



The Circular

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120 years on and still standing strong

By Helen Gibson,
NCWNZ Circular Editor

In September this year NCWNZ branches throughout Aotearoa New Zealand celebrate 120 years of women's suffrage. Celebration and reflection on what women have achieved since 1893, and what we and our families need for the future, is now tinged with a heightened sense of our vulnerability to the forces of nature.

This time of remembering gives us an opportunity to reflect on how events such as earthquakes have intensified our sense of fragility and powerlessness but also provided outstanding examples of women's strength and courage.

What became significant following the seismic events of 2010 and 2011 in Canterbury was a continuing need for women to question whose voices are heard and whose acts of courage and hero(in)ism are recounted in the media. At the end of the first NCWNZ Christchurch branch meeting after the February 2011 'quake, a member stood up to speak.

She talked about the struggle that people, and especially women, were having on the eastern side of the city, often having to cope with getting their children to distant schools, dealing with house damage, getting to their own workplaces and coping with the loss of communities. Other members chimed in, telling their own stories. One theme was clear: whatever voices were being heard in the media and beyond, it was not those of the women trying



to keep everything together. So the NCWNZ Christchurch Branch Women's Voices project was born...

The actions of Kate Sheppard, NCWNZ founder and fighter for women's right to vote, were in our minds as we embarked on this project. We believed that she would have supported our determination to record women's stories for posterity.

Whenever Kate was beaten by the male establishment, she organised yet another petition by women asking for the vote. She ensured that women's voices were heard from the beginning of the suffrage campaign until the vote was won. Our struggle has not been as extensive as Kate's, but we knew that there were thousands of acts of courage, care and compassion just waiting to be heard.

Kate Sheppard and other New Zealand suffragists would have been familiar with earthquakes because between 1869 and 1988 there had been twelve earthquakes over magnitude 6.0 recorded within 150

Christchurch Kate Sheppard Memorial
Image reproduced with permission from Christchurch City Libraries, File reference: CCL-2013-01-14-

kilometres of Christchurch. Two of these were magnitude 7.0 and larger. The earthquakes in 1888 and 1901 caused considerable damage to the first Anglican Cathedral spire and significant shakes were also reported in 1922 and 1927.

The image of the Christchurch Kate Sheppard Memorial above, taken in 2011 is a fitting symbol for contemporary women: There they are, our foremothers, still standing upright and strong. Wheelbarrow firmly in hand, scaffolding holds up a building behind them. Long grass almost reaches their knees.

The courage and vision of the New Zealand suffragists are an inspiration to NCWNZ members in 2013. Like them, we stand tall, facing the future. While challenged in varied ways we are also proving that we are up to the task.

Hear more of our voices on pages 9-10.

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Spring - the season of hopefulness!

Walking around town I notice the signs of spring everywhere - in new leaves and blossom on trees and bulbs flowering; this is the season of new beginnings and looking forward to the warmer weather and longer days with all their potential. We who are members of NCWNZ can start to feel this hopefulness about our organisation as we look into the future.

A small group of Board members has undertaken the second part of the Capability review and is encouraged by the potential of the tool to bring about positive change within NCWNZ. At the first meeting with the whole Board a vision statement and a set of values which underpin this were developed and the second meeting considered ways that these would be reflected in what the organisation does - the what we do, why we do it, and the how we do it, now and into the future. In the view of the Board, NCWNZ exists for the membership and so we want to use some of the time at the National Executive to put these ideas to you and hear from you as members your thoughts as to the why, what and how of NCWNZ. Accordingly there will be time at workshop sessions for you to contribute and play your part in driving our organisation forward.

Of course, the primary task of the National Executive meeting is reporting to you the members and so the programme is worked around the important sessions of reporting from the Board, Treasurer, Convenors and project work undertaken by NCWNZ such as CEDAW monitoring. The setting of policy is another integral part of such a meeting and there will be time to

debate remits and either vote them into policy or not as the members decide.

The remit discussion is important for Convenors as it provides a clear indication of membership opinion on the various topics and is used to inform submission writing. Prior to the official start to the meeting there will be an opportunity for updating members on progress with the Constitution review.

It is another sign of hopefulness that the office has been occupied since Nicky and Ruth left on 26 July and that as far as possible the daily routines are continuing. There is someone on site between 9 and 4 every day, primarily volunteers. From 26 August there will be in addition a temporary office worker on a part-time basis and so you should find that your requests can be followed up. The documents for the National Executive meeting have been sent out to Presidents by email and also hard copies to the contact person on the recent Branch or NOS return. You will have noticed from the on-going Action Items that Convenors are still wanting Branches and NOSs to continue with this aspect of NCWNZ work. Informing and educating ourselves about current issues and discussing them as a group, and then conveying the findings to the appropriate

Convenor are still vital steps in the full functioning of our organisation.

And so, in this time of change we will follow the British exhortation of World War 2 - "Keep Calm and Carry On!"



Barbara

Mourned - Maureen Waaka, Rotorua Branch

The loss of long time member of the Rotorua branch of NCWNZ, Maureen Waaka, former Miss New Zealand and long term District Councillor, and Health board member, to the Rotorua Community and Local Government New Zealand will only be realized as time passes and we remember her contribution to the city, the region and the country. She was a formidable battler for the underdog and those without a voice or representation. She showed her tenacity and bravery

speaking out against the will of her own tribe, Te Arawa, over the issue of a proposed Casino in Rotorua. She worked tirelessly right up to her death and was a member of many Maori Boards and projects. She was very supportive of women standing for local body elections and this helped Rotorua to have equal numbers of women councillors on our present District Council. Her astute mind and determination, as well as her kindness, will be missed by the whole community.

Haere mai ki Whanganui-ā-Tara!

By Suzanne Manning, NCWNZ Education Convenor

Haere mai, e wāhine mā I te hou whā, ki Whanganui-ā-tara, ki te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui, ki Pōneke. Nau mai, haere mai, whakatau mai.

Welcome, women from the four winds, to Wellington. Come and be welcome.

Those of us from Whanganui-a-tara me Te Awa Kairangi (Wellington and Hutt Valley) would like to welcome delegates to the National Executive.

The Māori greeting above contains three different names for Wellington. In te Ao Māori (the Māori world), names are not simply a label with which to call a place or a person; they are references to stories, to the histories and legends, and are thus a learning tool as well.

The first name, Whanganui-ā-tara, means "the great harbour of Tara" ("nui" means big, or great). Although the great explorer Kupe had discovered the harbour around the 10th century, naming the islands in the harbour Matiu (Somes) and Makaro (Ward), it was Tara, son of the famous Polynesian navigator Whatonga, who named the harbour and brought his people here to settle. This tribe was named Ngai Tara. Since this time there has been many other tribal groups that have migrated to the Wellington and Kapiti Coast region, most notably Te Ati Awa and Ngati Toa.

The second name, Te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui, means "the head of the fish of Māui" and refers to the legend of the demi-god Māui fishing up the North Island while



Image source: www.positivelyinformed.com

standing in his waka (canoe) which became the South Island. The head of Te Ika a Māui is the Wellington region, and the harbour is its mouth; Lake Wairarapa is its eye.

The final name, Pōneke, is probably a transliteration of the English "Port Nicholson" or its nickname "Port Nick", although another possible meaning is "night movement". This is the name of the pan-tribal iwi based in Wellington, Ngati Pōneke which played a large role in the Māori cultural renaissance last century.

A good website about Wellington's Māori heritage is: www.newzealand.com/travel/media/features/maori-culture/maori-culture_wellingtons-maori-history.cfm

Important Announcement

All Branch & NOS Presidents or Proxies & Standing Committee Convenors & Life Members:

Have you registered yet for NCWNZ National Executive Meeting to be held at Brentwood Hotel in Kilbirnie, Wellington on 20-22 September 2013?

Registrations close shortly and there are currently good airfares available for flights to Wellington from many regions in New Zealand. We have an interesting and varied programme and, with many 'domestic' issues also to discuss, it is **vital** that your Branch and Affiliated Organisations are represented at this national meeting.

If you have mislaid the registration form please download it from the members only area on our website www.ncwnz.org.nz or contact NCWNZ National Office by email on office@ncwnz.org.nz.



What Should the Future of Work Look Like?

This was the question Labour list MP Carol Beaumont asked Papakura and Franklin women who gathered for the South Auckland Combined Women's Service Clubs Annual Dinner. Organised by the Papakura and Franklin branch of the National Council of Women, around 55 representatives of various women's groups attended the dinner.

Ms Beaumont, Labour's spokesperson for Consumer Rights & Standards and its associate spokesperson for Employment, Skills and Training, spoke about the gains women in paid employment have made in recent decades.

However, she cautioned of the need to be aware of "pervasive and systemic discrimination" which still exists and makes it difficult for women to achieve their full potential. In a wide-ranging speech, Ms Beaumont said women's organisations need to be vigilant and ensure hard-won gains, such as paid parental leave and equal access to vocational guidance and training, are built on and developed further.

"We need more women in leadership roles."

She urged her audience to think about what the future of work should look like, suggesting it should include things like young people feeling as if they have future opportunities; that workers receive a living wage; that it is flexible and allows for work/life balance; that people can do the kind

of work they feel best suited for and that people feel they can have a say in the decisions which affect their working lives.

"We need to continue to ensure we work toward achieving better outcomes for women, their daughters and their granddaughters because, through this, we also achieve better outcomes for their sons and grandsons, for families and communities as a whole."



From Left: Catherine Savelio (Carol's guest whom she mentors through the YWCA) Dianne Glenn JP - President Papakura/Franklin Branch, Mavis Shuker - National Chair for New Horizons for WomenTrust, Carol Beaumont MP - Guest Speaker, Christine Knock - Vice President International Council of Women (ICW), Carolyn Savage - President of Business and Professional Women NZ (BPW NZ), Sonia Faulkner - National President of Girl Guiding NZ.



A significant Employment Court decision on interpreting the Equal Pay Act

An Employment Court decision released on 22 August 2013 will be of great interest to NCWNZ members. The Service and Food Workers Union have succeeded in their case in support of members who worked for a rest home company. The complex case, which was illustrated by the circumstances of careworker Kristine Bartlett, sought clarification on the interpretation of the Equal pay Act 1972 to determine if differences in remuneration based on sex existed.

The Human Rights Commission, who highlighted the issue of undervalued female dominated care work in the Caring Counts Report in 2012, welcomed the decision saying:

"the decision reinforces that conventional methods of statutory interpretation employed by the Court took into account human rights implications - the Court noting that an interpretation that was consistent with the Bill of Rights and sought to eliminate discrimination against women was appropriate."

Source www.voxy.co.nz/national/commission-welcomes-equal-pay-act-decision/5/165452

Continuing concern about mandatory registrations for social workers

The issue of compulsory registration came before the Government last year as part of the White Paper on vulnerable children, but a decision was made against mandatory registration. At Dunedin Conference 2012 NCWNZ established policy in this area with the Resolution:

The National Council of Women of New Zealand request that the New Zealand Parliament amend the Social Workers Registration Act 2003 to make the Registration of Social Workers mandatory.

There has been no response as yet to letters sent to, among others, the Ministers of Social Welfare, Health and Education. Media reports in July reveal that the issue continues to be of great concern.

Several recent complaints to the Social Workers Registration Board have highlighted situations of people with criminal records being employed

as social workers. At least 10 serious complaints have been received by the board this year, but chair Toni Hocquard said it had no option but to note them and carry on because the workers were not within their jurisdiction.

"The concerning issue is that there is evidence to show that allowing unqualified, incompetent, inexperienced individuals to work with the most vulnerable members of society causes significant harm," Hocquard said.

"The evidence is seen daily in the media, the courts, the hospitals and morgues throughout New Zealand."

Hocquard said the number of complaints received were just the "tip of the iceberg", as most people needing social workers were already vulnerable and unlikely to complain.

There are about 14,000 social workers in New Zealand. Only 4,000

are registered, with the board assessing that around another 4,000 more would fit the criteria, while 6,000 have limited training or experience. *Source: www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/8944942/Rogue-social-workers-look-after-vulnerable*

Concern that 'living wage' concept may be reinterpreted as a ceiling

First Union general secretary Robert Reid said the organisation's main focus this year was on getting the "living wage" of \$18.40 an hour more widely implemented....Mr Reid said First Union was currently negotiating with The Warehouse, but felt "disillusioned" at the way it had adapted the living wage idea. "It appears rather than the \$18.40 being the wage that no person should be getting less than, they've turned it into their top rate with incentives to get there."

Source: www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/news/8995211/Union-members-sign-pledge-for-living-wage

Pay gap not closing for young women

Young women are earning almost a third less than young men in real terms, despite the gender pay gap closing.

Men aged 15 to 24 brought home median weekly earnings of \$600 in 2012, compared with \$384 for women of the same age, figures from Statistics New Zealand's annual Income Survey show.

Young women's total incomes have stagnated in recent years, as they worked fewer hours than men, and in lower-paid industries.

The smallest gap in real incomes was in 2009, when men took home \$5560 a year more than women. By 2012, this gap had doubled to \$11,200.

The gulf in real incomes comes despite a closing of the pay gap between men and women doing roughly equal work. In 2011, young men were paid 4.3 per cent more than women in similar work, which fell to 2.2 per cent in 2012.

University of Canterbury professor Lucy Johnston said recent economic troubles may have seen young women return to traditionally "female" professions, which typically attracted lower pay.

"I think there had been some improvement in women taking on more traditional male jobs. It may be [employers] are less willing to take a gamble now."

Pay Equity Challenge Coalition spokeswoman Angela McLeod said that although some of the difference could be explained by higher numbers of women undertaking university study, the economic downturn had hit women harder, with many finding that part-time work was their only option.

Unite union co-ordinator Heleyni Pratley said the fast-food industry, which had a predominantly young workforce, still witnessed unconscious discrimination.

Men were promoted over their more experienced, but often naive, female co-workers, who were far less likely to ask for things such as overtime pay.

A McDonald's worker, Chloe Sifflett, 21, said favouritism towards boys certainly played a role in her workplace. "Guys get more shifts and more training than the girls."

She believed women her age needed to be more aware of equality issues, but understood why workers might not want to rock the boat.

"The main priority is finding a job and keeping a job."

Women's Affairs Minister Jo Goodhew celebrated the closing gender pay gap, but said any difference in earnings was a concern.

Source: www.stuff.co.nz/business/money/8988034/Pay-gap-not-closing-for-young-women

Child Poverty Action Group says "Children's Action Plan Needs Broader Scope"

Child Poverty Action Group says the government's announcement of a Children's Action Plan acknowledges the importance of protecting vulnerable children from violence.

CPAG spokesperson Associate Professor Mike O'Brien says any move by the government to protect children was commendable. However the Children's Action Plan had shortcomings, as it did not take into account factors that contribute towards the occurrence of child abuse.

"I think the government is right to place importance on protecting vulnerable children but this is not a Children's Action Plan. This is a plan to stop vulnerable children from being hurt and that in itself is a good thing."

However a Children's Action Plan would need to have a broader scope to attend to a range of issues affecting children - health, housing, incomes, education and poverty to enact change and bring about progress in communities.

Assoc. Prof O'Brien says a recent report by CPAG drew attention to the wide range of issues that increase

the likelihood of abuse exploring the link between poverty and child neglect and maltreatment. "A top heavy approach such as that proposed by the government will be limited."

The CPAG report strongly identifies poverty as a key risk factor in child abuse. While the government seems genuinely committed to protecting children it is failing to address poverty as one of the key drivers of child maltreatment and neglect, despite many of its own reports over many years suggesting more action.

The government's recent welfare reforms will cut benefits to struggling parents of children where strict criteria are not met, rather than increase child-related payments to the most disadvantaged - a move that will create further risk for children already identified as vulnerable children.

Children must be protected with policies that will improve their access to adequate income, housing, education and health. As a nation we can choose to dramatically reduce poverty and by doing so lessen the risk to our children from suffering abuse.

For more information about CPAG's two part series on Child Abuse and Poverty please click here:

www.cpag.org.nz/in-focus/child-abuse-poverty-what-are-the-links/media-release-launch-of-child-abuse-and-poverty/

Biggest Study in NZ
As the biggest longitudinal study in New Zealand we are pleased to be working towards making positive change in policy and social outcomes.

Growing Up in New Zealand is a longitudinal study that provides an up-to-date, population relevant picture of what it is like to be a child growing up in New Zealand in the 21st century. Approximately 7,000 children and their families are taking part in a study that aims to provide a complete picture of the pathways that lead to successful and equitable child development, therefore improving outcomes for all children - now and into the future.



5 Wishes for every Mother & Baby



I wish we cared about every new baby, the way we care about the Royal baby.

This is what I wish for every infant, mother and family:

1. I wish the arrival of every infant in the world was greeted with the same sense of anticipation and enthusiasm as the Royal arrival.
2. I wish every mother, infant and family could receive the same "care" as the Royals will.
3. I wish *we* cared as much about maternal and infant mortality around the world.
4. I wish *we* cared as much about *other* mothers who aren't supported in their mothering and against whom active measures are taken to regulate and surveil their bodies merely because of the accident of their own circumstances.
5. I wish we could remember the resources that have been extracted globally to maintain the Royal Family in the lifestyle they are accustomed to and that these could be redistributed.

Read more at:
www.ruthdesouza.com/2013/07/25/the-royal-baby/

Ombudsman - Defender of the People

Recently the Hawke's Bay Branch of the National Council of Women welcomed over 150 guests to their annual dinner. At a time when NCWNZ is focussing on 'Women and Work - No Barriers' it was particularly appropriate to have Dame Beverley Wakem, Chief Ombudsman and first female Chief Ombudsman as guest speaker talking on: 'Tangible Justice and the Role of the Ombudsman.'

It was amazing to learn that the role of Ombudsman has its origins in ancient Rome and then China in 221 BC before Sweden took up the concept in the 18th century. New Zealand was the fourth country to establish the modern Ombudsman role and the first English speaking country to do so. This 'defender of the people' has stood the test of time.

Dame Beverley explained that the Ombudsman receives complaints from aggrieved persons against government agencies, officials and employees and may also act on his/her own motion, and has power to investigate, recommend corrective actions and issue reports. She said "I have the full powers of a Commission on Enquiry for example."

Private sector 'Ombudsmen' such as the Banking Ombudsman and the Insurance and Savings Ombudsman abound.

Quotes have described the role of the Parliamentary Ombudsman as "An Ombudsman brings the lamp of scrutiny to otherwise dark places, even over the resistance of those who would draw the blinds." And:

"There is nothing quite so impenetrable as a government department with something to hide, and nothing quite so inscrutable as an experienced Minister on the defensive."

Dame Beverley said that the Office of the Ombudsman has a unique entry point as a monitor of state administration. It has a strong moral voice, is seen as independent, authoritative, accessible, with defined jurisdiction and defined powers, and can influence the development of better systems and processes, helping change conditions for those who cannot speak for themselves.

"The Ombudsman Act and the Official Information Act work well together in our role of seeking administrative

justice, procedural fairness and access to the information required to achieve those."

Whilst the Ombudsman can only make recommendations for corrective action, and these do not have the force of the law, it is true that recommendations are invariably accepted where they are rational, proportionate, and evidence based. An Ombudsman is uniquely qualified to achieve 'Fairness for All', thus ensuring a healthy democracy.

In answer to questions about the number of cases which came to the attention of the Office, Dame Beverley said this was increasing rapidly and she had great concern for the health and wellbeing of the staff whose workload had become enormous.

Dame Beverley considers Professor Geoffrey Sawyer of the Australian National University best summed up the Ombudsman's role when he said:

"For modern states, an Ombudsman resembles a spouse – there is no absolute guarantee of permanent happiness, but life will be quite incomplete without one."

Young Writers Recognised

The National Council of Women Dunedin Branch held the inaugural Dawn Ibbotson Essay Competition for years 11 and 12 students at Otago's secondary schools. They chose the title "Woman and Work - No Barriers?" to fit in with the NCW current theme.

Entries were judged by Professor Emerita Jocelyn Harris. First prize of \$500 went to Eleanor O'Neill of Columba College, second prize of \$250 was awarded to Lydia Drew of Otago Girls High School, third prize of \$125 went to Marie Dunn of Otago Girls High School and the \$50 prize for commended was awarded to Marie Dunn of Otago Girls High School.

An Awards Ceremony was held at Burns Hall, Dunedin on Thursday 8 August where the successful authors received their cheque and certificate.

The organising committee was able to obtain sponsorship to fund all of the expenses for the competition and 17 year old Ben Grave provided the graphics for the posters and certificates.

It was fitting that Dawn Ibbotson was chosen to have the naming rights for the competition. She has been a member of the Dunedin Branch for 65 years and is from the era where a woman was expected to give up her career on marrying.



From Left: NCW Dunedin Branch President Lynette Grave, Essay Competition Judge Professor Emerita Jocelyn Harris, Winning Entry Recipient Eleanor O'Neill, Dawn Ibbotson, Third place Recipient Marie Dunn, Commended Recipient Rebecca Wilson. Absent: Lydia Drew

Source: www.voxy.co.nz/national/seven-massey-students-win-nzfgw-scholarships/5/159481

An Update on Reshaping the Public Sector

By Judy Whitcombe, PWC member

The Institute of Public Administration (IPANZ) hosted an invitation-only event (for State Sector CEs) on 30 July 2013 where the Minister of State Services, Hon Jonathan Coleman, and the State Services Commissioner, Iain Rennie, spoke on the **"the biggest transformation of the State sector in a generation"** with the passing of the State Sector and Public Finance Reform Bill. NCWNZ made a submission on the Bill earlier in the year and also presented an oral submission to the Select Committee. The evening was facilitated by Colin James.

The Minister thanked all who participated in reshaping the public sector. He promoted the way ahead with Government's "Better Public Service" initiatives. Under the new legislation there would be: a single team of Chief Executives with flexible employment options; CEs capability to be developed; improved financial flexibility and more meetings and contact with other governments. He spoke of a "culture of innovation" and said that "what gets measured gets done". The public service should exemplify good practices. The Minister then left.

Iain Rennie spoke of the future and what the State services will look like.

He noted that NZ fares well internationally in measures such as corruption. He said that the State Services will be focussing on issues that really matter - money, people and information. A sector-wide view was wanted - not a focus on individual agencies. There would be more emphasis on the stewardship role and more focus on policy for the future. He also discussed planning and active management. He concluded by saying that NZ had a tradition of ground-breaking reform.

For someone who was closely involved with the development of the State Sector Act 1988 (as a senior policy analyst with the SSC) the evening was rather like "back to the future". The 1988 Act was based on stand-alone departments with competition seen as the way to improve performance. Now collaboration and a unified public sector is the thrust of the 2013 Amendments.

Note: The Bill removed Equal Employment Opportunities from the principles of the State Sector Act. The thrust of the NCW submission was that the "good employer" provisions in the Bill did not adequately cover or reflect the importance of EEO.

What We Have Learnt

By Sue Carswell (PhD),
Independent Research & Evaluation
Aged care provider learnings on responding to the February earthquake in Canterbury (Report 1) August 2011.

This report shares learnings from interviews with over 105 participants from 70 aged care organisations in Canterbury, pre-dominantly in Christchurch.

Owners, managers (head office and facility managers) and staff generously shared their experiences of the February 22nd 2011 earthquake, the challenges they faced and what helped them.

They reflected on what they had learnt and provided suggestions for enhancing emergency preparedness and response. The findings from these interviews are shared to inform future planning and to provide insights into what worked well in a large scale emergency.

[Commissioned by Eldernet with funding support from the Canterbury District Health Board]

Source: www.eldernet.co.nz/Home/What%20we%20have%20learnt

Tirohia Mai: Look at us now - Exhibition at National Library

This exhibition, currently running in the ground floor gallery at the National Library until 15 November is well worth a visit. It is based on an impressive and thought-provoking timeline supported by some great individual stories.

"New Zealand women won the vote 120 years ago. Tirohia Mai looks at where women stand now, how they got here, and how they see themselves in 2013. It celebrates the rich diversity of women and their

contributions to making New Zealand what it is today and will be tomorrow."

www.natlib.govt.nz/visiting/wellington/tirohia-mai

The enormous influence of early suffragists, including the establishment of NCWNZ in 1896 is acknowledged. The impact of the 1970's wave of feminism and Maori activism reminds us of the far-reaching changes many of us have witnessed alongside some of the issues of equality which have barely changed at all.



Women's Voices from the Canterbury Earthquakes

After the devastating 6.3 quake in Christchurch on 22 February, the media gave much attention to heroic stories of rescue, the comments of decision-makers, or people who were quake 'victims'. The NCWNZ Christchurch branch initiated the Women's Voices project to ensure that women's everyday stories of endurance, day-to-day support for families, friends and neighbours, and informal and formal community activities were also documented.

The Christchurch earthquakes and subsequent aftershocks triggered spontaneous responses and actions that drew people together. One participant described it in this way:

People were vulnerable and had to trust each other and allow each other to help, which is amazingly cathartic for a society that is sometimes quite private and staunch. It was amazing to see strangers bonding, supporting each other; and to be the recipient of unconditional kindness. Just the fact that we are all experiencing this together is quite unifying.

Many women felt the need and desire to help in some way. Some participants talked about feeling guilty about not doing enough, saying that even though they did things like baking for the student volunteer army and shovelled liquefaction, they felt guilty about not doing more. But a mother of two preschoolers realised that her job was to focus on caring for them. She had to stay strong for the boys, to 'keep calm and carry on'. Some filled their car with friends and spent a day delivering food parcels; one participant said, "I wished I had just taken a shovel and done hard graft



as it was pretty chaotic and it seemed we were not being useful. Playing at doing good!"

Jayne Rattray, lived in a part of the city that was not badly affected by the 22 February quake, but she felt "like we have got to do something, we are so close yet so distant, and everything was okay out here, so what can we do? ... it was just a huge disaster really, that made everyone want to stop and get involved and help... everyone kind of dropped tools for that time to be able to help, and reflect, and find out how everyone was."



Jayne was a founder member of the Rangiora Earthquake Express which within a few days was feeding thousands of people.

This is how she described it:

It was incredible the whole number of people that got in and brought their expertise, and looking back it was kind of like the right hand, and the left hand, didn't really know what each other was doing, we just sort of connected, the left and right came together, and we all worked as one body... all little pieces of one big jigsaw ...everyone had a skill and contacts, and experience... [everyone was] important, the people packing and loading, the endless trailers and the helicopter, everyone played their part.

At this point, the effort just blew them away, "It was so huge... This huge jigsaw came together and it was perfect." Quick decision-making, using established networks and rapid and effective communication appeared to be key elements in setting up these initiatives. Jayne explains that she had been helping with boarding people and

delivering goods to her church; she explained that "A family friend, a helicopter pilot, got in touch with me and said 'right we can start flying stuff into the city, let's get a plan to fly some food in, food and water.'" The pilot had already been in touch with Civil Defence who had turned him away, so he called Jayne because he knew 'if anyone could make it happen it was her'.

Her first call on Thursday morning was to the Chief Logistics Officer of Civil Defence in Waimakariri, who wished them all the best and told them they could do it, but said that

Civil Defence couldn't officially support them, but good luck! During the four hours of phone calls to and fro sorting things out Jayne drafted press releases and put the radio station on standby.

"The next day it snowballed..."

Jayne described how the co-pilot's seat in a helicopter became her office and base: She explained "My friend landed and he basically grabbed me by the arm and said 'you're coming with me girl', and he shoved me in the passenger's seat and buckled me up..."

Jayne remembers looking down at her family and friends thinking "what have I got myself into?"

Their first concern once they took off was where they should go.

They knew the quake had been centred in Banks Peninsula and as there were many isolated places out there they headed off in that direction. They dropped off their first load of supplies into a 'tent city' in Sumner. They flew over the Bexley area:



[We] could see the Bexley/New Brighton area, and instantly from the air you can see that, that was the most devastated area, the liquefaction, you couldn't see the roads or anything, and at that stage it was when it was all covered in water, the roads were closed as well, so the cars were all backed up.

The bridges were closed and the water tankers couldn't get out to the residents in the area. Jayne discusses how this was both incredible and heartbreaking to see from the air. Thus for the rest of the afternoon, food, water, and supplies were dropped into a reserve in Bexley.

They flew into Aranui and Wainoni Park that afternoon as well, and by the early evening it was clear that people needed hot food. Returning to Rangiora the call was made for hot food and the local Rangiora community produced Chinese food, Pizza, Fish and Chips, and other food.

One of Christchurch's best chefs had offered his time and was running a team "like clockwork". There was a "whole team cooking, preparing, and boxing". Alongside the kitchen, barbeques cooked hot food outside. Families were at home baking, cooking, and bagging, and companies were donating bulk food and other goods. Jayne recounts that there were teams of people who put goods into boxes and then loaded them on the helicopters or road train.

"[We did] around 150 flights and in those flights we could take about 250 kg each, so I think that works out about 45 tonnes of stuff went via air... flying 8 in the morning to 8 at night, when we lost the light, so 12 hours a day of flying and unfortunately I ended up being in the co-pilot's seat most of the time".

Initially, the helicopters took to the air without funding; this was something that the helicopter owners decided that "they would start doing and hope for the best", the worst case being they would fund the trips themselves. This was stressful for the REE because the first 24 hours of flying time racked up a bill of approximately \$40,000. Jayne estimates that over four and a half days:

[We did] around 150 flights and in those flights we could take about 250 kg each, so I think that works out about 45 tonnes of stuff went via air... flying 8 in the morning to 8 at night, when we lost the light, so 12 hours a day of flying and unfortunately I ended up being in the co-pilot's seat most of the time.

Jayne's story about the Rangiora Earthquake Express reveals how spontaneously people responded, how quickly networks were activated, and how ordinary people's generosity was vital in the early days after the 22 February 2011 earthquakes.

Source: *Womens Voices from the Christchurch Earthquakes, 2012 report for Christchurch City Council, authored by Judith Sutherland, Rosemary Du Plessis, Helen Gibson, Roberta Hill & Liz Gordon.*

Women's Suffrage Petition 1893

This is the first sheet of the giant suffrage petition signed by 'Mary J. Carpenter and 25,519 Others' that was submitted to Parliament on 28 July 1893. Suffrage leader Kate Sheppard's signature appears about halfway down the left column.

Search the database of the signatures here:

www.nzhistory.net.nz/politics/womens-suffrage/petition

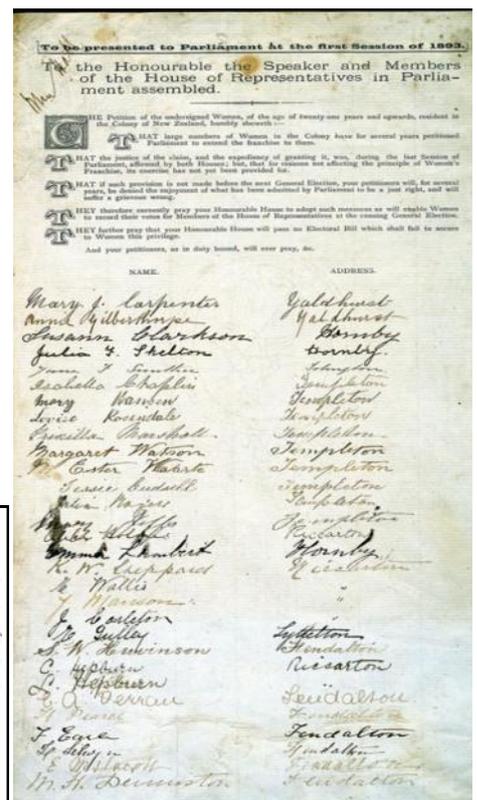
This huge roll of names – which stretches more than 270 m – is preserved at Archives New Zealand, alongside the Treaty of Waitangi.

The international significance of both documents has been recognised by their inclusion on the UNESCO Memory of the World register of documentary heritage.

Read more about the suffrage petition online:

www.nzhistory.net.nz/politics/womens-suffrage/about-the-petition

Image source: Archives New Zealand, Head Office, Wellington
Reference: LE1, 1893/7a



Watch This Space!

For the next few months *The Circular* will feature a series of vignettes focusing on women's stories from the Christchurch earthquakes of 2010 to 2011.

The recent increase in seismic activity in other than Canterbury have heightened interest in how people cope following these unsettling events.

NGO Reference Group for 2013 Review of Retirement Income Policy

By Jean Fuller, NCWNZ representative on the Committee and NCWNZ Parliamentary Watch Committee Convenor

On Friday 9th August 2013 I attended the final meeting of the NGO Reference Group held by the Commission for Financial Literacy and Retirement Income (hereafter "The Commission") for the development of the 2013 Review.

The discussion concentrated on the consultation mechanisms and on some of the interesting ideas that been presented. These ideas were discussed but may or may not be reflected in the Review.

Consultation Process

The Commission has been particularly concerned to gain wider public input for this Review and has conducted a number of focus groups especially in an effort to engage younger people. It also sought formal submissions and 38 of these were received, mostly from industry bodies.

NCW contributed a submission. A short response questionnaire was also put on-line. There were 45 replies which was a disappointing number. This was of interest to NCW who had given publicity to the short questionnaire. A number of government organisations are trying to use this method of soliciting public opinion rather than by the formal submission process. It means that they can control the discussion through the choice of questions and it is much easier to analyse but, at least in this instance, it was not particularly successful.

The Commission will be sending out a draft of the Review on the 30th September and will be pleased to hear comments and/or to address groups on the ideas presented. The final draft will be done in November.

Ideas of interest to NCWNZ

1. The Treasury has released a paper comparing the various ways of funding superannuation with a view to limiting expenditure which is foreshadowed to increase markedly as baby boomers retire. Victoria University has a calculator available to show how these would work see: <http://nzpublicfinance.com/ltf-calculator/>

2. KiwiSaver was a major talking point. Although more people are joining the scheme the statistics are showing that many are disengaging at an early stage which means that policy makers cannot rely on this as a means of supplementing National Superannuation. The first accounts have begun to mature and it seems that the money is being used to pay off debt rather than to fund post-employment expenses. This is a characteristic that is showing up in Australia as well. There is some desire for the New Zealand market to provide annuities for maturing KiwiSaver funds see: www.cflri.org.nz/sites/default/files/docs/RI-Review-2013-Assuring-retirement-income.pdf

Women have always been disadvantaged by KiwiSaver which relies on consistent work patterns. There is an interesting suggestion that any parental leave payments should contain a component for the maintenance of a KiwiSaver account. Of course men as well as women take parental leave.

There are strong suggestions that KiwiSaver will need to be made more attractive to people if it is to be effective eg by allowing lower contributions. While this would also lower the final amount available for use in retirement it would maintain the saving habit.

3. There is a world-wide trend for a significant gap to develop between those who are well supported in

retirement and those who are not. Means testing of individuals is most often suggested in this context. Another idea is to means test population cohorts. This is done by lowering the benchmark for superannuation and using the savings to provide supplementary supports eg housing allowances for those who rent. Obviously the immediate concern with such a scheme is the possibility of manipulation either by governments or by individuals. The Commission advocates establishing an independent research body as the curb on unintended results.

4. Age of entitlement is a constant point of debate. The Commission has had an interesting proposal presented by an English academic. When superannuation was established it was intended to cover 30% of the mythical 'average' life. Therefore the age at which superannuation starts should be governed by the average life expectancy ie as longevity increases so the age of eligibility increases. There is an argument that longevity may be at or near its peak and a decline could be close. If that were to happen then the age of eligibility could be adjusted downwards. The advantage of this system is that it appears to be well received by the public and seems to provide a non-emotional way of establishing the age when superannuation begins.

This is the third Review process in which I have been involved as the NCWNZ representative. As always it has been interesting experience though the failure to achieve any movement in the perceived problems is somewhat disheartening. Maybe this time the Review will proved more effective.

Government Communications Security Bureau Bill: Some food for thought

By Helen Gibson, NCWNZ Circular Editor

In 1972 NCWNZ passed policy regarding Privacy and Confidentiality see policy no 2.7.1 (p.19). It reads:

That the Government be urged to legislate to protect the privacy of the individual in relation to computerised personal data files.

This policy has implications for the current discussions that are being held throughout the country about Governments proposed Government Communications Security Bureau Bill and the Interception Capability and Security Bill, and raises important points for us to consider.

A number of prominent individuals and trusted organizations have published their concerns, urging New Zealanders to think about the implications for our individual rights to privacy and confidentiality of these bills.

The Human Rights Commission wrote a Report on the 12 July 2013 on the G C S Band Related Legislation Amendment Bill, the Telecommunications (Interception Capability and Security) Bill and broader human rights matters regarding surveillance

"The Commission is concerned that the proposed bills are wide-reaching without sufficient safeguards against abuse of power. There is inadequate oversight and inadequate provision for ensuring transparency and accountability", chief commissioner David Rutherford said.

Mr Rutherford said the commission had employed its rarely used ability to issue a report directly to the Prime Minister, "due to the seriousness of the proposed bills' measures and the need for proper oversight of the surveillance activities of intelligence agencies". See: www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10897315

Dr Anne Salmond, New Zealander of the Year, has had a number of pieces published in The New Zealand Herald about her concerns about the bill stating that the Government must heed Kiwi's unwillingness to live in a spy state. See: www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10908578

The law society has also offered their analysis of the bill. See their website; www.lawsociety.org.nz/news-and-communications/news/august-2013/gcsb-bill-remains-flawed-despite-proposed-changes

NCWNZ Policies are useful guides for us when we are thinking about the laws for our society. Whatever our views, keeping ourselves informed is an important function of our organisation.

National Council of Women Dinner

Dame **Anne Salmond** spoke at a recent dinner hosted by Auckland branch of **NCWNZ**. The evening's dinner was in honour of the life and work of Dame Dorothy Winstone. Look out for this speech which will be on the NCWNZ website soon!

Ministerial Response: Free Contraception

'At the Dunedin Conference in 2012, NCWNZ passed the following motion:

NCWNZ supports free contraception for all women in New Zealand (i.e the consultation fee and cost of contraceptives) including the provision of the Emergency Contraceptive Pills through community pharmacies and other providers of contraceptive services.

This policy was conveyed to the Hon Jo Goodhew in her capacity as Minister of Women's Affairs and Associate Minister of Health and her response was:

'While I agree that not all women in need are under the age of 25 or of a certain ethnicity, there are limits to

health funding and therefore the money does need to target those population groups most in need. As I am sure you can appreciate, all health-related funding, including funding for district health boards (DHBs) continues to be restrained by the current tight fiscal situation. Sexual health services provided by DHBs are funded through Vote Health via a Crown Funding Agreement.

However, ultimately it is up to the DHBs to determine the level of funding they will dedicate towards the provision of sexual health services, based on the needs of their population and the resources available. DHBs set their own access restrictions and costs for services to

ensure that they are maximising the funding they receive.

Family Planning has a contract with Ministry of Health to provide its clinical services and costs for services are agreed as part of this contract.

As you are aware, Family Planning provides services free for New Zealand residents under the age of 22 and charges \$5 for those over 22 and with a Community Services card and \$23 for all other New Zealand residents. This makes access to contraceptive advice more readily available for most New Zealand women.'

Charter Schools Add Little Value

By Barbara Mabbett NCWNZ Education Standing Committee Corresponding Member

Proponents of charter schools base their case on a perceived lack of autonomy for schools within the public education system. They see the present structure as too restrictive, and base their case on improved performance by charter schools within the United States. I find this perception puzzling.

There is little justification for basing New Zealand education policy on experience in America, where each State has control over its system with only the broadest of statements from Washington. These need to vary, as they do, in accordance with their particular population, and quite possibly a Charter School model is appropriate in some places with some groups. New Zealand, on the other hand, has a small and mobile population, so it needs to provide a national framework of objectives for each curriculum area, stated broadly enough for each school to manage

the delivery in ways that work best for its community. School trustees and parent groups have a valuable role in how this is done. As those of us who have been in and out of different schools, both with our children and during our work can attest, flexibility is well built in to the system, yet students are usually able to move between schools without facing unnecessary disruption to their learning.

Further, our schools are required to provide for the full range of learning needs for all their students, regularly assessing progress and not pre-judging their abilities. As students progress at different rates and go through different stages of development, teachers and administrators seek to offer a broad range of experiences to meet these differing and changing needs. The key factor in providing a broad and balanced education is the quality of

the teacher. One of New Zealand's first Directors of Education is quoted as saying 'education is what happens when the teacher shuts the door'. The interaction between teacher and student is fundamental, and demands not only initial training but continuing growth and support of teachers. The option of employing untrained people as first-line teachers, as proposed for Charter Schools, is unacceptable.

We already have an 'integrated school' model for those groups that wish to emphasise a particular philosophy or incorporate a specific aspect of learning. It is difficult to see what further value could be added by setting up a semi-detached model of public education under a different name, and lacking the checks and balances that are already established.

Watch those button batteries

They power our watches, hearing aids, singing greeting cards, keys and lots of other gadgets we enjoy using. But button batteries can be deadly if swallowed. So keep them away from children and be aware that the elderly have mistaken them for pills!

What are button batteries?

Button batteries are coin-sized batteries used to power calculators, hearing aids, watches, singing Christmas cards, bathroom scales, and lots of other devices we use every day.

They are often sold cheaply in plastic packs that contain a large number of batteries, which leave plenty of spares in the opened pack if you only need one.

Why can they be dangerous?

When a button battery comes into contact with bodily fluids, it creates an electrical current. This even happens with flat or 'dead' batteries. The current burns surrounding body tissue and can quickly and seriously damage internal organs in as little as two hours' time.

See a video about the immediate dangers of button batteries: www.youtube.com/watch?v=2HuUMe9CClw.

Watch Hunter's story on Product Safety Australia's website to see what the long term health problems of swallowing a battery can be: www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/1001353.

How to use button batteries safely

- ◆ Don't ever allow children to play with button batteries.
- ◆ Store button batteries like you would for medication or matches – out of reach of children. This means either in a cabinet out of a child's reach or in a child-proofed locked area.
- ◆ Keep spare or used batteries away from tablets and pills that elderly people may be taking. For example, make sure they change hearing aid batteries in an area completely separate from where they keep their medication.
- ◆ Change button batteries on a surface out of children's reach. Immediately place the 'dead' battery out of their reach.
- ◆ Make sure the battery cover on devices that use button batteries is secure so a child can't remove it. Use duct tape if necessary.

Seek medical attention immediately if you think someone has swallowed a button battery or a child may have placed one in their nose or ear. Do not let the person eat or drink anything and do not induce vomiting.

More information and general product safety, visit the "Product safety" section of the Consumer Affairs website: www.consumeraffairs.govt.nz/for-consumers/goods/product-safety

Tiriti O Waitangi News and Information

NCWNZ's first policy on the Treaty of Waitangi was passed in 1992 which acknowledged the Treaty of Waitangi as New Zealand's founding document. In 2002 NCWNZ urged the New Zealand Government to provide adequate funding for the provision of **education and information** to community groups and NGOs about the **Treaty of Waitangi** and its implications for their organisations (Policy 2.11 pg 21 in 115 Years of Resolution).

In order to support our organisation's acknowledgement of the foundational nature of the Treaty of Waitangi and our commitment to understanding its implications for us as an organisation, *the Circular* will regularly include information or news about the Treaty so that we become more informed about the Treaty and its implications for us as contemporary New Zealanders.

The Treaty of Waitangi was preceded by He Wakaputanga O Te Rangatiratanga O Nu Tireni or The Declaration of Independence signed in 1835.

So what is this document and why was it necessary - here is some background:

Source: Creative commons license from The Treaty of Waitangi: Questions and Answers published by Network Waitangi Otautahi & Network Waitangi Whangarei, 2012 edition.

By 1835 James Busby who was acting as British Resident in New Zealand, had concerns about the continuing and increasing interest in New Zealand by other nations. In particular, the Frenchman Baron Charles de Thierry was known to be planning to come to New Zealand to set himself up as a sovereign. De Thierry was also claiming that he had bought a large amount of land in the Hokianga.

Busby collaborated with northern rangatira in the drafting of the Declaration of Independence, which was signed on October 28, 1835. It declared this country an independent state, and that full sovereign power and authority (tino rangatiratanga) resided in rangatira.

The Declaration's signatories, 34 rangatira, called themselves the Heads of the Confederation of the United Tribes of New Zealand and agreed to meet at Waitangi in the autumn of each year to frame laws for the regulation of trade and the peace and good order of the country.

An invitation was also extended to southern rangatira to join the Confederation and sign the Declaration, and 52 around the

country had signed by 1840.

Importantly, the Declaration made it clear that "no separate legislative authority" (kawanatanga) would be allowed in the country unless appointed by rangatira "in congress assembled". The Crown was invited to give its assistance and to ensure that others did not infringe upon the independence of the rangatira.

The use of North American concepts such as 'independence' and 'congress' in the Declaration stems from Maori knowledge of international politics and history, with some rangatira having had extensive contact with indigenous Americans and other colonised peoples in their travels. In particular, they were aware of how the Aboriginal people were treated by the British in Australia. Busby forwarded the Declaration to Britain, which formally recognised New Zealand's sovereign independence in 1836.

For more information and to view a translation of the declaration see: www.nwo.org.nz

Next month: a look at what life in Aotearoa looked like before 1840 ...

NCWNZ Submission on Social Housing Reform Bill

On 31 July PWC member Wendy Zemanek, accompanied by Helen Reilly, presented the Oral submission to accompany the NCWNZ submission to the Social Services Select Committee on the **Social Housing Reform (Housing Restructuring and Tenancy Matters Amendment) Bill 116-1**. There were 10 MPs present and no supplementary questions were asked. Wendy reported that the Bill had aroused a strong response from NCWNZ members, many of whom had experience in working with people in the lower socio-economic sector.

The overall consensus had been that the responsibility for social housing should remain with Housing New Zealand, working with a range of community and government agencies to provide a coordinated approach.

Access to public transport, positive environmental surroundings and an awareness of the disruption to family stability caused by forced moves were all highlighted as important considerations when state-funded rental housing is offered to those in need.

NCWNZ applauded the fact that the Bill proposed a better assessment of need for social housing, eligibility for social housing, and assessment of eligibility for an income-related rent but concern was expressed for the significant numbers of people who were removed from waiting lists when Housing NZ criteria was tightened as these people still needed housing.

Members made a range of suggestions in relation to having clear processes for tenants to raise

concerns about their property; having repairs done promptly eg blocked drains and vandalised letter boxes; and having clarity about the separate responsibilities of tenant and landlord. The inclusion of fines of up to \$2000 for incorrect provision of information was viewed as harsh and impractical as there may be many factors such as low literacy levels which can lead to errors.

NCWNZ members also expressed strong approval and support for the \$2.9 billion that Housing NZ is budgeting to spend over the next three years on completing the insulating of all state houses – including the building of extra bedrooms, the rebuild of Christchurch homes and earthquake strengthening state houses in other parts of the country.

Calling All Journalists!

Rural Women New Zealand Journalism Award entries open

Entries are now open for the Rural Women New Zealand Journalism Award 2013, which will be presented at the NZ Guild of Agricultural Journalists Awards in Wellington on 18 October.

Rural Women NZ began sponsoring the prize six years ago to encourage journalists to focus more attention on the achievements of women living and working in rural communities.

It's a strategy that's paid off, says Rural Women NZ national president, Liz Evans.

"At last year's Guild awards, there were more entries in the Rural Women New Zealand Journalism Award category than any other."

Last year's winner was NZX journalist Jackie Harrigan, editor of Young Country magazine.

Entries in the Rural Women NZ Journalism Award 2013 must be of two articles, radio broadcasts or television programmes broadly based on the theme of 'rural women making a difference'.

"This could be in the sense of community involvement, on farm, or in another rural-based business or activity," says Liz Evans.

Entries close 10 September 2013. Any New Zealand-based journalist, communicator or broadcaster is eligible to enter the award. The winner will receive \$500.

Further information and entry forms are available on the Rural Women New Zealand website:

www.ruralwomen.org.nz/news-and-inspiration/entries-now-open-for-rural-women-journalism-award-2013



More Upcoming Events



CHILD POVERTY ACTION GROUP



An Invitation

75th Anniversary of the Social Security Act 1938

ENOUGH OF THE BEST FOR ALL OF US

There is enough of the best for all of us, and I want to bring about security for everyone during illness, whether it be temporary incapacity due to accident, or anything else. I should think it was the inalienable right of every person to be secured against distress



SAVE THE DATE:
Monday 16th SEPTEMBER
Evening Event

*Holy Trinity Cathedral
Parnell, Auckland*

of any form.

Michael Joseph Savage
Parliamentary speech during passage of the Social Security Act in 1938

Guest speakers:

Associate Professor Susan St John

Māmarī Stephens

Professor Paul Dalziel



Inspiring speeches including one from the mayor!



Take Back The Night

candle lighting

Poem Reading

Singing

Join us to help us take back the night

Date: Saturday 28 September 2013

Time: 6:30pm

Where: The Dowse Square, Lower Hutt

What to bring: Torch and a Donation for Women's Refuge

RSVP: pencarrowtbn@gmail.com by Thursday 26 September

Wet weather venue: Moera Community Hall

World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts-End Violence Campaign

All Branch & NOS Secretaries or Treasurers



Please complete your membership returns, listing the number of your members AND including your online or cheque payment for your affiliation fees and send it to National Office ASAP.

Nationally Organised Societies and National Member Organisations returns were due on 30 April and Branch returns were due on 21 June but some are still outstanding.

If this applies to you, it means:

- ◆ We may not be able to send you your correct number of Circulars.
- ◆ Your National President or Branch President or her proxy will not have voting rights at the 2013 National Executive meeting if the affiliation fees for the current year have not been paid.

If you have mislaid your form or have any queries please contact NCWNZ National Office.

Email: office@ncwnz.org.nz

Phone: 04 4737623

Calendar 2013

September		November	
10	World Gynaecological Day	22-24	NCWNZ Board Meeting
19	Suffrage Day	25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
19	NCWNZ Board Meeting		
20-22	NCWNZ National Executive		
		December	
		10	International Human Rights Day

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The deadline for material for the October Circular is Wednesday 11 September

Please send all contributions to the Circular Editor via NCWNZ National Office: office@ncwnz.org.nz

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this Circular are not necessarily those of the National Council of Women of New Zealand