

# NEWSLETTER



3/07

Annual Report 2006-2007

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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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## 87<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT

1 JULY 2006 - 30 JUNE 2007

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is with pleasure that I present this year's Annual Report.

### COMMUNICATION

The executive continued to seek ways to improve communication and build relationships between members and the wider community. Initiatives included members of the executive being directly in contact with branches, a statewide activity in which all members take part in their own branches, the inaugural Australia Day Award, and AFUW-NSW represented at and participating in outside events.

An opportunity for members to network was provided by the 2006 Annual General Meeting, hosted by Southern Highlands Branch and held in Moss Vale where a warm welcome was extended to visitors from out of the area. Again the AGM was well attended, attesting to the fact members will travel when required.

The President enjoyed hospitality extended by Southern Highlands during her stay and had pleasure in visiting and enjoying hospitality with Hunter Valley, Central Coast, River and North Shore Branches during the year.

### TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

AFUW-NSW has committed to hosting the 2009 AFUW Triennial Conference. We welcome the challenge and seek the assistance and support of all members. Please notify your president if you wish to be part of the organising committee and how you wish to contribute your many talents.

The theme is **Women Working for a Sustainable Society**, in line with the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

From a number of excellent applicants it was pleasing to appoint Carolyn Vaughan to the position of Administrative Officer. In addition to administration, Carolyn has marketing experience and her main task is to help increase membership. Carolyn is in the office on Mondays.

### MEMBERSHIP

The membership of AFUW-NSW at the end of 2006-2007 was exactly 300 which included two Honorary Life Members, and 4 old system life members whose numbers have sadly declined through the past year. Although this is a decrease on last year's numbers, branches and state continue to work towards attracting new members.

At 30 June, 2007, New South Wales has three metropolitan branches: North Shore, River and City, and four regional branches: Central Coast, Central West, Hunter Valley and Southern Highlands. Three branches, Armidale, Blue Mountains and Inner Western Suburbs, closed due either to insufficient numbers or members unwilling to take executive positions. Armidale Branch has endowed the University of New England with sufficient funds for two annual awards.

## **AWARDS**

### **Tempe Mann**

The Education Trust selected Dr Negin Amanat, an outstanding candidate, to receive the 2007 Tempe Mann Award. Negin will use the award to support her research in Ulm, Germany on computational biomechanics of fracture healing. Negin first gained a degree in Mechanical Engineering then switched to Biomedical Engineering, an area she found more interesting and in which she gained her doctorate.

### **Jamieson Awards**

Five awards were made for 2007:

Lauren Burt - Bachelor of Exercise Science (Hons 1) and University Medal at ACU 2006.

Catherine Alston – Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) USyd.

Isobelle Kremer – Bachelor of Arts (Advanced) USyd.

Lidia Matesic – Bachelor of Medicinal Chemistry (Hons 1) UOW

Elizabeth O'Donoghue – Bachelor Visual Arts and Design ACU and “Acquisition Award”

### **Annual University Awards**

AFUW-NSW Inc donates one annual award to Macquarie University and the University of New South Wales and three awards plus a bursary to the University of Sydney. Every effort is made to have an AFUW member present the awards. In 2005/6 prizes awarded were:

- The Gladys Marks Memorial Bursary 2007, in honour of the fourth President of AFUW-NSW, to a mature age student at USyd with a specific financial requirement to finish her studies, to Viktoria Sen
- Gina Savage Prize (donated by former Illawarra Branch) in The School of Biological Sciences at UOW for 2006 to Victoria Bennett
- The Tish Proctor Memorial Prize for the most proficient woman student in First Year Government at the USyd in 2006 to Tarsha Gavin
- The prize in Mathematics USyd for 2006 to Anna Ougrinovskaia
- The prize in The School of Letters, Art, and Media USyd for 2006 to Ms Alexandra Hankinson
- The prize in The School of English UNSW for 2006 to Maxine Michelle Burdett
- The prize in 200-level English at Macquarie for 2006 to Shona Dawes

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

Kate Morphett, University of Wollongong, was presented with the award and \$1000 cheque at the annual Australia Day Luncheon of the National Council of Women NSW. The UOW Faculty of Education was asked to nominate a graduate diploma student who had overcome a hardship during her studies and still achieved successful results. Kate is a worthy inaugural recipient of the 2007 Australia Day Award, and it is planned for the award to become an annual AFUW-NSW event.

### **Branches**

Branches continue to provide generous prizes and annual awards to students at secondary and tertiary levels both in the metropolitan and country areas. These reflect the members' belief in the importance and value of encouraging and supporting women to further education.

Some branches support overseas students in East Timor, IFUW Bina Roy and the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund. It is through the generosity of branch donations that AFUW-NSW funded the Australia Day Award.

### **Program For Action - PFA**

Branch donations also enable us to participate in the IFUW Programme For Action. Thanks to Program Administrator, Gaynor Reeves, and a generous response from the Branches, \$1000 was again sent to The Australian Aid to Cambodia Fund to support two women students at the only rural university in Cambodia.

## ACTIVITIES

### Testimonial lunches

Two members, Pamela Lemoine and Minna Shaw-Smith, were forced to resign from active committee work owing to ill-health. However both were honoured with tributes by their colleagues while all enjoyed an excellent lunch catered by Vice-President, Rose Figtree. Pamela was recognised for her 9-year commitment as Peace Convener at State and National levels while Minna was lauded for her outstanding leadership over many years in various roles which included State President and Membership Convener.

A proposal was put to bestow on Minna the new accolade of Member Emerita in recognition of her tireless dedication to AFUW, which the membership will have the opportunity to ratify at the Annual General Meeting in October.

### Annual General Meeting – Southern Highlands

As already mentioned, the AGM and lunch was hosted by Southern Highlands Branch at the Moss Vale Golf Club and Dormie House, Moss Vale, on 14 October 2006. Guest Speaker, Gaby Kennard, inspired and entertained members with her experience as the first Australian woman to fly solo around the world in a single-engine Piper Saratoga. Gaby's inspirational achievements are testament to the human spirit.

### AFUW-NSW Day

It is pleasing to note the response and involvement by branches to this initiative to hold a statewide day November 2, where members participated in some activity, such as a morning tea. The idea was for members to be united in spirit for a day and at the same time raise funds for the Australia Day Award. Reports indicated worthwhile social activities which included a morning tea, visit to an Art Gallery, a picnic and bushwalk were enjoyed by all participants.

Our **Christmas Luncheon** was held 2 December 2006 at Sancta Sophia College, University of Sydney, with Ms Judith Wheeldon AM as Guest Speaker. The former Principal of Abbotsleigh shared, with attendees, her most interesting life experiences which included her role as an activist during the American Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s.

**The Sophia Holland Lecture and Luncheon** were held at The Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, Sydney, on 30 March 2007 welcomed as Guest Speaker, Deirdre Mason, Deputy Chair, Premier's Council for Women. In her talk, Deirdre said that any organisation that contributes to the empowerment of women also contributes to the well-being and betterment of our world. *In order to grow rich in capability and experience you need to be equipped with breadth of thought and the capacity for analysis. Then you are open to evaluating new ideas and new opinions. A friend who attended Harvard Business School has told me that this hypothesis is not just mine; it even has a name – "Deep Smarts".* A copy of Ms Mason's address is included with this report.

### Other Organisations

AFUW-NSW supports activities organised by other women's organisations such as National Council of Women Australia Day Lunch and the Jean Arnott Lunch. Members attended the Women's Electoral Lobby Edna Ryan Awards which honoured an impressive array of intelligent, articulate women. We field delegates to NCW NSW, UNIFEM and to meetings organised by Women Into Politics and The Office For Women, NSW Premier's Department for Peak Women's Organisations.

Your Treasurer was guest speaker for the Macquarie University Women's Network Staff Development Program. Your President represented AFUW at a National Secretariat, WomenSpeak Communication Consultation – part of a nationwide information gathering exercise.

### Project Five-O

A new involvement for AFUW-NSW is Project Five-O which already exists on the international level. NCW NSW has taken the initiative to call a meeting of the five women's organisations, Soroptimist, Business and Professional Women, National Council of Women NSW, Zonta and AFUW-NSW. This getting-to-know-you meeting explored the possibility of combined action on a project. A follow-up meeting is planned to ascertain if sufficient interest exists at the local level then to confirm and commit to a suitable project.

## VALE

Members were saddened by the death of our colleagues during the year, Margaret Maxwell, Dr Barbara Wright, Miss Dorothy Elizabeth Gilder, Dr Janet Carr, Dr Beth Southwell, Miss Nancy Booker and Dr Ilma Brewer. Margaret's and Barbara's contribution to AFUW-NSW will long be remembered.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

AFUW-NSW members recognise and congratulate Dorothy Betty OAM, President of North Shore Branch, former National and State President, who at the AGM 2006, was endorsed as Life Member of AFUW-NSW for her exceptional dedication and contribution to the organisation since joining in 1953.

We are very pleased that AFUW National President, Dr Jennifer Strauss AM, received an AM on Queen's Birthday 2007 for her contribution to literature, education and women's issues.

Sally Delaney of Central West Branch has received a 2006 Premier's Teacher Award, the TAFE English Literature, Language and Communication Scholarship, value \$10,000.

## **COMMENDATIONS**

Chairman Carol Quinn and members of the Constitution Review Committee are commended for the professional presentation of the new Rules for AFUW-NSW at the AGM. After much discussion, their work was rewarded by members' endorsement of the Rules without amendment.

Grateful thanks to Secretary, Jane Baker, and Treasurer, 'Tricia Blombery, for their generous contribution to the administering of our organisation. As well thanks are due to 'Tricia's partner, Stuart Griggs, for his work in assisting the Treasurer.

Thanks also to Valerie McCallum whose work for the Education Trust is invaluable. Her professional expertise in assessing applicants results in exceptional recipients of the awards

Thanks are due to Newsletter Editor, Lyn Thompson. Lyn puts a lot of time and effort into producing the Newsletter and Annual Report and deserves our gratitude.

In conclusion it is necessary to thank members of the Executive and Central Committee for the team effort and initiative displayed, to thank office bearers of Branches and to congratulate all members on their involvement with AFUW-NSW.

*- Ivy Edwards President*

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## **BRANCH REPORTS**

### **CENTRAL COAST**

We have met monthly from February to October at Central Coast Leagues Club for our evening meetings with a speaker/s and generally have an attendance of 15 from our membership of 20.

In the colder months we have held daytime meetings of a more social nature and have combined with the Hunter Branch at Lake Macquarie Art Gallery. All of these occasions have been well attended and very enjoyable.

The range of our speakers has been varied.

Jean Heath from the Australian Aid to Cambodia Fund gave us a first hand account of the two students supported by AFUWNSW.

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dance & Skills Academy (NAISDA) is now located on the Central Coast and The Acting Director, Mrs Fay Nelson spoke to us in Women's History Month. She was joined by Mrs Oomerah Edwards as this was also the month of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Indigenous Franchise. Both women had inspirational stories to relate.

A local environmentalist, Robin Meldrum, who had been a recipient of our Ourimbah Campus Award spoke to her Honours Thesis in Sustainable Resource Management studying a rare and threatened species of the Somersby Plateau.

One of our members, Sondra Hopkins, gave us an account of her work with Hospital Art which is based on the Central Coast and provides Art and therapy for clients.

The Branch has supported AFUWNSW funds for SAAP and the NCW Australia Day Award. In 2008 we will sponsor an award for the highest academic achievement from a female student studying at the Ourimbah Campus of Hunter TAFE in Early Childhood Studies who enrolls as an undergraduate with Newcastle University's Ourimbah Campus to gain her degree.

*Joan Smith President*

*Pamela Guest Secretary*

## CENTRAL WEST

During 2006 – 2007 the Central West Branch of AFUW New South Wales has enjoyed the involvement of its loyal members and those of the community who attend our functions and support our scholarship projects. We have convened three dinner meetings and one lunch time meeting with good attendances.

Our program for 2006 – 2007 included:

September 2006	Ms Julia Finn	Refugee Research Program in Ghana at Eat Your Greens
December 2006	Roy Lumbey & David Rozenker-Apted	Architecture Twentieth Century The Mill
March 2007	Mrs. Uma Kumar	Indian Culture Cowra Golf Club
June 2007	Mr John Lowther	Retracing Hannibal's Footsteps Cowra Function Centre

In April we were deeply saddened by the death of Dr. Barbara Wright. Barbara had been a member of AFUW since 1966. Barbara was a highly respected member of the medical profession and served a term as a Board Member on the AMA of the Central West Division of General Practice. Barbara was a long serving committee member of AFUW, was Vice President for several terms and President from 2001 – 2004. A full Vale follows.

At our March meeting, the winner of the HSC scholarship was announced. This scholarship is awarded to the girl within the Central West who achieves the highest UAI and this year there were eight applicants from young women with excellent academic results. The winner was Rebecca Martin from Orange High School with a UAI of 99.05. Each year Central West AFUW awards prizes to women with meritorious achievements from Charles Sturt University at the Orange and Bathurst campuses. Lauren Williams was awarded the prize at Orange and Jacqueline Barr in Bathurst.

Both the HSC prize and the prizes at the local universities uphold the principle of AFUW in encouraging and facilitating education of women in our community. The postgraduate scholarship is awarded every two years when funds permit. It will be offered next year provided there is an applicant who meets the committee's criteria.

The President said that in her first year as President, she wished to thank the committee for their support, advice and willingness to assist and contribute in all our projects and functions throughout the year and expressed how much she valued their enthusiasm and commitment to this organisation. Because of work demands, Jennifer White retires as Secretary and we thank her for her hard work and reliable efficiency and are pleased that she will remain a member of the committee.

*Anne Holloway – President*

*Jennifer White –Secretary*

### Mixing Medicine and Community Matters

Dr Barbara Wright, who died in April of this year, was an involved and committed member of AFUW-NSW-Central West Branch since 1966. This branch was at that time based in Orange and when it seemed to be facing imminent closure, Barbara was central in transferring the executive to Cowra, the Central West town near which Barbara lived her married life.

Barbara O'Donnell (nicknamed BOD) was born at Molong, N.S.W. and lived at the family property, "The Reeds". Barbara and her siblings were either driven in the horse and sulky the nine miles to school by their father or rode on bicycles. Her secondary education meant living with her aunt and uncle at Orange and attending Orange High School, of which Barbara was Vice Captain and Dux in 1952.

Because her father initially discouraged her from studying medicine, Barbara enrolled in the Faculty of Science at The University of Sydney, living at Women's College. Brilliant examination results convinced the family that she should transfer to Medicine, from which she graduated in 1959. This year Barbara married Harvey Wright and went to live at "Coota Park," Woodstock near Cowra.

In 1972, having had three sons, Barbara returned to fulltime practice as a GP in Cowra.

She spoke of her professional life as one of honour and privilege and was loved by her patients for whom she cared for over three decades. The high esteem of her colleagues resulted in her serving a term on the AMA as a Board Member of the Central West Division of General Practice.

In 2000 Dr Barbara Wright was the recipient of the prestigious Marjorie Johnston Award in recognition of her contribution in the community to the Association of Relatives and Friends of the Mentally Ill (ARAFMI).

Rotary Club of Cowra awarded her a Paul Harris Fellowship. Barbara was not just a medical practitioner she actively participated in cultural and charitable organisations throughout the district.

AFUW benefited from Barbara's membership in many ways. She was President from 2001 to 2004 and once again Vice-President at the time of her death. The Wright's 'Coota Park' was a venue for AFUW Functions and hosted a visit from AFUW National President, Jennifer Strauss .

Her vision for AFUW was illustrated by her AGM Report to the Central West Branch in 2004. We quote:

1. To bring together like-minded people who enjoy listening to varied topics (both inspirational and challenging) as well as the social interlude of chatting over lunch or dinner.
2. To provide scholarships –both small and large to financially assist undergraduate and postgraduate students”

As well as the three ongoing annual Awards, during Barbara's presidency a postgraduate scholarship was inaugurated with an award of \$4000 to be given biennially. She truly believed in the voice of graduate women promoting advancement of women, particularly rural women, and their equality of opportunity through initiatives in education, friendship and peace.

*Sue Brown, Jean-Mary Fagan*

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## CITY

During the last 12 months the membership has increased slowly. Current membership is thirteen. We lost long time AFUW member Margaret Maxwell who passed away early in the year. Margaret was an inspiration to all. Her guidance and wise counsel is sadly missed.

Although a small Branch, members continued, throughout the year, to work hard to support AFUW not only in fund raising activities and scholarship awards at the local level but through commitment and involvement in activities at state and national level. Their dedication to the ideals and purpose of AFUW and their preparedness to commit considerable time and energy is to be commended.

City Branch supported Bina Roy with a donation of \$100.00, the IFUW Program for Action (\$200.00) supporting two Cambodian students as they continue their university studies and the NCW Australia Day awards with a donation of \$200.00.

Significant events included:-

- The formulation and subsequent ratification by AFUW of the Branch Constitution
- Awards presentation to students at Bankstown and Ultimo TAFEs who had successfully completed the TAFE Tertiary Preparation Course in 2007 and who will proceed to university in 2008. Awards were made to Michelle Nazzari and Rosie Bourke (Ultimo TAFE) who each received \$250.00 and Fereshteh Eslamizadeh (Bankstown TAFE) who received \$500.00
- The HSC Award. Traditionally awarded by the previous Inner West Branch, it was agreed that this award (\$300.00) be continued this year, the school chosen being Sydney Girls High School. The award will be presented in December 2007.

City Branch was pleased to invite AFUW-NSW members and friends to hear President Ivy Edwards speak about her experiences whilst holidaying with family in Lebanon at the time war broke out in that country in 2006. A vivid account accompanied by a Power Point presentation provided some insight as to not only the sufferings of people at that time, but the subsequent ramifications of the war for so many people.

Lunch in a range of different venues combined with activities and visits to places of general interest in and around the city continue to be a feature of the monthly meetings. Activities throughout the year included:

- An historical walk through the Spanish Quarter of the city and the discovery of the tiny library in Haymarket, followed by yum cha in Chinatown
- Silver service luncheon at “The Apprentice” Restaurant at Ultimo hosted by its TAFE hospitality students
- Attendance at the 2007 NCW Australia Day Awards luncheon at Parliament House – a very special occasion as it was the first time AFUW-NSW had made an award at this high profile and significant function
- Guest speaker- Nikki Deery an engineer developing analytical equipment for pharmacists, chemistry laboratories, agriculture and forensic departments. Nikki spoke of her passion for chemistry, her work experiences and the additional training involved in her transition from scientist to engineer.
- A visit to historical Vaucluse House followed by lunch at the restaurant in the grounds
- Visit to the La Perouse museum followed by lunch at “The Boathouse” on the beachfront
- A tour accompanied by a “sound and light” show at the Great Synagogue outlined the history and traditions of Judaism in Australia. Lunch overlooking Woolloomooloo from 14<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Supreme Court building

Sincere thanks and appreciation are extended to the hard working members of City Branch, particularly the executive for their continued dedication and commitment to City Branch and AFUW. In view of the small membership numbers, of particular note for commendation is the substantial amount of financial support received from members which has been directed towards Branch awards, support for AFUW-NSW awards and overseas aid projects. Congratulations on a fine effort.

Whilst it must be acknowledged there is a trend towards falling membership numbers in many non-government and volunteer organisations, the on-going enthusiasm and determination of the members of City Branch to keep the Branch functioning with purpose is to be applauded.

*Christine Hosking President*

*Tricia Blombery Secretary*

## **HUNTER VALLEY**

This is the report for the 47th AGM of the Hunter Valley Branch.. It boasts two women who have been members for over forty years - Gaynor Reeves and Gwen Hamilton, and three who have been members for over thirty years - Gwen Hill, Gail Johnston, and I. The other members are also of mature years but with a shorter, yet pleasing involvement. We are testimony to the success of our Branch in continuing to provide a friendly, vibrant and stimulating group for women graduates of many backgrounds. This past year we have had 36 members on our register, but four of them are effectively members of other branches.

We enjoy a variety of interesting intellectual, cultural and social activities. This year we had nine evening dinner meetings with a guest speaker following; a social-cultural day with members of the Central Coast Branch at the Lake Macquarie Art Gallery followed by lunch at Awaba Restaurant; a morning tea to observe AFUW Day and raise funds to contribute to the new award given on Australia Day by AFUW-NSW to a disadvantaged woman university student.

Our guest speakers covered many interesting and entertaining themes. In August, Mr Kevin Young, Managing Director of Hunter Water outlined how this water utility became the first in Australia to implement very controversially, the user-pays system. He dealt with "the business of water" not being "a pipe dream". In September, Ms Debra Sharp, Director of Community Justice Centres, outlined the work of these mediation centres to achieve resolutions of neighbours' disputes other than by court action.

In October, our speaker was Mr Gianni Di Gravio, University Archivist of Cultural Collections, which includes memorabilia from Aboriginal, Anglican Diocese, political party, coal company, convict history and trade union sources. In November, our Christmas dinner meeting, we were addressed by Mr Eric Eklund, Chair of Australian History at the University of Newcastle and founding member of the Coal River Working Party on New Perspectives on Convict Newcastle, a rich history of our region that is often unappreciated because "Novocastrians are often pathetically modest about Newcastle's heritage".

The first two speakers this year were both engineers seeking to facilitate helpful changes in our environments, but in very different areas. In February, Alice Howe spoke about her PhD. thesis dealing with the link between hydraulics, sediment, vegetation and migratory shorebird life. In March, Emeritus Professor Adrian Page talked on "Hot House, Cool House", an account of his research on four housing test modules to reduce energy consumption.

In April, our speaker was the Education Officer at the Lake Macquarie Art Gallery. She explained the significance of the Saltwater Yirrkala Bark Paintings of the Sea Country. These were painted by artists among the Yolngu people of north-east Arnhem Land in the late 1990's to explain their traditional ties with the region's coastal zone, and have a political and legal history. In May, our speaker was herself an artist, Professor Anne Graham, Head of the School of Drama, Fine Arts and Music in the University of Newcastle. Prof. Graham illustrated and interpreted her unusual works of interactive installations in public areas in Australia, Japan, USA, South Korea and Poland.

In June, Professor Phil Foreman, Dean of Education at the University of Newcastle, talked about the concept of "inclusion" in the implementation of special education in schools.

An intellectual-cultural-social event that is held regularly, is the Book Club coordinated by Julianne Harris. This meets each mid-month in members' homes. The person who chooses the book leads the discussion.

Ours is a very active and energetic Branch, successful not only at a social-cultural level, but also at a financial level. We raise funds to support the projects which are organized by AFUW for the education of women nationally and internationally, and for our own locally established projects.

These latter are the Huldah Turner Prize for Mathematics and the Margaret Auchmuty Prize for Education, which are given annually to the top women final year students in those fields. Unfortunately, these two prizes were not awarded by the University last year. In addition we now support the education of three East Timorese girls in years 11 and 12 at St Joseph's Secondary School in Dili. They are aware that "only through education can they escape the bitter experiences they have faced to date."

We support by catering for three weekend days the volunteer workers of the Friends of the University who hold the Book Fair biennially. We have done this since the first Book Fair in the early 1980's, but this year we are charging the Friends for the lovely morning and afternoon teas and lunches we provide. The reasons are that their numbers have increased, but we are no longer a hundred strong, but only 32, and cannot sustain our previous support. We continue to run a small canteen for the public.

In keeping with the aims of AFUW which is affiliated with IFUW, founding principles of which were to work toward world peace, as well as supporting women and education, all States and Branches were requested in August, 2006, to respond to the IFUW President's request to assist in a non-partisan way with the conflict in Lebanon / Israel. Accordingly we wrote to our five local Members of Parliament in September, 2006, urging them to add their voices to support urgent efforts to render safety for civilians and aid workers in Lebanon and Israel, and requesting that they work to negotiate towards a future peace for this area.

Our Branch is honoured to have Gay Reeves continuing as the Convener of the AFUW Program for Action on the Central Committee of AFUW-NSW Inc, and as the Convener of Fellowship for the national body, which she does so ably. We are also fortunate in having Christine Hosking, President of the City Branch, to so ably represent us on the Central Committee. Halina thanked them both for their commitment and also wish the Committee who met on five occasions in the past year to plan and implement our programmes. They exercised wonderful organizational skills and good humour to attain our commitments, and were absolutely dedicated to our fund-raising events. She said that they were a joy to work with, and so was the general membership who contributed also in a variety of ways. She thanked all for their support especially as it had been a difficult year in her life.

Halina Turnbull *President*

Jenny Bain *Secretary*

## **NORTH SHORE**

The President, Dorothy Betty, thanked members for electing her to the office of Branch President, at the 2005-6 AGM at which Committee remains unaltered, with the exception of one new Vice- President, Lennie Norgard, and with the retirement of long-serving member Ann Mills, replaced , by Dorothy Hartgerink.

In October 2006, six members of our Branch attended the AGM of AFUW—NSW, held in Moss Vale and hosted by the Southern Highlands Branch (Branch President, Sue Nagy). Here Dorothy Betty was honoured by life membership; the citation was prepared and advanced by the remaining members of the Blue Mountains Branch, endorsed by Lennie Norgard. Dorothy indicated how deeply indebted she felt to all friends and members who supported this award.

At the AGM, a feature of the General Business was the passage of a new constitution for NSW. One additional feature was the position of Associate Member. This is to be offered to women of standing in the community without the necessary academic qualifications for full membership but who support AFUW and its objectives. On our Committee's recommendation Associate Membership has been offered Assoc membership has been offered to several long-term, frequent attendees and supporters of our Branch.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2006 members attended the AFUW-NSW Christmas Luncheon at Sancta College, University of Sydney. This was closely followed by our own Christmas Luncheon, at Dunmore Lang College, Macquarie University, on 4th December. We were made very welcome by the new Principal of Dunmore Lang, Dr Lewis Rushworth, who as guest speaker told of the aims and future projects of the College.

Our regular meetings at the Warrabee Bowling Club have included:

September 4, 2006: Guest speaker was Stephanie Shwabsky, daughter of our long-standing and respected member, Betty Shwabsky. Stephanie, from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, has held many important posts and been the ambassador in places as far-flung as Bonn, Hanoi and Lebanon.

March 5, 2007: The guest speaker was Mrs. Jo Harris, vice-president of the Kuring-gai Historical Society who spoke on family history, its composition and satisfaction. We were pleased to welcome State Presidents from Queensland and Western Australia, Marion Jones and Hilary Silbert.

June 4: Speaker and performer was Andrew Byrne, noted lutenist, from the Conservation and the Sydney University Centre for Continuing Education. He performed on two ancient lutes, ably demonstrating their place in their contemporary society.

Other functions attended by the Branch President and other members include:

25th January: The National Council of Women's Australia Day Luncheon at the NSW Parliament House, with speaker, Juliana Nkrumah, a well-known activist. Special awards are given to assist continuing education, to which AFUW now contributes. Our first awardee was Kate Morphett, Faculty of Education, University of Wollongong.

March 9: To mark International Women's Day, a UNIFEM Luncheon at the Girl Guides' Centre, Turramurra, organized by PPSEWA.

March 30: The Sophia Holland Luncheon at the Castlereagh Hotel, Sydney

April 17 and July 3: Two special lunches, well attended by members from all branches and friends from other organizations, at the Sydney Mechanics' Institute. The first was to honour long-standing member, Pamela Lemoine, for her outstanding service. The second was in honour of Minna Shaw-Smith. Lennie Norgard and Dorothy Betty were honoured to present a summary of Minna's career, which will form the basis of her citation as Member Emerita, to be awarded at the next AGM of AFUW-NSW in October.

Congratulations were extended to Dr Jenny Strauss, our National President, on her receipt of the AM award.

On Monday 16 March Mrs Betty accompanied the State President to the Prize Presentation at Macquarie University. The awards our Branch sponsored were as follows:

200 Level History: Ann Shee

200 Level Life Sciences: Ralene Atkinson

Our Branch made regular donations as follows:

\$100 to SAAP(Project for action) in Cambodia

\$100 to Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund

\$100 to Virginia Gildersleeve Special Memorial to the late Margaret Maxwell

\$100 to AFUW-NSW Australia Day Award

*Dorothy Betty President*

*Anne Jack Secretary*

## **RIVER**

The President indicated that was her final report as President as, after three years, it was time for her to step down. She indicated that the branch had enjoyed another very successful year thanks to the hard work of the committee and the support of many members and friends.

Author Jennifer Isaacs, was the guest speaker at the spring lunch, which was held at the Greenwich Sailing Club. Jennifer gave a very interesting talk on her career, first as a research assistant in the Aboriginal Art and Craft department of the Australia Council and then as an Aboriginal art consultant. She has also written many books on Aboriginal art and culture. She finished her talk with a commentary on the Aboriginal art works (loaned by secretary, Nada Taylor) adorning the walls for the lunch. A photo can be viewed on the branch's new webpage, thanks to Elspeth Browne, who so ably assisted in developing this webpage.

Our Christmas party was held at the home of Bill and Gay Windeyer. This year the weather was really kind to us and the lunch was, as always, a great success. We enjoyed wonderful Christmas food and interesting conversation. We wish to thank Bill and Gay Windeyer especially for their generosity in allowing us to use their home for this function.

We were all deeply saddened by the death of Joyce Radcliffe late in 2006. She was a much-loved member of the River Branch Committee for many, many years. In addition she had held the post of secretary for a time and more recently had been our representative on the AFUW Central Committee. Joyce went to all the meetings and was indefatigable with her support at all our various functions. In addition we will also fondly remember her as a champion biscuit-maker. Several members attended her funeral. The committee decided to donate \$150 to the IFUW Bina Roy Fund in honour of her life and work for AFUW.

On 25<sup>th</sup> January several of our members attended a luncheon at Parliament House for the presentation of awards from various State Women's organisations, including an Award from the AFUW-NSW State branch.

The AFUW-NSW award to which our branch had contributed was presented to Kate Morphett of Wollongong University, a student doing teacher training and suffering ill health with Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

In March our luncheon speaker was Peter Sloane, currently Honorary Consul to Mongolia. He is an agricultural economist who has worked at length on agricultural projects in both Afghanistan and Mongolia. He outlined his experiences with and knowledge of the various races in Afghanistan and the current state of the country. Our superb caterer, Alex Penfold, again turned on a delicious lunch.

In addition to the above major functions our Book Group continues to meet each month and our large Theatre Group has a busy program of theatre visits. We thank Caroline Bray, and her two helpers, Norma McMorran and Gwen Hawthorne, for their work on the theatre program. Both activities provide us with intellectual stimulation and are very well supported. In addition work is now being undertaken to bring our archives up to date and we thank Rhoda Foster for this.

As a result of all these activities the River Branch has been able to support the following in 2006/2007:

- \$542 to the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund. This money was raised by the raffles run at our functions by Dorothy Keyworth and we thank her for her effort.
- \$150 to IFUW Bina Roy Fund in honour of Joyce Ratcliffe.
- \$300 towards the Macquarie University prize in Special Education which in 2007 was awarded to Ms D. Preston.
- \$500 towards the River Group Post-Graduate Award Fund at the University of Sydney.
- \$200 towards the Australia Day Award from AFUW-NSW Inc, which was presented to Kate Morphett.
- \$250 to the PFA project for Cambodian Women.

Note the PFA project is an AFUW Fund for help to women in underdeveloped countries – it is now called Program for Action.

Finally Dr Ridley thanked our very hard-working committee, indicating that without their support and encouragement she could not have undertaken the roll of president. Every one of them contributes so much when it comes to running major functions. In addition she particularly thanked our secretary, Nada Taylor, who works so hard for us; our treasurer, Anne Gibbins, who keeps us solvent; and our representative on Central Committee, Margaret Fisher, who in spite of occasional ill-health, so ably represents our interests and the other committee members who continue to give us the benefit of their considerable wisdom and experience.

*Anne Ridley President*

*Nada Taylor Secretary*

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## **SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS**

This last year has been memorable for us because we have pushed the boundaries in some areas. For the first time, we hosted the AGM of the State Central Committee, and there was an interchange of local members with the NSW executive, including the President, Ivy Edwards, and the Treasurer, 'Tricia Blombery. Dorothy Betty made a welcome return, to receive the honour of Life Membership for her long and distinguished service as National and NSW President, and as a leading light within her own branch, North Shore. Dorothy was behind the formation of the Southern Highlands branch in 1991, with Dr Jan Milburn and Joan Bell.

At the Central Committee AGM a member of our branch, Rose Figtree, was elected the first of the two Vice Presidents. Subsequently, Dr Celeste Rossetto has taken the position of Convenor for Women, bringing the two tiers of AFUW closer to us.

There was a delicious luncheon at Dormie House to follow the AGM, with good fellowship and an inspiring speaker, Gaby Kennard, who thrilled us with her exploits as a solo aviator, circumnavigating the world in a single engine aircraft.

We followed that occasion with a larger than usual garden party at Rose's superb venue, "Farnborough" at Moss Vale. Her entrepreneurial skills paid dividends for us in the record attendance and fund raising results. Our Christmas dinner meeting was a heart-warming event, with our guest speaker, Victoria Sharp, sharing her vision for the International Flame of Peace. We sang softly and passed lit candles in an extended circle of goodwill, which stirred the emotions.

Once again, the Bowral Country Club had provided an attractive setting and fine cuisine for us to meet together.

In the past year we have shared the life experiences of some very interesting people, beginning with Malcolm Yell, who pioneered Aussie private enterprise in Moscow, then Pru Goward, with her observations of women's treatment in politics and in the workforce.

In March, local editor, David Cavanagh, gave us a spirited view of the role of journalism in the Community, especially in regard to the ethics of court reporting. This theme was followed in June by educator Jean Dalley's vivid account of life at the Berrima Correctional Centre, with her boss as our guest as well. Some of our members thought that it was the best presentation of all.

Still others reminisced about the wonderful night given to us in May by Jonquil Temple, with her mask and puppet theatre. To top it off, we had Christmas in July with Geoff Harvey, who pulled up a stool and entertained us with reminiscences from his long career, conducting live orchestras for Channel Nine.

This year our branch allocated \$2,400 in educational grants. To our June meeting we invited the three scholarship winners from Moss Vale Campus. Ali Furrer (Bachelor of Commerce), Angela Nance (Arts with education) and Michelle Butcher (Arts with psychology specialisation) have each received a \$600 award, and it was a great opportunity to meet with them.

Ina de Rosa, "our" East Timorese Law Student has done very well in her studies despite the political troubles in Dilli, and a bout of malaria. She even managed to represent her student body at the YMCA Asian Conference in Japan recently. We had no hesitation in continuing to help her with a grant of \$500, and will be watching her progress with interest.

Last year we donated \$100 towards the AFUW-NSW Australia Day Award, in conjunction with the National Council of Women, with which we are affiliated. We are repeating this grant again for the next award on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2008. As well as proven academic achievement, it has the overcoming of some form of disability as a requirement. The awards are \$1,000 to the nominated students.

Our book club has been meeting for nearly two years now, and members are often obliged to read material that they wouldn't ordinarily have chosen.

Earlier this year the President, Sue Nagy, attended the memorial service of Dr Kelvin Grose, the husband of Dr Jan Milburn, our founding president

We can look confidently towards the year ahead, and thank our committee of the past year, for making this possible.

*Susan Nagy President*

*Robyn Wheeler Secretary*

***Two longstanding branches closed early in the 2006-2007 year. Representatives have provided reports of the deliberations and final activities.***

### **ARMIDALE**

Armidale Branch began 2006/7 with 19 members and one associate member. The Branch held one formal meeting, with dinner, business meeting, and after-dinner speaker. This was the AGM in July, attended by 11 members. Our member Jean Gossip spoke of her experiences in adopting children and as a successful participant in an early IVF programme.

At an extraordinary general meeting in August, also attended by 11 members, the Branch was dissolved. The decision was not unanimous but major factors were: dissatisfaction with the unwieldy multi-layer structure of AFUW/IFUW and yet another substantial subscription increase; longstanding difficulty in recruiting and retaining members, probably because women now have many demands on their time; and a feeling that an association of women graduates is no longer as valuable as it used to be, as women graduates are no longer uncommon and professional associations provide support to all graduates.

The assets of the Branch were donated to the Branch's Prize Fund at the University of New England, except for a small amount already allocated for prizes at an Armidale school, and the retained membership funds for those members who renewed for 2006/7 (in case the Branch might be re-formed).

The Branch's Prize Fund at the University of New England is administered by the University and so will continue, even in the absence of the Branch, to provide prizes to the best female students in first-year English and first-year Biological Sciences. Winners in 2007 (i.e. for 2006 results) were Helen Machalias (English) and Wendy Gibney (Biological Sciences).

**Later activities of the eight AFUW members financial for 2006/7:**

As speakers had already been arranged for two more meetings in 2006, these gatherings took place informally in members' homes. In September Professor Majella Franzmann from the University of New England spoke to four members and one visitor about her visit to China in 2005, during which she and her colleagues visited a village where the Manichaeism religion, thought to have died out some centuries ago, seemed to have survived in at least one family. In November Matthew Tierney, President of the local organisation Friends of the Northern Railway, entertained four members and one visitor with an account of the early development of railways in New South Wales and the personalities involved.

Other outings. In October the Armidale Quota and Zonta clubs invited members of AFUW and a number of other women's organisations to a dinner at which Sue Conde, National Vice President of UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women) gave an illustrated talk about UNIFEM's work in developing countries. Three AFUW members attended. In November three members went for a bush walk at a local beauty spot, and were then joined by a fourth member for a picnic. Donations were collected for the Australia Day award and afternoon tea followed at the nearby home of long-standing member, Bea Bradley.

December: One member attended the Presentation Day of the Armidale City Public School, to present two prizes of books to the value of \$25 each to the two girls of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background who had made the most progress in reading during the year. These prizes had already been arranged before the Branch was dissolved.

In April the three most active members decided against attempting to re-form the Branch, and the retained membership funds will be remitted to AFUW-NSW. They also considered that the present balance and likely income of the UNE Prize Fund would allow it to continue indefinitely, and agreed to ask UNE to increase the two awards from \$125 each to \$150 each. It is hoped that some members and former members will make occasional private donations to the Fund. Some former members meet for dinner once a month at various restaurants.

**Continuation of former Branch activities.** The book group still meets once a month, though it is no longer part of AFUW and most of its members are no longer members of AFUW. The Meals on Wheels group already included not only current members of AFUW but several former members and some non-members. It continues to deliver meals once a month.

*- Lois Beaton*

**BLUE MOUNTAINS**

As the Branch had become too small to be viable, with regret, a decision was made at the 2005-6 AGM to formally close the Branch from 31 July 2006. The Blue Mountains Branch for 25 years was regularly represented on the Central Committee, for more than half of this time by the late Clarice Morris. It has been honoured to provide members who contributed to leadership within the wider AFUW/IFUW family throughout that time and who retain their membership currently.

Despite its small numbers the Branch has, for a number of years, provided an award to a Year 11 girl at Katoomba High School, paid an annual membership to the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund, and, when possible, also made a contribution to AFUW-NSW's SAAP fund. The award, known as the Gladys Weiler Award in honour of a former President whose approach to the education of girls and innovative educational practices, particularly during her time as Principal of Liverpool Girls' High, epitomised the aims of AFUW/IFUW. It generally involved a \$250 award to a girl with academic potential who would benefit from support during her senior school years.

At the last AGM it was decided that the Branch's remaining funds would be used to pay a VGIF subscription, donate \$50 to the SAAP fund and, in lieu of a final award to a student, make a presentation to Katoomba High School. Two members who were not renewing their membership and a friend who took part in Branch activities made generous donations in order for the presentation to the school to be a worthwhile one.

The gift chosen was two photographic prints by acclaimed Blue Mountains photographer Chris Todd, who is known as one of only four competitive photographers in the world who successfully photograph birds in flight. Chris has won many awards at local, state, national and international levels. The selected prints were, appropriately, of a rock warbler in flight bringing food to young in a nest.

*- Merle Thompson*

**AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN - NSW Inc**  
**EDUCATION TRUST**

**ANNUAL REPORT 1 JULY 2006 - 30 JUNE 2007**

Number of meetings held: 3

Members of Board of Trustees - attendance at meetings

<b>Name</b>	<b>No. eligible to attend</b>	<b>No. attendance</b>
T Blombery	3	3
I Edwards	3	3
C Hosking	1	0
M Maxwell	1	1
V McCallum	3	3
J Smith	3	0
T Valenti	3	2

Margaret Maxwell foreshadowed her resignation from the Board due to other commitments. All trustees expressed their regrets and the chairperson expressed, on their behalf, appreciation for the great help and support from her in the past. Subsequent to the report of her death, trustees expressed their sorrow.

Minna Shaw-Smith was recommended as replacement trustee. She initially accepted the position but was obliged to withdraw due to illness. Jane Baker was approached as a replacement for Minna. Christine Hocking resigned as a trustee due to heavy commitments.

It was confirmed that the Board of Trustees would have final discretion with guidelines for major awards (Jamieson Prizes and Tempe Mann Scholarship).

As trustees were concerned to adopt measures to obtain wider publicity for these awards in order to encourage more and higher calibre applicants, the chairperson and the President initiated and held discussions with all universities in NSW (re Jamieson awards) and Sydney University including P Graduate Students Unions (re Tempe Mann award) regarding circulation of advertising and other relevant material.

Although universities expressed willingness to cooperate, results were somewhat disappointing. The calibre of applicants remained high but there was no increase in number of applications received. In fact no applications were received from some universities for Jamieson awards.

**Five** applicants were selected to receive Jamieson prizes. These were:

Amanda Lauren Burt, B Exercise Science Hons 1, Australian Catholic University

Catherine Alston, B. Applied Science (Physiotherapy), Sydney University

Isabelle Sophie Kremer, BA (Advanced), Sydney University

Lidia Matesic, B Medicinal Chemistry Hons 1, University of Wollongong

Elizabeth O'Donoghue, BVisual Arts and Design, Australian Catholic University

A small panel of trustees was appointed to interview the short listed candidates for the Tempe Mann award .

Negin Amanat, BE, Hons I, Mechanical Engineering Mechanical Engineering, PhD Biomedical Engineering of Sydney University, was selected. She is undertaking, for 6 months from June 2007, research at the University of Ulm in Germany in computational biomechanics of fracture healing.

As well as acknowledging Hilda Jamieson and Tempe Mann, the trustees wished to acknowledge benefactors, Mollie Price, Tish Proctor, Alice Whiteley and Althea Farr by inclusion in the annual report and on an honours board in the AFUW office.

It was pleasing to receive an email from a former Tempe Mann awardee, Kerry Bigsworth, outlining how the award contributed to a successful outcome in her career.

Following a change in investment contracts, the Treasurer reported an increased income. She is taking steps to approach ATO for restoration of tax exemption endorsement retrospective to the year 2000. She has also suggested to AFUW Inc that their fellowship and education conveners develop a submission for tax exemption to the ATO and petition the Minister of Education. If these moves are successful, this could add a considerable amount to our annual income, thus increasing amounts available for existing awards and/or increased number of awards.

*- Valerie M McCallum Chairperson*