratios and difficulty accessing research support;
- An apparent preference for increasing funding to infrastructure projects, indicating a failure to recognize that adequate numbers of properly qualified and committed teachers are of the highest significance for educational outcomes;
- Failure to make major and sustained improvements in the representation of women in senior university positions, and in their access to research funding through the ARC and NHMRC, such access often being a prerequisite to reaching senior levels;
- The contribution made by the above to the gap in gender wage equity;
- Increased evidence of student poverty, with the need to earn employment income often having an adverse effect on academic performance;
- Impediments to welfare recipients, especially single parents (mostly women), who seek to access adult education in order to improve their employment prospects and financial security – e.g. treatment of equity scholarships, impediments to part-time study, instructions to Centrelink staff to ‘discourage’ those on Parenting Payment from undertaking postgraduate study as part fulfillment of work obligations.

### **Recommendations:**

- 1. Public contributions to education funding should be increased in all sectors so as to match at least the average OECD performance:** i.e. on the basis of the 2004 figures, the proportion of GDP devoted to education should rise from 4.8% to 5.4%. Expenditure on tertiary education, largely a Commonwealth responsibility, should rise from 1.1% of GDP to 1.3%. In sectors where funding responsibilities are shared between Commonwealth and State, consultative planning to achieve this should be given high priority.
- 2. Such increased funding should be targeted to direct its benefits to those most in need of improved and equitable access to appropriate quality education and to those suffering systemic inequity within the education sector:**
  - 2.1 At pre-school level:** programs should be supported that provide places for children who are Aboriginal, from non-English-speaking backgrounds, or with disabilities. Programs are needed that link infant welfare, childcare and pre-schooling, especially for children with working mothers of low socio-economic status.
  - 2.2 At primary and secondary school level the increased funding should be especially directed towards:**
    - Reducing the resources gap between wealthier and poorer schools;
    - Providing all schools with resources to deal with students with special needs, e.g. students from Aboriginal or non-English-speaking backgrounds, pregnant or parenting students, students with disabilities;
    - Reducing excessive reliance on casual or short-term contract staff in schools;
    - Strengthening the teaching of maths, science and languages, e.g. by providing scholarships to encourage students to qualify as teachers in these disciplines;
    - Restoring Commonwealth Funding Support for the Teaching of Asian Languages.
    - Increasing the number of Indigenous teachers as a strategy to improve educational outcomes for Aboriginal children, especially in remote communities, e.g. by providing training scholarships.
  - 2.3 At tertiary level the increased funding should be especially directed towards:**
    - TAFE programs, including provision of free places, designed to improve the capacity for employment or further education for students disadvantaged by poor outcomes within the Australian education system or by post-school age arrival in Australia as immigrants or refugees;
    - Reducing poverty levels within the tertiary student cohort by increasing Commonwealth funded scholarships, exempting equity scholarships from the income test for all recipients of Austudy, Youth Allowance, and various welfare payments such as Disability Pensions and Parenting Payments; making part-time study eligible for income support.

- Providing grants for a 'writing-up' period for students who have completed their doctorate, but require further qualifications in the form of publication in order to enter academic employment;
- Increasing university staffing levels generally, but with special emphasis on reducing levels of casual and short-term contract staffing;
  - Funding for research assistance for Early Career Researchers;
  - Increasing the representation of women in senior university academic and administrative positions through strategic measures such as the provision of adequate maternity and paternity leave, mentoring programs, and special research grants or incentives to include women in funded research teams, especially with respect to women returning to academic employment after maternity leave or other periods as family carers.

From the **Endnotes** AFUW thanks the Treasurer for the opportunity to take part in the pre-Budget community consultation. We are aware that the Budget is subject to financial constraints and that savings must be found to support increased expenditure in any one area. However, we have been heartened by the emphasis placed on education by the ALP's pre-election policy statements and hope that this indeed means that education at all levels will be treated as a budget priority.

*NB The notes contain some very pertinent material which members can obtain on request..*

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## HOW NEW IS NEW?

### From AFUW-NSW Newsletter February 1994

**Item 1: The Board of Studies NSW** in its October 1993 Board Bulletin made the following statement:

#### **NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE EDUCATION OF GIRLS 1993-1997**

By now, all schools in NSW will have received a copy of the National Action Plan for the Education of Girls 1993-1997. This plan, launched in March by the NSW Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs, Mrs Chadwick, sets out eight priorities and provides key strategies for achieving the objectives of the National Policy for the Education of Girls in Australian Schools.

The eight priorities are:

- examining the construction of gender;
- eliminating sex-based harassment;
- addressing the needs of girls at risk;
- improving the outcomes of girls who benefit least from their schooling;
- improving teaching practice and the learning environment;
- reforming the curriculum;
- broadening work education;
- changing school organisation and management practices.

The Board and its committees are currently considering the plan's strategies and looking at ways of further improving girls' access to curriculum.

The Board is committed to improving educational opportunities for girls and already has a number of initiatives in each priority area.....

**Item 2: From a Report to the Prime Minister on the Review of Government Policy Advice Mechanisms on the Status of Women** Presented by Senator Rosemary Crowley, Minister assisting the Prime Minister on the Status of Women, October 1993.

#### Recommendation 20 — **Priorities**

The Office of the Status of Women should focus on a number of priority areas over the coming two years as set out below:

- Women's employment and economic security, with particular emphasis on superannuation;
- Women and public life, with particular emphasis on involvement of women in decision-making; and
- Women and the law, with particular emphasis on the elimination of violence against women.

The Office should also give high priority to monitoring the implementation of policies of specific relevance to women announced during the election campaign, in particular the range of new child care policies and the introduction of the home child care allowance.

NB Recommendations 1 to 19 all have a familiar ring!

**AFUW INC. SUBMISSION TO THE SEX DISCRIMINATION COMMISSIONER March 2008**

*This is one of the most powerful documents that AFUW has yet prepared.*

*The general outline and some brief extracts are shared with you now. To quote in snippets would distort the overall impact of the document. The editor urges you to request her or Ivy Edwards or Tricia Blombery to provide you with the full context either by email or as a printed document.*

*From the introduction:* The Australian Federation of University Women (AFUW) would like to welcome and congratulate Elizabeth Broderick on her appointment as Sex Discrimination Commissioner. We would also like to thank you for canvassing opinion through your Listening Tour and blog.

AFUW has consulted with its members to identify problems which particularly affect women and to suggest possible, partial solutions, which are indicated in italics in our document. We would like to share these with you as part of the Listening Tour. They have been grouped under the three themes you have highlighted, although several are relevant to more than one theme:

### **1. *Economic independence for women***

We emphasise three aspects which affect the ability of women to achieve economic independence: (i) the affordability, availability and equity of education, (ii) pay equality, and (iii) the needs of older women.

### **2. *Work and family balance across the life cycle***

It is important for both men and women to have an appropriate balance between work and family life. As alluded to above, women currently shoulder the majority of family responsibilities, including a disproportionate share of housework, child-raising and the care of the elderly and disabled. This makes it difficult for women to achieve a desired balance between work and home life.

### **3. *Freedom from discrimination, harassment and violence***

Economic independence and a good work-life balance may be unachievable or meaningless where women are subjected to discrimination, harassment and violence. Tackling these crimes should always have a high priority. We stress that discrimination on the basis of gender may be compounded by other forms of discrimination, such as racism, homophobia, religious bigotry, and prejudice against the disabled.

#### ***Some interesting ideas from the document:***

*a) Needs of older women* The majority of older people are female and, therefore, the concerns of older women need attention. We suggest research on all relevant aspects regarding the situation of older women to confront the myth of "older and ageing women" being "fragile, helpless and dependent". *Gender sensitive measures for elderly people covering issues of finance, housing, health, supportive services and mental stimulation, should be considered.*

Because women, on average, still earn less than men over their lifetimes, many retire with comparatively small amounts of superannuation. This is particularly true of the current generation of elderly women, who have often had broken periods of employment due to family responsibilities, or who have been employed in positions (casual, part-time or non-permanent) that offered them little or even no entitlement to superannuation. They have not necessarily benefited from recent improvements in superannuation for women. *The adequacy of the single pension, as a measure of redressing this, needs to be reviewed.*

*b) Flexible work arrangements should also be made available to unpaid carers, most of whom are women.* Employees should have the right to request leave to care for sick relatives. Too often, the unpaid work conducted by women and men in this area is discounted in economic and policy analyses. These hidden costs need to be considered and addressed. Professor Michael Bittman recently commented, in relation to the Bureau of Statistics figures on paid and unpaid work that "the preponderance of women in domestic roles [leaves] them vulnerable to poverty and financial insecurity, particularly when coupled with the increased frequency of relationship breakdown" (*The Age*, 22 February 2008). *Policy changes in health and aged care should be reviewed in terms of their impact on both those in need and their carers.*

*c) Work-life balance is also improved when volunteer organisations are assisted to flourish.* Volunteers make an immense contribution to civil society, much of which is ignored by economists and sometimes made impossible by new laws and regulations. Governments can do much to foster the work of volunteers, at little cost. This can have a multiplying effect on its value to society. Bureaucratic interference can make the work of community groups extraordinarily difficult. Legislation is needed to sort out insurance problems. Insurance costs have rocketed up, particularly for organisations involved with sporting and outdoor activities. Healthy, independent living should be fostered throughout all ages, through funding of, for example, community buildings for the arts, and walking trail construction and maintenance. This benefits vastly more people than can investment in elite sport, at a fraction of the cost.

## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN NSW AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2008



The National Council of Women of New South Wales was founded on 26 June 1896 at a public meeting in the Sydney Town Hall. Its formation was largely instigated by Margaret Windeyer, its first honorary secretary, supported by Rose Scott, who was a member of the executive committee from 1896-1921 and also served as International Secretary. The eleven original affiliated groups outlined a very broad agenda which is substantially unchanged over a century. Beverley Pavey was its President at the onset of her illness.

Two of its major public outreaches are the Australia Day Luncheon and the Jean Arnot Luncheon which commemorates the first woman state librarian in NSW. AFUW-NSW participated as a donor to the Australia Day awards for the first time in 2007 and was well represented at the presentation on 23 January 2008. The selection criteria for these awards, valued at \$1,000 each:

- To be presented to women of achievement, particularly those in the late undergraduate or post-graduate years
- To assist and encourage further studies in the chosen discipline in the Honours Year or, if applicable, specific research
- To seek out deserving students, not necessarily the top student in the course
- To consider the student who is disadvantaged by illness, physical disability or financial need, but has demonstrated her ability to achieve good grades throughout her course
- The process of selection to be carried out by the Faculty of the participating University or specific body

The awards were presented by Christine Hogan, a media professional who has worked in newspapers and magazines as a writer and an editor, and in television as a producer of news and an executive producer of current affairs. She is the editor of *TeenMatters*, the magazine for the parents of teenagers, published by Father Chris Riley's Youth Off the Streets organization.

**THE 2008 AWARDEES** are listed here with the selecting institution and the sponsor.

**Helen Barnett** Sydney Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney The Women's Club

**Sandra Copeland** Faculty of Arts and Education University of Newcastle AFUW-NSW

**Bridget Deane** Dept of Modern History, Macquarie University Dr Maurine Golstein and NCW NSW Inc

**Renee Dane** Social Science/Law University of Western Sydney

**Sharlene Dyer** School of Business and Management University of Newcastle

**Sarah-Jane Goodwin** Faculty of Veterinary Science University of Sydney

These three awards were sponsored by the Office for Women, NSW Dept of Premier and Cabinet

**Sarah Harvey** International Studies/Bachelor of Nursing University of Technology Zonta Club Sydney

**Jeanette Kluver** School of Social Work Australian Catholic University Soroptimist International Sydney

**Luh Putu Lila Wulandari** School of Women's and Children's Health University of NSW sponsored by Mrs Alice Oppen, Founder and Chair of Women's Plans Foundation

**Signe Peitersen** Audiology Section Linguistics Dept, Macquarie University Women of the Peninsula

**Jane Wangman** Faculty of Law University of Sydney Gilbert & Tobin legal firm

### INTRODUCING SANDRA E COPELAND



Sandra was the recipient of the AFUW-NSW Inc Australia Day Award 2008, nominated on our behalf by our chosen institution, Faculty of Arts and Education, University of Newcastle.

In 2007, Sandra entered her Grad Dip Ed course at the University of Newcastle. Her return to study came as an unexpected necessity but has brought her to the prospect of a career for which she is very well suited – Primary School teaching.

Ten years ago, in Darwin, Sandra's working life was in counselling which evolved from her early life volunteering as an Assistant at Consumer camps and functions and coordinating events such as The Mooloolaba Walk Against Want. These experiences led her to work connected with Centre Link and YMCA Employment services. She also did Cultural Awareness Training at Nungalinga College.

Returning to New South Wales, Sandra worked as a Rehabilitation Counsellor to the long-term unemployed and for the next six years expanded her counselling role to include Injury Management and Vocational Rehabilitation. Harassment issues at work saw her resigning in July 2006 and, with a new baby, Sandra changed her career path. She applied to enter the Grad Dip Ed course, having a BA in Psychology and Sociology from the University of Queensland in 1994.

She hopes to start teaching this year and to move into counselling school children rather than the long-term unemployed. We wish her well in her new career.

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY** The event originated in 1908 when women garment makers in New York demonstrated to demand better working conditions. They worked in appalling conditions, earned half of men's wages, died prematurely from poor health and didn't have the right to vote. At the same time in England, women were meeting and marching to demand the right to vote. The Suffragettes adopted the colours of Green, White and Violet to stand for their slogan "Give Women the Vote". Since then these colours have been used to symbolise the struggle for women to obtain equal rights. In 1910 an international conference of women resolved that each year a day should be set aside to press for women's demands.

Since then International Women's Day (IWD) has been celebrated around the world each year on March 8. In Sydney, IWD was first celebrated in 1928 at a rally that called for equal pay for equal work, an eight hour day for shop workers, no piece-work, a base wage for the unemployed and paid annual holidays. Rallies and marches have been held throughout Australia every year since. So IWD is about remembering the battles long fought to build a society that is just and fair to all its members a society in which diversity, tolerance, safety, social justice and equality between women and men is a given. And it's about celebrating what women have done, are doing and can do.

*The theme for activities to celebrate International Women's Day for 2008 is '100 years of active women in paid and unpaid work'.* This recognises the countless contributions that women in NSW have made towards improving workplaces and working conditions, as well as their tireless volunteering work which has contributed to the growth of more vibrant and robust communities.

The NSW Woman of the Year Awards honour a group of exceptional, hard-working and dedicated women who work diligently to improve the communities in which we all live. Following the theme for 2008, nominations were called for women who have achieved outstanding performances in improving workplaces, working conditions and/or volunteering work. All NSW Government Ministers and Local Members were invited to nominate a woman in their electorate or portfolio as their candidate for Woman of the Year. This year, nominations were also sought from the general public. Over 100 outstanding nominations were received, from which 12 finalists were selected.

**Pam Boney**, a member of the Murrqware tribe, who has been actively involved in both setting up and contributing to a number of Aboriginal community initiatives, including for example, the 'Bush Babies Program' in Orange.

**Skye Bortoli**, a 15-year-old conservation activist from Port Stephens, who is dedicated to ending commercial whaling practices. She headed up a delegation of three Australian schoolgirls who went to Alaska to speak at the International Whaling Commission.

**Jean Cinis**, a dedicated volunteer worker for the Western Sydney Regional Public Tenants' Council, who supports a wide range of housing clients with complex needs.

**Captain Josephine Clark**, Harbour Master and Marine Pilot of the Port of Eden, who is the first woman Harbour Master in NSW and only the second in Australia.

**Janny Ely**, a Wirajdari woman, who is a pioneer in empowering Aboriginal women in South Western Sydney through her tireless involvement in the community and in education and women's services.

**Catherine Hall**, who gained her Bronze Medallion in surf lifesaving in 1980 and is still actively involved as the Education and Training Co-ordinator of South Maroubra Surf Lifesaving Club, and a patrolling surf lifesaver.

**Dianne Madden**, who is the founder and President of Camp Kookaburra in the Sutherland Shire, which provides networking and support for children aged 8 to 12 years old living with a parent, brother or sister affected by mental illness.

**Bev Manton**, a member of the Worimi nation, who is a strong and respected advocate for community development, particularly in relation to employment, housing, health and education. Bev is currently Chairperson of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.

**Melinda Medway**, who has worked to provide new innovative employment opportunities for rural women and youth in the Gunning district, which is a severely drought affected area of NSW.

**Alice Oppen**, who has drawn attention to the issues of family planning and sexual and reproductive health and set up two charitable trusts in the Sydney region, including the Women's Plans Foundation.

**Tegan Wagner**, who, with great determination, courage, and leadership, has used her own experience to change how our society understands and responds to sexual assault.

**Ruth Wilson**, who is an exemplary worker in unpaid work, an innovator and instigator of exceptional programs, particularly for the NSW Jewish community in Sydney and Southern Highlands.

**DIANNE MADDEN** was announced as the winner of the 2008 NSW Woman of the Year Award at the Premier's Reception for International Women's Day on Thursday March 6.

Dianne was nominated by Mr Barry Collier MP, Member for Miranda, for her outstanding contributions to helping families living with mental illness. Dianne is the founder and President of Camp Kookaburra, a volunteer organisation which provides networks and support for children living with a family member affected by mental illness. As a volunteer herself, Dianne's dream is that one day Camp Kookaburra will become a national program.

## BRANCHES - REPORTS AND CALENDARS

**HUNTER** In November, we held our Christmas meeting, the final meeting for 2007, and our speaker was Professor Ken Dutton, from the University of Newcastle. He told us of the influence of one particular French settler in Australia in the early 19th century. M. Francois Girard was transported to Sydney as a convict but very quickly became a 'ticket of leave' settler. He taught French language and dancing to the free settlers and opened the first French Patisserie in Australia. He operated a flour mill, which he later converted to a timber mill, at a site that is now Darling Harbour. Life was not easy; he encountered discrimination as an 'alien' and fought with successive governors and civil servants in the colony. This revealed a fascinating aspect of our history that our members had not known before.

An open committee meeting was held in January. All members were invited to attend and make suggestions to solve the problems raised in the paper by Margaret James concerning the future of AFUW. All suggestions were noted and 2 questionnaires were sent out to each of our members: Questionnaire A concerned the problem our branch was having with finding a venue for our monthly dinner meetings; Questionnaire B concerned the questions raised by Margaret James in her paper on the future of AFUW.

We held a special meeting on February 23 which was attended by only 14 members. They listened to the debate, especially to the knowledgeable opinions put forward by many of our long-standing members, and filled in their questionnaires on the evening. Ten members sent apologies and returned their completed questionnaires by mail during the following week.

The questionnaires annotated with an analysis of the members' responses and also a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis of our opinion of the state of our branch was sent to State Branch. The consensus in the responses of our members to the questionnaires seems to indicate that our members are enjoying AFUW as it is and, apart from a few minor suggestions, do not wish to make any drastic changes. We do not know whether this is of much help to AFUW in the current dilemma, but all here in the Hunter Branch wish the organisation well.

The dinner venue problem was solved when Robert Caddies, the husband of Jocelyn, one of our members, suggested that the Newcastle Club (of which he is a Past President) would be suitable. He introduced Gaynor Reeves to the Functions Manager, and satisfactory arrangements have been made. Our branch will be continuing to function!

The book Club choice for March was *The Broken Shore* by Peter Temple and we met at Anne Drinkwater's home.

It is with deep sorrow that we inform members that Gaynor Reeves' husband, Jim, passed away on Good Friday. The Funeral will be held at Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle on Friday 28 March.

It is with regret that we have accepted the resignation of Janet Winn, who is, we believe, one of the founding members of Hunter Branch in 1960. She was honoured last year in the list of NSW members of more than 40 years standing.

**NORTH SHORE** The Christmas Luncheon Meeting was held on Monday, December 3rd at the Aigren Centre, Dunmore Lang College, Macquarie University, North Ryde. Mrs. Dorothy Betty, President, and her committee had the venue beautifully decorated in the spirit of Christmas and with a Celtic theme. The piper, Mrs. Wendy Thorvaidson, created a Scottish atmosphere by playing many familiar tunes well known to us.

At the completion of the delicious Christmas luncheon, Ms Suzannah Fullerton spoke, her topic being 'Literature--Our Celtic Heritage' which was greatly appreciated by those many people present. She first discussed the Literary tour which she had conducted in 2007. The tour mainly covered Ireland and Scotland which must have been a fascinating time for those fortunate enough to have been included.

On Ireland, she spoke with warmth about Dublin as a literary centre and the contributions of people like Jonathon Swift, Goldsmith and Oscar Wilde. She discussed in detail Wilde's statue in Dublin and the passing of Brendon Behan who died in the care of nuns.

On his deathbed, he is quoted as saying, 'Bless you, sister and may all your sons be --'. She mentioned, also, the James Joyce's memorial, a Centre in Dublin.

Moving on to Scotland, Ms Fullerton talked about Scotland and Edinburgh University as 'the world's city of literature', made famous by the writing of people like Sir Walter Scott, Hugh McDermott, Robbie Burns, William Wordsworth and Robert Louis Stevenson, to mention a few.

There is a lot to see in Burn's Country including the famous bed where he was born in his very simple home. His passionate verse reflects his warmth and tenderness and his love of the countryside while his satirical writing show him as an acute observer of human frailty. He is most well known for 'Auld Lang Syne'. He died at the age of 37 in Dumfries. His birthday is celebrated on 25th January by thousands visitors who come to Alloway and Dumfries each year. Ms Fullerton concluded by quoting Burn's *Ode to a Mouse*.

The vote of thanks was given by Mrs. Betty Davy. The lucky door prize, a basket of Christmas goodies, was won by the only male present, Mr. Frank Harvey.

The first meeting for 2008 on March 3rd at the Warrawee Bowling Club, included the AGM and the Autumn Luncheon.

We were greatly honoured to have Professor Judyth Sachs, the Vice Chancellor and Provost, Macquarie University as our speaker. She started her career as a teacher in Queensland where she had gained her B.A. degree. This was later followed by her Doctorate from America.

Her appointments include Sydney University for two years, then last year she was appointed to Macquarie University where she is now at the coalface of research and management at this 'new' university. Prof. Sachs has also had a career in writing, all in the field of University Scholarship, for which she has been granted the FACE in 1997.

Professor Sachs talked about the changes and challenges taking place, for instance, Sydney University now has an enrolment of 50,000 students at their five campuses while Macquarie has over 30,000 as compared with earlier times. Ranking is now an important issue. ANU is ranked first, followed by Melbourne, and Sydney is in third place. Macquarie, with one campus, ranks in the first ten. However, this does not tell us what is happening within the university. One approach has been more international.

The change of government will bring about more changes, for instance, there should be more money for research. Macquarie University is one of these. Originally, Macquarie gave only one type of degree, namely a B.A., but now, many more types of degree, to meet the present demands of accreditation, are available. The professor assured us that patience and much hard work will be needed to bring about the changes.

One question that arises - who will benefit from the changes? The students will be the first, but it was agreed that they must give back as well as receive.

One important initiative is the Transition Programme which has been developed to help students settle into the university environment. It is anticipated that this will be in place by 2010.

The vote of thanks was most appropriately given by Mrs. Lennie Norgard.

**SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS** Members and friends enjoyed a superb Christmas dinner created by our chef at Dormie House, Moss Vale, and then listened to an interesting address by Dr Celeste Rossetto, one of our members, who has researched the life of the intrepid English traveller, Lady Jersey, in the late nineteenth century. The doctoral thesis research took Celeste to England where she conducted interviews with descendants, and consulted original documents. The enjoyment of the process was infectious to us that evening. It interested us greatly that Lady Jersey had stayed at Throsby Park at Moss Vale, with its vice – regal associations.

Our first dinner meeting of the year was held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> overlooking the golf course at Moss Vale. After a delicious meal, we were treated to an inspiring story of selfless adventure in Nepal and Mongolia. Bowral optometrists, Grant and Tao Hannaford, recounted their participation in self funded voluntary missions to societies where 20/20 vision is not the norm. Their power point presentation showed us the value given by teams of up to eight Australian optometrists and supporting staff who tested long queues of people, dispensing glasses and arranging eye operations against a background of political instability. Local Rotary associations provided invaluable support, making such missions possible.

In our branch, the majority of those who voiced their opinion about proposed changes to the structure of AFUW prefer the existing three tiered structure to remain intact, with streamlining if necessary. We look forward to the results of National Council deliberations on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

\*\* Penelope Moyes and Virginia Ross of the branch's Scholarship Committee have sent a last minute report. On Wednesday 19 March, 2008 the branch presented a Community Scholarship Certificate and cheque for \$500 to an inmate of Berrima Correctional Centre, Stacey Macdonald.

Our branch first became interested in Berrima Correctional Centre when Jean Dally, the Manager of Offender Services and Programs, spoke at one of our dinner meetings in 2007.

Those present were galvanised by what she had to say about encouraging the women at the Centre to pursue educational courses during their incarceration. Her enthusiasm and sensitivity about the programs she had initiated inspired everyone present.

The idea to sponsor one of the women represented a significant cultural change for our Committee who had previously only offered Community Scholarships to female students at Moss Vale campus of the University of Wollongong. It was an idea that required much debate to convince all Committee members of its worthiness.

The Scholarship Committee had further discussions with Jean about our criteria for awarding scholarships, and a check with the state branch of AFUW made certain we were keeping within that criteria. Eventually we were able to send our Scholarship documentation for applications to the Centre asking for suitable candidates. Stacey satisfied our criteria in her personal qualities as well as in her exceptional academic achievements.

The consideration of girls like Stacey seems to be something that can easily be overlooked in the scholarship candidate assessment process. Possibly it is because these women have transgressed society, but the reasons for their incarceration should not be the issue.

What we are concerned with is trying to improve the quality of all women's lives through education. Stacey Macdonald is a wonderful example of someone determined to make something better of her life and to educate herself as a means to that goal. Admittedly there are not too many girls like Stacey coming through the Prisons system, but we hope that our Scholarship to her may inspire others.. We are proud to have been able to help this young woman with some of the difficult hurdles she still has to overcome.

**CITY** The final City Branch activity for 2007 was the presentation of an award of \$300 to Shelly Wang from Sydney Girls' High School.. This was presented to Shelly at the school's annual prize giving ceremony in December 2007. The purpose of this award is to assist a Year 12 student who has faced adversity and is proceeding to university.

Our first meeting of 2008 was followed by attendance at the NCW Australia Day Awards at Parliament House, Sydney. Members present were delighted to meet Sandra Copeland, the AFUW-NSW awardee at this special awards event. It has been agreed that City Branch will contribute \$200 towards the AFUW-NSW award for 2009.

In continuing to support young women aspiring to proceed from school or TAFE to university it has also been agreed that \$300 will be presented to each of two selected female students who successfully complete the Tertiary Preparation Course from Ultimo and Bankstown TAFEs in 2008 and who will proceed to university in 2009.

In February we were pleased to welcome a member of the Canadian Federation of University Women, Dr Kate Le Maistre from the Faculty of Education at McGill University, Montreal, Canada to join in discussion of the paper *Reforming AFUW*. It was of great interest and value to hear comments from the Canadian perspective. During Dr Le Maistre's time in Sydney, members were pleased to show her some of the special sights of Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

February also saw members travel to Manly to view the quilt exhibition at the Regional Art Gallery. To those not overly familiar with the artistic and technical aspects of quilt making it was a most interesting learning experience and for everyone, a wonderful exhibition. Thanks to Anne Smith who organised a tour of the exhibition and arranged facilities to hold a meeting. Prior to viewing the exhibition members enjoyed a delicious lunch at a restaurant next to the gallery. Water views during lunch on a sunny day, an exhibition showcasing remarkable talent and the ferry trip home made for a most enjoyable outing for all.

With a view to continuing to meet and to enjoy the sights and sounds of our city, a schedule of activities, each combined with a business meeting has been planned for the coming year.

As always members enjoy social interaction over a light lunch at selected restaurants after the activity. Members of other Branches are always welcome to join in any of our activities.

City Branch members are greatly saddened by the recent death of their member, Bev Pavey. Her loss will be deeply felt by us all.

**RIVER** Members and friends continue to participate in regular theatre outings together and to take part in a lively book-discussion group.

Our Spring Luncheon drew 41 members and friends. After a good lunch we listened to Patrick Dodds from Sydney Harbour Foreshores Trust give an excellent power point presentation about the foreshore properties the group administers. We learnt that they had finished work at North Head old Army barracks and the Middle Head Chowder Bay Reserve and that now these are all open to the public. He urged us to visit them and enjoy the old buildings and the lovely water views.

Presently the Trust is doing major work at Cockatoo Island. Eventually it will be possible for families to camp there. The site already is open for visits and there are volunteer staff to assist visitors. He spoke also of two other Trust properties, Woolwich Dock and Snapper Island and kept reminding us that we the people, own these sites and should visit and use them. Revenues from lessees at the different properties will pay for ongoing maintenance.

At the end of the year we again enjoyed a wonderful Christmas party hosted by Gay and Bill Windeyer in their lovely home.

**CENTRAL COAST** The members are planning sadly to dissolve as a branch but they have planned one final formal activity, a dinner on Friday 28 March 2008 at *Donnison's on the Park* in Gosford to honour long standing member, Dr Beryl Collier. Beryl who was named a Significant Woman of the Central Coast (CC) 2004-05, came to live and work there as a specialist Obstetrician and Gynaecologist in 1972.

She previously worked in Fiji and Papua New Guinea as well as the United Kingdom and other parts of Australia. Still a member of the Australian Federation of University Women NSW Inc, she has been Vice President of the former Central Coast Branch and a valued member of the Central Committee of AFUW – NSW as its representative, playing a significant role at one stage as Co-ordinator of the Study and Action Programme.

A representative of colleagues/friends of Beryl from each of the fields of Medicine, CC Reconciliation Group, Friends of the Gosford Regional Gallery, CC Symphony Orchestra, Laycock Theatre, Gosford Amnesty International, Business and Professional Women and Fusion has been asked to share with AFUW members a 5 minute testimonial to Beryl at this celebration.

## CENTRAL WEST BRANCH REPORT

Over \$30,000 in donations have been given to fund the Dr Barbara Wright Postgraduate Scholarship from friends of our late member, Dr Barbara Wright, whose valedictory was printed in AFUW NSW September 07 Newsletter. (The fund at latest report stands at \$42,000. Ed.)

Barbara Wright as President and committee member of the Central West Branch was a driving force in establishing a Postgraduate Award of \$4000 to be given over two years to a rural woman holding an undergraduate degree and undertaking a postgraduate degree in her chosen field. To be eligible the candidate should live within a 150 Km radius of Cowra. The committee decided to rename this existing scholarship the Dr Barbara Wright Postgraduate Scholarship and to seek Deductible Gift Recipient Status so that the scholarship could be awarded regularly rather than 'when funds permit'.

Co-ordinator of the Award, Dr Lois Foster, said that there were over 60 inquiries and 45 information packages were dispatched. Assessment of the applicants was undertaken by a four person scholarship committee.

Congratulations to AFUW NSW Treasurer Ms Tricia Blombery, who was able to offer the branch a proposal to join with the existing AFUW NSW Inc Education Trust Fund as established in 1995. This we have agreed to so that our donors receive tax deductible benefits and our capital in this Education Trust fund receives enhanced interest.

President, Anne Holloway, as Chairman for the evening welcomed AFUW NSW Treasurer, Ms Tricia Blombery, and her partner, Stuart Grigg, as well as Barbara's family and the many friends of Barbara from all aspects of her life. The report of the presentations in *The Cowra Guardian* of 22 February describes Barbara as collecting friends and admirers from every facet of her life, family, friends, university, medical practice, cultural and community interests. Weeks before, this Awards Dinner held at the Cowra Golf Club had been completely booked out in numbers far exceeding expectations.



*The picture shows Matthew, Nicholas, Harvey and Jon Wright with Professor Janet McCredie and President, Anne Holloway.*

Jennifer, a Nurse Educator, gave a detailed insight into her research topic of which the focus is a survey of nurses and other health professionals regarding the extent of their microbiology background knowledge and the influence of this knowledge on infection control practices. Her work is considered to have international significance.

A special Award of \$500 was made to Rebecca McCormack of Grabben Gullen (Crookwell) who is undertaking a postgraduate diploma in education to qualify her for career in teaching. As part of a farming family greatly affected by the drought, Rebecca exhibited considerable tenacity in completing her undergraduate studies and in pursuing her goal of working in a field of real value in a rural area.

The Annual award of \$1000 was presented to Sara Alamyar a student of All Saints College, Bathurst who achieved a magnificent UAI score of 99.75. The University of Sydney has accepted Sara as a full time student in the Bachelor of Law Course in 2008 (double degree). Her special interest is human rights law, and when acknowledging the scholarship, Sara said she hopes eventually to work with the UN on Human Rights.

Guest Speaker for this evening of February 16, 2008, was Dr Wright's very good friend from Sydney University days as undergraduates, (and Nick Wright's godmother) now Professor Janet McCredie AM, MD, a diagnostic radiologist who has published a book on her thalidomide research entitled '*Beyond Thalidomide - Birth defects explained*'. She spoke of her years of studies involving world travel for the scientific research.

The success of this evening raised the profile of the Australian Federation of University Women in the Central West. It promoted the education of women to work towards their full potential and established a tax deductible Postgraduate Fund that will honour "a remarkable woman: farmer's wife, loving mother, compassionate doctor, beloved and gracious friend." (*From a valedictory written by Harvey Wright and Dr Jan McCredie, August 2007.*)

Barbara's husband, Harvey Wright, presented the Major winner of this renamed award to microbiologist Jennifer Cox of Manildra. Jennifer, a nurse educator, has been accepted into the PhD Programme at Charles Sturt University School of Biomedical Science Wagga Wagga campus. Her research project is on infection control and Jennifer's results will be presented at the Australian Conference in Melbourne in October 2008. In introducing Jennifer to the assembled 185 guests, Dr Lois Foster, Chairperson of the AFUW CW Scholarship Subcommittee in speaking of this renamed Postgraduate Scholarship commented that '*it is truly inspirational that Barbara's influence has extended beyond her life*'.

**AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN - NSW Inc****CALENDAR**

Members, prospective members and visitors are welcome at all activities.  
All details are correct to the Editor's knowledge at the time of printing.

**APRIL**

- Wednesday 9 **SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS** 12 pm Lunch at Bradman Museum Café - Restaurant , Bowral  
No guest speaker, just a get together of members and friends. All welcome.  
Contact Sue Nagy 4841 0357
- Wednesday 10 **HUNTER** Book Discussion at Margaret Smithson's home  
*A Thousand Splendid Suns* - Khaled Hosseini
- Thursday 17 **CITY** Private excursion to Northern Beaches followed by lunch. Numbers limited.  
Contact: Christine Hosking 9599 0186
- Wednesday 22 **AFUW-NSW** 10.30 am Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt St, Sydney  
Central Committee Meeting Contact: Jane Baker 9743 0434 jane.baker@optusnet.com.au  
**HUNTER** 6.30 for 7.00 pm Newcastle Club Dinner Meeting  
Speaker: Dr Josephine May, lecturer in History, University of Newcastle *The Status of Women  
- an historical perspective* Cost: \$30.00 Bookings essential:  
Contact: Mary Kelly 4929 4019

**MAY**

- Monday 5 **SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS** 6.30 for 7.00 pm Dormie House, Moss Vale, Dinner Meeting  
Speaker: Patrice Newell *Celebrated environmentalist and organic grower*  
Contact Sue Nagy 4841 0357
- Tuesday 13 **AFUW-NSW** 11.00 am Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt St, Sydney  
Sophia Holland Luncheon and Lecture \$30.00 per person  
Speaker: Christine Hosking *'Indigenous Women Artists'* **Reply Coupon** by 30 April
- Wednesday 14 **HUNTER VALLEY** Book Club at Mary Kelly's home *Silk* - Alessandro Barico
- Thursday 15 **CITY** 11.00 am St Mary's Cathedral Crypt tour Followed by lunch and meeting.  
Cost \$3.50 Contact: Christine Hosking 9599 0186
- Wednesday 28 **HUNTER VALLEY** TBA Contact: Anne Drinkwater 4957 5740 Mary Kelly 4929 4019

**JUNE**

- Monday 2 **NORTH SHORE** 11.00 am Warrawee Bowling Club Annual General Meeting  
Speaker: TBA Contact: Dorothy Betty 9489 1142 Greta Recsei 9487 2061  
**SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS** The Esco Pazzo Restaurant in Mittagong Slow Food Lunch  
Speaker: Nick Padol, president of *The Slow Food Movement* in Southern Highlands Date  
and time to be confirmed Contact: Sue Nagy 4841 0357
- Wednesday 11 **HUNTER VALLEY** Book Club Hilary Alexander's home  
*Barbed Wire and Roses* - Peter Yeldham.
- Thursday 19 **CITY** Tour of Sydney's Sustainable House in Chippendale  
Cost: \$10 plus GST pp *As a minimum no. of 20 is required for this tour, it will depend on  
numbers as to whether this tour goes ahead. - CH If you haven't visited it, don't miss this  
opportunity - LT*  
Cost \$3.50 Contact: Christine Hosking 9599 0186
- Wednesday 25 **HUNTER VALLEY** TBA Contact: Anne Drinkwater 4957 5740 Mary Kelly 4929 4019

For **RIVER** Branch activities Contact: Nada Taylor 9436 2889

For **CENTRAL WEST** Branch activities Contact: Anne Holloway 6345 1819

**AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN - NSW Inc.****Office and Margery Murray Room****ABN 23 098 188 689****Basement Level 280 – 282 Pitt Street, Sydney 2000***NB The Office is not currently attended. Please email or leave a phone message.***Postal Address:****Phone/Fax: 02 9283 7878****Website: www.afuwNSW.org.au****PO Box A2231 Sydney South 1235****Email: afuwNSW@netspace.net.au****Membership Renewal****PO Box 124 Woodford 2778**

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***Deadline for next Newsletter Reports and Calendar 1 June 2008***

**NEW MEMBERS**

Ms Jo Chipperfield	Gladesville
Mrs Silma Ihram	Lidcombe
Miss Zeenia Kaul	Westmead
Ms Jessica Sands	Stanmore

The AFUW-NSW Education Trust has been accepted by the Australian Taxation Office as a  
**Deductible Gift Recipient.**

This means that you can now make deductible donations to our Scholarship funds  
and help more women to become graduates.

No amount too small.

Send to Education Trust at the AFUW – NSW office address.

Ring Treasurer, 'Tricia Blombery, (9560 8070) if you want more information.