



# NEWSLETTER

Affiliated  
with



International  
Federation of  
University  
Women

STATE  
AFFILIATES



AFGW-ACT



AFGW NSW Inc.



AFUW-NT



Graduate Women  
Queensland Inc.



GWSA



GW-Vic



## COUNCIL MEETS IN MELBOURNE

The second AFGW Council meeting for the 36th Triennium was held in Melbourne on February 10th. High on the agenda were preparations for the forthcoming IFUW Conference in Turkey, 16-21st August, the AFGW Trust Funds and the Draft Strategy on Communications.

### AFGW Trust Funds

Council considered a number of issues related to management of the Education Trust Funds following the transfer of the AFGW Education Trust fund to the GWNSW Trust Fund. Council agreed that a letter of intent is required to frame a strategy for ensuring continuity and separateness of AFGW's funds. Council also approved the transfer \$2000 of the profits from the Conference in Brisbane to the Fellowship Fund. A decision on the remaining \$1000 was deferred until the next Council meeting in June.

### Communications

Council also discussed the Draft Communications Strategy prepared by Kathy Mumford at my request. Kathy examined the strategies used by a number of other non-government organisations before making her recommendations. These included that we make more use of social media to attract potential members. IFUW has had a Facebook page for a number of years, and is on Twitter – it makes sense for us to follow suit. She also suggested that we introduce a membership card. Council deferred the decision on the strategy until later in the year, but they did agree that we continue to produce a newsletter after every meeting. Members' comments on the new format are welcome.

### The IFUW Colloquia Project

CIR Lynda Roberts-Hall and former CIR Dalma Jacobs have been working on the IFUW Colloquia Project which commenced in 2011. The project seeks information about the barriers limiting women's access to senior academic posts and leadership positions, as well as identifying strategies to overcome them. NFAs and IFUW have been organising a series of Colloquia bringing together women in higher education leadership positions to discuss the situation in their respective countries. IFUW is also collecting data from NFAs that are not hosting an event. The findings from the different Colloquia will be compiled in a special report to be published in April. For more information about the project visit: <http://www.ifuw.org/what/activities/Colloquia/>

### For the Diary

- May 3 Submissions for Graduate Women close
- Jun 29 Council Teleconference
- Aug 16-21 IFUW Conference
- Oct 19 Council Teleconference
- Dec 8 AFGW AGM, Perth

### Scholarship Closing Dates

- Mar 31 GWV Scholarship applications close
- Apr 30 Jamieson Award (NSW) applications close
- May 31 Georgina Sweet and GWQ Fellowships applications close
- Jul 29 GWWA Bursary applications close
- Jul 31 AFGW ACT Bursary applications close
- Aug 12 Barbara Wright Scholarship (NSW) applications close
- Sep 30 Tempe Mann Scholarship (NSW) applications close

The National Public Sector  
**Women in Leadership  
Summit 2013**

21 & 22 May 2013  
Boat House by the Lake, Canberra



## New Faces on the Executive

Last November's National Conference saw the election of a new executive team. By coincidence, three of the four members are members of Graduate Women Western Australia, making this the first time in more than 20 years that the majority of executive members have been based in Western Australia.

Council opened with a vote of thanks to the outgoing executive – President Jane Baker, Secretary Tricia Blombery, Treasurer Deborah Haydon and CIR Dalma Jacobs.

### Dr Madeleine Mattarozzi Laming – President



Dr Madeleine Laming is currently a member of Graduate Women Western Australia having moved to Perth in 2012. She has been President of Graduate Women Victoria twice, Vice-President once and also the Victorian CIR. At the national level Madeleine was the Convenor of Higher Education. In 2010 she was a member of the IFUW delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and co-authored *The Multi-faceted Right to Education: A Guide to Implementation and Monitoring*.

After a short period working foreign aid, Madeleine was a teacher and teacher-educator for almost 30 years, and is now Senior Lecturer in First Year Experience at Murdoch University. Madeleine has been committed to promoting women's rights as human rights since she read *The Feminine Mystique* at the age of thirteen.

She is also an executive member of the Australian Council for Human Rights Education.

### Jenny Jones – Secretary

Jenny was born in Perth where she has lived all her life apart from 3 years in London 1975-1978. After leaving Mt Lawley Senior High School, Jenny did a Bachelor of Science at UWA and taught Mathematics and Science at Mercy College for two years. Jenny then travelled to London to begin a career in Computer Programming, a career that she continued in Perth on my return. After having two children, she undertook a Graduate Diploma in Computer Science at WA College of Advanced Education and took up a teaching position there.

Despite life's ups and downs, Jenny maintains a happy outlook. She still lives in Perth with her husband Barry. Jenny's hobbies are writing poetry, spending time with her dogs, travelling, tennis and reading. Apart from her work with Graduate Women WA and AFGW, Jenny also volunteers with the Red Cross, helping with the migrant support program by assisting in the ESL classroom.



### Lynda Roberts-Hall – Convenor of International Relations



Lynda has served two terms as President of Graduate Women WA Inc. She has also served as WA's CIR and Membership Convenor, and the LAC Chair for the 2004 IFUW Conference in Perth. She has a keen interest in ensuring equitable access to education and to achieving equality for women through education and advocacy.

Currently, also serving on PGWNet and as and ES4W Representative, she is conscious that her background in Human Resources and experiences in the university sector will be of great advantage.

Lynda is looking forward to working across AFGW with all those who will, and have, had made all those wonderful contributions to AFGW.

### Merle Thompson – Hon. Business Manager

Merle is a retired psychologist with extensive experience in vocational counselling working initially predominantly with school students but later with an increasing adult clientele before moving into administrative, policy and training roles in that field and, later, equity policy in education.

Merle joined AFGW as a young graduate in Newcastle in 1968. From 2000 - 2006 Merle held the position of National Registrar and resumed this role in 2009. A woman of many interests, Merle has also held office and done voluntary work for the Australian Plants Society. She is currently Membership Officer for NSW and co-editor of the national journal *Australian Plants*. She is also secretary, formerly vice president and a long-term committee member of Polio NSW, an organisation conducted by and for polio survivors.



## Focus Groups

Council accepted a recommendation from Lynda Roberts-Hall that AFGW establish a Focus Group of interested members who would provide commentary on national and international issues. This was prompted by a request for information about how our NFA perceived IFUW. Lynda is able to gather comments from Council and the CIR network, but it is harder to gauge the attitudes of ordinary members. The Focus Group is an ad-hoc group, providing an additional layer of consultation at grassroots level for quick consultation as required. Each STA or Branch is asked to nominate up to 2 members by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

## Standing Committee Convenors and Alliance Representatives

The February Council meeting ratified all appointments that have been made since the first Council meeting of the 36th Triennium in Brisbane. The complete list of Convenors is as follows:

- Standing Committee on Education - Tricia Blombery (GWNSW)
- Standing Committee on Resolutions - Jocelyn Eskdale (GWACT)
- Standing Committee on Human Rights, Peace and Security – Lily Tsen (GWV)
- Standing Committee on the Status of Women - Sally Newman (GWV)

Marion Jones has also been confirmed as Fellowships Convenor. We welcome all our Convenors, and thank them for taking on these responsibilities.

Many STAs have someone in an equivalent role, who would normally be the first person that members would contact about an issue, but if you wish to draw something to the attention of the national Convenor, contact details are on the AFGW webpage.

The Council meeting approved the appointment of AFGW's representatives to our alliance partners:

- PGWNet – Madeleine Laming and Lynda Roberts-Hall
- eS4W – Dalma Jacobs and Lynda Roberts-Hall
- ERA – Jane Baker and Madeleine Laming

## Advocacy in Action

Members who have visited the AFGW website recently will have noticed that we have already been busy this year. In February, AFGW made a submission to Senate Committee examining the Australian Education Bill, 2012 and to the Hon. Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs on the Workplace Gender Equality Act, 2012. Barbara Murray (GWV) attended the consultation on the Workplace Gender Equality Act in Melbourne as the AFGW representative.

In Perth, I attended the ERA Coffee Catch-up, an informal consultation session that ERA holds with its partners on a regular basis in all states and territories. Representative of the YWCA, the Women's Legal Centre and the National Council for Women also attended. The session began with a briefing of ERA's activities over the last triennium, and it was a great pleasure to see photos of Jenny Strauss and Jane Baker attending the Pin-a-Pollie Day in Canberra. This event allows ERA alliance members to approach a politician directly to discuss action issues affecting women. GWV member Irene Axup has been selected as an IFUW delegate to CSW57 in New York 4-15 March. The Council agreed to support Irene with a donation of \$500 towards the cost of attending. We wish her well, and look forward to receiving her report. The 2013 session will focus on the following key areas:

- Priority Theme: Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls
- Review Theme: The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS

## Graduate Women

*Graduate Women* has been our signature journal for many years and played an important role in keeping members informed about the organisation's activities at the state, national and international levels. Unfortunately, *Graduate Women* is facing the same problems that the print media are facing world-wide. The journal is expensive to produce and this situation is made worse by the decline in circulation. The Council meeting and the Executive have been considering ways of making *Graduate Women* financially viable – including seeking sponsorship and publishing an online version – but this year's edition may be the last.

Having said that, members are invited to submit contributions to this year's edition of *Graduate Women*. Contributions can include articles, reports, short fiction, poetry and any items of interest to members. Photographs are very welcome, but please ensure that they are of good quality. Photographs of people should be "close-ups" with faces clearly visible, and all people should be identified by name and/or title.

Closing date for items for *Graduate Women* is 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Please send contributions to  
**Dr Madeleine Laming. c/o Murdoch University, South Street, Murdoch. WA. 6150**  
or email to: [mlaming@tpg.com.au](mailto:mlaming@tpg.com.au)

## IFUW Conference



The 31st IFUW Triennial Conference will be held 16-21 August 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey. The theme is “Women’s role in achieving a sustainable future: Education, urbanisation, violence and human rights.” The AFGW delegation will be led by Lynda Roberts-Hall (GWVA), in her role as CIR. Other delegates include Jane Baker (GWNSW), Lily Tsen (GWV) and Tricia Blombery (GWNSW). Jenny Jones, (AFGW Secretary) and Merle Thompson (AFGW Hon. Business Manager) will attend as alternate delegates. Jenny Strauss will attend as an IFUW Vice President.

Over the last few months AFGW has been working with the Canadian and Rwanda associations to support a group of Afghan women attempting to set up a national association. This has led to AFGW involvement in a workshop with Canada, Britain, USA and Rwanda at the IFUW Conference. AFGW is also proposing the following resolution:

The 31st IFUW Conference resolves that:

1. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) reaffirm and go beyond the existing resolutions of the 24th Conference (1992, Resolution 1), the 26th Conference (1998, Resolution 1) on access to education and the resolution of the 26th Conference on the prevention of Violence at School (1998, No. 9) to urge their governments to take effective action to support girls and women who are seeking, attending and promoting education at all levels within Afghanistan and Pakistan, amongst other countries where educational access is low, unsafe and/or at risk;
2. NFAs continue to take effective action to counter all forms of violence directed at those women and girls who are seeking, attending and promoting education at all levels and seek to improve the security of all those at risk;  
and
3. The IFUW use its standing committees and consultative role with the UN, UNICEF, and other international bodies to assist in the implementation of this resolution.

AFGW has also nominated members for positions within IFUW: Margaret Giles for Hegg-Hoffet, Jenny Strauss for Vice-President, Michelle Imison for Special Projects Committee Convener, and Tricia Blombery for the Finance Committee. All financial members of AFGW are eligible to attend the Conference, but please let Lynda know if you will be there. A draft agenda is now available on the IFUW Conference website.

## Hegg Hoffet

The Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates was established in 1936 as the IFUW Emergency Fund to assist graduate women displaced by war, political upheaval or other serious emergencies. As well as becoming refugees following persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group, women refugees may be fleeing gender-related atrocities in their home countries, such as rape, honour crimes, forced marriage and female mutilation.

Renamed in 1968 after Mme Blanche Hegg Hoffet of Switzerland, who was particularly responsible for assisting graduate women refugees during and after the Second World War, the Hegg Hoffet Fund provides short term grants for training that allows women to re-establish their careers, or start a new one, in their new country. NFAs can also apply to Hegg Hoffet for short-term grants to help women graduates and students experiencing hardship due to serious natural disasters, such as the Boxing Day Tsunami, to continue their work or studies.

### How can you help?

Hegg Hoffet welcomes donations at all times, but the IFUW Conference plays a special role in raising funds for Hegg Hoffet. The Hegg Hoffet Committee runs a stall selling items donated by members of all NFAs, representing their national culture. If you would like to donate something for the Hegg Hoffet stall, please contact your STA president. AFGW members attending the conference in Turkey will take donated items with them so please keep customs and quarantine regulations, as well as weight, in mind when choosing items to donate.

Suggestions include soap scented with native wildflowers, small items made from native timber, jewellery made from Australian gem stones, sealed containers of hand-made sweets or chocolate and address books or greeting cards showing Australian scenes. Key rings, drink coasters, t-shirts or tea towels printed with Australian designs are also good choices, but if they depict Aboriginal designs, please check to see that they are genuine and appropriately licensed.