



HUNTER VALLEY BRANCH AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF GRADUATE WOMEN – NSW Inc.

Photos of Newcastle. Above left: An aerial view of the city the foreshore, the ocean and many surrounding areas. Above right: A view taken of Nobbys Beach which guards the entrance to the Hunter River from the southern side.

Our Hunter Valley Branch of AFGW has celebrated over fifty years since its formation in 1960. We continue to meet each month for dinner at which we have a guest speaker. These dinners are held on the **fourth Wednesday** of the month except for December and January.

Our aims: To continue to maintain a warm and inclusive group for women graduates to join, to foster friendships and as part of AFGW, to support projects for the education of women both in Australia and internationally.

AFGW NSW Hunter Valley Branch Dinners with Speakers

At our AFGW monthly dinners, invited dinner guests speak to us on a wide variety of always interesting and engaging topics. We have had many academics, authors and experts in their field. Members and non members are invited to attend at any time.

Membership: Each year, members are encouraged to bring along potential members to *any* meeting, but the August meeting is seen as our Friendship Night and we particularly stress its importance. Most of our new members have come to the group through introduction by a member. We have had two to three new AFGW members each year over several years. We feel that meeting for dinners each month is central to the development of close relationships and the active functioning of our Branch. We were very pleased to welcome several new members again this year.

Hunter Valley AFGW NSW Book Club

Hunter Valley AFGW members formed a book group in 2002 and it is happily progressing into its 15th year with about 9 of our Branch members taking part. We meet on the 2nd Wednesday night each month and derive a lot of satisfaction from participating in some lively discussions. Part of the challenge and reward of belonging to a book club is, of course,

reading books which we might not normally include in our personal choice. It also strengthens our friendships.

Hunter Valley Branch Newsletter: The Branch Newsletter is sent to all members each month. It is also sent to the Executive members of AFGW-NSW. It provides details of that month's Guest Speaker and Guest Speakers for the next couple of months. It is also used to highlight wider AFGW-GWI issues. Any members from other AFGW branches who would like to attend one of our meetings will always be made very welcome.

Hunter Valley Awards: The **Huldah Prize for Mathematics** This prize is awarded annually to the student with the best performance in Level 3000 Mathematics by a woman undergraduate.

The **Margaret Auchmuty Prize for Education** This prize is awarded annually to the female student enrolled in a double degree course within the Faculty of Education in Year 4.

University Book Fair: Our Branch assists the Friends of the University of Newcastle when it conducts its biennial Book Fair over two weekends and on the weekdays in between. It has been a tradition that the members of our branch of AFGW prepare morning and afternoon teas as well as lunch for the volunteers who work on the Book Fair on both weekends.

Over the past five Book Fairs we have been able to make a good profit which we put towards our educational commitments. Our continuing involvement is, in not only providing food for the volunteers but to the general public attending. This has increased our profit so that we haven't needed to arrange other fund-raising activities to continue with our commitments to the overseas students and our other annual commitments.

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