

# NEWSLETTER



AFUW - NSW Inc.

2/08

June, 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.

Your president has been busy representing AFUW-NSW at many functions in an effort to raise the profile of our organisation and to let people know who and what we are.

**The Women's Budget Briefing** in Parliament House Canberra by Tanya Plibersek was well worth the effort of the 7.30 am start in April. These are usually excellent networking events and I did just that, network, so that more people know AFUW exists.

As a guest of the organisers, I attended the **Informa 6<sup>th</sup> Higher Education Summit**, a two-day conference held at Darling Harbour. It was an opportunity to network with Vice-Chancellors and university administrators, talk informally about AFUW and hand out brochures when appropriate. It was also an opportunity to learn and take notes on how the conference was organised, in anticipation of ours in 2009.

Which leads to the exciting news that, to date, three universities, who appreciate the work of AFUW, have offered sponsorship for the AFUW Conference, 2009. We are grateful to the **University of Western Sydney**, **University of Newcastle** and **Macquarie University** for their generous support. This has certainly eased the pressure on the LAC's (Local Arrangements Committee) effort to produce an affordable and worthwhile experience for members of AFUW. Keep in mind the dates for the AFUW National Conference which AFUW-NSW will host from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2009, at Sancta Sophia College, University of Sydney.

On 9 May the CIR, Michelle Imison, and I attended the Women's Electoral Lobby's **Edna Ryan Awards** where 14 women, outstanding in their fields were honoured with an award, endorsed by an exuberant and enthusiastic audience of approximately 200 women.

The Women's Electoral Lobby – WEL is an independent women's lobby group working to protect the rights of Australian women. Established in 1972, it lobbies politicians, unions, employers, educationalists, and others on behalf of women, and seeks to change social attitudes and practices which discriminate against women.

A new public interest think tank, the Centre for Policy Development, held its inaugural seminar on **Paid Maternity Leave** at Old Customs House which I attended. A well-organised and well-attended event had *marie claire* editor, Jackie Frank, moderating a lively discussion between ACTU President, Sharan Burrow and Council of Small Business representative, Tony Steven.

A rewarding visit to the **Southern Highlands Branch** included meeting local members at the May Dinner Meeting with Patrice Newell as Guest Speaker and generous home hospitality offered by Robyn Toohey who also took us, the following morning, to Valerie Browning's (an Australian living in Ethiopia) book launch at Bowral Golf Club.

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

It is a pleasure indeed to welcome Tamra Palmer to the role. Tamra will be in the office Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10am and 2pm.

## NETWORKING EVENT

A bright welcoming programme for 'younger' AFUW members is being planned for the early evening of Thursday, 7 August hosted by Michelle Imison. Details in the Calendar.

## AFUW-NSW AGM

The AGM will take place as already announced on Saturday, 25 October. You will see from the enclosed booking form, the venue has changed to Kalari Wines for the meeting and La Vita Restaurant for Dinner. I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to visit Cowra and our members in Central West who are hosting the function. We invite you to join us, if possible, on the coach tour, organised by North Shore President and Central Committee member, Dorothy Betty, who wishes people to book before 31 August. A booking form for the AGM is included in the newsletter.

At the first Central Committee Meeting following the AGM it is important to appoint Conveners to the positions of Membership, Education, Resolutions, Fellowships and Program for Action. We would welcome your input if you have interest and/or expertise in any of these areas. Please phone or email Ivy Edwards or Jane Baker before 31 August to express your interest.

## AWARDS

At this time of the year we are represented at local Universities' prize-giving ceremonies with AFUW-NSW English prizes going to Kate Steinweg at University of NSW and Jennifer Martin at Macquarie. At the University of Sydney the AFUW-NSW English Prize went to Elizabeth-Ann Shek-Noble of the School of Letters, Arts and Media and the Tish Proctor Prize for the most proficient woman student in First Year Government to Lisa Cantlon. (See photo on page 10B).

## JAMIESON AND TEMPE MANN AWARDS

A "hot off the press announcement" of the Tempe Mann and Jamieson award winners. All are graduates of the University of Sydney. The presentation ceremony will be held 22 August at 2pm at Sydney Mechanics School of Arts. Negin Amanat, last year's Tempe Mann awardee, will speak at the presentation. See the calendar.

### Tempe Mann Awards, each of \$7500

**Alecia Simmonds** BA (Hons 1 Medal), LLB (Hons 1), PhD Candidate University of Sydney

Alecia is a Legal Historian who has been accepted as a visiting scholar by the University of London and the University of Leeds. The work for her thesis titled: *Sentiment, Law and Governance in England and Australia (1750-1830)*, contributes to a range of scholarly fields including legal history, feminist history and imperial and transnational history.

**Madeleine Suttie** B Commerce/B of Laws (Hons) Master in Bioethics (Hons) Monash, PhD Candidate University of Sydney The supervisor for her thesis titled: *A comparative analysis of contemporary legal and philosophical approaches to new biotechnological entities*, specialises in feminist perspectives on new reproductive entities. Her co-supervisor is Professor of Law and Legal Philosophy at Oxford University where she will undertake a significant amount of her research.

### Jamieson Awards, each of \$1000

**Phoebe Williams** Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery with Hons, previously B Commerce Finance and Development Economics ANU, B Sc Psych ANU, AMEB Flute, Cello, Piano, Voice

**Katherine Turner** BSc Hons 1, University Medal - intends to do Masters Degree in advanced Mathematics

**Naomi Hart** BA History, completing Honours in 2008

**Naomi Oreb** BA Hons 1 English Literature. She is now enrolled in Pass degree in Law at the University.

## VALE

It is with regret that we farewelled our longest serving member, Betty Shwabsky. Betty joined the NSW Graduates in 1935, was a past State President and a dedicated and active member of North Shore and River Branches. A celebration of Betty's life was conducted by her children in a warm and fitting ceremony in the family home.

Sadly we have also lost another two of our "old-system life members", Elizabeth Hancock and Isabel McKinney Harrison, to whom the North Shore President pays tribute in its branch Report.

- Ivy Edwards

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**Post Script** A member of the Canadian Federation in Ontario, Margaret Blair, has written to tell us about her publication – a memoir of her experiences during the Second World War: Gudao, Lone Islet, The War Years in Shanghai, a childhood memoir. Told in the voice of a young girl, and set in Shanghai just before and during the Japanese occupation, this multi-faceted, powerful and moving story brings new and original insight to a violent period. The excerpts I've read seem very interesting. To learn more about it and how to order, there is a website address: [www.trafford.com/06-2901](http://www.trafford.com/06-2901).

## BETTY MARY SHWABSKY

### As presented on the Order of Service.



Betty was born on 17 February 1914 and matriculated from North Sydney Girls High School. She attended Sydney University between 1931-1934, becoming a member of the committee of the Woman's Union and graduating with Honours in History, the only woman in her years to do so. In 1935 she gained her Diploma of Education.

Betty taught at St Gabriel's and state high schools until 1939 (she had glowing references), when she married John. She met John while teaching in Inverell. He stopped by her chair to find out who was reading "War and Peace." In 1940 Betty did voluntary social work at North Sydney Hospital but returned to teaching in 1941. She joined the Australian Federation of University Woman (AFUW), which became a life long interest. She moved to Hinkler Street, Greenwich in 1944 and to this house in 1953.

After the war, Betty was active in community affairs and was a stalwart of the Barker Mother's Association. For many years she did Meals on Wheels in North Sydney and ran the Patients' Library at North Shore Hospital.

In 1965 she took a leading role in AFUW-NSW, becoming President of the North Shore Branch and State president in 1977-79.

After John's death in 1966, Betty ran the family company, Fidax, until her son, David, took over.

Betty was an active member of the Institute of International Affairs, the Institute of Political Science, the Friends of the Nicholson Museum, the Sydney University Chancellor's Committee and Dunmore Lang College at Macquarie University. She subscribed to the Sydney Theatre Company, the Australian Ballet and Opera and the Sydney Symphony.

In her last years Betty experienced reduced mobility and concentrated her cultural interests in Lane Cove, joining the local historical society and music club and continuing to enjoy the activities and friendship of the North Shore and Rive Branches of AFUW.

Betty was interested in politics and world affairs until the last days of her life. She remained a good neighbour and friend.

David and Stephanie are negotiating with Lane Cove Council for a memorial bench and plaque in the small park at the end of Hinkler Street. They would like it to read:

In Memory of John and Betty Shwabsky  
Original residents of Hinkler Street  
Good neighbours and friends.

### *As spoken in tribute by Betty's daughter, Stephanie.*

Betty was a member of the greatest generation. The generation that lived through the depression and the Second World War and were deeply marked by these events: valiant, frugal, independent, deeply honest and good neighbours, good friends and good citizens. My Mum was all these things. She was a woman of high standards and strong principles.

Betty lived through the century of the most rapid change in the history of human kind. She had a remarkable memory. One of her earliest memories she told me was hearing the trains blowing their whistles on the North shore line to indicate that they had troops on board returning from World War 1, she remembered vividly the fall of Singapore in World War II and other important events. Not only the event but she remembered the weather at the time. An interest in the weather is apparently genetic, David has inherited it.

Mum was among the last generation of Australians, who saw themselves as transplanted English. She identified strongly with British literature and culture. She did not want to be thought of as an "uncouth Australian", thus she was dedicated to speaking well and fought a losing battle to ensure David and I did not drawl those vowels. At the same time, unlike the British, she was a strong believer in social justice and equal opportunity.

Mum was very attached to conservative concept of correct behaviour but she was of the left all her life. Strongly and consistently from support for the Spanish Republic in 1936 to opposition to the wars in Vietnam and Iraq.

Betty had number of immutable principles and life long concerns:

## A Sense of Community.

Betty deeply believed that as you received you had to give. In a farewell interview she gave to the local paper at the end of twenty years service with Meals on Wheels, she said that she had received her university education from the state so it was her duty to give back to the community. She did this through Meals of Wheels, the Patients Library at North Shore Hospital and a myriad number causes, ranging from the Barker tuck shop to helping raise money for a school for the mentally handicapped. No neighbour asked for help for a good cause and went unsupported, nor did a sick or bereaved friend. Greenwich was like that!

A belief in the importance of education to the individual and society Mum passionately believed in the importance of public education. She saw it as a way out and up for the less fortunate and as the means through which women became independent. She inherited this concern from her mother, who was trapped in a difficult marriage and was fiercely determined that her daughters would not be in the same situation. Mum took the old fashioned side of the education debate as David and I had cause to know. She believed exams were good for you, marks counted and graduating from university was all-important. Mum was an example of someone who loved to learn. Throughout her life Mum participated in a clubs and institutions aimed a broadening understanding of international affairs and the arts. We have listed some of her many interests on the back of the leaflet.



Women's Independence and Full Participation in Society Although I do not think Mum was unhappy in her domestic life, I think she would have preferred to work as well and she was happy to see an Australia in which women do both freely. Mum was a founder member of the Women's Electoral Lobby and a lifelong supporter of the feminist movement. She believed in this very deeply and taught me well. I am very proud of her contribution and steadfastness.

She had a lifelong attachment to the Women Graduates' Association and I am very pleased to have its members here today. Betty placed an enormous value on the friendships she made through the Graduates and of what the Association taught and accomplished for women and education both in Australia and abroad.

(The picture shows Betty, as President of AFUWNSW, with Mary Kane at the inaugural meeting of the former Blue Mountains Branch on 20 May, 1978.

Photo by its founder, Valerie Weekes)

An Interest in the World Mum was, as you would all know, a late and passionate traveller. Her first trip was in 1968. She delighted in seeing the great sites and different cultures. She loved it all. I do too. Mum and Dad were not insular people. They took a strong interest in events overseas and were deeply horrified by the rise of Fascism in Europe and the resulting Holocaust. She saw them as the outcome of prejudice and passivity. She was determined not be like that and she taught me well. She worked to teach English to migrants, she believed in an open and humane Australia.

A Love of Reading and the Arts Mum was a passionate reader and practically until the end of her life she was an enthusiastic member of book clubs. She loved music, ballet, and opera (we still have the seats she was allocated at the opening of the Opera House, when she transferred her subscription from the old Elizabethan theatre in Newtown). plays and movies (but definitely not musicals or westerns). We attended many hundreds together. Again she taught me well.

The Domestic Mum Mum ran a tight ship. A clean house was much more important to her than a godly one. David and I and our childhood friends remember Tuesdays, cleaning days, with horror. Mum was an excellent cook. As far as I am concerned no other Mum baked as good as cakes and biscuits (except for Mrs Voet down the road and my Aunt Nancy). Her sweets for school fetes were the best. I was not allowed to eat them and had to go the fete to buy them back! No one made better Christmas fare. It was a sad day when the wooden spoon passed to me. My results are never as good as hers. Betty loved to entertain her friends for lunch or dinner, particularly at her unit with a wonderful view in Drummoyne.

It always seemed to me that Mum knew everything, particularly how to spell, how to phase a sentence in grammar and what plant was that. She loved the garden and worked hard to make it lovely. The camellia trees outside the windows are hers. I think they will be a good place for her ashes. I don't think Mum was a natural mother, in the sense that she was not someone who loved small babies and she was always a rigorously unsentimental woman. However, she loved Dad and us and took excellent care of us. She entered into all our interests (except dogs) and was proud of any achievement. Like many people Betty was softer towards her beloved grandchildren Jonathan and Melanie, and delighted to be a great grandmother twice over to Alice and William. She loved her daughter-in-law, Margaret, who was much better at dealing with her in her old age than either myself or David. Betty hated being old and frail and dreaded the loss of her independence. She told us many times that she was ready to die and we are glad that she got her wish.

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

A message from the IFUW President, Louise Croot.

*Greetings and best wishes to you all.*

*To be the leading graduate women's organization empowering women and girls, we need women graduates to be actively involved locally, nationally and internationally. It is very important to share our work with current, new and potential members.*

*Since change is always with us, we need to find the most effective ways to use our resources and to encourage our members to share their knowledge and skills. The IFUW Board, Committees and UN Representatives are hard at work reviewing actions and planning for this and future triennia.*

*The new Working Group on the Girl Child is underway. In June, the first issue of a quarterly newsletter will highlight the work of the UN Representatives. In September, we will open a poster competition calling for art work for a series of postcards to be used for fundraising. Preparations for a survey on women in higher education have begun.*

*We will report to you at regular intervals so you can follow our progress and make suggestions. This month, the Status of Women, Membership and Finance Committees report on outcomes of their annual meetings in February. Take time to reflect on these reports. If you have any questions or comments, do share these.*

From the **Status of Women Committee Report** Dorothy Meyer – Convener

The focus of the Status of Women (SWC) meeting in February was to further develop the 'Building Sustainable Futures', the Programme for Action (PfA) introduced in Manchester, to bring it into harmony with the now priorities for IFUW's advocacy and programme. Additional priorities for action are being added under each of the pillars of the PfA that focus on Lifelong Learning for the Empowerment of Girls and Women through promoting:

Access to free, quality education for all at all levels

Access to, and advancement in, higher education

Continuing/adult education

Human rights education

Literacy in all its forms including economic, business and legal literacy

Education for leadership and decision-making.

Some of these issues will be examined in time-limited email discussions to a message to which members will be able to subscribe. The first discussion in May posed the question, *What constitutes quality education?*. The second will be in July when *'Adult/Continuing education'* will be the topic, and in September/October *'The Feminization of poverty in relation to women's employment'* will be discussed.

We hope that national federations and associations (NFAs) will advertise these discussions and encourage their members to participate.

**The Membership Committee**, led by Convener Hazel Brown, is concentrating on building membership and assistance to NFAs.

We began by creating a list of services offered to members by IFUW and then developed a 'profile' of three different member categories - young graduates (not necessarily members yet), members of NFAs, and independent members. We looked at the services offered in light of the special interests and needs of each group and highlighted areas where improvement was needed. Suggestions, including changes in the website general communication, have been given to the Board.

We discussed how best to assist NFAs struggling to remain viable. We looked at possible mentoring solutions, from having advisers assigned to work with NFAs requesting help to the twinning of NFAs. We want to develop mechanisms to create closer mentoring and networking links between regions and between NFAs and independent members. We are looking for ways to share best practices in membership recruitment and retention. A survey has already been sent to members to collect strategies. In addition, we are currently assessing IFUW's material for new groups to see how we can make it more user-friendly and comprehensive.

The Committee wishes to encourage NFAs (and independent members) to develop and promote programme activities around the empowerment of men and girls. These activities and their results should be reported and well publicized on the IFUW website as evidence of the success of our organization and members.

The Committee is happy to work with the broader membership in any way possible to design ways to bring in members and then to retain them, as well to enhance our identity as a women's organization of stature.



**The Finance Committee Report** was produced jointly by its Convener, Hillevi Perraudin, and the IFUW Treasurer, Catherine Bell.

The downsizing of IFUW to meet the income constraints, in terms of office space and staff, is complete. However, at a time when we have reduced our working capacity it is vital that we grow the organisation. Without growth in membership, we cannot hope to survive. To this end we have to look at ways of meeting the requirements of a new century with a new approach.

If we are to measure the effectiveness of our programmes and determine areas of greatest impact, we need to be able to measure our programmes financially, so that the cost/benefit can be determined. The 2004 Task Force Report recommended the introduction of “a functional and programmatic budget system”. This was started by the previous Finance committee. During this triennium we aim to implement this type of accounting fully, and to make the resultant reports part of the audited annual financial statements.

Functional accounting could also be called programmatic or departmental accounting. The idea is to see how much each “programme” within IFUW costs to be done in part by measuring the time spent on each activity in the office and equating it to a cost. The aim is not to determine how expensive an activity is but to determine the cost/benefit ratio of each programme and thereby measure its effectiveness and IFUW’s need for it.

One of the most important programmes in IFUW has been the Bina Roy Partners in Development programme (BRPID), which has enabled wealthier NFAs (or branches within NFAs) to assist poorer NFAs financially. Wealthier NFAs have donated money to be used to fund projects for NFAs in poorer countries. NFAs given a BRPID grant have had this amount credited against their dues and have been expected to spend the grant amount on a project their own country. Bina Roy has thus been a form of dues assistance.

Since 2004, the requests for BRPID assistance have increased more than 25%, while the donations have decreased by more than 25%. In 2007 the requests for BRPID assistance amounted to three times the donations received. IFUW has covered the difference by taking money out of the reserves. However, this practice cannot continue if we are to remain financially viable. The direct link with dues must be phased out.

In 2009, when the new dues structure comes into effect, there will no longer be a link between the Bina Roy programme and dues. Bina Roy grants will still be given for projects, but will not be offset against the amount owing for dues. Any donations received will be given to NFA5 for projects.

***The need for Bina Roy donations is more vital now than ever, if NFAs in poorer countries are to survive and implement projects. We urge NFAs, local groups and individual members to contribute to the Bina Roy programme.***

Quite serendipitously **Michelle Imison**, Co-ordinator for International Relations (NSW) and member, IFUW Special Committee on Project Development, recently sent the following article. As Michelle explains, she has personal experience of the Bina Roy programme.

‘Bina Roy’ – how many times have you read those words in an IFUW newsletter and wondered what they were referring to?

Well, Bina Roy was actually a *person* – in fact, the first Asian woman to become President of IFUW. She believed in fostering international understanding and solidarity, a goal partly realised in 1978 when IFUW created what was then called the Counterpart Aid Programme, with the aim of supporting projects to empower women and girls in education and leadership development. It has since been renamed in her memory, the **Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme (BRPID)**.

The Programme is part of what makes IFUW a truly global organisation, as it enables national Federations and Associations with limited funds to become members. Donor contributions pay 40% of participating affiliates’ IFUW membership fees, allowing these groups to keep and invest an equivalent sum for a local project that improves the status of women and girls in their own countries. To date, nearly 60% of IFUW’s member organisations have been involved in BRPID as either project sponsors or donor partners, and the Programme currently supports projects in 32 countries.

Each year the proposed projects are evaluated by the IFUW Special Committee on Project Development. I began working informally with the Committee in 2004, assisting Dr Shirley Randell (who was then its Convenor) in her final assessment of all the projects. Since last year I have been a member in my own right. The seven Committee members meet ‘virtually’, considering proposals from their own region or from countries they know well, and assessing them for financial viability, cost effectiveness, sustainability and development potential.

Members of the Committee also make contact with the relevant national affiliates in order to seek clarification, communicate decisions and, if required, assist in the preparation of applications. Project sponsors must submit an annual monitoring form to show what progress they have made and how the funds were used.

Only one project in each country – either a new or existing one – may qualify for BRPID funding each year, and might include elements of community service, capacity building, organisational development or other programmes related to the advancement of women and girls, as local needs dictate. This year I evaluated three projects from our region: Bangladesh, Nepal and India. My recommendations are currently awaiting the decision of the Committee's Convenor, and I will write about the successful applicants in a later newsletter.

During the time of my involvement with BRPID, I have been consistently impressed as to what is possible with relatively little money: vocational counselling, scholarships for poor girls to continue their education, studies of violence against women and training to allow women to better access the democratic process have all been proposed in the last few years. You can read more about projects at:

<http://www.ifuw.org/brpid/index.htm#current>

*Some of our branches and individual members have contributed to BRPID and as you can see from the IFUW report it is urgent that this practice continues. Donations sent to the Treasurer c/- AFUWNSW are forwarded to the AFUW Inc Treasurer who is able to forward monies to IFUW to better advantage in relation to currency rates and transfer fees.*

### **Some new Bina Roy projects:**

Albania "Balkan Women: Reality and Perspectives". Conference bringing together women to preserve cultural diversity, promote peace, share information and network with other European neighbours.

Bulgaria Publication of a book to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Bulgarian Association of University Women. The book will feature articles by 17 women writers, marking women's struggles for visibility and highlighting the work of women who were scientific, educational and political pioneers of 20th century Bulgaria.

Cameroon "Empowering Girls to become Future Leaders". Project to encourage girls in secondary schools to continue their education to a higher level.

Georgia Integration and income generating through craft work for refugee women and women with physical disabilities.

Guinea Enquiry into "Violence in Schools: Effects on Girls". The project aims to promote peace and an environment conducive to learning.

India Sustainable Progress through Empowerment and Knowledge". Creation of a "Talent Bank" to share the expertise of the members of the Indian Federation of University Women's Associations with other organizations

Kenya Child Awareness Programme to improve the status and education of girls in rural areas.

Pakistan Health and Vocational Programme for unskilled and partially educated women

Uganda "Popularising Science Education for Girls in both Primary and Secondary schools". The main purpose of this project is to change the attitudes of girls, teachers, parents and the community towards science education and science careers for girls.

### **Some continuing projects:**

Armenia "Women and Development Rights and Opportunities" - a project designed to increase women's involvement in public and political life, through a series of seminars, conferences, roundtables and the establishment of regional information centres

El Salvador Multi-function clinic, providing medical, dental, clinical laboratory and pharmaceutical services to the urban poor of San Salvador.

Estonia Computer training courses for members of the Estonian Association of University Women to help them improve their employment prospects.

Mexico Urban community shelter for battered women and community self-help workshops, focusing on violence prevention, health, education, income generation, social & legal assistance.

Romania Civic responsibility and leadership project for adolescents in 3 regional centres - project to encourage the young to stay in Romania.

Sri Lanka "Rebuilding the Lives of the Victims of the Tsunami Disaster", which attempts to help support single parent mothers who have lost husbands and who are in need of housing and protection from abuse

South Africa Mentoring programme, providing training for members of the South African Association of Women Graduates, in an attempt to address a variety of social, economic and educational problems

Tonga Scholarships for tertiary level studies and training

## FOCUS ISSUE

## “SAY NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN”

The **Human Rights Council** has just concluded its 8th Session in Geneva, (2 - 18 June).

On 5 June 2008 the Council held two panel discussions on the human rights of women, the first discussing violence against women – identification of priorities, and the second discussing maternal mortality and the human rights of women. *Conchita Poncini*, Coordinator of the IFUW Team in Geneva, released the Joint Statement in the General debate on women’s human rights: Violence against women delivered by Berhane Raswork, Inter-African Committee.

*This is a joint statement by the following NGOs: International Federation of University Women, Pan Pacific & South East Asian Women's Association, World Movement of Mothers, Worldwide Organization of Women, Women's World Summit Foundation, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Inter-African Committee, International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Women's Federation for World Peace International, International Planetary Syntheses, Solar Cooker International.*

1. Violence against women is the most widespread violation of human rights in each country and region of the world and at any level of development. It is a phenomenon linked to direct or indirect inequality between women and men in the history of humanity.
2. The traditional exclusion of women from the public domain has relegated women of all ages to the private domain and has restricted the accessibility of women to the international human rights discourse. Domestic violence is the most common form of violence that often goes unprosecuted by law because of its private nature. Such violence should be condemned and punished as a crime. We call on the Council to review progress and accountability of the Ministerial Declaration signed by Foreign Ministers and other Ministers attending the Commission on Human Rights in 2004 on Violence Against Women, notably domestic violence. Additionally, we urge the Council to acknowledge that through domestic conflict and the disruption of supportive traditional family patterns, elderly women often suffer particular hardship.
3. The Beijing+5 review 2000 Agreed Conclusions call for treating all forms of violence against women a criminal offence. Some advances have been made in addressing crimes in the name of honour, dowry related violence, acid attacks, racially motivated violence, marital rape, forced marriages and female genital mutilation. It is crucial that these be brought before the Council and followed up in the Universal Periodic Reviews. An extreme form of VAW is collective rape in armed conflicts that should be condemned as crime against humanity. The Hague International Criminal Court at the hearing on the Rwanda genocide pronounced violence against women in the form of collective rape as a crime against humanity. We recommend that the Council look at this continuing phenomenon in armed conflicts within the Universal Periodic Reviews and by the Special Rapporteur on VAW.
4. Finally, we feel that active participation of NGOs with wide knowledge and practical experience from the ground is critical in ensuring success of future events on women’s rights and gender equality and we recommend that the Geneva-based NGO Committee on the Status of Women be consulted in this regard.

The UN Geneva website contains summaries of the delegate statements and the interactive panel discussion. The Moderator was Peteris Elferts, Ambassador of Latvia to the Council of Europe, who said that violence against women should remain a priority and be at the top of the agenda in order to see how this work could be brought forward. Violence against women encompassed a broad challenge at the national level, crossing all types of legislative and judicial challenges. The task of integrating work on violence against women into the agenda of the Human Rights Council was a high priority, including specifically integrating it in the Universal Periodic Review mechanism.

The Delegations ... said that violence against women was one of the most pervasive human rights abuses that persisted in all countries of the world. A lack of leadership, political will and resources to take effective action was noted. The need for a coordinated database was underlined. Also discussed were the need to protect women from rape and sexual abuse in peacetime, wartime and conflict and post conflict situations; harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation; enhancing women’s participation in decision making issues; and promoting their access to education. It was noted that a comprehensive approach towards empowerment of women remained the most effective instrument to counter violence against women.

*Pauline Velso, Minister of the General Secretariat of Chile, said violence against women was a major violation of human rights. It was an age old reality, yet it was only a very recent concern for the international community. Violence against women was a scourge. Combating the scourge was complex. In order to address it, the root causes must be examined. It was not sufficient to criminalize the behaviour. It was not enough to provide aid to victims. The State had to have a policy to change norms.*



**From the UN Report:** Louise Arbour, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, “welcomed the debate today, focusing on the two pressing issues of violence against women and maternal mortality. The General Assembly had tasked the Council with setting priorities in addressing violence against women as a follow-up to its consideration of the Secretary-General’s study on the subject. Released in 2006, the study unequivocally demonstrated that multiple forms of violence against women remained pervasive in the world. The report described that violence as a “pandemic” and as “one of the most serious challenges of our time”. But those alarming words just barely afforded a glimpse into the desperate and dehumanising conditions that millions of women and girls were subjected to on a daily basis, and in many cases with no relief or recourse to justice. In particularly egregious forms, violence, including sexual violence, had been committed and continued to be perpetrated in the midst of conflict and post-conflict societies on a magnitude and level of brutality that defied belief. However, although violence against women had been an ugly feature of wars since time immemorial, only recently had there been a recognition that such violence was punishable by law as a war crime, a crime against humanity and, indeed, at times, an act of genocide. International enforcement of that law represented a vital step forward.”

“Whether perpetrated in conflict or in peace, the root causes of violence against women were deep-seated inequalities and discrimination. Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, much progress had been made to eliminate discrimination against women. Obligations had been set forth in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other treaties. Still, a recent study underscored the persistence of laws and customs that made women second-class citizens and that, consequently, exposed them to undeterred and unpunished violence and inequality. A concomitant denial of basic rights, such as access to health services, education and water, overwhelmingly affected women. That inequality might condemn women to poverty which, in turn, exposed hundreds of millions of girls and women to continuous abuse.

Discriminatory laws and practices were also at the root of many cases of maternal mortality. Early marriage, female genital mutilation and disrespect of women’s safe reproductive rights – which were incompatible with the obligations set forth in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women – were key contributors to the millions of deaths and disabilities resulting from pregnancy and childbirth annually. The Human Rights Council, alerted by today’s discussion, could play a groundbreaking role in clearly defining maternal mortality as a human rights issue and articulating the indivisibility and interrelatedness of rights in that respect.”

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*UNIFEM is the women’s fund at the United Nations. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programmes and strategies to foster women’s empowerment and gender equality* “Fighting gender-based violence is a major concern for UNIFEM, because “violence against women is a universal problem and one of the most widespread violations of human rights. One in three women will suffer some form of violence in her lifetime, becoming part of an epidemic that devastates lives, fractures communities and stalls development. Despite some progress on this issue over the past decade, its horrendous scale remains mostly unacknowledged. New dimensions include the global trafficking of women and girls.” A UNIFEM report, released in 2003, *Not a Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women*, provides an overview of women’s efforts around the world to staunch domestic violence. Distributed globally, it outlines the severity of the issue, and makes a compelling case for more resources and continued action.

**IFUW is a launch partner for UNIFEM’s campaign Say NO to Violence against Women.** This initiative is a global internet-based advocacy effort to end violence against women. Ending violence against women is essential to reaching development targets, such as the Millennium Development Goals, and also to security and peace. The campaign is making visible the growing movement of people demanding that ending violence against women becomes a top priority. **Participants are invited to add their names to an internet “virtual” book as an expression of public support and call for action.**

The “Say No to Violence against Women” campaign was launched November 26, 2007. In January the United Nations Foundation announced that in the period leading up to International Women’s Day in March it would donate \$1 for each of the first 100,000 signatures to the UNIFEM-managed UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. This Trust Fund, managed by UNIFEM for the UN system, supports innovative initiatives by governments and non-governmental organizations to end violence against women. Since its establishment in 1996, it has helped fund some 250 initiatives in 120 countries.

The UN Foundation is a public charity. It builds and implements public-private partnerships to address the world’s most pressing problems and also works to broaden support for the UN through advocacy and public outreach.

*"Thanks to this fantastic challenge grant, every signature will bolster our cause to make ending violence against women worldwide a top priority," said UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman who champions the campaign. "What's more, it will help provide critical resources for local initiatives that are supported through the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women — whether it is working to prevent human trafficking, assisting survivors of domestic violence or helping implement laws against rape."*

The initial period has passed but the signature challenge is ongoing. IFUW urges all members to participate! People can sign on to the campaign at [www.sayNOToviolence.org](http://www.sayNOToviolence.org). The number who have signed is now nearing a quarter of a million. If do not have access to the internet yourself, why not ask a relative or friend to sign on your behalf? Your "signature" will be acknowledged in an email under the name of Nicole Kidman.

**IN AUSTRALIA** - during the election campaign the Labor Party promised that a Rudd Labor Government would implement a *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children* to better protect women and children from domestic violence and sexual assault, to be overseen by a **National Council on Violence Against Women and Children**. On 26 May 2008 the Government announced its formation with Council members to be selected on the merits of their subject matter expertise in domestic and family violence and sexual assault. They will also be selected on the basis of their ability to represent various population groups. The primary role of the Council will be to assist the Government achieve the Plan through the provision of expert advice and direction.

On 4 June the Prime Minister launched the inaugural meeting under the leadership of international human rights advocate, Libby Lloyd AM, with support from deputy-chair, Heather Nancarrow, Director of the Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research. He said the nation and the community must adopt a zero tolerance attitude to violence against women and children. There must be strong, focussed leadership to ensure the Commonwealth, States and Territories work together to try to prevent women and children from being subjected to violence and abuse. - [www.ofw.facsia.gov.au](http://www.ofw.facsia.gov.au)

**.AN AFUW PERSPECTIVE** The NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security was planning to send a letter to all UN member states to express views regarding a new Security Council resolution on sexual violence to be voted on June 19, 2008. IFUW Vice-President, Shirley Randell, forwarded to the AFUW President a request for statements on the relevance of this new resolution to our work on women in conflict situations that could be integrated in the NGOWG letter.

Dr Jennifer Strauss replied to Shirley:

*I think there are 2 ways in which AFUW has an interest in this. One is internal, i.e within Australia, where the issue of sexual violence against Aboriginal women is of particular concern. The other is internationally, where again we tend to take a particular interest in the Pacific region.*

*In Australia I think it's fair to say that we work for the most part in co-operation with other NGOs. For instance, through WomenSpeak, one of the 4 national Secretariats, we are currently sharing in the 2008 project 'Standing in Solidarity with Aboriginal Women' which has as its aim to ensure that the voices of Aboriginal women are heard in policy-making on all the issues that affect them, such as education, housing and violence, including sexual violence. We are also sponsoring, along with about 10 other WomenSpeak NGOs, a Call for a National Strategy on Sexual and Reproductive Health (about to be launched in Canberra), which includes calls for better policy on sexual violence.*

*Trafficking remains a 'live' issue at national level, and at State level members participate from time to time in relevant matters--e.g. in 2007 I participated in discussion in development of Family Violence legislation by the Victorian government, which was designed to give better protection to victims of sexual and other forms of 'domestic' violence. Internationally, we tend to respond to appeals for support or to news items where we feel that there is relevance to the Australian government--e.g. in the case of the coup in Fiji where there were suggestions that women who opposed the coup were being subjected to violence including sexual intimidation.*

*Why would a Security Council resolution matter to AFUW? In all advocacy it is extremely helpful to be able to appeal to the government's obligations under various UN Conventions and Resolutions to which it is a signatory. In cases where it is not a signatory, the appeal to join is itself a means of drawing attention to the way in which a government is out of step with its international peers. While one might think that CEDAW, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Resolution 1325 were enough to protect the right of women and children to be free from sexual violence and to participate (in the case of women) in decision-making to enforce that right, the continuing prevalence of sexual violence world-wide indicates that there is a need for it to be singled out as one of the main ways in which two of the important UN Conventions are failing those whose rights and safety they are intended to protect. We would strongly support the Security Council Resolution.*

## ISABEL MCKINNEY HARRISON 1911 - 2008

A long time member of AFUWNSW, Isabel McKinney Harrison, who died last month, was a contemporary of Betty Shwabsky at the University of Sydney and also joined AFUW at graduation. Many members who are graduates of Sydney University would remember her from her ground-breaking role in careers education and counselling in her work with the Appointments Board of the University.

Member, Jean Foley, and Harriet Veitch prepared an obituary for the Sydney Morning Herald, which gives an interesting picture of her life and work. Their tribute is introduced in this way:

*MANY people shine in one field of life - Isabel McKinney Harrison achieved distinction in two, sport and management. Her foresight, initiatives, persistence for a good cause and efficiency saw her play hockey for Australia, run Sydney University's Appointments Board and help to set up a women's residential college.*

*She led by example and encouragement, delighting in the accomplishments of others but remaining modest about her own.*

They write: "Isabel Devers McKinney was born in Narrandera and spent her first 11 years at Kooba Station on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River. Her father, Thomas, was the station bookkeeper and her mother, Wilhelmina, taught Isabel by correspondence until, in 1922, as farm conditions worsened, the family moved to Sydney and Isabel was accepted into the Presbyterian Ladies College at Pymble. She excelled and in her Leaving Certificate year, 1928, she was head prefect, dux and winner of the Marden Prize (for an all-round student) and the Gold Medallion."

She started at the University of Sydney in 1929, when women students were in the minority. While she studied, she was also on the board of directors of the Sydney University Women's Union, was president of the Sydney University Women Undergraduates Association, vice-president of the Students Representative Council and secretary of the University Women's Hockey Club. She excelled on the hockey field and in 1929 was awarded a blue. She graduated as a BA with honours in 1933.

In 1939, after some years as secretary of the Sydney University Women's Union (Manning House), she became secretary to the University of Sydney's Appointments Board, later the Careers and Appointments Service. Here she helped undergraduates and graduates find work.

In 1959 she returned from a year overseas full of ideas, one to set up a "careers' library" where students could look up prospects offered by different positions. The friendly relationship she established with many business leaders was also put to good use in organising speakers for the university. In June 1963 she resigned from the Appointments Board after marrying Ken Harrison. and becoming stepmother to Gwen, David, Ruth and Geoff.

Shortly after graduating Isabel McKinney became a member of the PLC Pymble council in 1933 and remained on it until 1977. At the school she is remembered in a substantial way. The Isabel McKinney Harrison Administration Centre is now used as an administrative and teaching area. Prior to its reconstruction, following the opening of the Conde Library in 2001, the building was used as the Isabel McKinney Harrison Library and was officially opened in 1974 by Dr Ross McKenzie. In 1998 she was invited to open the The Mollie Dive Field. The late Mollie Dive OAM was a former student of the College who excelled in many areas, particularly in hockey and cricket, and also served on the College Council for many years.

Her hockey prowess is remembered in an article published in the university last year, 100 Years of Hockey.

*"Having won the intervarsity competition at their first attempt in 1910— the women's club has fielded some outstanding teams and individuals over the years, including an Australian captain in Isabel Harrison, nee McKinney. McKinney played for NSW from 1931 to 1939 and captained the state from 1936. She played for Australia from 1936 and was captain of the Australian touring team that was called home at the outbreak of World War II. Another illustrious member was Mollie Dive, an all-round sportswoman who won blues in hockey and cricket."* (This same paragraph describes Jessie Street's introduction in 1911 to the advocacy of women's rights when as a first year student at Women's College she successfully pressed the Sports Union which had refused to rent its oval to the "Newtown tarts" as it called the women's hockey team which she captained.)

A significant memorial to Isabel McKinney Harrison is found in the Dunmore Lang College at Macquarie University. In 1948, concerned about suitable accommodation for country girls at universities, she had become honorary secretary on a committee convened for the Presbyterian Church to find a site for a college. In 1967, Macquarie University offered a site on its campus for what became the Dunmore Lang College, an independent residential college and Isabel contributed to its growth and development, remaining honorary secretary of the its board until 1972.

## ACTIVITY REPORTS

### SOPHIA HOLLAND LECTURE AND LUNCH

Secretary, Jane Baker, reports that the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual function on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008 in the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts was a most enjoyable occasion. Much of this was due to this year's lecturer, our own Past President and now City Branch President, Resolutions Convener and Hunter CC rep. Christine Hosking.

Christine shared with us her passion for Indigenous Art. There was only time for a summary of activities of women desert artists, their art, the environment in which they paint, the way in which their art portrays their 'country', how we can begin to understand their art and why they paint the way they do. We all learnt a lot and were left with a realisation of how much more we still have to learn. For Bark Paintings, Art from Arnhem Land, West Australian Art we shall need to go to one of Christine's courses – or follow her to Alice Springs where she starts in July as manager of the Boomerang Art Gallery.

We wish her well in this exciting venture.



The lecture was followed by a chance to sample emu, kangaroo and crocodile meats, bush chutneys, pumpkin soup flavoured with Queensland nuts and lemon myrtle flavoured cheese cake. This was all extended by generous contributions from members particularly from the North Shore Branch.

The profit of >\$600 will boost our depleting general funds and be the excuse to update and revamp our membership brochure which has been on hold for some time.

Sophia Holland Lecturer, Christine Hosking, is shown here at the Awards Presentation Night at Ultimo TAFE with winners of the City Branch Tertiary Preparation Course Award, Ayse Erduran and Clare Wallace.

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### CENTRAL COAST MEETING

A final business meeting of members followed a very informative discussion on 30 April, led by Pauline Wright, Co-principal of a Gosford solicitors' company. Pauline is also Vice President of the NSW Council for Civil Liberties and of NSW Women Lawyers, and has been a Councillor of the Law Society of NSW since 1997. Pauline was asked to speak on "Developing gender sensitive programs and projects that address equality and non-discrimination under the law and in practice", a theme from IFUW's 2007-10 triennial program. Her talk covered glass ceiling issues; flexible work hours; paid maternity leave and childcare; and bullying and sexual harassment.

She began by saying what a boost to women lawyers the appointment of Quentin Bryce as the next Governor-General had been. This boost is still important, given the very slow progress in women lawyers achieving parity in the profession at senior levels. In 2007, there were only seven women Heads of Jurisdiction across Australia and NZ out of 30, but this was much better than before. Women on the bench of the NSW Supreme Court had risen from four in 2002 to nine at present. Media comments on appointment of senior judges (*"Justice wears a skirt"*) remain a hindrance.

While women have for some time outnumbered men in university training, problems remain in their accessing appropriate employment and experience in the still largely private law practices which then lead to judicial appointments. Some of the NSW Women Lawyers' and other programs which are designed to address the issues of discrimination in pay equity and wide experience Pauline described included:

- "Work2Suit Forum" – March 08 discussion around flexible working hours, and their April 08 submission to the National Employment Standards Exposure Draft supporting introduction of a legislated right to request flexible working arrangements;
- Awards selections and ceremonies for Women Lawyers Achievements;
- Talks and networking days for women solicitors and barristers;
- Mentoring nights for law students;
- Bar lunch networking; and-
- The DVD produced by the NSW Law Society on the "Prevention of Workplace Bullying: a tool for change to the legal workplace".

## CITY BRANCH REPORT

Although membership numbers are reasonable, unfortunately the number of active Branch members is small. Currently the Branch is actively seeking nominations for executive positions for the forthcoming year. There is a concern that if those positions are not filled then the future of the Branch is in doubt.

Branch members have continued to work hard to ensure that funds are available this year to support the 2009 Australia Day Awards and the Project for Action. Funds have also been allocated to support women studying at TAFE in 2007 to access university education this year.

The President attended the Awards Presentation Night at both Ultimo and Bankstown TAFEs and was pleased to present cheques to the total value of \$600 to three women who had successfully completed the TAFE Tertiary Preparation Course in 2007 and had proceeded to university in 2008.

The awardees were Ayse Erduran and Clare Wallace at Ultimo TAFE, pictured on the previous page, and Kathleen Doyle at Bankstown TAFE, shown here with her family.

In March members visited the S.H. Ervin Gallery to view *2008 Salon des Refuses: the "alternative" Archibald and Wynne Prize selection*. This was followed by a delicious lunch at the National Trust cafe at the gallery. Unfortunately the scheduled tour to St Mary's Cathedral Crypt was cancelled owing to building work being carried out at the Cathedral. The tour of Sydney's Sustainable House in Chippendale was also cancelled, owing to insufficient numbers.

The planned "behind the scenes" tour of the Wharf and Sydney Theatres is to be held in June.

This will be followed by lunch at the Wharf Theatre café.

The Branch AGM will be held in July. The future of the Branch will be determined at this meeting.

Members were saddened to hear that Bev Pavey had died after a battle with cancer. Throughout her illness Bev remained positive and was an inspiration to her friends and family. She was a hard and active worker for many organisations including NCW and AFUW. She is sadly missed.

Colleague and friend Dr Minna Shaw-Smith who has been of significant influence and made a huge contribution over many years to AFUW has moved from hospital to a nursing home in Russell Lea. Our thoughts are with her at this time.



On 17 April 2008 'Tricia Blombery, Secretary of City Branch and Treasurer of AFUW-NSW, attended the University of Sydney for the presentation of the AFUW-NSW English Essay Prize which was awarded to Elizabeth-Ann Shek-Noble of the School of Letters, Arts and Media.

They are shown here with Dr Margaret Rogerson, Chair of English & Australian Literature.

The photographer was Neil Hinds. Its use was authorized by Eileen Corrigan, Senior Administrative Officer, School of Letters, Art & Media, Faculty of Arts.



## BRANCH REPORTS

**NORTH SHORE** In accordance with grants from the North Shore Branch, Macquarie University recently made the following awards to outstanding female students.

On 21 April, the Division of Humanities presented awards to Philippa Gale and Phoebe Wood, for *200 Level History*. Unfortunately, the invitation to attend the presentation was received too late, but the President has written to the recipients, including information about AFUW.

On 8th May, with Greta Recsei, she attended a prize-giving ceremony in the University Library, presided over by Professor Kevin McCracken, Dean of Division of Environmental & Life Sciences. Awards for *200 Level Biology* were presented to Michaela Blyton and Frances Goudie. The Dean expressed appreciation to all donors, with those present being asked to take part in the ceremony.

**Deaths:** Sadly, in April we noted the deaths of two long-standing and highly esteemed members. Both had served AFUW well; and members were privileged to attend separate functions in honour of them both.

*Isabel McKinney Harrison* was honoured recently by a Memorial Service in the Chapel of Pymble Ladies College. Isabel and many of her relatives attended the College; she served on the College Council for 44 years. She had been a member of AFUW since graduating from Sydney University, where she held a distinguished career in administration. Isabel was also instrumental in founding Dunmore Lang College, Macquarie University.

*Betty Mary Shwabsky* was remembered recently in a family wake, held in the family home in Greenwich. Betty was outstanding in community affairs, including membership of the Chancellor's Committee of Sydney University and membership of Dunmore Lang College at Macquarie University. She was an AFUW member for about 60 years, being president of the North Shore Branch in 1965-1966 and State president from 1977 to 1979.

**SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS** The beautiful autumn colours this year were enhanced by dry weather, and members and friends met together for lunch at the Bradman Museum cafe, informally, on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> of April. This happy occasion was followed in May by our dinner meeting at Dormie House, with two special guests. Our state president, Ivy Edwards, accepted an invitation to meet with members on the night when celebrity environmentalist Patrice Newell was speaking to us about issues of vital importance. She is a passionate organic grower and we had an opportunity to leaf through Patrice's latest book, "Tree to Table", a quality publication in every sense of the word.

Our next gathering will be a Slow Food night, with guest speaker Nick Padol, local and state president of the Slow Food Society. Already booked out, we are to enjoy a four course, beautifully cooked meal for \$35, and to consider the wisdom of cooking with the freshest ingredients, making time to prepare the food to the best advantage.

In the last issue we reported that our December speaker, Dr Celeste Rossetto had researched the life of Lady Jersey. In fact her subject had visited Sydney as Her Grace, The Duchess of Buckingham and Chandos.

**RIVER** Our Branch members enjoyed an Autumn Lunch at Greenwich Sailing Club on March 6 when we had as our speaker a woman lawyer who works overseas with the International Red Cross, Robyn Baxendale. It was illuminating to hear her speak of work being done in so many of the world's troublespots and it reminded us all to keep supporting this important International organisation.

We have been greatly saddened by the deaths of two of our oldest members.

A foundation member, Gwen Hawthorne, passed away peacefully in November last year and just recently we joined the family of Betty Shwabsky in celebrating her outstanding life. Both are sorely missed.

Our very popular theatre and book group continue their monthly meetings.



**HUNTER** Our March meeting at our new venue was a great success. The Newcastle Club proved to be very comfortable and we felt very welcome. The service was impeccable and we had an enjoyable evening.

The guest speaker for the evening was Mr Geoff McGee, a lecturer in the Law Department at the University of Newcastle, who spoke on International Issues in Climate Change Policy. His talk was very well prepared. We were issued with notes in lieu of a power-point presentation. After a brief overview of the topic, he spoke of the role of the U.N. Inter- Governmental Panel on Climate Change that was formed in 1988 to provide scientific advice to the United Nations Assembly. He then went on to explain the U.N. Climate Change Treaties: UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. He then outlined possible future strategies for Australia to combat global warming and comply with international climate policy.

In April, our speaker was Dr Josephine May, a lecturer in the History Department at the University of Newcastle. She spoke about a course she taught last year on The Status of Women from an Historical Perspective. We heard about the three thousand year long custom of foot-binding which has only been abandoned in our lifetime. She speculated on the reasons for its inception and its continuation for so long. Many members remarked on how much they had enjoyed her talk.

Our guest speaker In May was Ms Melisse Sutton, manager of the Margaret Jurd Learning Centre at Lambton. This is a very small school for teenagers who have not been able to conform to the culture of the regular high schools and have been referred to MJLC by the schools or by DoCS. Melisse explained the way the staff work and some of the strategies employed to turn these teenagers around. Some of them have successfully completed the School Certificate and MJLC is planning to assist them with some trade training.

In June, our guest speaker will be Justice Judy Ryan who works in the Family Court. She will speak about some aspects of her professional experience. We have our AGM . in July when one of our members, Val Shevels, will read us some of the poetry she has been writing over the last few years and will invite discussion on some of the issues that have moved her to write.

In April, Margaret Smithson led the discussion of Khalid Hosseini's novel, "A Thousand Splendid Suns". This provoked many questions about the life of women in Afghanistan.

In May, we discussed "Silk", a most unusual work by the Italian writer, Alessandro Baricco. Mary Kelly led the discussion. The story concerns the fascination / obsession of a Frenchman with a woman he saw on his travels in Japan. We will meet in June at Hilary Alexander's home to talk about "Barbed Wire and Roses", a novel about the Australian experience of the First World War and its aftermath. This is sure to stimulate some spirited discussion. In July, Sue Johnson will lead the discussion of Ibsen's play, "A Doll House".

**CENTRAL WEST** We invited palaeontologist Dr Michael Augee to speak of the mammal fossils of the Wellington Caves and the Quaternary Period of Geology at a luncheon at Canowindra on the 25<sup>th</sup> May ,2008. Dr Augee, graduated with a B.Sc from Willamette University, Oregon and arrived in Australia in 1966 to complete his Ph.D.at Monash University. He lectured in Biology at Flinders University and later at UNSW. In 1999 he was appointed Director of Wellington Caves Fossil Studies Centre. He has published extensively

Since Canowindra is the home of the 'Age of Fishes Museum,' Dr Augee centred his address on fossils, and allowed us to see and touch some real fossils found in Wellington Caves area. "Show and tell! '. He spoke of big mammals, mega-fauna, with such enthusiasm and excellent teaching skills, that we were educated indeed in learning from fossils, what type of mega fauna we were looking at, whether they had been meat eaters or grass and leaf eaters. As to the query 'What happened to megafauna? Was their demise the result of humans or climate change?

Dr Augee reminded us that it was the arrival of the Maori in New Zealand that signalled the end of the big bird. . The Australian aborigines used fire to effectively hunt their prey. Their prey were shrub eaters, so loss of shrubbery would indeed have threatened the survival of the Australian megafauna.

In thanking Dr Augee for his address, Central West Secretary, Sue Brown, quoted from the mission statement of Dr Augee's undergraduate Willamette University "that education is a lifelong process of discovery, delight, and growth, the hallmark of a humane life."

Associate Professor Leonora Ritter, Head of School of Social Sciences and Liberal Studies Charles Sturt University, Bathurst Campus, will be the guest speaker at our next function on Thursday August 28<sup>th</sup> at The Cowra Function Centre. This will be the AGM.

# 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.

### JULY

- Tuesday 1 **AFUW-NSW** All subscriptions fall due. Renewal form attached. See Membership Notes.  
Monday 7 **SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS** 6.30 for 7.00 pm Dormie House, Moss Vale, Dinner Meeting  
Speaker: Diana Wood-Conroy, Professor of Creative Arts, University of Wollongong, "*Fabrics, Tapestries and Sonic Architecture*" Contact: Sue Nagy 4841 0357  
Wednesday 9 **HUNTER** Book Discussion Sue Johnson will lead the discussion of Ibsen's play, "*A Doll's House*" Contact: 4943 9340  
Wednesday 23 **HUNTER** 6.30 for 7.00 pm Newcastle Club AGM  
Speaker: Member, Val Shevels, will read and discuss with us some of her own poetry  
Cost: \$30.00 Bookings essential: Contact: Mary Kelly 4929 4019  
Thursday 24 **CITY** 2.00 pm. Margery Murray room. AGM Lunch before meeting. Venue to be advised.  
Contact: 'Tricia Blombery 9560 8070 [stuart\\_tricia@bigpond.com](mailto:stuart_tricia@bigpond.com) **NB:** change of date  
Sunday 27 **RIVER** 11.30 am at The Heritage, 35 Gladesville Rd, Hunters Hill AGM  
Cost for lunch: \$10. Contact: Nada Taylor 9436 2889

### AUGUST

- Monday 4 **SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS** 6.30 for 7.00 pm Dormie House, Moss Vale, Dinner Meeting  
Speaker on the *Environment* Contact: Sue Nagy 4841 0357  
Thursday 7 **AFUW-NSW** 5.30 pm Registration for 6.00 – 7.30 pm Norman Selfe Room 3rd Floor  
Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt St, Sydney  
Networking night for working and younger members Cost: Gold coin donation  
Inquiries & RSVP (by 4 August) Michelle Imison [meimison@yahoo.com.au](mailto:meimison@yahoo.com.au)  
Friday 22 **AFUW-NSW** 2.00 pm Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt St, Sydney  
Tempe Mann and Jamieson Awards Presentation and Afternoon Tea Cost: \$10 **Reply slip.**  
Speaker: Dr Negin Amanat, last year's Tempe Mann winner  
Contact: Tamra Palmer at AFUW-NSW office or Treasurer, Tricia Blombery  
Wednesday 27 **HUNTER VALLEY** 6.30 for 7.00 pm Newcastle Club Cost: \$30.00 Bookings essential  
Speaker: Ron Ramsay, *Newcastle Region Art Gallery* Contact: Mary Kelly 4929 4019  
Thursday 28 **CENTRAL WEST** 7.00 for 7.30pm The Cowra Function Centre AGM followed by Dinner  
Speaker: Associate Professor Leonora Ritter, Head of School of Social Sciences and Liberal Studies,  
Charles Sturt University, Bathurst Campus Contact: Sue Brown 6342 9342

### SEPTEMBER

- Friday 5 **SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS** Venue and time to be confirmed Wine and Cheese tasting from top  
local providores Cost: \$20. Contact: Sue Nagy 4841 0357  
Thursday 11 **RIVER** 12 noon Hunters Hill Sailing Club, Franki Ave, Hunters Hill Spring Luncheon  
Speaker: Ross Pearson, author, a wireless operator in bombing missions in Europe during WWII  
Cost: TBA Contact: Nada Taylor 9436 2889  
Wednesday 24 **HUNTER VALLEY** 6.30 for 7.00 pm Newcastle Club Cost: \$30.00 Bookings essential  
Speaker: Dr Bob Sillar: *Working in East Timor* Contact: Mary Kelly 4929 4019

For **NORTH SHORE**: No meeting in this period Contacts: Dorothy Betty 9489 1142 Greta Recsei 9487 2061

**NB** Since the National Secretariat of AFUW Inc. is based in Sydney for this triennium, we in AFUW-NSW have the opportunity to be active members by supporting the Council by our presence at the AGM.

Inquiries: Secretary, 'Trica Blombery 9560 8070 [AFUWOZ@bigpond.net.au](mailto:AFUWOZ@bigpond.net.au)

#### Notice of the Annual General Meeting (National)

#### Australian Federation of University Women Inc.

**5pm Friday 29 August 2008 Y Hotel Hyde Park, 5-11 Wentworth Ave, Sydney**

The **AGM** will be preceded by the AGM of the Education Trust at 4 pm and followed by **Dinner** at the Hellenic Club, 251 Elizabeth St, at 7:00 pm. Cost including wine: \$40.

Bookings for the Dinner **MUST** be made by Monday 25 August.

Please RSVP with payment to:

AFUW Secretary, 'Tricia Blombery, PO Box 224 Enmore NSW 2042

Or email and pay direct to AFUW Inc, CBA Mt Eliza BSB 063550 Ac 1024 0086.

Complete payment description with your Surname and "AGM dinner".

**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****Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.00 am – 2.00 pm****Postal Address:****Phone/Fax: 02 9283 7878****Website: [www.afuwnsw.org.au](http://www.afuwnsw.org.au)****Membership Renewal****PO Box A2231 Sydney South 1235****Email: [afuwnsw@netspace.net.au](mailto:afuwnsw@netspace.net.au)****PO Box 124 Woodford 2778**

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Material for the Newsletter may be faxed directly to 4758 7169 or Email: [lkthom@bigpond.com](mailto:lkthom@bigpond.com) ("l" as in lyn)***Deadline for Annual Reports and Calendar 1 September 2008*****NEW MEMBERS**

Ms Anne Barnes	Camperdown	Ms Misuzu Hanihara-Chow	St Ives
Ms Barbara Bicego	Towradgi	Ms Emilie Severino	Stanmore
Ms Hong Cai	Croydon	Ms Petra Svoboda	Erskineville
Ms Ann El Khoury	Concord	Ms Robyn Veal	Turramurra

**Consider a Donation to AFUW-NSW Inc.**

For over 80 years AFUW has been supporting women in education in many varied ways. Our aim is to continue this important work, however, being a non-profit, non-government organisation we cannot achieve these aims without your generous assistance.

Many supportive people also make the decision to mention AFUW NSW Inc. in their Will. By simply adding a few words to your Will, you can make a bequest which will enable you to perpetuate your ideas and significantly support the ongoing work of AFUW-NSW.

With our Deductible Gift Recipient status, you can now also make deductible donations to our scholarship funds to build on a bequest from Margaret Maxwell to endow an AFUW-NSW Award.

We encourage your contribution to the annual AFUW-NSW NCW Australia Day Award. A minimum of \$1100 is required to allow AFUW-NSW to continue to sponsor, at this prestigious event, a woman completing post-graduate education.

Send your donation to the Sydney office, identifying whether it is for the Education Trust or AFUW-NSW Inc. For more information on donations or wording for bequests, please contact 'Tricia Blombery, Treasurer, on: 02 9569 8070, or email: [stuart\\_tricia@bigpond.com.au](mailto:stuart_tricia@bigpond.com.au). Thank you for your kind support.