

**WOMEN BUILDING
SUSTAINABLE FUTURES**

Australian Federation of University Women

(AFUW) Inc

34th Triennial Conference

26-29 November 2009

Sancta Sophia College

University of Sydney

CONFERENCE REPORT

Welcome Remarks

As you will see from the material in this report, the 34th, and as it eventuated, the last Triennial Conference of AFUW was a time of change, of consolidation, and of great goodwill and enjoyment for all concerned. The last? Yes, because the long debate about changing our name, inaugurated in preparation for the 2003 Triennial Conference, finally reached a conclusion, and we are now the Australian Federation of Graduate Women.

One of the welcome features of this Conference was the smoothness and rapidity with which the 'business' sessions – especially those related to Resolutions – were concluded. Many factors contributed. Certainly the fact that a raft of Amendments to the Rules passed with only one instance being referred back for further consideration was due in part to the preliminary hard work of the Executive and Council in early formulation and circulation of proposals, enabling very full preliminary discussion, facilitated by the efficiency of Rosemary Everett and Jocelyn Eskdale as successive Resolution Conveners. Above all though, it is our increasing use of email for both information delivery, discussion and decision-making that was crucial in enabling all members to feel involved so that delegates were ready to reach rapid final decisions when the time came. Email is clearly here to stay in the dispatch of Council and Conference business.

With business sessions expedited, thanks also to the efficient preparations of Secretary Tricia Blombery and Treasurer Deborah Haydon, there was more time to enjoy both the very stimulating papers given on the Public Day on the theme of women as agents for sustainable futures and the varied entertainments prepared for Conference members by the energetic members of the Local Arrangements Committee, led by Convener Ivy Edwards. Members enjoyed the sunshine and shade of Sancta Sophia's courtyard for the Conference reception, the sunset cruise on Sydney's fine harbor, the Dinner in the gracious atmosphere of the Women's Club, where we had the privilege of an address from our wise and witty first-ever woman Governor General, Quentin Bryce. We were very privileged with our speakers and visitors: the opening speech of Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, Governor of New South Wales and Chancellor of the University of Sydney got the Conference off to a flying start, while IFUW President, Louise Croot reminded us what we are all about in her speech at the Reception and at the later session on IFUW. It was a great pleasure to also have with us Dorothy Meyer, Convener of the IFUW Status of Women Committee, and members of the New Zealand and Fijian Federations: we really valued the chance to exchange news and views with them.

Conference met so many of its possible aims: to meet old friends (we were delighted to have Past Presidents Daphne Elliott and Daphne Buckley with us) and make new ones; to set our house in order when administrative and structural change was needed; and to plan for the future with a judicious mix of change and continuity, reflected in the incoming Executive, where new President Jane Baker will have the continuing support of the previous Coordinator for International Relations, Secretary and Treasurer. My congratulations go to them and to all those involved in the preparation and execution of a memorable Conference.

Jennifer Strauss, President 34th triennium.

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**18th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING –Draft Minutes
Thursday 26 November 2009, 1:30pm
Sancta Sophia College, 8 Missenden Rd Camperdown**

1. Opening and Welcome

The President opened the meeting at 3.30pm and welcomed all to the 18th Annual General Meeting.

2.1 Attendance

Jennifer Strauss (President), Jane Baker, Helen Bell, Jenny Bennett, Dorothy Betty, Tricia Blombery, Daphne Buckley, Mary Crawford, Betty Davy, Gladys Dodson, Delma Doherty, Jocelyn Eskdale, Catherine Evans, Rose Figtree, Colleen Forrester, Bev Hall, Deborah Haydon, Anne Holloway, Michelle Imison, Dalma Jacobs, Margaret James, Erica Jolly, Marion Jones, Susan Knights, Madeleine Laming, Pamela Lemoine, Melanie Little, Felicity Lord, Wendy McCallum, Wendy McGuffog, Mary Minns, Susan Nagy, Lennie Norgard, Merle Parkes, Greta Recsei, Gaynor Reeves, Pauline Riley, Lynda Roberts-Hall, Virginia Ross, Kathryn Seymour, Joan Smith, Merle Thompson, Taisoo-Kim Watson, Lalani Weddikkara, Barbara Williams

2.2 Apologies

Nolene Baker (NSW), Sr Pauline Cooney, Rosemary Everett (ACT), Jean Mary Fagan (NSW), Margaret Giles (WA), Christine Hosking (NSW), Judith Kedge (ACT), Joyce Kirk (V), Noelene Monier (NSW), Sandra Moor (Q), Kathy Mumford (WA), Vera Raymer (Q), Anne Smith (NSW), Anna Ziegler (NSW)

3. Recognition of Observers

Moved: that Louise Croot (IFUW), Dorothy Page (NZFGW), Senimili Vikikomoala (Fiji), Elizabeth Fong (Fiji), Annabel Boud (Fiji), Anne Tolan (ACU-Q), and Kristy Kennedy be recognized as observers. (Hall/Lord) CARRIED.

4. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 29 August 2008

Moved: That the minutes be adopted as a true record of the meeting. (Roberts-Hall/Jones) CARRIED. No business arising.

5. President's Report

The President spoke to her report which had been circulated. She asked all present to observe a minutes silence as a mark of respect for the late Lyn Thompson and the significant contribution she had made to AFUW.

The President drew the meeting's attention to the report of actions on resolutions, which was included with Proceedings, and expressed her satisfaction at being able to present so many as successfully accomplished. She commended the STAs on their actions.

The President informed members of the redesign process currently underway for the Alliances and said she would report further when decisions had been made about AFUW's representation.

She reported the donation of funds made from PGWNet and members' funds to support teacher training in the Solomon Islands. The President moved a vote of thanks to the LAC for organising the Conference and to Jennifer Phillips for her ongoing work on the website.

Moved: That the President's report be accepted. (Baker/Buckley) CARRIED

6. Treasurer's Report

Audited accounts for the Financial Year 2008/9 and an income statement for the period were tabled by the Treasurer. **Moved:** That the meeting accepts the audited financial records for 2008-2009 as fair and accurate accounts of the AFUW Inc's financial position.

(Haydon/Eskdale) CARRIED It was noted that there was an error in the summary page printed in the Proceedings and the Treasurer undertook to provide a corrected copy to be circulated with the draft minutes.

7. Budget for 35th Triennium financial years 2009-2012

Moved: That the Budget for Triennium be accepted. (Haydon/Buckley) CARRIED

8 Appointment of an Auditor for the 35thTriennium

Moved: That Eric Townsend & Co be appointed as auditors for the 35th Triennium.

(Haydon/Eskdale) CARRIED

9 Matters arising from the Education Trust AGM

A meeting of the Education Trust had been held earlier in the day with all five trustees in attendance. The Treasurer reported that, due to the overall recovery of the financial market, the paper value of investments had returned to the same position as when they were opened. The president announced that the Beryl Henderson Award 2009(administered by AFUW ACT) had been awarded to Evelyn Deplazes.

The Trust noted that Gaynor Reeves would not be continuing as Fellowships Officer and thanked her for all her work in this role.

Moved: That the matters resolved by the Education Trust be endorsed. (Haydon/J.Smith) CARRIED

10. Other Business

Gaynor Reeves moved a vote of thanks to the President and Executive for their work in the past year.

Meeting closed at 4:25pm

To be confirmed 19th AGM 2010

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN INC
SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD 1ST JULY 2008 TO 30TH JUNE 2009

	GENERAL ACCOUNT							TRUST ACCOUNT				TOTAL	
	ADMIN	MEETINGS	PGW Net	SUBTOTAL	PUBLICATIONS	REPRESENTATION	IFUW	TOTAL	GEORGINA SWEET	EM HINDER BEQUEST	BERYL HENDERSO N		AFUW FELLOWSHIP
REVENUE													
CAPITATION FEES AFUW	5,551.00			5,551.00	7,137.00	5,154.50		17,842.50					-
CAPITATION FEES IFUW				-			18,056.20	18,056.20					-
INCOME FROM MEMBERS		850.00		850.00				850.00					-
DONATIONS	508.75			508.75			740.50	1,249.25				308.75	308.75
INTEREST	2,288.27			2,288.27				2,288.27				6.21	6.21
DISTRIBUTION & IMPUTATION CREDITS				-				-	2,704.48		672.53	465.31	3,842.32
OTHER INCOME	604.90		138.71	743.61				743.61		443.11			443.11
MOVEMENT IN MARKET VALUE				-				-					-
				-				-					-
TOTAL REVENUE	8,952.92	850.00	138.71	9,941.63	7,137.00	5,154.50	18,796.70	41,029.83	2,704.48	443.11	672.53	780.27	4,600.39
EXPENSES													
ADMINISTRATION COSTS	4,695.96			4,695.96				4,695.96				30.00	30.00
AUDIT FEES	2,695.00			2,695.00				2,695.00					-
CONFERENCE EXPENSES				-				-					-
COUNCIL EXPENSES	3,992.11			3,992.11				3,992.11					-
FELLOWSHIPS & DONATIONS	808.75			808.75			740.50	1,549.25	6,000.00	6,000.00	1,250.00		13,250.00
INVESTMENT ADVISOR FEES				-				-	325.32		2.32	9.56	337.20
MEETING EXPENSES		1,059.00		1,059.00				1,059.00					-
REPRESENTATION OF AFUW				-				-					-
PUBLICATIONS				-	6,041.14			6,041.14					-
IFUW CAPITATION FEES				-			17,029.17	17,029.17					-
MOVEMENT IN MARKET VALUE				-				-	17,665.87		5,236.36	3,337.23	26,239.46
				-				-					-
TOTAL EXPENSES	12,191.82	1,059.00	-	13,250.82	6,041.14	-	17,769.67	37,061.63	23,991.19	6,000.00	6,488.68	3,376.79	39,856.66
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR PERIOD	(3,238.90)	(209.00)	138.71	- 3,309.19	1,095.86	5,154.50	1,027.03	3,968.20	(21,286.71)	(5,556.89)	(5,816.15)	(2,596.52)	(35,256.27)
RETAINED SURPLUS (DEFICIT) START			4,684.64	4,684.64	(6,448.34)	4,684.64	2,305.60	53,307.50	96,850.46	5,556.89	28,579.66	19,347.70	150,334.71
RETAINED SURPLUS (DEFICIT) END			4,823.35	4,823.35	(5,352.48)	9,839.14	3,332.63	57,275.70	75,563.75	0.00	22,763.51	16,751.18	115,078.44

PROCEEDINGS 34th TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF AFUW 26 – 29 NOVEMBER 2009

SESSION 1 FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER

Chair: Jennifer Strauss, President

The President, Jennifer Strauss welcomed members to the conference.

A warm welcome was extended to IFUW President, Louise Croot, New Zealand Federation President, Dorothy Page, Past-President Daphne Elliot, Dorothy Meyer IFUW Status of Women Convener, our Fijian visitors and two indigenous students sponsored by the NSW Office for Women's Policy.

The President acknowledged that we are meeting on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation.

Introductory Comments by LAC Chair

Ivy Edwards acknowledged the support of the various sponsors: Australian Catholic University; Macquarie University; Office for Women's Policy, Department of Premier and Cabinet, NSW Government; the University of Newcastle; the University of Sydney; the University of Western Sydney; University of Wollongong and Charles Sturt University.

Introductory Comments by Session Chair

The President outlined the voting rights, procedures and speaking times as set out in Conference Proceedings. The Chair moved that the Proceedings be adopted. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Recognition of Honours and Vales

A list had been provided. An addition to the list of vales is Alison Gent of SA.

Movement of Procedural Matters from the Chair

The President moved:

That at the Conference the voting members will be the members of the National Executive, the Immediate Past President, and delegates from each STA based on the financial membership of the STA. That voting shall be by a show of cards, unless a ballot is requested, by a simple majority of those present and entitled to a vote. All members are welcome to attend as observers.

Voting Strength:

Executive: There are four votes for the executive.

STAs

ACT	2 votes
NSW	5 votes
NT	2 votes
Qld	5 votes
SA	4 votes
Vic	4 votes
WA	4 votes

That the following appointments be accepted:

President's Constitutional Advisers:	Daphne Elliott and Catherine Evans
Scrutineers (3):	Jeanette Knox, Joan Smith, Jenny Bennett
Returning officer:	Wendy McCallum
Electoral officer:	Gaynor Reeves
Timekeeper:	Marion Jones
Drafting committee:	Jennifer Strauss, Jocelyn Eskdale, Erica Jolly
Scribe:	Merle Thompson

That Resolutions shall be presented for discussion on Friday 27 November without the taking of formal votes, but subject to the same limits on speaking time as shall prevail in the formal voting on Sunday 29. (See Notes below)

That the procedure for Debate on Resolutions on Sunday 29 November shall be as follows:

The Chair of session shall call the resolutions in the order they appear on the business paper, except where approval has been sought and granted to call several related resolutions as a single group. Where a motion needs to be seconded, she shall ask for a seconder.

She will then ask if there are any objections or amendments. No amendments can be made to the proposed Amendments to the Rules. There being no objections or amendments, the motion shall be considered as carried.

Amendments to policy resolutions must be submitted in writing to the Secretary before they can be debated. If the mover and seconder of the principal motion indicate they will accept a proposed amendment, the amended form of the motion becomes the principal motion. If the mover and seconder of the principal motion indicate they will not accept the amendment, the chair shall call for a vote on the amendment and then, as result of that a vote, on the motion.

Speaking times for the moving of a motion or amendment be:

- Five minutes for the mover of a resolution
- Three minutes for the seconder and for other speakers

The time may be extended by one minute, with the consent of Conference.

The bell shall be rung 1 minute before a speaker's time is up

Speakers give their name and position before beginning to speak.

Observers may speak with the consent of the Chair but may not vote.

Voting: Motions to amend the Rules require a two-thirds majority of Voting Delegates. All other motions and elections shall be decided by a simple majority.

The President, as presiding officer of the Conference, has a casting vote as well as her deliberative vote.

Reports, having been circulated, will not be spoken to by the presenter except to correct any errors or add important information received after the writing of the Report. The Chair will ask the presenter if there is any such material to be added to the Report and then allow a brief time for questions. Only concise questions of general interest that address the substance of the information in the Report will be allowed during the session. These should be handed in writing to the presenter or the Chair of the session before it commences. The Chair will have the right to rule questions or comments out of order. Under no circumstances shall the time allocated for each report exceed ten minutes for Executive reports and 5 minutes for all others Reports.

The Conference will follow the AFUW Constitution (2006).

SESSION 2

Chair: Felicity Lord, President AFUW-SA

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

Copies of all reports had been circulated in the Programme and Papers booklet.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President's Report

The President spoke to her report.

She noted that she has been informed that the Government has indicated that it will develop an action plan under Section 1325.

She indicated that we have launched an appeal for AFUW Fellowship Fund.

A gift of \$270 made up of residual PGWnet funds and funds from Council members was made yesterday to a sister from Solomon Islands. It costs \$360 to train a teacher and additional donations would be welcome.

There were no questions on the President's report.

The proceedings were suspended.

INDIGENOUS WELCOME TO COUNTRY

A member of the Metro Local Aboriginal Land Council, one of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation welcomed conference attendees to Gadigal land.

The proceedings resumed.

Treasurer's Report

Deborah Haydon spoke to her report. She indicated that we had managed to turn a small deficit to a small profit. Thanks to the work of past executives there are reserve funds which can be drawn on as necessary but this is kept to a minimum.

Deborah Haydon moved that Capitation Fees remain at \$45.00.

The vote on this motion will be on Sunday.

Co-ordinator for International Relations

Dalma Jacobs spoke to her report.

She said that at the time of writing no decision had been made on the Hegg Hoffett fund. Anita Earl is on the Committee. There will be a sale table at the IFUW Conference in Mexico for which donations of small items relating to your own country are welcome. Marion Jones can respond to queries about the Scholarship Committee.

NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE FOR NEXT TRIENNIUM

Nominations had closed with one nomination for each position:

President:	Jane Baker -NSW
Secretary:	Tricia Blombery - NSW
Treasurer:	Deborah Hayden - Victoria
CIR:	Dalma Jacobs -Queensland

STATE AND TERRITORY REPORTS

Australian Capital Territory

Jocelyn Eskdale mentioned that the death of Margaret Mills in 2007, a founding member of the STA. The Southern Branch of the STA is the Hobart Branch and was represented at Conference by Gladys Dodson.

New South Wales

Jane Baker paid tribute to Ivy Edwards who was president for much of this triennium as well as chair of the LAC.

The list of vales is long and, to a large, extent, reflects the age of the membership. We have inaugurated an AFUW - NSW Prize to honour past members who have contributed to the Education Trust. The first was given to honour Margaret Maxwell and the next is for Betty Shwabsky both who had left small bequests. The quality and achievements of award recipients is very inspiring and shows what young female students are achieving.

Northern Territory

Melanie Little spoke on behalf of the Northern Territory. The main focus of activities is scholarships and she noted those to indigenous students, East Timor and the Val Asche prize, named for the longest standing member of the STA.

Queensland

Colleen Forrester drew attention to the award of life membership of Thea Ryman who had guided Queensland through a very difficult period.

The Association's activities are getting main stream media attention. They co-hosted Women in Parliament International Conference with QUT.

One young female student is working in Solomon Islands. The STA has raised money for the very basic equipment for schools such as exercise books. Because of this link Queensland will make up the gift given by AFUW to cover the full training for one teacher.

South Australia

Felicity Lord said that the biggest thing in the STA this year was the sale of the hoods and gowns business to a member and her family rather than to the University of Adelaide which had previously been hoped. Profits from the sale will ensure the support of the bursary program. The University of Adelaide have announced two post-doctoral bursaries of \$5,000 in perpetuity to recognise the significant contribution of AFUW.

She invited Bev Hall to speak about the plans for an International Women's Day event to raise awareness of the war in the Congo.

In 2011 there will be the centenary of the IWD and government

Victoria

Barbara Murray, the new elected President, thanked Margaret James for preparing the report.

The highlight of each year is the presentations by award recipients.

Western Australia

Lynda Roberts-Hall added that the AGM in October 2009 was inquorate and as a result will be reconvened in December directly prior to the annual sundowner. This was expected to be quorate.

A program of campus-held events, such as morning teas, which served to promote and explain state and national scholarships and bursaries has resulted in increased awareness of the Association and the awards. This in turn has led to increased applications and she recommended other STAs do something similar.

An afternoon tea with guest speaker Felicity Bradshaw was held. In addition to speaking to members we sold copies of her book on *Honey Possums*. She donated \$5 of each book sale to a fund we raised to present to the school at the Princess Margaret Hospital for children

The Association is initiating a Facebook page to inform young people about AFUW and its activities.

CONVENER REPORTS

Education Standing Committee

Daphne Buckley said that education is a general talking point but she would like to see more involvement of AFUW on this issue.

Peace and Human Security

Bev Hall apologised for the lack of specific activity. She commented that there has been an increase in conflict in the past three years and in armaments. AFUW are active in the campaign to stop an exhibition in South Australia. There has been a lot of action in SA, often in combination with WILPF, with indigenous communities.

The Chair thanked the conveners for their work.

Resolutions

The convener, Rosemary Everett was unable to be present.

Jennifer Strauss drew attention to the addendum to the Conference proceedings which sets out action on the Resolutions from previous conferences. Many have State as well as national importance. She thanked STAs for their contribution to the report.

National advocacy is reported on website, with thanks to Jennifer Phillips, and asked that when states take action that they take note for reporting at the end of the triennium and inform the Resolutions Convener.

One current issue is the concern that scholarships can be regarded as taxable income when assessing income for Youth Allowance and other allowances.

The chair drew attention to the need for policy resolutions to be received by the CIR by mid-January in order to be sent to IFUW by the deadline of 5 February.

OTHER REPORTS

National Registrar

Wendy McCallum spoke to her report. The number of capitations for current year is 623. In most states the number of renewals is declining but new members generally balance these.

There is an amendment to last page - WA deaths should be 2 not 21.

Education Trust

A written report had been provided. Jennifer Strauss spoke to the report. It has been a busy three years. She thanked trust members especially 'Tricia Blombery for work on the revision of the Trust Deed. Further work will be done to redraft the current Deed into two discreet deeds in order to be able to get tax deductibility for the Australian scholarship fund. This is not currently possible with two elements of the deed and with one scholarship being available to overseas students. The incoming executive will make one more attempt at getting tax deductibility.

Correction to report: Midway through second paragraph should read 'effected in 2008' rather than 2007.

The winners of the awards are outstanding young women.

We are the only organization for which education is the most important issue.

Funds were moved to a managed fund but, despite the global financial crisis, we have picked back up to where we started and not made significant losses, as experienced by others. The AFUW scholarship will be able to be offered. Thanks were expressed to Deborah Hayden for work on the investments and accounts.

Felicity Lord moved from the floor that all Executive, Convener, STA and other reports be accepted as read. Seconded Jocelyn Eskdale. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Erica Jolly gave a vote of thanks to the Executive for their work over the last three years. **CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION**

SESSION THREE

Chair: Colleen Forrester, President AFUWQ

Security4Women

Dalma Jacobs, one of the AFUW representatives on Security4Women, spoke. The other partners in this alliance are listed in the report. They are looking at the Government's new guidelines for funding of alliances and preparing submissions. Security4Women has been incorporated as an association in its own right.

Dalma was asked to explain the background and structure of the alliances.

There will be six alliances under the new structure, of which three are likely to be for specific issues, for indigenous women and one for rural issues.

WomenSpeak

Jennifer Strauss, one of the AFUW representatives on WomenSpeak, explained that this alliance concentrated on human rights issues. There has been, however, a lot of convergences with Security4Women.

Under the new regime there will be emphasis on providing advice on policy. The previous emphasis was on conducting projects and policy was more incidental.

At this stage AFUW will wait but anticipates being involved with two alliances. Our involvement in the existing alliances has been very beneficial.

Pacific Graduate Women's Network (PGWNet)

Jennifer Strauss is currently chair of PGWnet. We were unsuccessful in gaining funding for a meeting in association with this conference and therefore an email meeting will be held in December. The hand-over will be either at the Mexico conference or at end of next year.

At the moment it is a support mechanism. Some organizations have managed to get full status within IFUW but the new fees structure means that others are unlikely to gain this status. IFUW has offered to host the PGWnet website for free.

Dorothy Meyer reported that the new IFUW update noted that Samoa has been successful in obtaining funding under the Bina Roy program.

Colleen Forrester moved that the Reports be accepted. Seconded Delma Doherty. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Felicity Lord suggested that each STA be responsible for getting all the information regarding the alliances and distributing it to members. Suggestions were made that this should be the Status of Women convener or that it be decided by the STA according to their own structure and needs.

Proceedings were suspended for **OFFICIAL OPENING**

IFUW AND AFUW FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Chair: Jane Baker, President AFUW-NSW

The Chair expressed pleasure in introducing **Louise Croot, President of the International Federation of University Women.**

Louise spoke of IFUW matters and priorities.

One of issues from Manchester was that IFUW had to focus rather than diffuse its activities and priorities. They went back to the roots which were education and peace. What vision do we have?

NFAs created IFUW not the reverse. Virginia Gildersleeve and Mrs Sturgeon got together with other countries in relation to what was happening after WW1. NFAs are autonomous and it is not IFUW's role to tell what to do.

IFUW has decided on four priorities with four subsets. These may not apply to the whole of your own country but can to some parts or groups.

- * Promote education for the girl child
- * Promote adult literacy for women
- * Promote access to and the advancement of women in higher education
- * Empower women to be leaders and decision makers. [Traditional values can put women in straight jackets in some countries]

Membership priorities

Strengthen national federations and associations

- Promote new organizational approaches
- Share best practices [Members are encouraged to send information and pictures to the IFUW website]
- Give greater visibility to national and local accomplishments

Increase member involvement

- Increase member awareness of IFUW issues and actions
- Create more leadership opportunities for members
- Develop mechanisms to identify and utilize member expertise

Increase NFA to NFA and member to member connections

- Improve IFUW networks
- Facilitate NFA to NFA and member to member connections.

Key International Programme Strategies

Focus IFUW's international advocacy on the four priorities

Strengthen IFUW's ability to act at the national and regional levels in response to an increasing UN emphasis on action at those levels

Identify and promote best practices

Increase opportunities for NFA/ individual member involvement.

The national **President, Jennifer Strauss**, spoke about the national implications of the IFUW program. It might seem very different between countries. There is a need for open discussion. We think of compulsory education and the right to primary education but what about some indigenous communities? what about homeless school age children? This links homelessness to education. Children need access not just to education but to quality education. If you want to improve participation of low SES students to university you need to improve their schooling or might be setting up to failure.

Adult literacy: A lot of refugee and immigrant women do not have access to English classes because of finances, transport or child care.

What is our focus on VET and TAFEs? We need to talk more to women in VET.

Human rights education is our focus within debate on new charter in Australia.

Access to higher education: why is there the gender pay gap? Where are women in higher echelons in universities?

There is the chance through international connections to do something eg have you trained troops in gender issues etc? Members have opportunity to have input into the program for action.

There is a need for good communication. It takes only one foul up in communication to get people hot under collar.

In a series of questions members raised a number of issues:

- A focus on peace in schools including programs to stop bullying and resolve issues.
- Keeping gender issues in the spotlight, such as linking with climate change. There is work being done on effect of population on climate change and education of women on population.
- Traditional values. How do you bridge the gap eg in fishing villages in Vanuatu tradition means girls cannot go to school. Some traditional values harm a woman's mind or body and relate subjugation.
- The idea of twinning eg STAs and Branches with interest in similar programs. .

The Chair thanked Louse and Jenny for their contributions.

EXPLANATION OF PROCEDURES FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND POLICY RESOLUTIONS Chair: Jocelyn Eskdale, President AFUW ACT

The Chair explained that:

You cannot amend a constitutional amendment. But some are linked so if one is not accepted others may fall off the chain.

We are looking to see if anyone opposes them. Anything that is not opposed will be voted on as a group or in groups of related issues.

- There is opportunity for questions and comments.
- Some proposals are fairly wordy and are over several screens
- Proposals 1, 2 and 3 are all re Clause 4 'Membership'

Policy resolutions 1 -4 are the ones which can be changed. Policy resolutions 1-3 are in Proceedings and 4 on addendum.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS:

The existence of alternative motions suggests that there is opposition and will be treated as such.

#1: has alternatives #2 & #3 so needs discussion

#4: No opposition

#5 -#8 related to #4. Need discussion

#9: Definitions: No opposition

#10: No opposition

#11: No opposition

#12: Victoria opposes

#13: No opposition

#14: No opposition

#15: No opposition

#16: No opposition

#17: NSW requests discussion

#18: No opposition

#19: No opposition

#20: No opposition

#21: Lapses if #20 endorsed

#22: No opposition [Typo of ACT]

#23: No opposition

#24: No opposition

#25: No opposition

#26: No opposition [Clarification was required to differentiate from delegate system used at Conference]

#27: No opposition

#28: No opposition [Because of change to term of Immediate Past President]

#29: No opposition [Removes casting vote]

#30: No opposition

#31: No opposition

#32: No opposition

#33: No opposition [To bring in line with new Education Trust Deed]

#34: No opposition [To recognize electronic records]

- #35: No opposition [Logical arrangements would need to be developed between Secretary and Registrar which are in accord with resolution]
- #36: No opposition
- #38: A question was asked re whether there should be limits on where should seek sponsorship. They would be bound by same requirements of previous motion]
No opposition
- #39: No opposition
- #40: A question was asked re timing and whether three months is adequate.
No opposition
- #41: No opposition
- #42: No opposition
- #43: Repeated in error

Motion 17: Jane Baker spoke on behalf of NSW. NSW intends to vote for the motion but is concerned that the Convener system is not working well at the moment. Having a vote may entice more people to take on the role. NSW will bring this matter before the next conference to enable re-consideration of the matter.

Motion 12 : Margaret James spoke on behalf of Victoria. The statement is too long. Eight objectives are too many. There should only be three. It mixes long term objectives and strategies. These should be differentiated. Some things are repetitive.

Human rights statement is too long; leaves out some rights and irrespective is not a good word. Council should take time and come back with something better that would be more attractive to new members.

Jenny Strauss said that having long statements and pithy is not uncommon. If the motion is not agreed then we would revert to the existing. She asked for a straw vote to see whether most people would prefer us to stay with existing statement and re-think. If so Council could withdraw.

A problem with current wording in relation to proposed membership changes was raised. This would need to be changed at the next conference. Jenny Strauss suggested that debate be deferred until we see how membership clauses pan out.

POLICY RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 1: South Australia has accepted a recommendation from New South Wales to remove clause c. Add 'and after 'a'.

NSW had concern about sub-clauses so it was agreed to add 'consequential' on implementation of national curriculum

Resolution 3. No comments received. This proposal was put up because it is considered we have lost focus on environment and it was recommended that we link with education.

There was a question from WA re how to monitor the resolution: It needs links with university schools of education because it affects funding of teacher training. Schools have gone back to singular focus disciplines not inter-disciplinary.

SUNDAY 29 November

SESSION 4 **Chair: Margaret James, Past-President Victoria** **Facilitator – Jocelyn Eskdale, Acting Resolutions Convener**

The Chair asked that Pauline Riley be recognised as the alternate Northern Territory delegate.
AGREED

She passed on the good wishes of Beverley Turner, and Shirley Randall, IFUW Vice-President.

1. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The Facilitator, explained the procedures for the presentation and debate of motions and of the voting for both constitutional and policy resolutions. There will be a speaker for and a speaker against. The timekeeper, Marion Jones, will ensure adherence to the allocated times.

A simple majority is required for policy resolutions while a two-thirds majority is required for constitutional resolutions.

The total voting strength is **30**.

The ones proposed to be passed ‘on block’ are 9,10,11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18,19, 22 – 42. WA asked that there be debate on Resolution 18.

Jennifer Strauss moved that these proposed amendments be adopted. Seconded Dalma Jacobs CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 1 a

Clause 4 Member Associations

The only real change is to reduce the number required for an STA from 30 to 20.

The Chair moved that Resolution 1 be put as a separate motion, that is, the change to 4.1.

This overrides the Victorian motion regarding the rules.

Resolution 1 b

The significant issue is that of 4.2 (c) with the change to be in accord with IFUW rules and to include diploma. The advice of the IFUW Membership Committee is that either proposed amending clause would be acceptable but a slight, not definitive, preference for Council’s recommendation.

Victoria spoke against the motion and recommended that the term ‘advanced diploma’ as they consider it more in line with IFUW recommendations.

Motion that Clause 4.2 be amended as stated in the Resolution. **CARRIED 26 TO 4.**

Resolutions 2 and 3: Lapsed following carrying of Resolution 1 a.

Resolution 4:

Jennifer Strauss strongly urged the passage of this resolution. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Resolution 5:

Jennifer Strauss spoke to the resolution. Seconded Dalma Jacobs Council had recommended the change which involved the more minimal change and also reflected the structure of a federation of independent organizations.

Lynda Roberts-Hall spoke against the motion on behalf of WA as it reflects the idea of unionism and their alternative is more inclusive of all women. **CARRIED 22 TO 8**

Resolution 6

Procedural motion to be a fall back position if the Department of Fair Trading indicates that the agreed name cannot be adopted. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Resolutions 7 and 8 lapse

Resolution 12

Jennifer Strauss spoke to the motion and indicated that, if this motion is lost, objects would revert to the current statements.

Madeleine Laming said that Victoria is not opposed to the content but the expression should be modernized and re-phrased and the items reduced in number.

Dalma Jacobs suggested that this can be reviewed by the incoming executive.

LOST 16 TO 14

Resolution 17

It has been argued as matter of natural justice that conveners who are expected to attend and provide reports to Council should have a vote. Previously the voting rights reflected the federal structure.

Jane Baker on behalf of NSW indicated that NSW would not vote against this resolution but is putting it on notice that this should be reconsidered at the end of triennium because, at present, the convener system is not working well. Erica Jolly (SA) supported this idea.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 18

Jenny Strauss said that the role of the Registrar is important but it is administrative whereas the conveners are the Council's policy advisers. In many instances the Registrar's role at Council is simply to report and she is not necessarily required to attend Council.

Wendy McCallum, the out-going Registrar said that the Registrar is part of Council in that she receives all correspondence but is not able to have input. The role is changing and becoming more a membership secretary.

Jenny Strauss said that no alternative had been put up and if the meeting voted against the resolution it reverts to the existing situation and the Registrar will have even less recognition Deborah Haydon discussed the financial implications but Jenny Strauss said that the must be on right, not finances.

CARRIED

Resolution 20

Jenny Strauss explained that this resolution is to reflect what is the current situation and reflect modern financial institutions. If this is passed then Resolution 21 would lapse.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2 FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

Deborah Haydon, Treasurer, presented the motions as set out on page 31 of the conference proceedings. There is no change to the total capitation fee is the same but there is a break down of the fee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. POLICY RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 1

Section c has been deleted.

Erica Jolly spoke to the resolution and stressed the importance of the Bradley Review to the future of universities and that STAs need to monitor what occurs in their own state.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2

There is an amendment to clause a by the insertion of the word ‘consequential’ before ‘testing’

Jenny Strauss moved a procedural motion that clauses a and b could be considered separately. Agreed.

Erica Jolly spoke to clause (a). There is a national approach to testing in pre-tertiary education because they are talking of testing as per how we stand internationally, measuring state against another and saying that it is valuable to parents to have all information published, not regarding how to help students. Reports do not necessarily reflect the circumstances and context.

CLAUSE (a) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Clause (b)

Erica Jolly spoke to the motion. States control the resources even if there is federal funding and how they approach core subjects etc is important in impact on students.

Jenny Strauss spoke against motion on the grounds that STAs might not have the resources to monitor and therefore would be better to stress advocate rather than monitor.

SA accepted to amend the resolution to:

“To advocate for the provision of quality resources, with a focus on the provision of qualified staff and professional development support for all staff as they implement the national curriculum.”

CLAUSE (b) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 3

Erica Jolly spoke to the resolution. The reason for putting up this motion is that we have lost the national convener for environment and the proceedings yesterday highlight the need for education on environment issues.

Victoria suggested a grammatical amendment: “recognise” not “recognises”.

Pauline Riley (NSW) thought that it is important because the NSW government is selling off land such as around agricultural schools.

Tricia Blombery (NSW) expressed the idea that the whole intention is laudable but there is no action clause. Jane Baker said that NSW endorses the resolution because it is motherhood but this does not direct what AFUW should be doing. She suggested that the resolution be re-drafted for consideration in the next session.

Jenny Strauss said that she has found in going through the resolutions that specific ones are easily dated. A general overall policy resolution may be more appropriate. We should look at the existing one first.

Resolution 4

That the 34th Conference of AFUW strongly recommends that each STA:

- (a) maintain a watching brief of the national and state/ territory reports on curricula with a view to developing appropriate advocacy
- (b) support advocacy for improved pre-service training, particularly addressing practicum processes;
- (c) support career-long in-service training;
- (d) support advocacy for adequate incentives to ensure equity in education:
 - (i) in areas of hardship, eg rural and remote and low socio-economic status, and
 - (ii) in all curriculum disciplines;
- (e) support the promotion of an enhanced status of the teaching profession within the wider community.

Moved Daphne Buckley and Seconded by Taisoo-Kim Watson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resolution 3

The revised wording of the motion is:

That we ask AFUW and STAs to seek to identify areas of education, for example science and economics, that influence the way we understand and treat the environment and to advocate in such cases for policies that embody best environmental practice.

29 FOR 1 AGAINST (Tricia Blombery) CARRIED

A vote of thanks to Jocelyn for her handling of the presentation of the resolutions was carried by acclamation.

The Chair drew members’ attention to the fact that, when the officers to be elected in the next session were named in Friday’s session the nominee for Registrar, Merle Thompson was omitted.

SESSION 5

Chair Lynda Roberts-Hall, President AFUW WA

FIJI Association

Jenny Strauss informed the members that Australia is currently chair of PGWnet. Fiji has achieved IFUW status. She admires women who have stood up against issues which concern them in Fiji.

She welcomed the three representatives from Fiji - Annabel Boud, Elizabeth Fong and Senimili Vukikomoala, as trustee for FAUWG. They have been connected with AFUW since the Adelaide conference.

In introduction the representatives said that their focus areas are:

- Move from advocacy to environment
- Support lobbying NGOs to promote peace and women's security
- Active young membership
- Scholarship fund
- Fundraising and awareness activities

There is a focus on fundraising for the scholarship fund especially to help girls in the TAFE equivalent education in non-traditional careers. The Federation has given assistance to six students so far. Activities include: Film nights; Triennial conf with Unifem etc; Mangrove regeneration project with Fiji Girl Guides Association; Annual Quiz night; Monthly luncheons.

There is a lot of lobbying through NGOs and women's organisations such as NCW and Unifem. They also work with Girl Guides and WWF for Nature on conservation issues. Membership drives are conducted especially to reach young people.

They are lobbying Suva City Council regarding the environment and civic responsibility.

It is the young members who are most active and easier to attract than older. They are predominantly in Suva and in government or major NGOs etc in Suva. They tend to meet in coffee shops. At each graduation (2 per yr) they give out membership forms at rehearsals.

The Federation has a Website:

NSW will be sponsoring a Fiji student as their Project for Action this year. Jane Baker made a presentation of \$500 which gives sufficient to support a student at a teacher training college in Fiji with some books.

Elizabeth responded and will ensure that an appropriate person is selected who will value the award.

IFUW Dorothy Meyer informed members that the latest IFUW update reported the announcement that the Minerva Prize has been awarded to Conchita Poncini, head of IFUW's delegation to the Human Rights Council. The presentation was held last Friday in Rome. Dorothy Meyer moved that a message be sent from Conference to Conchita.. Carried.

She also took the opportunity to record appreciation for the contribution to IFUW of Jennifer Strauss in role of Status of Women committee and in preparing seminars for Manchester and Mexico.

Declaration of Poll for Executive and Registrar for 35th Triennium

The Returning Officer, Gaynor Reeves, thanked the outgoing committee and in particular stated that under Clauses 10 and 11 of the Constitution the first call for nominations closed long before conference.

At that time there was:

One nomination for each of the following positions:

President	Jane Baker
CIR	Dalma Jacobs
Treasurer	Deborah Haydon
Secretary	Tricia Blombery
Registrar	Merle Thompson

The Returning Officer declared those who had been nominated as elected.

Incoming President's acceptance

Jane Baker thanked the out-going committee and welcomed the continuation of the other officers which will mean she has support. At the next conference all positions will need to be filled as hers is a one term position and the other executive will have served the maximum two terms.

Invitation to the 35th Triennial Conference.

Colleen Forrester invited all members to attend the next conference in Brisbane at the Women's College in November 2012. This date is to permit both completion of audits and availability of a College.

Any Other Business

Deborah Haydon spoke about the Queensland donation which will enable a full year's tuition to be paid for a teacher trainee in the Solomons.

She encouraged donations to the AFUW Scholarship Fund.

Ivy Edwards thanked people outside of AFUW membership: the designer, the Event managers, Tamara Palmer of the AFUW-NSW office, Marie Leech and Sancta staff, Dorothy Betty, Greta Recsei and Teresa Valenti for their involvement in planning activities, and Tricia Blombery and Jane Baker for their roles on the LAC.

Lynda Roberts-Hall thanked NSW for the welcoming and hospitality.

Concluding Comments and Closure

Jenny Strauss thanked people for all their kind words. She thought it was a very successful conference because of all people who are present, Executive colleagues who have been so good at doing what their job is. She acknowledged their endless patience for working through the rules.

She thanked people who took the trouble to prepare the resolutions and who worked on them to get them in order. They will be in next Newsletter which she will prepare. Jenny expressed her confidence that Jane will be extremely good president and will have the support of members.

She was delighted that Louise, Dorothy and other visitors could join us and encouraged members to attend the Mexico conference.

Thanks were expressed to Jocelyn Eskdale for her work on Resolutions. Subject to the approval of council she will be Resolutions Convener for the next triennium. Thanks were also extended to Tricia Blombery for organising the conference proceedings book.

Louise has brought a beautiful set of bookmarks called Across the Waves. The condition of taking one is that you must sign up a new member.

Jenny thanked Ivy for organising the conference.

Jane Baker expressed thanks to the NSW Office for Women for sponsoring two indigenous post-graduate students and wished them well.

Opening Reception Speech – IFUW President Louise Croot

Louise was elected president of IFUW at its 29th Conference in Manchester, England in 2007. She is a member of the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women, Otago Branch

Louise is a health promotion consultant with over thirty years experience in public health and wide experience in governance. She is currently an elected member of the Otago Regional Council. Her experience in public affairs includes being an elected member of the University of Otago Council and the Otago Hospital Board. She belongs to Rural Women NZ, and is a trustee of the Southern Heritage Trust and, more recently, the Community Trust of Otago. In 2002 Louise received the Public Health Champion of New Zealand Award from the NZ Public Health Association. Her work in health has focused on implementing the Ottawa Charter through the WHO programme Healthy Cities, Healthy Communities.

As IFUW President, Louise is an Ex officio member of all IFUW Committees and has been privileged to work with many members of IFUW in their own countries and to experience the value of friendship and common purpose locally, nationally and internationally.

Women Building Sustainable Futures

Remember Rio and Agenda 21? Seems a long time ago now. The path to sustainable development was described under several headings and even a women and minorities section was included.

Sustainable development has been superseded by sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Then we had a time when social capital was king and that certainly had a lot of interest in communities, local government and the WHO Healthy Cities and Communities movement globally. It was not a product so was not valued in monetary terms therefore interest was lost in the concept. It is still something that when lost is hard to regain and has value in community well being.

Going back even further to 1987 - was a ground breaking analysis called Counting for Nothing by Dr. Marilyn Waring in New Zealand. Her arguments in her book made it clear that Gross Domestic Product [GDP] as a measure of National growth was false as it did not measure women's reproductive work or home based work /unpaid work or did it include the services provided by Mother Nature to ecology and the environment. The money spent cleaning up a contaminated site was counted but not the value of the pristine environment. The work done to produce the next generation and the economics of breast feeding are not valued yet.

The challenge is what to focus on. The path to sustainable futures needs thought, reflection and action. There are many aspects to sustainable futures and in my work as a Regional Councillor I tend to focus on some of them. The role of the Council includes sustainable management of physical and natural resources. We focus on water, air and waste. Water is a major concern here in Australia too and to me it is the basis of life. Water quality, quantity, potable water for public supply before irrigation, then allocation, efficient use, storage and future use. We include public transport, flooding, civil defence in the regional area and river catchments, natural hazards such as alluvial flats [risky in times of earthquakes and floods. The chances taken by communities and individuals and changes we experience lead to opportunities for innovative and entrepreneurial solutions that lead to sustainable futures. There are processes that enable people to increase control over and improve their quality of life. Self managing communities in catchments need knowledge and information. Management skills and opportunities for lifelong learning play a part. Real public participation including women are part of the consultation. Education for sustainable development is a process which enables people to increase control over and improve their quality of life in keeping with sustainable use of their resources. Women have a

place at the table and are often the advocates for the future generations. Women should be involved in the planning and policy process. Often they have the strong social networks and social support that can encourage and lead to behaviour change that is the key to sustainable futures. The same concept of growth and GDP will not do. Women have the coping skills to make the changes. They are familiar with making choices and taking opportunities for change.

Educated women have a responsibility to share acquired knowledge and research skills to influence policy development as well as be involved in monitoring and evaluating the policies with careful qualitative work and quantifiable data. Women need to have access to public information and make a public commitment; to be involved in the political world natural and physical resource management to enhance their participation in and building of our sustainable futures

Finally it is a local, national and global future we are part of building so the challenge is there for branches, AFUW as well as IFUW to encourage and enable women to participate fully in building sustainable futures for their children and grandchildren.

IFUW has environmental resolution /policies. More importantly it has priorities that focus our international work and you have priorities and opportunities in your Australian national consultation secretariat structures such as WomenSpeak that give you good opportunities with lots of hard work I know to speak up from your own policies and projects from the Programme for Action.

Thank you for inviting me to be at your AFUW 34th Triennial Conference. It is a privilege and pleasure to do this and I look forward to hearing the excellent speakers you have, listening to your reports and learning more about the work of the States and branches. A highlight is always meeting with many of you to increase our friendships [social capital] in IFUW.

Official Opening - Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO – Chancellor, the University of Sydney

Professor Bashir was elected by Senate as Chancellor of the University of Sydney for a four year term commencing on 1 June 2007. She is also Governor of NSW, the first woman to be so appointed, and took up office on 1 March 2001.

Born, of Lebanese descent, in Narrandera in the Riverina district of NSW, and educated at Narrandera Public School and Sydney Girls High School, Marie Bashir gained her bachelor degrees in medicine and surgery in 1956 from the University of Sydney.

Dr Bashir taught at the Universities of Sydney and NSW, increasingly working with children's services, psychiatry and mental health services, and indigenous health programmes. At the time of her appointment as Governor of NSW, she was Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Sydney (a post she took up in 1993); Area Director of Mental Health Services Central Sydney (from 1994); and Senior Consultant to the Aboriginal Medical Service, Redfern (from 1996) and to the Aboriginal Medical Service, Kempsey.

Professor Bashir's widespread involvements and interests have included juvenile justice, research on adolescent depression, health issues in developing countries, education for health professionals and telemedicine and new technologies for health service delivery. Along with many professional medical association roles, she was, at the time of her appointment as

Governor, a member of societies as diverse as Amnesty International, the National Trust, the NSW Camellia Research Society and the Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Centre, as well as being a patron of the Sydney Symphony and Opera Australia. She was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1988 for her services to child and adolescent health and subsequently made a Companion of the Order in 2001. She was later invested by Her Majesty The Queen, with the insignia of a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO) in 2006.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred upon Her Excellency Professor Bashir by the University of Sydney on 11 October 2002, at the ceremony to mark the sesquicentenary of the inauguration of the University of Sydney and of the commencement of Higher Education ceremony. Professor Bashir received an inaugural Women's College Alumni Award on 26 May 2007.

Professor Bashir is married to Sir Nicholas Shehadie AC OBE and together they have three children and six grandchildren.

From notes taken by Merle Thompson.

The President welcomed Professor Marie Bashir, governor of New South Wales and Chancellor of the University of Sydney.

Her Excellency acknowledged Marie Leech, Principal of Sancta Sophia College, and the IFUW president, Louise Croot. She has fond memories of her time at the Women's College and attended tutorials at Sancta when studying medicine. She is always pleased to return to Sydney University and is proud of its status.

In an inspiring address Her Excellency discussed aspects of University education and of programs to assist those in disadvantaged circumstances.

Some of her key points included:

- * Prior to coming to Conference she had visited a new dentistry laboratory, with wonderful teaching facilities, which highlights the modern approach to education.
- * AFUW is a wonderful group of women who have given so much to our alma maters.
- * Universities are opening doors to so many more include indigenous people and refugees and those who could not afford higher education. Some of the old colleges are proudly offering scholarships to indigenous students who are going back to own communities.
- * Sydney University has a new vigorous younger Vice Chancellor who wants the student experience to strengthen young people throughout life.
- * She is saddened by the deterioration in manners of some young college men. Recent publicity may result in more focus on this in future.
- * All universities don't want to be silos but have interaction, shared research and even joint offering of courses. Sydney has alliance with UTS for some programs. There is collaboration between UWS, UNSW, the ACU and teaching hospitals.
- * Friends of a young indigenous alumnus who wished others had his opportunity have started a mentoring programme for those in year 8. Her Excellency has been asked to approach other chancellors and from this Australian Indigenous Mentor Experience has been established at UWS and SCU and is going national supported by the National Australia Bank. It supports students through their school years and to get scholarships.

* Another new development is the number of international students. We should have an in loco parentis approach to help them and most universities have. In older universities there is trans-cultural counselling. Many have to go home to take up job opportunities and miss graduation. Sydney University now holds ceremonies in other countries so that these people have the same ceremony. The chancellor or a deputy chancellor attends in full gown and accoutrements plus they often have musical group from the Conservatorium. It is hard to hold back tears when you see parents who have struggled to pay for the student and have travelled a long way to ceremony. Latin American countries are also wanting to link with Australia. They had looked to USA who is doing less so countries are being more independent and are looking to Australia to take their students. There is collaboration with China, not only sciences etc but also literature and pedagogy.

She then turned her attention to issues regarding women. She has accidentally become involved with Cambodia with provision of medical supplies because of shortage due to American blockade. Australia didn't have diplomatic services so they used the Red Cross and a medical organisation to get supplies. They then discovered problems in Vietnam with Japanese encephalitis which leaves people with multiple disabilities. An ambassador had been getting vaccines in. They got a grant to provide vaccines and an Australia Vietnam medical foundation has resulted.

Later she went to the north of Vietnam and commented on the beauty of the women. She met the CWA equivalent. It was an area where it was 70 km to nearest road and women were dying in childbirth going for help, similar to indigenous communities in Australia. They now bring women in at 8 months. A survey was undertaken to understand dimensions of the problem, people were brought for training and then train the trainer. It was found that there were no fridges for vaccine and antibiotics so bought them. Now AusAid has taken over the programme. Women are pushing these issues and in a quiet way are helping in the region. People look to Australia for assistance.

Her Excellency wished us well for our conference and hoped that we would go ahead with new energy. "There is nothing like Australian women."

In thanking Her Excellency Jenny Strauss made the point that no individual should feel there is nothing they can do.

Public Day Saturday 28 November

Public Day Speakers

Sustaining human rights in Australia

Professor Mary Crock B.A. (Hons), LLB (Hons); PhD Melb (1994)

Professor of Public Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Sydney

Mary Crock has worked in the area of immigration and refugee law since 1985. Her other roles include that of Chief examiner in various Specialist Accreditation programmes across Australia; member of Education and Training Reference Group, Migration Institute of Australia; member of the Expert Advisory Committee, NSW Commission for Children and Young People; and Board Member, 2RPH (Radio for the Print Handicapped). She has served in executive positions for the Law Council of Australia and the Refugee Council of Australia; and worked as adviser to the Australian Senate (Inquiry into Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Programme, 2000) and as consultant to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (on immigration detention).

Title: Sustaining human rights in Australia: Are we turning our backs to the future?
In 2009 the Brennan Consultation brought the issue of Bills of Rights front and centre in the consciousness of Australians. This lecture looks at the debate through an historical lens, examining the choices that were made when the colonies came together in “one indissoluble union” to form the Commonwealth of Australia.

Achieving Sustainability in a Changing Economy - Marie Persson

Ms Marie Persson BA, Dip Ed, M Ed

Deputy Director-General, TAFE and Community Education with the NSW Department of Education and Training

She is a member of the L H Martin Institute Advisory Board for Leadership and Management in Higher Education, Melbourne University, the Board of the NSW TAFE Commission, a member of the NSW Board of Studies, and the Commonwealth’s Skills Australia Board.

Ms Persson has a Masters of Education and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and a member of Women Chiefs of Enterprises International. She was the 2003 NSW Telstra Business Woman.

Good morning

I would firstly like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, and pay my respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people present today.

Distinguished speakers and guests. It’s a pleasure to be here with you this morning to talk about how we can look at achieving sustainability in Australia.

I’ll be talking about achieving environmental sustainability from the critical perspective of green skills training for existing workers and jobseekers, not just for the so-called new “green jobs”, but – importantly – for traditional industries, particularly those with a high carbon footprint.

I’ve worked for TAFE NSW for more than 30 years and I am proud to say that TAFE is leading the way in this field.

We are supporting regional communities and businesses across the state to build green skills and knowledge which in turn will help their local environments as well as their businesses.

We’re doing this by:

- delivering training that provides the NSW workforce with skills for sustainability
- skilling our own workforce in sustainability
- providing specialised training for business, government and communities in response to industry demand
- continuing to improve our own sustainability by reducing the carbon footprint of TAFE NSW.

At the crossroads

In terms of our society’s take up of sustainability measures and green skills in areas critical to our environment ...

I know, for many of us, it can sometimes feel like we are stuck in a traffic jam at a major crossroads. And, of course, we are at a major intersection and we don't have to look very far to see that many people – even some of our elected officials – still do not know who should go first or which direction we should take.

However, TAFE NSW has been a real trailblazer in this area. For example, since as early as 1997, TAFE has been including mandatory Sustainable Development Principles in all Building Studies and Architectural Technology qualifications.

And TAFE established the National Environment Centre in Riverina Institute near Albury in 2000 – some 10 years ago. This Centre has made a significant contribution by delivering flexible training for rural and remote students across Australia in natural resource management, environmentally-related studies, organic farming and sustainable agriculture.

This is a great start but we all need to do more.

Getting the ball rolling

Across the country we are seeing major reforms through government intervention and regulation that include promoting sustainability and encouraging green skills training.

In NSW there is not only debate but action being taken to kick-start a range of activities that will get us moving closer towards the greening of our economy.

Earlier this year in NSW, the State Government held a two day Jobs and Green Skills Summit at which TAFE NSW announced it would provide professional development for our entire teaching staff to build their capability to deliver training in green skills.

In addition, all new TAFE students will be offered an online training module introducing them to the principles of sustainability.

These two programs complement a range of other commitments TAFE has made to help firms to adopt sustainable practices.

We are committed to developing training that enables businesses to:

- *comply* with developing regulatory instruments;
- *position* themselves within new and developing markets; and
- *adapt/adopt* technology to reduce negative environmental impacts.

Business-as-usual is not an option in this arena.

And although the transition to a low-carbon economy will disrupt industry and work – some more than others and some sooner rather than later – the forecast is that there will be a net increase in employment of between 240,000 and 340,000 jobs over the next decade.

The vocational education and training (VET) and university sectors can and must fill these gaps.

Not just for new green jobs, but for existing jobs in those industries most directly impacted by the transition to a low-emission economy.

We have to get all the bits of our system connected.

NSW has led the debate on the need for green skills to be included in all national training package qualifications and is working with national Industry Skills Councils to support the implementation of this initiative.

TAFE students are able to choose from 60 nationally-recognised qualifications that provide training for industry sectors critical to the environment. This includes advanced training in areas such as renewable energy systems, sustainable irrigation and water management, low energy building design, and environmentally-sustainable automotive technologies.

In 2008, over 20,000 TAFE students undertook courses like these.

Interestingly, women make up the majority of students in our Statement of Attainment in Learning for Sustainability course, which assists students to find local solutions to environmental sustainability and prepares them for further training in this area. Some 81% of enrolments in 2008/09 in this course were female.

We are currently embedding sustainability in all our courses including electrotechnology, carbon accounting, installation of solar panels and environmental auditing. From the beginning of 2010, all traineeships and apprenticeships will include skills for sustainability.

And we have already developed over 100 units of competency to cover gaps in Training Packages in areas including management of salinity in catchment areas, and renewable energy including solar and wind turbines.

TAFE also customises its courses to deliver green skills training (called the Green Collar Capability Initiative) to meet regulatory requirements in areas such as: domestic photovoltaic solar technology, pre-vocational carpentry training, holistic management, natural refrigerants & carbon accounting.

Partnerships are key to our future success in achieving sustainability.

This is why we're working with the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change, various Catchment Management Authorities and volunteer groups such as the National Parks Association to ensure there is an integrated approach to sustainability training.

Let's look at a few examples of the partnerships that TAFE NSW Institutes have set up to build sustainability and green skills across the state.

Northern Sydney Institute: Green Skills for Bunnings ... the "Sustainable Solutions" training program

This partnership is between a Bunnings and Northern Sydney Institute, which is providing sustainability training to Bunnings Do-it-yourself (DIY) presenters with a focus on water, power, lighting, waste management, recycling and composting.

Course participants were selected by Bunnings Management and represented stores from across both metropolitan and regional store locations.

The training enabled the presenters to increase their general sustainability awareness and provide better advice to customers on sustainable solutions to their household, business, building and gardening needs.

Northern Sydney Institute - Partnership with Warringah Council

Northern Sydney Institute has developed a contextualised training program in sustainable work practices for local councils.

The program is offered flexibly and is available online - students who complete the training achieve competency in Sustainable Work Practices.

The Institute has developed a successful business partnership with Warringah Council to pilot this program. Warringah Council plan for 1,000 staff to be trained in 2010. The program is now a prototype for delivery to other Councils.

Northern Sydney Institute is already working with six additional Councils to contextualise the training for their local environment and work practices.

This program won the Keep Australia Beautiful Award for Environmental Education 2009.

And I'd also like to mention that Northern Sydney Institute was recently named the inaugural winner of the Skills for Sustainability Award at the 2009 Australian Training Awards.

Hunter Institute – Together Today and Earth Hour programs

Hunter Institute is involved in a cooperative venture called “Together TODAY” that promotes sustainable living solutions.

This initiative aims to:

- transform the Hunter region into Australia’s most energy and water efficient region thereby lessening the causes and environmental impacts of climate change;
- stimulate markets and community demand for .. and research into .. more energy and water-efficient products, services, business strategies and government policies; and
- transfer Together Today’s initiatives to other local government regions around Australia.

Hunter Institute also led the way by reducing its own carbon footprint. The Institute has participated in Earth Hour for a number of years. This year it achieved a 75% saving improvement compared to its result in 2008.

Across the Hunter region, all Earth Hour participants helped to save 42.42 tonnes of green house gas emissions, or the equivalent of switching off more than 3.3 million energy smart light globes.

This was one of the best results in Australia.

New England Institute – Envirolearn and Landcare training

Let’s take a look at a couple of examples of partnerships from a rural Institute.

New England Institute has worked collaboratively with the Namoi Catchment Management Authority to develop the “Envirolearn” program, which provides an insight into environmental management and systems.

This course covers ecosystems and how they operate, local environmental problems and natural resource management. Course participants also develop skills in collecting and organising information, working in groups and communicating ideas.

All of these skills will give them the platform they need to make a difference to the environmental sustainability of their region.

The Institute also worked with the Liverpool Plains Land Management, the neighbouring Landcare organisation, Tamworth/Manilla Landcare Association, which obtained funding to run a series of four rural community landcare workshops for women.

These workshops promoted awareness of education, community and business options for women and identified pathways for women in sustainable agriculture, industry organisations and community leadership.

Western Institute is delivering training in Property Management Planning to farmers in partnership with the Lachlan and Central West Catchment Management Authorities. This training enables farmers to plan for sustainable use of their natural resources through a series of on-farm workshops.

Western Institute is also working with remote Aboriginal communities. Teachers travel to Aboriginal communities to provide training in Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management specialising in Indigenous Land Management.

Since October 2008, Australia has been importing and manufacturing domestic refrigerators operating on natural refrigerants, which have less greenhouse gas impact and use less energy.

Increasingly, multinational food and beverage companies are replacing their existing units with systems that run on natural refrigerants - such as Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) and Hydrocarbons (HC).

TAFE has responded to the need to upskill refrigeration maintenance contractors ... especially in regional areas to expand the implementation of this new technology through the Taking Natural Refrigerants to Regional NSW program. Some 314 regional refrigeration technicians were trained or upskilled in this new refrigeration technology.

We also have a role to play in the **early education of children.**

We have published a sustainability booklet through Early Childhood Australia which features photos and practices at Carinya Children's Centre at Newcastle Campus.

The booklet, "**Greening Services: Practical Sustainability**", highlights practical ways for early childhood centres to develop environmental management plans and engage young children in environmental education. The booklet was written by Early Childhood Teacher, **Rachael Kinsella.**

And in keeping with the theme of building awareness for future generations, the Institute in collaboration with Islington Public School has also developed a television commercial for **Kids Time**. This booklet talks about environmental issues such as cleaning local waterways and throwing rubbish into a bin.

Governments frequently bring in a range of financial incentives for businesses and individuals to undertake training.

Under the Green Skills NSW Strategy there are two "green" incentive programs.

The **Green Small Business Incentives** program offers small businesses training subsidies to support business growth with sustainable products, services and people.

Incentives of up to \$1,000 per participant are available to eligible NSW businesses (with up to 20 employees) wanting to train managers, supervisors and environmental officers in green skills. The businesses are asked to contribute 10% of the course cost.

Green Small Business Incentives are available from July 2009 to June 2011. This \$5 million program is expected to support training for up to 5,000 people in around 2,500 NSW businesses.

Over four years from July 2009, there is also the \$20 million **Energy Efficiency Training for Trades and Professionals Program**.

It will ensure the NSW workforce has the skills needed to enhance energy efficiencies in industry, government and the community.

This Program involves:

- funded delivery of VET (subsidised training in energy efficiency skills)
- professional development through higher education courses and the Energy Efficiency Graduate Program
- development and delivery of professional development courses for VET trainers
- industry partnerships for new course development and demonstration projects; and
- research and evaluation.

As I mentioned earlier, TAFE has developed an online Sustainability Induction Program for its staff, which supports delivery of green skills in qualifications and sustainable work practices.

Online induction programs for all TAFE staff (around 15,000 people) have been developed to cover the principles of sustainability and green skills including energy efficiency, waste management, and new technologies and processes.

This training will be available from 2010 and will ensure that both the TAFE and the general workforce have the skills and knowledge to support the transition to a low carbon and more sustainable economy.

In addition, from 2010, TAFE students (over 500,000) will be offered an induction that includes information on sustainable practices, energy efficiency, waste management and new technologies and processes.

But TAFE students have already become active in tackling the challenges we face in achieving environmental sustainability. For example:

Northern Sydney Institute - “Green Heart Day”

Media and Communication students used the promotion of environmentally sustainable initiatives at North Sydney College as a training and assessment opportunity.

They developed the concept of “**Green Heart Day**” to celebrate World Environment Day 2009 with pre and post media releases, briefing documents and stakeholder promotion letters and they worked out the logistics for the Green Heart Day event held on 2 June 2009.

The great leap forward

In conclusion, TAFE is showing that training providers are agile and able to leap over obstacles to help them meet the challenges they face in moving to a low carbon economy and becoming environmentally sustainable.

We are reducing our own carbon footprint too – not only teaching others how to do it.

Like all public sector and corporate citizens, we continue to improve our own sustainability by reducing our carbon footprint. We are adopting more ecologically sustainable work practices that contribute significant savings in the use of energy, water and other resources and model sustainable practice.

Institutes are registered for the Sustainability Advantage Program and significant improvements include:

- New England Institute reduced water consumption at Tamworth College from 25 megalitres per annum to less than 5 megalitres.
- Northern Sydney Institute reduced green house gas emissions by almost 7,000 tonnes by improving waste management in its training kitchens.

As I have noted, we all need to understand and respond to the challenges associated with achieving environmental sustainability.

At the same time, TAFE needs to continue to excel at its core business - tackling skill shortages meeting government training participation targets while also making green skills and environmental sustainability an integral part of its core business.

But we must all be more than just responsive; we must continue to be proactive.

And in doing so we must work more collaboratively with all levels of government and with industry, and we will also need to work in partnership with other education and training providers including universities, government agencies and community organisations.

To get to a low carbon economy we need the right skills.

TAFE has been delivering those skills for some time – and will continue to do so with the assistance of our many partners including you here today.

I hope TAFE and the university sector can work more closely in the future.

Thank you

Sustainable Built Environments – what does this mean? - Caroline Pidcock

Caroline Pidcock LFRAIA, B Arch (Hons), B Sc (Arch)

Caroline Pidcock is an architect who is passionate about Environmentally Sustainable Design in architecture and plays an active role in peak professional organisations and schools of architecture. She pursues this passion in her own work, in teaching and active participation in groups that aim to promote sustainability to a wider audience.

This currently includes being sole director of her own architectural and sustainable consultancy practice, Industry Representative on the Australian Building Codes Board, Member of Bicycle NSW Board and Al Gore trainee. Her previous roles as President of the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council, President of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects in NSW, Member of the NSW Architects Registration Board and adjunct professor/lecturer at a range of universities in NSW, exposed her to many government, business, academic and community arenas.

As the structures that we have based our economies and ways of living on came crashing down around us over the last year, and the stormy faces of climate change directly confront many Australians, it is a good time to consider what architecture should be like in the future.

Kate Legge, journalist for the Australian, asked in her story “Blithe Oblivion” on 7-8 March 2009, “how did so many people in Marysville allow themselves to be lulled into a false sense of security?” She starts her story:

“Tourist snapshots of Marysville’s final hours unspool a series of surreal images: couples lounging by the spa at luxury resorts or prone on massage tables listening to classical music, barley conscious of the danger at their door. Some holiday makers were so out of sync with their surroundings they mistook smoke plumes in the distance for photogenic thunderclouds whispering promise of cool change.”

The analogy to our larger situation with regards to climate change could not be more apposite. And it shows how dangerous both our purposeful and unknowing disconnection from our environment can be.

Today I would like to talk with you about:

- The reality of climate change and its risks
- How do buildings fit and those responsible for them address this?
- What might a sustainable built environment be like?

I will then finish with some ideas about why we need to act urgently on this issue and how we can do this.

Rather than quoting from any “global left-wing communist conspiracy” site, I would like to read from the Australian Government’s Department of Climate Change web site:

Climate facts – more than enough evidence for action

We are already experiencing the effects of climate change.

- Our largest river system, the Murray Darling Basin, is in trouble. Inflows into the rivers are hitting all time lows.
- The Great Barrier Reef could be gone within the next hundred years – in only 3 to 4 generations time – due to a rise in water temperatures, pollution and other pressures.

- Since 1995 we have had 13 of the hottest years on record globally. Average temperatures have risen by 0.7 degrees creating adverse effects for agriculture and forestry and our health.
- Scientists tell us these effects are due to increases in carbon pollution emissions by humans. Humans produce nearly 70% more carbon pollution than we did 40 years ago.

If we continue to create carbon pollution, we will increase the negative effects on our environment and our communities.

If the world carries on with more and more carbon pollution, Australia will suffer:

- more heat waves and heat related deaths (*happening as we speak across southern Australia*)
- more bushfires floods and more intense cyclones (*again – in evidence in SA, NSW, and Tasmania....*)
- reducing rainfall and water supplies across southern and eastern Australia
- (*our droughts continue and their effects brought to the city recently in the horrendous dust storms in September*)
- increasing inundation of vulnerable coastal areas due to sea level rise and storm surges (*reports from the NSW Government predicts 40cm rises on 1990 levels by 2050, with more by the end of the century*)
- loss of many precious Australian native animals and plants (*we have lost two mammals this year*), and
- severe risk to our Great Barrier Reef.

By taking action now, and working with the rest of the world to take action, we can reduce the risk that climate change will impact Australia more severely in the future.

This includes:

- changing the way we design our buildings and infrastructure
- diversifying the water supplies in our cities
- rethinking the way we develop vulnerable coastal areas
- planting more drought-tolerant crops.

The decisions we make today about infrastructure, health, water management, agriculture, biodiversity and housing will have lasting consequences for our children and future generations.

By considering the future climate when making these decisions we will be in a better position to deal with the unavoidable climate changes we face.

And from a non-political source, Peter Marshall from the United Firefighters Union of Australia was quoted last week as saying:

"We are not scientists but we are the people on the front line," he said.

"We are asking you very clearly, stop making this a political football, put in place the action that's required to secure the future because by 2020 we are going to see a frequency like we've not seen before."

He has called on coalition senators to pass the scheme but has also asked Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to show leadership and lift the emissions reduction targets to between 25 and 40 per cent.

"Pass legislation that's required and we say pass it with the maximum standard not the minimum standard," he said.

Personally, I wonder how so much energy and time can be wasted on a debate the rest of the thinking world has move on from. The people of the world who care about its future are instead focusing on finding solutions to the problems that confront us – they are identifying opportunities in these difficulties so they can recreate themselves in positive ways.

As Tim Flannery said at a conference last week when asked how he deals with these people, he noted that there are people who still believe the world is flat, as well as those who do not believe in evolution. The rest of the world moves on around these people – as we must with climate deniers. This is how I choose to move forward.

So how do we as architects approach the future? What are the challenges that are currently facing architects? What sort of future do we want to envisage and help design?

What I would like to do is outline a number of key issues that are impacting directly on us now and into the foreseeable future. I would then like to reflect on the approach to architecture that might help us deal with these challenges in a positive manner.

What are the other major influences?

In September 2007 **Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC)** Climate Change Task Group released research, which described the current position of GHG emissions and the business as usual case for the future. The research shows that the building sector produces 23% of Australia's GHG emissions through the operation of buildings in the Residential and Commercial sectors. This totalled 130 Mega tonnes (Mt) in 2000 and is set to grow to 270 Mt by 2050 under business as usual. The Residential sector alone accounts for 13% of Australia's GHG emissions or approx 80Mt pa.

The research also found that the potential abatement in the sector through implementing Energy Efficiency with known technologies was significant with a potential of 30 to 35% reduction in GHG emissions while also accommodating projected growth of new building. This is predicated to be 1.3% pa for the Residential sector and 2.3% pa for the Commercial sector.

The economy wide modelling for Australia showed that when compared with the Business roundtable deep cuts modelling, this potential building sector GHG emissions abatement could

reduce the negative impact on the economy of the deep cuts scenario; resulting in a 14% reduction to the cost of carbon; and improving GDP by \$38 billion pa by 2050.

McKinseys carbon cost abatement studies show that energy efficiency in buildings is THE most cost effective form of abatement – in fact it is cost positive.

The ASBEC “Second Plank Report”, building on this, shows that the CPRS proposed by the Australian Government will enable reductions of about 8Mt pa, while a potential 60Mt pa could be achieved if energy efficiency measures were taken up.

Looking at this in another way – through energy efficiency using existing technology we can achieve 7-8% reductions in Australia’s GHG emissions in a cost positive way. This shows that the 5% target in the CPRS is very achievable and we should be aiming higher.

Fortunately, it seems the **Coalition of Australian Governments** is taking this opportunity to cost effectively and promptly reduce GHG emissions seriously. The following is an excerpt from a statement that appeared on the Prime Minister’s website on Thursday 30 April 2009 following the meeting of COAG:

COAG today took a major step forward towards Australia’s low pollution future.

COAG today endorsed the design of the expanded Renewable Energy Target and agreed to the introduction of new 6 star standards for houses and strengthened energy efficiency standards for commercial buildings.

The Australian Institute of Architects announced this month it will deliver 15 strong ‘calls for action’ at next month’s United Nations conference in Copenhagen in an effort to ensure the forum delivers an ambitious and effective international response to climate change. □ □

The call for action highlights the importance of the crucial roles architecture and the built environment can play in reducing the impact of climate change on the environment. Buildings and cities currently account for almost half of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions.

In summary, the calls-for-action items include 10 principles: □

- Recognition of the fundamental importance of the built environment as central to the international climate change mitigation and adaptation agenda.
- Binding emissions targets and a carbon price to drive market change - a price on carbon reflecting the true consequences of its use and complementary government policies and incentives facilitating the competitiveness of sustainable design.
- Credible and verified measurement of built environment emissions, being an international standard of accounting for carbon emissions.
- Innovative and pre-emptive design and adaptation of the built environment in response to unavoidable impacts of climate change.
- Partnerships between developing and developed economies to share information regarding sustainable design and technologies.
- Enabling policy - whether market mechanisms, government policy, private sector initiatives or voluntary action.
- Incentives to drive innovation and reward greater sustainability in the built environment.
- Investment in pilot projects to trial and demonstrate innovative approaches to built environment models.
- Risk management in the face of climate uncertainties - future scenarios, including the

threat of peak oil and sea level rise, should be factored into the way built environments are conceived and planned.

- A concerted program to improve existing building stock to encourage positive change, including energy efficient refurbishment and retrofitting, as well sustainable design for new buildings.

The call-for-action statement also includes a blueprint for action outlining the Australian architectural profession's support for a range of measures. They are:

- Emissions reduction targets of up to 90 per cent on 1990 levels, by 2050 (President Obama's campaign platform included a pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050).
- Requiring the majority of all new buildings in developed countries to be designed to be carbon neutral in energy use by 2020. Notwithstanding market and other barriers, the technology, knowledge and expertise to do this are becoming more widely available.
- Helping to establish an internationally accredited, independent offset mechanism or framework for the building sector to offset emissions from the built environment where emissions cannot be entirely eliminated, particularly from existing stock.
- By 2020 a 30 per cent reduction in emissions generated by existing buildings in developed countries. With the support of the right incentives, the architectural profession's knowledge and skills will help reduce future emissions, by applying sustainable design principles to retrofitting, renovations and extensions.
- An electronic clearing house to facilitate capacity building and the transfer of knowledge skills and expertise as they relate to sustainable design principles and strategies for the built environment and our cities.

Within the building area, there is also much more happening in the areas of water, materials, indoor environment quality etc which helps to make the total building sustainable.

Of course, buildings are a subset of the larger system within which they are placed. A sustainable building in an unsustainable system might be worse than a less effective building located in an effective environment. As more than 50% of the world's population move into urban environments, the issues of land use and planning, and transportation become increasingly important.

Achievements in these areas must be gained hand in hand with livability issues such as access to sun, green spaces and privacy. Through good design, these aspects of a sustainable city can be achieved.

Broader issues such as water catchment, food production and other critical issues need to be woven into sustainable urban planning.

A new tool released by Landcom this month called Precinx has been designed to assist in rational analysis and comparison of these metrics – how it will be implemented is being decided right now.

At the local government level, there are many Councils that continue to take this whole area very seriously. Being at the coalface of dealing with the people they represent, they seem to be more aware than any other elected officials of the desire of the people of Australia to get serious about climate change. Councils are reflecting this understanding in their planning documents and in the work they are commissioning themselves.

The City of Sydney is showing how powerful this can be. They have a 2030 Sustainable Sydney vision that covers all areas of their operations and they are truly walking the talk as they implement their ideas in all they do.

So in the face of all this – what should we architects be doing? How should we respond?

Charles Darwin, who was born 200 years ago this year, is renowned for his studies into and contemplations about the origin and continuance of many species. He noted that:

In the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed.

He also noted that:

It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change.

I think he would argue that we architects should be developing a very good understanding of the environment we find ourselves in and adapting to suit the changing situation.

I have been doing a lot of thinking about this whole issue over the last couple of years. I think there are some critical decisions we need to make in regards to our future that will enable us not only to survive, but also be a proactive part of creating a more positive future for all of us to enjoy.

It is interesting to note that the biggest difference between a 5 star and 6 star house is good design. Yes – understanding of the place in which the house is being placed with resultant input into its orientation, zoning, and material selection. This is the sort of stuff that good architects can and should be very skilled at.

Right now, I think we need to learn to be... *resourceful*.
This means we would be:

- able to act effectively or imaginatively, especially in difficult situations
- skilled at solving problems and making decisions on our own
- able to meet situations: capable of devising ways and means

I think we need to extend this style of approach to our profession – we need to develop an architecture that is resourceful.

Such an architecture would be:

1. *collaborative*
2. *cyclical*
3. *connected*
4. *honest*
5. *versatile*
6. *creative*

1 Collaborative

We need to create situations and teams where synergetic working relationships with all involved in the project can be established. Everyone, from the client through to the consultants, the builder and the sub-contractors, should be able to make a contribution and be valued and appreciated for this.

The knowledge and understanding of a diversity of people can add value to processes and outcomes. This is especially true when we engage in reflective learning processes that can accommodate the wide-ranging and complex issues that sustainability necessarily includes. As architects, we must become skilled in developing and participating in such diverse teams.

Council House 2 in Melbourne convened the entire team to be involved in the conceptual design for 2 weeks (without mobiles). After this process every person was able to sign off that they were happy with the outcome – that the design was as good as it could be from every different perspective. This allowed input from people normally involved later in the process after all decisions have been made to be made at a time when it could positively affect the outcome.

The entire team working on Workplace 6 (the first 6 Green star building in Sydney, which we gave ESD advice on) trained and became accredited with Green Star. This was extremely helpful in fostering knowledgeable, productive discussions on how to reach our sustainability goals.

2 Cyclical

We need to creatively bring appropriate ideas concepts, materials, resources and buildings from the past to bear on new solutions for the future. Meaningful acknowledgement and action can establish a continuous and valuable link from the past into the future.

Many of the answers we are looking for are already with us – they need to be identified and accommodated, not reinvented. Think of the ingenious solutions found for Roman towns 2000 years ago in the deserts of north Africa, or the deep understanding the indigenous Australians have of the place within which we live. Vernacular architecture demonstrates long standing locally developed approaches to the climate, culture and construction methods. Prior to air-conditioning there was knowledge about how to create naturally comfortable environments. There is much to learn if we look in the right places.

It is often easy to ignore the existing building fabric and think we need to start afresh. While sometimes this might be the right decision, too often this is made without diligent attention to the material efficiency and cultural opportunities that could arise from appropriate retention. In the current environment where we are being forced to pay more attention to our dwindling resources, this is changing.

We must capture, treat and reuse the resources that are available on site or nearby so they remain part of the ongoing cycle of the ecosystem rather than inputs and outputs of an unsustainable linear system. This includes water, waste, energy, and food.

Our buildings should celebrate and be inspired by these ideas and approaches.

3 Connected

As I noted at the start of this talk, disconnection from where we are is not a good thing. When we are disconnected from something or someone there is often little understanding, which makes appropriate responses and care difficult to achieve.

We need to reconnect ourselves to people, to places, and to the ecosystems we operate within so we can understand them. This will enable us to truly appreciate our situation, optimise opportunities and contribute to more resilient systems.

Diverse communities allow us to come into regular contact with people in different circumstances to our own. We can better understand the implications of differences in age, or race, or opportunity. Monocultures of any type do not produce resilient communities.

We have created buildings that do not allow or require us to know what is happening outside. Many people leave home in the morning in their air-conditioned car that is accessed without going outside, and drive to their undercover car park that links directly to their air-conditioned office. Most activities will be accessed in a similar manner meaning these people will not go outside and understand what is happening to the world they are living in.

How crazy is it that we turn on lights during the day in this bright country, or design buildings with no opening windows so we have to switch on air conditioners all year round in one of the most benign and livable climates in the world? We turn on water taps without any idea of the dam storage situation, as it is many miles away and invisible.

Whether it is sunny, raining, hot, cold or other has enormous impacts on how our buildings should be operated for optimal performance; how our food is grown; and how much water might be available for use – among many other things. Many of our buildings and cars disconnect us from this important knowledge base.

Walking or cycling through a city allows us to not only develop an intimate understanding of its geography, but also of the condition of its travel ways and the building stock, and the variety of cultural, trade and other opportunities that are available.

Connection builds knowledge that can be used to help design more meaningfully. Without such knowledge, it is no wonder there are as many climate deniers as there are.

4 *Honest*

We should value the honesty and celebrate the inherent qualities of materials and structures that address relevant issues, with the optimum amount of space, materials and technology required.

In the inevitable low carbon future we are fast encountering, I believe we will need to work out how to do more with less. This means designing smaller buildings that feel more spacious and while providing delight and comfort in the variety of weather conditions encountered.

Creative intelligence will need to be harnessed to do this.

Such intelligence will NOT be used to find profligate solutions to problems created by the design team. While this might have been previously considered as interesting, seductive and sometimes even green, the excessive use of materials and/or structure required to perform unnecessary tricks to resolve problems that should not be there in the first place will soon be seen for what it is. That is, not the best use of resources (both human and actual) in a sustainable future.

5 *Versatile*

As permaculturalists know, “each element performs many functions” and “each important function is supported by many elements”. These ideas are inherent to a successful, integrated and resilient system.

By contrast, single purpose parts and centralized systems are prone to failure and being quickly outdated.

Such an approach ensures that each part of the system plays several important roles, which adds value to each part's significance and inclusion. At the same time, if any part does fail, the function it performs will be backed up by other parts of the system, minimizing the problem.

Consider a beautifully designed weather hood that not only provides appropriate solar control for a window, it also provides rain protection on steamy nights when airflow is important, and makes an essential contribution to the design aesthetic.

6 Creative

Significantly, we should nurture our ability to design buildings and systems that create energy, water, food AND importantly – good architecture.

We should be aiming to design buildings that in addressing our needs and the climate we locate them in, synergies and resources can be harnessed so that our occupancy can actually produce energy and water, rather than just use – or really waste – less.

In the future we will be measuring the embodied energy required to construct a building, as well as the amount of energy and water required to operate it. Eco-footprint analyses will account for other impacts our lives have on the world we live in – especially food and consumerables.

Such accounting will reveal the architects whose buildings can minimise impact in their construction and contribute to resource production during their operation. I think they will compare very favourably to those whose buildings are profligate users of resources – at any stage.

Finding imaginative ways of bringing food production back into our daily lives is something good architecture can assist with. The process of gardening involves meaningful life lessons around the need for preparation, planning and tending that will eventually bring great seasonally responsive results.

Michelle Obama's food garden in the White House has had a huge impact – people talk about how it “teaches us to sow a vision that feeds faith, love and community instead of fear, despair and loss”.

buildings to be so beautiful and successful that they will be loved and cared for, ensuring long lifetimes, during which they are well used and highly valued. This is one of the most important aspects of what we do.

As noted at the beginning of this talk, we are in the process of understanding the economic model that has governed how we lived has failed us, and a new one needs to be developed. Some say that this will come from “a bottom up community based movement” that is well placed to make the world a better place to live. Being as connected to the prevailing world economic model as we are, architects will need to adapt as well. We must eschew any profligate, wasteful approaches we might have had in the past.

Instead, we need to urgently and consciously direct our creative, lateral thinking skills that can simultaneously deal with many complex factors to achieving better outcomes.

By following the approaches identified above, I think that architects can become well placed to actively participate in the creation of a positive, abundant future that is desirable to live in as well as being sustainable.

I would like to move towards a conclusion with some words from someone I have great respect for. Apart from being a great thinker, Paul Gilding is a writer, advisor and advocate on climate change and sustainability. One of his articles is called “The Global Financial Crisis - From Despair to Excitement”, and comes from the Cockatoo Chronicles, April 28th, 2009.

These are exciting times. While every week I have a conversation with someone who feels despair at the ecological and economic crisis unfolding around us, I have come to an acceptance of the inevitability of this crisis. So I focus instead on the uplifting responses emerging around the world as people build new approaches and gather support for them.

The so-called global financial crisis is in fact a blessing for humanity. While it is causing significant dislocation, it is bringing into sharp relief the idiocy of our consumer culture and the unsustainability of our economic model. It is a blessing because the sooner we face up to this, the less suffering there will ultimately be. A short sharp shock can help us to wake up.

And waking up we are. While these ideas have been proposed for many decades, the debate has stayed on the fringes. Now we have mainstream commentators starting to question the fundamental assumptions behind the global market. Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and author Tom Friedman is one such example. Tom has long been an advocate of globalisation and free markets and is widely read all around the world. He argued in a recent column:

Let's today step out of the normal boundaries of analysis of our economic crisis and ask a radical question: What if the crisis of 2008 represents something much more fundamental than a deep recession? What if it's telling us that the whole growth model we created over the last 50 years is simply unsustainable economically and ecologically and that 2008 was when we hit the wall — when Mother Nature and the market both said: “No more.”

So that's why I'm excited, because after decades of involvement in social change I have come to trust my intuition and at this time it is screaming at me that our time has arrived. We are now going to tackle the big issues.

Yes, it's happening for the wrong reasons. It's happening because the Arctic ice cap is melting, because Australia's Murray Darling river system is dying, because severe droughts and floods are damaging food supplies and so on. Every day we hear more news like this. So I recognise how hard it is for us all to hear that and yet stay positive and optimistic. I too have struggled mightily with that challenge. However in the end I have come to a point of acceptance of that being a reality I can no longer change. I now find life is much better lived in a space that sees the opportunity inherent in the crisis.

Without the global financial crisis we may never have got Barack Obama. We now have a President of the world's most powerful country arguing for world wide nuclear disarmament, arguing for a culture of service in our communities, reaching out to the Islamic world and appointing science based advocates for action on climate change to key positions....

So yes, it's going to get ugly in the ecosystem, we are going to see some very unpleasant consequences of our failure to act, and we are going to see some significant suffering as food supplies dwindle, oil prices spike and governments scramble to respond to climate disasters. But all over the world people are getting ready in a bottom up community based movement to make their world a better place to live.

Growing out of the US and the UK the transition towns movement now has over 150 towns and cities working on the philosophy that between Peak Oil and Climate Change, the crisis is inevitable and we should get ready for it. Rather than being victims they choose to take control, with the view that:

“by shifting our mind-set we can actually recognise the coming post-cheap oil era as an opportunity rather than a threat, and design the future low carbon age to be thriving, resilient and abundant – somewhere much better to live than our current alienated consumer culture based on greed, war and the myth of perpetual growth.”

Thriving, resilient and abundant. Sounds good to me. Let's live there.

With a tough year of petty bickering and not much action since then, Paul's thinking has developed. It reflects the quickly developing situation we are experiencing. From “The Parallel Universes of Climate Change”, Cockatoo Chronicles No 9, September 10th, 2009

My message on this topic is clear and direct. We are at a crucial moment in human history. 2009 is to climate change what 1939 was to WWII. Poland has been invaded – the Arctic is melting, the bushfires are burning, the droughts are strengthening and the floods are sweeping away communities. There is only one question you have to ask yourself: “what will I tell my children?”

So now, imagine yourself in 2030. The world is teetering on the edge of geopolitical and economic chaos (this is not a certainty, but it is certainly a reasonable risk). You are talking to your children (add 20 years to their current age) and explaining what it was like in 2009 – what the scientific consensus was and how you personally responded, then and there, when the reality became clear. What did you do in 2009 and why?

In 2030, the parallel universes will have closed and there will only be one left. It will be called reality and you and your children will be living in it. Imagine the conversation. Do it now, then decide what to do.

“They go on in strange paradox, decided only to be undecided, resolved to be irresolute, adamant for drift, solid for fluidity, all-powerful to be impotent...Owing to past neglect, in the face of the plainest warnings, we have entered upon a period of danger. The era of procrastination, of half measures, of soothing and baffling expedience of delays, is coming to its close. In its place we are entering a period of consequences ... We cannot avoid this period, we are in it now...” Winston Churchill, Nov 12, 1936

I would like to conclude on a more positive note – one appropriate to this meeting.

We women are in a position to make the changes that need to be made, and are probably best placed to do so. Our integrated way of thinking and understanding of the world, combined with our natural networking skills ensure we are well placed to take effective action – now.

The campaign 1 million women has been set up to help us do just this. Nearly 12,000 women have already joined. The goal is to empower 1 Million Women to collectively cut 1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the main greenhouse gas pollutant triggering climate change. When you join you will be taken to a selection of CO₂ cutting activities covering your household, food, cars and getting around, flights, shopping and renewable energy.

Thank you – and I hope that you too will take action now!

Impacts of climate change on Australian biodiversity - Prof Lesley Hughes

Professor Lesley Hughes BSc (Hons) USyd, PhD Macq

Professor and Head of Department of Biological Sciences at Macquarie University and Co-director of the Centre for Research Excellence on Climate Risk

Lesley is an ecologist studying the potential impacts of climate change, both current and future, on species and natural ecosystems.

Lesley Hughes was a lead author and an Australian & New Zealand representative in production of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment. She chaired the NSW Scientific Committee (2005-2007) and was Node Leader of the Biological Impacts and co-convenor of the ARC Network for Earth System Science. She is also a member of the Australian Greenhouse Office Expert Advisory Panel on climate change and biodiversity, the Science Advisory Board of the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority, the Scientific Advisory Board of the World Wildlife Fund-Australia, the management committee of the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, and the World Commission on Protected Areas.

Abstract: There is now widespread acceptance that the climate is changing and that human activities are responsible. It is widely recognised that the impacts of climate change on species and natural communities may be profound, and in many cases, disastrous. There is also good evidence that many species are *already* responding to the warming trends experienced in the last few decades. In particular, geographic ranges of the more mobile species are shifting poleward and upward in elevation, and the timing of life cycles of many plants and animals is also changing. Species responses to ongoing climate change are expected to be individualistic although some predictions can be made as to which species will respond most quickly. Species with rapid life cycles, generalist habitat requirements and good dispersal mechanisms may be able to respond rapidly to changing conditions although unfortunately, these characteristics typify species that are already pests. Species that are currently specialised, restricted and have slow life cycles and poor dispersal will be vulnerable to decline and even extinction. As species respond, the communities that they live in will also change in structure, composition and in the services they provide. Ecosystems that have been identified as being most vulnerable in the short- to medium term include the alpine zone, freshwater wetlands and riverine systems, coastal fringes and the northern wet tropics.

This talk will briefly review recent climate changes on a global and Australian scale, summarise projections for the future, outline the implications of these projections for species and communities with a particular focus on Australian biodiversity, and discuss conservation strategies for the future. While fixing the cause of the problem by drastically reducing emissions

of greenhouse gases is urgently needed, we also need to find ways to improve the resilience of species and ecosystems to the new stress imposed by climate change and where possible, to build their capacity to adapt.

Paper not available for publication

Advocacy and Action in the 34th Triennium – Dr Jennifer Strauss, AFUW President

NB: For ease of reference, the Resolutions have been given numbers according to the order in which they appear in the Policy and Attitudes Document (on the website), where they are grouped thematically. In this document, the resolutions are in italics. The document does not include pre-2006 actions on Resolutions from earlier Conferences.

SECTION A: Resolutions acted on and achieved

5 The 33rd Conference of AFUW:

- (a) affirms the need for employees to have access to paid parenting leave and flexible employment options to ensure that they can exercise their right to combine paid work and parenting;*
- (b) urges the Federal Government to adopt the findings and recommendations of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's report "A Time to Value - Proposal for a National Paid Maternity Leave Scheme; and*
- (c) resolves to promote the HREOC Report and its recommendations on paid maternity leave (2006)*

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: Support for paid maternity (and paternity) leave in AFUW Inc Submission to the Sex Discrimination Commissioner Broderick's Inquiry into the situation of Australian women: prepared with assistance from the Convener for the Status of Women (2008)

Two Submissions made to Productivity Commission's 2008-2009 Inquiry into Paid Parental Leave (PPL); AFUW-SA contributed material for second submission on special needs of Indigenous women and their extended families. Further Submissions made after publication of Commission's Draft Report by AFUW Inc and AFUW-SA.

President sent letters to several Government politicians (April 2009) urging acceptance of the PPL recommendations despite global financial crisis; NSW sent similar emails to Federal politicians.

Consultations: President participated in WomenSpeak development of policy and advocacy on Paid Parental Leave (PPL) (2008); President presented at Commission's public hearings before and after publication of the Draft report (2008, 2009)

Projects/ Functions: President attended ACTU-sponsored PPL Breakfast in Canberra (2008)

6 The 32nd Conference of AFUW resolves to continue to urge the Australian Government to sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and requests State and Territory Associations to use their influence to this end (2003)

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: AFUW Inc a signatory to letter from Women's Secretariats urging Attorney General to sign the Protocol (2008)

Letter of congratulation sent to Foreign Minister and Minister for Status of Women on Australia's signing of the Protocol (2009)

Consultations/ Workshops: Participation of President and CIR in Secretariat's training workshop on CEDAW (Feb 2009). NSW attended launch of NGOs CEDAW Report and Workshop.

26 The 32nd Conference of AFUW urges the Australian government to give the fullest possible political and financial support to the work of the International Family Planning Association, including

(a) support for birth control programs that include all methods that are legally available in the host country, and (b) for the distribution of condoms as a measure to counteract HIV/AIDS.

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: Letters to Minister for Foreign Affairs in January and July of 2008 urging change to Guidelines preventing use of AusAid money for family planning organizations including abortion as one of the options available for birth control. Follow-up letter January 2009. Letter of congratulation (March 2009) sent to Minister upon change to Guidelines
52 The 33rd Conference of AFUW resolves to assist financially if possible an Australian Indigenous woman to attend and participate in the 29th triennial IFUW Conference being held in Manchester in 2007.

ACTION: Two Sponsorships obtained: from Curtin University and the Australian Catholic University.

Section B: Resolutions acted on and likely to be continuing

1 The 33rd Conference of AFUW recommends that State and Territory Associations urge the Australian and State and Territory Governments to meet the continuing need to prevent violence and violent crimes against women by means of public education, delivery of services and prosecution of offenders (2006)

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: Raised as issue in AFUW Inc Submission to the HRC Sex Commissioner's Inquiry into the state of Australian women (2008).

Consultations: President represented AFUW in consultations on new Family Violence law in Victoria (2008). Consultation is being continued by AFUW-Vic (2009)

SA supported removal of male offenders from home to anger management hostels at *Women Uniting* Conference

Projects/ Functions: White Ribbon Day (WRD) support:

AFUW-NSW: project with Project 5-O partners educating boys in 2 secondary schools about WRD.

Support and help with organisation to WRD functions: SA (2008); Vic Sleepsafe Breakfast with Project 5-O partners (2007); WA in 2008 and 2009 (also with Project 5-O partners)

AFUW-WA Scholarship awarded for study of reactions to cycle of violence, aiming to find understandings that would help the peace process and ensure safe access to education for girls and women.

4 The 33rd Conference of AFUW urges the AFUW Council and STAs to monitor the Australian, State and Territory Governments to ensure that they are aware of the implications of the amendments made in December 2005 to the Industrial Relations Act 1996 as amended and the proposed amendments to the Family Law Act 1975 as amended (Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Bill 2006) and their potential for significant effect on Australian families and individuals (2006)

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: AFUW Inc signatory to joint submission of S4W & WomenSpeak to HREOC Inquiry into Effectiveness of the Sex Discrimination Act (2008)

Joint Submission with National Foundation for Australian Women on After-Hours and Vacation Childcare as issue in women's workforce participation (2009)

Letters to Minister for Education, Science and Training and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on the Status of Women urging re-consideration of Centrelink Guidelines on study undertaken in fulfilment of Welfare to Work obligations; copy to Council for the Single Mother and her Child (2007)

AFUW Vic Submission to the Broderick Inquiry (2008) raised concerns over Welfare to Work and rules applied by Centrelink to study counting as fulfilling work requirements

Consultations: President participated May 2007 in Secretariat's Women and Work Round Table to prepare for Report to Office for Women on *What Women Want: Consultations on Welfare to Work and Work Choices*. Report endorsed by Council, June 2007.

SA Education/Health liaison representative attended NGO meetings 2007/8 to support Council for Single Mother and her Child in dealing with Family Law and Welfare to Work legislation

Projects/ Functions: President attended March 2007 launch of HREOC's *It's About Time: Women, Work and Family* and notified members of this important document in AFUW Newsletter.

8 *The 33rd Conference of AFUW calls upon the Australian Government to provide equitable and accessible higher education by:*

- (i) *increasing their funding of public universities; and*
- (ii) *allowing external undergraduate students to access the HECS scheme without having to pay upfront fees; and*
- (iii) *requests the AFUW Council and its STAs to monitor progress (2006)*

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: AFUW Inc's Submission to the 2008 Broderick Inquiry raised issues of poverty among female students and equal opportunity for women academics

AFUW Inc Submission to the Treasurer's pre-Budget Consultation (2008) stressed need for better funding for higher education and inequities arising from its costs to students.

AFUW Inc Submission to the Bradley Review of Higher Education (2008) made these points in more detail, plus concerns about position of women academics. Second submission on needs of Indigenous students was prepared by AFUW-SA.

President's paper to Higher Education Summit (2009) addressed funding of public education at all levels and the challenges of increasing participation of low SES and Indigenous students in higher education.

AFUW-Vic Submission to the Broderick Inquiry raised concerns over affordability of education and need to address student poverty.

9 *The 33rd Conference of AFUW advocates practices that enact the following principles in relation to the conduct of research in universities and organisations such as CSIRO:*

- (i) *a flourishing knowledge economy and intellectual culture depends on research activity that is adequately funded, encourages both pure and applied research and nurtures all disciplinary fields;*

- (ii) *concentration on funding on short-term outcomes, predictable impacts and programs dictated by government policy is destructive of a healthy research culture;*
- (iii) *research is an essential and defining component of a university; and*
- (iv) *peer review is the best available guarantee of achieving high quality research and ensuring a distribution of research funds determined by intellectual excellence (2006)*

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: These positions were maintained in the AFUW Inc Submissions to the Bradley Review of Higher Education (2008)

Projects/ Functions: AFUW-WA invited Prof Lyn Beazley, Head of CSIRO and Chief Scientist WA, to speak at its 2009 Annual Dinner.

10 *The 32nd Conference of AFUW (a) encourages its State and Territory Associations to support rural, isolated and Indigenous women to attain tertiary education and fulfil their potential; and (b) urges AFUW and State and Territory Associations to lobby their respective governments and other corporate agencies to provide resources for rural, isolated and Indigenous students to pursue their studies at all levels (2003)*

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: Need for special support for these groups was stressed in the following: AFUW Inc Submission to the Treasurer's Community Consultation on the Budget (2008); AFUW Inc Submission to the Sex Commissioner's Inquiry into the situation of Australian women (2008); AFUW Inc Submission to the Bradley Review of Higher Education and Supplementary Submission on Indigenous Education (2008); President's Paper to Higher Education Summit (2009)

Projects/ Functions: AFUW-NT, AFUW-Q, AFUW-SA, AFUW-Vic and AFUW-WA have special Indigenous scholarships; AFUW-Vic scholarships target disadvantage, including geographical isolation.

AFUW-WA has participated in Yarra Wadji project.

12 *The 31st Conference of AFUW recommends that State and Territory Associations lobby relevant State Ministers to formulate, implement and monitor policies which enable teenage girls to continue their education and training during pregnancy and child-rearing, and recommends that these policies include the provision of facilities in school buildings for childcare (2000).*

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: President emailed Education Minister of Northern Territory (November 2009) re report that NT had no program to support school attendance for the large number of school age girls who were pregnant or mothering.

14 *The 31st Conference of AFUW resolves to urge the Federal Government:*

- (a) *to recognise that the knowledge-intensive revolutionary change will demand more numerous and better-equipped professionals in the allied fields of health and education; and*
- (b) *therefore to invest more in the higher education fields of health and education to enable society to be pro-active and productive in its approach to victims of changing economic circumstances (2000)*

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: AFUW Inc Submissions to the Treasurer's Budget Consultation (2008) and Bradley Review (2008) stressed need for more funding to train teachers of maths, science and foreign languages and particularly to invest more in engaging Indigenous students in higher education teacher training.

15 *The 31st Conference of AFUW recommends to State and Territory Associations that they urge Ministers of Education throughout Australia to support the following principles of best*

practice in curriculum, training and development: indigenous history and culture to be an integral element of social education programs from pre-school level to university; all teacher education courses to include units of indigenous culture; and indigenous teachers, where possible, be employed to teach the history of indigenous culture at primary and secondary level (2000).

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: AFUW Inc Submissions listed above made these recommendations.

AFUW-SA continued to make representations to SA government on need for bi-cultural, bi-lingual education, advised by Maria Lane, Indigenous representative on Committee

Consultations: Presidents of AFUW Inc and AFUW-Vic participated in Victorian Institute of Teaching consultations on including units on Indigenous culture and needs of Indigenous students in Victorian teacher training.

16 The 31st Conference of AFUW urges Federal and State Governments:

- (a) *to ensure that a range of options exists for Indigenous students through bi-lingual education, English as a Second Language and the Australian Indigenous Languages Framework to enable Indigenous parents and students to choose pathways appropriate to different stages in their education; and*
- (b) *to provide adequate funding to ensure the mutual benefit of this range of these options to all Australians; and*
- (c) *the Conference further urges the national executive to seek from the Federal Government legislation to provide legal standing for Australia's Indigenous languages (2000)*

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: Recommendation made to Bradley Review of Higher Education for a Commonwealth, State and Territory Inquiry into bi-lingual education, especially at primary level; matter amplified in Supplementary Submission on Indigenous Education.

On AFUW-SA advocacy on this issue see above

Consultations: AFUW-SA participated in the Mother Tongues Conference organised by the Aboriginal Advancement League

18 The 31st Conference of AFUW urges the Federal Government to re-examine its approach to Technical and Further Education; and, in particular, to restore the financial support needed to enable the nation-wide, urban and rural TAFE institutions to continue to provide those life-enhancing and paid-work-promoting courses which should not be funded on the 'user-pays' principle (2000).

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: AFUW Inc has supported better TAFE funding and the importance of TAFE programs in the Education Submissions listed above and in its 2009 Submission to the Review of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act and Agency.

AFUW Inc and AFUW-SA assisted in the preparation of the Submission on Gender Issues in TAFE Education prepared by Women in Adult and Vocational Education (WAVE)

SA protested at closure of women's education courses at 3 TAFEs in South Australia

Consultations: AFUW initiated an Education Group within S4W with a view to getting cross-sectoral policy development on both university and TAFE issues.

Projects: NSW initiated a prize for students on TAFE to University bridging courses.

Comments: President and AFUW-SA urge need to develop new policy on TAFE

19 The 30th Conference of AFUW recommends that AFUW and member associations find ways and means to support Indigenous Australian women in their educational pursuits and especially in their under-graduate and post-graduate studies (2000)

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: All AFUW Inc Education Submissions raise support for Indigenous students as a matter needing attention.

AFUW-SA frequently lobbies SA government on need to improve conditions for Indigenous teachers as well as students, publishes correspondence in STA Newsletter.

Projects: On STA scholarships, see report on Resolution 13 above.

21 The 33rd Conference of AFUW calls upon relevant health and/ or education institutions to determine comprehensive policies to provide high quality health services for all Australians and requests AFUW Council and its STAs to monitor the situation (2006)

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: AFUW Inc co-sponsored Call by several WomenSpeak NGOs for a national Strategy on Sexual and reproductive health (2007)

AFUW Inc provided CIR as the S4W representative at a National Women's Health Policy Roundtable run by the Departments of Health and Ageing and subsequently assisted with consultation and preparation of the combined S4W and WomenSpeak submission to the new National Women's Health Policy (2009)

AFUW CIR was the major contributor to S4W submission to the Aust. Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on the need for better access to gender disaggregated data from the National Health Survey and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service (2009)

AFUW-NSW participated in the Women's Health Implementation Plan (NSW) and attended Peak Women's Group to advise on Women's Policy, especially in relation to Health, Employment and Transport

AFUW-SA congratulated State Govt. on provision of child/parent centres giving health support and some informal early childhood learning. Also provision of pre-schooling for Aboriginal children from age three.

AFUW-WA contributed to WA Review of Sexual Health

22 The 32nd Conference of AFUW resolves to urge the Federal Government that asylum seekers be processed for refugee status within Australia; process be conducted as expeditiously as possible, in order that those granted refugee status can be settled within the community with minimum delay; and the restrictive nature of the terms of the temporary protection visas be reviewed to provide holders with more rights, such as those to welfare support, education and freedom of movement, that are enjoyed by Australian citizens (2003)

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: Letter of congratulation sent to Minister for Immigration on decision to abolish temporary protection visas, but urging implementation of policy of rapid processing for refugee status and abandonment of off-shore detention and processing (May 2008)

Letter to Minister for Immigration applauding decision to discontinue charging detainees for the cost of their detention (2009)

23 The 32nd Conference of AFUW resolves to promote a humanitarian approach by the Federal Government and within the wider community to refugee issues, including re-settlement in Australia, access to education and health-care. (2003)

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: See 22 above

24 The 32nd Conference of AFUW resolves to urge the Australian Government to adopt policies whereby:

- (a) *children and their primary parent or carer, if any, be released after no more than three months in detention provided parents or carers are in agreement with any separation consequent upon the release; and*
- (b) *that after such three month period, while their claims are being heard, children, their primary parent or carer and unaccompanied minors, are housed in the community and have access to appropriate training and development and to counselling and professional services, particularly the education of children.*

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: See 22 above

Letter to Minister for Immigration expressing concern at continuing presence of children in detention on Christmas Island (2009)

27 *The 33rd Conference of AFUW urges the Australian Government and university administrations to create and implement mechanisms leading to gender equity across academic levels (Level A-E), in all disciplines and departments at all publicly funded Australian universities. In particular, to follow the lead of the European Union and target “40% participation of women at all levels in implementing and managing research programs” and to link this level of gender equity as a performance measure to university income under the Infrastructure Grant Scheme (2006)*

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: Without specifying targets, the need for improved performance in this matter was stressed in AFUW Inc Submissions to the Sex Discrimination Commissioner’s Inquiry into the situation of Australian Women (2008); the Bradley Review of Higher Education (2008) and the review of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act and Agency (2009)

28 *The 33rd Conference of AFUW resolves that AFUW should develop its research into the quality and availability of education and skills development programs for women prisoners so as to pay special attention to the situation of women serving repeated short-term sentences in prison (2006)*

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: Improvements in education for women prisoners urged as part of AFUW Inc Submission to the Sex Discrimination Commissioner’s Inquiry into the situation of Australian Women (2008)

AFUW-SA suggested that WAVE include in its education policy a recommendation for a special policy to address needs of women prisoners, including individual case management.

Projects: Branch of AFUW-NSW gave scholarship to Berrima gaol to enable a prisoner to undertake further education by correspondence and gain a Diploma.

29 *The 33rd Conference of AFUW resolves to:*

- (i) *Call upon the Australian Government to minimise the use of fossil fuels and uranium and maximise the use of renewable energy(solar and wind); and*
- (ii) *Call upon the Australian Government and all bodies governing public research funding to fund research into areas of high importance to a sustainable ecological and environmental future for Australia including harnessing clean energy and water and land preservation and conservation (2006)*

ACTIONS: Pursued in theme of 2009 Triennial Conference: *Women Building Sustainable Futures*

AFUW-NSW Young Members group invited speaker on development of photo-voltaic cells for the Third World

AFUW-SA has talked to SA Education Department about 'green energy' programs in SA schools.

AFUW-WA helped organise Centenary Women's trust lunch with speaker on renewable energy.

37 The 33rd Conference of AFUW resolves that AFUW and its STAs actively pursue its collaborative, culturally-appropriate engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and maintain its advocacy for the quality of, and access to, their educational opportunities at all levels (2006).

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: AFUW Inc Submission, and especially the Supplementary Submission, to the Bradley Review of Higher Education (2008), addressed need for funding for special programs to overcome disadvantages of Indigenous students – e.g. literacy help and career guidance at school level as preparation for higher education

Letter to Federal Minister of Communications urging funding support for Indigenous Community radio in changeover to digital system (April 2007)

Consultations: AFUW supported selection by WomenSpeak of a project (*Standing in Solidarity with Indigenous Women*) to develop appropriate policies for Indigenous Australians through a series of community consultations; members in SA, Qld and WA took part in these consultations. AFUW-SA continues to consult with Aboriginal staff in the SA Office for Women and with the SA Aboriginal Advancement League.

Projects/ Functions: On STA scholarships for Indigenous students see Resolution 10.

Involvement with AFUW: Through good offices of AFUW-WA and AFUW-Qld in obtaining sponsors, AFUW was able to fulfil a recommendation from AFUW-SA that AFUW take 2 Indigenous women in its delegation to the 2007 IFUW Triennial Conference in Manchester, while AFUW-NSW has obtained sponsorship from Office for Women's Policy for 2 Indigenous students to attend the 2009 AFUW Triennial in November in Sydney.

President was invited to speak on role of AFUW at Workshop on leadership for Indigenous Academic Women (2008)

39 The 33rd Conference of AFUW resolves that

(i) AFUW opposes the use of depleted uranium in armaments and requests the Australian Government to:

(a) resolve that its armed forces will not use weaponry containing depleted uranium;

(b) declare that it will not take part in military campaigns in which its allies are using weaponry containing depleted uranium; and

(c) take action in the UN to have the use of depleted uranium in armaments declared illegal under the international laws of war and hence liable to prosecution in the International Criminal Court;

(ii) in addition Conference resolves to ask IFUW to request the UN Human Rights Council for an independent international study on the short and probable long-term effects of depleted uranium on human populations and on the environment (2006)

ACTIONS: AFUW took Resolution in similar terms to IFUW 2007 Triennial Conference in order to raise issue to international level. AFUW delegate May Kentish was financially supported by AFUW-Vic to attend Conference and present a paper on the topic in the Interdisciplinary Seminars.

AFUW-SA supported protests by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom against holding of an international Armaments Fair in Adelaide. Among objections was the Fair's promotion of weapons containing depleted uranium

40 *The 33rd Conference of AFUW encourages AFUW to use its members' expertise to contribute to the UN Decade of Education for sustainable development 2005-2015 (2006).*

ACTION: Sustainability is the theme of the 2009 AFUW Triennial Conference.

41 *The 33rd Conference of AFUW calls upon the Australian Government and its agents to:*

(i) *explore exhaustively and support all diplomatic and peaceful means to resolve conflict; and*

(ii) *support the United Nations Security Council in seeking diplomatic and peaceful means to resolving conflict (2006).*

ACTIONS: In this triennium most actions were taken in relation to Resolution 1325: See next item.

42 *The 33rd Conference of AFUW reaffirms Resolution 9 of the 28th IFUW Conference that women are essential to peace and supports the continued implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 by:*

1 asking each STA to promote the essential role of women in peace building in their community by:

(a) preventing conflict; (b) facilitating an early end to conflict; (c) assisting humanitarian operations and reconstruction processes; (d) protecting women and girls from gender-based violence; and (e) working towards ensuring at least 50 percent of participants in such processes are women; and

2 asking AFUW to urge the Australian Government to direct the Australian mission at the United Nations to ask the Secretary General to provide regular reports on the progress made towards full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2006)

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: Resolution 1325 was cited as the basis for arguing for the role of women in public life generally, but especially in the resolution of conflict in the following: Letters to the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs re abuse of women activists by the military in Fiji (January 2007) and again in Sept 2008 when supporting opposition by Fijian Association of Graduate Women to the proposed People's Charter; Letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Jan 2007) concerning attacks on female academics and students at Baghdad University.

National Action Plan (NAP) on Resolution 1325: Melbourne and Adelaide consultations re support for an NAP (organised by WILPF) were attended respectively by the President and AFUW-SA. Article on consultation in Adelaide in AFUW-SA Newsletter led to request for feedback from commonwealth Office.

President subsequently wrote to Prime Minister urging an NAP for Australia. Agreement has now been given.

42 *The 33rd AFUW Conference resolves to continue support for the United Nations Decade on Culture of Peace by asking the appropriate educational departments in Australia to: promote programs for women who are migrants, refugees, or from indigenous and minority groups; and encourage schools to include programs in their curricula that are designed to respect differences, promote understanding and counter racism within school communities and multi-cultural societies (2006)*

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: AFUW Submission to the National Consultation on Human Rights (2009) stressed need for education programs on Peace and Human Security from kindergarten upwards.

Article on Peace Education was published in *Graduate Women* 2007

Education Departments not approached, although AFUW Inc Education submissions stress need for programs to support the identified groups, especially Indigenous women. AFUW-SA reports having made contact with coordinator of "Peace Schools" project.

46 The 32nd Conference of AFUW resolves to support IFUW's participation in the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (2003).

ACTIONS: Letter sent to Minister for Foreign Affairs asking that Australia protest to Government of Pakistan at closure of girls' schools in North Pakistan by Taliban (Jan 2009) CIR circulates the "Girls Too" newsletter published by UN Girls Educational Initiative (UNGEI) to STAs for distribution through their communication networks. AFUW-SA gave funding to support girls in school in Burundi to 2007, transferred support to East Timor in 2008 AFUW-Vic and AFUW-WA supported re-building of schools destroyed by 2007 tsunami, respectively in Aceh and Sri Lanka.

47 The 32nd Conference of AFUW recommends that AFUW and its State and Territory Associations develop strategies to promote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: (a) to promote the role of the United Nations; and (b) the Conventions and protocols which Australia has signed and those which it has ratified (2003)

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: See items re CEDAW (Resolution 6) Submission to the Attorney-General urging signing of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (2008) Joint signatory with other NGOs in urging Australian support for development of a UN Women's Agency to Prime Minister (2006). Follow-up AFUW letter 2008 Letter to Minister for Foreign Affairs re ratification of the UN Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (December 2006) Letter to Prime Minister urging that Australia be an early signatory to the UN Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, and to its Optional Protocol (Feb 2007) Congratulations sent to Attorney-General on Australia's signing of the UN Protocols on Children in Armed Conflict and the Sexual Exploitation of Children, also to Prime Minister on decision to sign the Convention on the Rights of the Disabled (Feb 2007) Letter to Minister for Indigenous Affairs congratulating the Government for signing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

SECTION C: Resolutions with some action, but recommended for rescinding, archiving or re-wording

1. The 33rd Conference of AFUW calls upon the Australian Government to abolish the Superannuation Contributions tax (2006)

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: Resolution cited in letter to Minister for Superannuation supporting his suggestion that women be exempt from the Tax (2008)

COMMENTS: AFUW-Vic recommends replacing by more general statement promoting adequate retirement incomes for all women. Taxation, superannuation and age pensions form single system: single measures which favour wealthy are not desirable.

3 The 33rd Conference of AFUW calls upon our members to promote:

increased awareness of the fact that the majority of older people are female and, therefore, the concerns of older women need attention;
research on all relevant aspects concerning the situation of older women in order to confront the myth of “older and ageing” women being “frail, helpless and dependent”;
increased awareness among our governments of the importance of gender sensitive measures for elderly people covering issues of finance, housing, health, supportive services and mental stimulation (2006)

ACTIONS: AFUW Submissions and Advocacy: Resolution incorporated into AFUW Submission to the HRC Sex Discrimination Commissioner's Inquiry into the state of Australian Women (2008)

Consultations: CIR participated as S4W representative in the Dept. of Health and Ageing's Round Table (2009) and was major contributor to subsequent submission on the need for Gender Disaggregated Data as the basis for a new National Women's Health Policy

Comments: AFUW-Vic recommends rewording or deleting second dot point: not a ‘myth’ that elderly women become ‘frail, helpless and dependent’. Women live longer than men and are the majority of high care nursing home patients. Research is required into how to care better for women at the end of their lives.

7 The 30th Conference of AFUW asks its State and Territory Member Associations to develop a higher profile in the community and to increase awareness of the contribution its members are equipped to make in local and national affairs, particularly those of relevance to women (1997)

ACTIONS: NSW Regular attendance of representative at Peak Women's Group with OfWP and the Minister or her deputy, the Chair of the Women's Council.

SA: Greatly extended contacts with other NGOs –worked with NCW, BPW,UNAA-SOW, Ba'hai and Soroptimists on *Women Uniting* Conference. Joined Women's Information Service support group. Increased engagement with WILPF. Provided AFUW representatives to S4W and WomenSpeak.

WA: Representation on Centenary Trust for Women, NCW (WA), NCAA, former Project 5-O Alliance, St Catherine's College,

Comments: President and AFUW-Vic suggested archiving (the resolution but not the activity)

13 The 31st Conference of AFUW resolves to urge the Federal Government to recognise that the current low levels of government investment in higher education and research are short-sighted and counter-productive to Australia's long-term interests, particularly in the light of the considerable investment of countries such as the UK, USA and Canada, in their higher education systems as a way of capitalising on emerging knowledge-intensive industries.

Comments: President and AFUW-SA suggest archiving as superseded by later Education Resolutions listed in Section B.

20 The 33rd Conference of AFUW calls upon the Australian, State and Territory Governments to provide appropriate funding for health care and services for patients with mental illness (2006)

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: Taken up in relation to women in prison in AFUW Inc Submission to Sex Discrimination Commissioner's Inquiry into the state of Australian women (2008)

AFUW-SA joined with UNAA-SoW to approach SA Minister for Corrective Services re mental health of women prisoners, including need to reduce stress of court appearances by video-conferencing (available to male prisoners)

AFUW-Vic wrote (2006) to Minister for Corrective Services re lack of care facilities for prisoners with mental illness

AFUW-WA is in Women's alliance looking at mental health issues

Comments: President suggests archiving as beyond our capacity for sustained action and covered by Resolution 21 if grounds for specific action needed

30 *The 32nd Conference of AFUW reaffirms the support expressed at its 31st Conference held in 2000 for the harnessing of renewable energy and resolves to request the Federal Government to ensure the continuation of research in this area through the use of financial and other resources (2003)*

Comments: Actions taken under 29 are relevant. Suggest archiving this as superseded by the 2006 Resolution. Even so, AFUW-Vic comments on lack of expertise to fulfil Resolution and repeats comment on 31,32, 33, 34

31 *The 31st Conference of AFUW resolves to encourage all State and Territory Associations to urge their respective governments to maintain a careful watch over activity that contributes to greenhouse gas emission and, wherever possible, to support projects and development that will ultimately lead to a reduction of atmospheric pollution (2000)*

Comments: This required STA action: only NSW has reported that its members contribute through Get Up. Suggest archiving. The principle of sustainability provides adequate grounds for interested members to take it up, or for AFUW to address it at need.

32 *Given that groundwater quality is a high priority in policies for sustainable development, the 31st Conference of AFUW recommends to State and Territory Associations that they emphasise to their respective governments the long-term dangers to the population of allowing toxic substances to accumulate in soil (2000).*

Comments: This required STA action: only SA reported an invited talk by Juliette Woods , a ground-water modeller. See comments and recommendation on 30 and 31.

33 *The 31st Conference of AFUW urges all State and Territory Associations to monitor proposals to establish new electricity generating plants and, where appropriate, petition Ministers responsible for Energy, Environment and National Resources, arguing that priority be given to establish plants which harness renewable sources of energy wherever this can be done efficiently and effectively (2000)*

Comments: See comments and recommendation 30-32.

34 *The 31st Conference of AFUW urges the Federal Government to greatly increase the financial and other resources required to improve land management, salinity mitigation practices, and other economic and social problems in the Murray-Darling River basin, and recommends to State and Territory Associations in affected areas that they act in their own States and Territories in accordance with this resolution(2000).*

Comments: See comments and recommendation 30-33.

35 *The 31st Conference of AFUW resolves to request the Federal Ministers for the Environment, and Energy and Natural Resources to influence the Western Australian Government to reverse its decision against the use of tidal energy in the West Kimberley and to reinstate the project at Doctor's Creek as a matter of high priority (2000)*

Comments: President, SA and Vic suggest archiving

36 *The 27th Conference of AFUW, in conjunction with its member associations, promotes awareness of the environment at all levels, local, state and national, in order to enhance the quality of life for all, with particular regards to the monitoring of planning regulations (1988).* AFUW-WA has had function speakers, e.g. at Annual Dinner

Comments: Has same problems of demanding expertise that may not be available in every STA. Suggest we need a need covering Resolution on support for sustainability, which would enable us to intervene when an opportunity arose

38 *The 32nd Conference of AFUW resolves to actively support the establishment of a Treaty with the Indigenous peoples of Australia provided that it continues to be the wish of the Indigenous people (2003).*

Comments: No national action this triennium: only AFUW-SA reports continuing activity. Archive ?

44 *The 33rd Conference of AFUW, currently meeting in Canberra and in view of the current situation in the Solomon Islands resolves to:*

send an urgent message of support to our fellow PGWNet members, the Solomon Islands Association of Graduate Women, asking whether there is any way in which we can be of assistance;

urge the Australian Government to do everything in its power to ensure the implementation in the Solomon Islands of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (on Women, Peace and Security), in particular with respect to the recognition of the roles of women in preventing conflict, facilitating its end, being full participants in all negotiations aimed at establishing and maintaining peace and in any reconstruction processes following conflict; and request the Australian Government to ensure that all those working on their behalf in the Solomon Islands in any capacity are informed as to the terms of Security Council Resolution 1325 and the obligation to implement those terms (2006)

ACTION: Reported to Council Meeting June 2006 that recommended actions had been taken Recommend Archiving

49 *The 33rd Conference of AFUW urges all STAs to call on their State and Territory Governments to take action to end the degrading, humiliating and ineffective processes of cavity strip searching of women prisoners.*

ACTIONS: Submissions and Advocacy: Raised in AFUW Inc Submission to Sex Discrimination Commissioner's Inquiry into situation of Australian women (2008) AFUW-Vic reported resolution to Victorian Attorney-General and urged action.

Section D: Resolutions not acted on in current triennium, some still 'live', some due for archiving

11 *The 32nd Conference of AFUW resolves to support the Palestinian women and girls to gain access to education; and requests IFUW to urge all its national Federations and Associations to support the Palestinian women and girls to gain access to education (2003)*

Comments: President suggests archiving

17 *The 31st Conference of AFUW resolves that AFUW establish a Mentoring Scheme to support the personal and professional development of AFUW members, particularly new or younger members (2000).*

Comments: President, AFUW-NSW and AFUW-Vic suggest archiving as not achievable at national level (which is what is suggested in the Resolution). Note however that both WA and the Sunshine Coast Branch of AFUW-Q are investigating mentoring schemes with academics from local universities and mentoring may be achievable as an STA activity.

25 The 32nd Conference of AFUW affirms the importance of the inclusion of support for women's reproductive rights within any population policy or convention of the United Nations or World Health Organisation, and undertakes to lobby the Australian Government and its agencies not only to maintain its present stance in favour of their inclusion, but to oppose vigorously any attempts whatever to have them excluded from any such policy or convention (2003).

Comments: Watching Brief needed

43 The 32nd Conference of AFUW (a) recommends that State and Territory Associations monitor Hate Speech in the media but, particularly, on Short Wave Radio/ Broad Band and Hate related Websites and (b) the Conference directs the AFUW Executive to forward these findings to IFUW for attention (2003).

Comments: No action this triennium: Recommend archiving

45 The 32nd Conference of AFUW resolves to develop stronger links with the Indonesian Association by working towards peace and mutual understanding between AFUW and the Indonesian Association; and initiating and promoting the development of collaborative projects between AFUW and the Indonesian Association (2003).

Comments: No action this triennium: President, NSW and Vic recommend archiving

48 The 32nd Conference of AFUW urges the Federal Government to increase the amount of aid given to developing countries to the target set by the United Nations of 0.7% of gross domestic product, such aid to be substantially directed to programs to benefit women and children

Comments: No action this triennium. Needs revision if we want to renew it.

Presentations from AFUW State Associations

AFUW-WA

A Triennium of Projects and awareness raising – Presented by Wendy McCallum, Lynda Roberts-Hall, Lalani Weddikkara

Our presentation outlines some of the projects and awareness raising which AFUW WA has been involved in over the past triennium. These directly support our Advocacy and Action Strategy, AFUW and IFUW resolutions and strategic directions. Each year in January we focus on these at our annual planning meeting so that we may be strategic in what we do as well as utilising our resources in an optimum manner.

Advocacy and Action Strategy

We

- provide input into relevant submissions at a local and national level;
- use our media (electronic and print) to provide opportunities for members to be involved in advocacy and action;
- use our meetings as opportunities to promote advocacy and action to our members;
- direct the profits of our academic dress activities to funding specific causes, bursaries etc;
- take opportunities to promote ourselves and what we do; and
- work on specific projects in accordance with our strategy.

Our Project Strategy

- our strategy has been to look at projects that are achievable, increase awareness about us, provide tangible benefits to others as well as us (ie capacity build), and are time efficient for those involved;
- the projects are in accordance with our objectives or specific resolutions; and
- where possible we like to work with other like minded organisations and associations.

Increasing Public Awareness

- Is a key component of our strategy as this enables us to attract members and to increase our reach through other organisations as they become aware of who and what it is that we do.
- Participation in a Women's Expo for International Women's Day. This involved putting together a stall which displayed our promotional materials, examples of our projects and membership applications.
- Promoting the association when we hire academic regalia. As regalia is collected we distribute membership application forms and use this as a prime opportunity to promote our association. Funding from this activity is integral to the provision of bursaries, scholarships and funding project. This led to an article in the University of Western Australia's magazine which promoted our association.
- Being visible when giving out prizes. We ensure that we personally hand out our prizes at university prize giving ceremonies and that all associated documents mention our sponsorship.
- Events Strategy: our events are varied and designed to attract and retain new members. Over the past triennium we have had very successful events such as afternoon teas, General Meetings with invited speakers, Scholarship Presentations, Annual Dinner, Sundowners and other social events, such as book clubs and movie nights.
- Facebook: entering the brave new world of modern technology and creating a facebook page in which to attract and retain younger members
- Working in collaboration with other like minded organisations.

Collaborations

We collaborate with the WA branches of Zonta, Soroptimists, Business and Professional Women and the National Council of Women to hold annual events. For example:

- 2008 Say No to Violence – Breakfast with Dixie Marshall
- 2009 Mental Health Awareness – evening seminar with drinks

We are currently collaborating with a number of associations to hold an International Women's Day Breakfast for 400 women in 2010.

Samples of our work

We have worked on several projects. Some are small and involve collections of goods for specific purposes, such as:

1. Pyjamas for Children at refuges (victims of domestic abuse): We ran a new pyjamas collection drive amongst the membership to provide pyjamas to children who were disadvantaged either socially or economically. Pyjamas were given to children in Women's shelters in Perth, foster care children, rural and regional aboriginal communities in Western Australia and to children in Burma and Ecuador.
2. Sponsorship of the United Nations Association of Australia (WA) Model United Nations program for university students, which assisted in holding three Model UN Forums. Students replicated the General Assembly of the United Nations, adopting the rules and procedures, and the students represented the position of different countries.

3. As a result of supporting the UNAA Model United Nations, we then provided financial support to Isabel Hughes, a high school student, to attend the international forum in Amsterdam.

Our Key Project of 2008 and 2009: Re-building Capacity in Sri Lanka

This has been a major activity and was inspired by the personal experiences of one of our members Lalani Weddikara, our Peace and Human Rights Convenor, who was present in Sri Lanka when the Tsunami struck with such devastation on Boxing Day 2004. Her family focussed on helping the people from the Galle region where the family lives and where 4,214 people lost their lives. As Lalani says:

***Please shut your eyes for a moment and imagine your home, your family, your neighbours, your street, your town/city just got washed away by a 30ft wave. Your familiar places are no more.*

This is what happened when the tsunami hit Sri Lanka 5 years ago on Boxing Day (26th December), early morning in 2004. My husband Ranjith & I were holidaying in Sri Lanka at that time. The tsunami is the worst tragedy to hit Sri Lanka, which left many dead, missing and tens of thousands homeless and displaced. It is reported to be the most powerful earthquake, and it triggered massive tidal waves that slammed into seven different countries, villages and seaside resorts across Asia and East Africa.

With massive unemployment through the destruction of local industries, large scale loss of life and everything that was familiar gone, Lalani's family were touched and inspired to make a difference. They took an holistic approach that was designed to help boost the local economy and improve the status of the lives that were left. Much of their inspiration came from the actions of the local women who organised those that were left, as they made a makeshift camp at a local temple. All though they slept at the temple, or under the trees or in tents, they organized the households, and saw to it that the children and young women were cared for.

Key activities

- Lalani's family have coordinated and inspired a group to work on a number of activities that focus on improving women's livelihoods: replaced fishing boats to generate income for the communities, re-establishing local small scale industries (such as rope making) established a pre-primary school for disadvantaged children in the region, provided after-school care so families can earn incomes and established English Classes for Sinhala/Tamil speaking graduates.
- All done in collaboration with other groups: Focus 21 Relief and Reconstruction, Curtin University of Technology staff, Parish of St Michael in Mt Pleasant, Air Force Retirement Village, Mt Pleasant Primary School

What was AFUW WA's role?

- A practical component was the collection of pens and pencils which Lalani took over to present to the students.
- Collection of cash donations towards the activities undertaken.
- Promoted the project at cross-campus breakfasts and the International Women's Day Expo.
- Sri Lankan lunch: a lunch was held in March 2009 to raise funds for the re-building of a pre-primary school in Galle. 50 people attended this event which was held at our headquarters and the food was prepared by Lalani and her family.

- Following popular demand, Lalani organised a Sri Lankan Cooking Demonstration in October 2009. This event was done in collaboration with the Parish of St Michael in Mt Pleasant and Library staff at Curtin University of Technology
- The two events raised approximately \$1, 500 which was used to purchase playground equipment, food supplies to give the children one square meal a day (a luxury for some of them!) and materials for the classroom. This helps the 40% of children in Galle who survived the Tsunami.

We can make a difference

The Old Woman and the Sea is a great parable about what we can do and is based on a story I heard.

“A woman was walking down the beach one morning when she saw something strange. An old woman was bending over and throwing something back to the sea. As she got closer she saw thousands of little crabs running around. As the sun shone brightly they would soon die. The old woman was about to throw a little crab when the other woman said “what’s the point, it doesn’t make a difference to these crabs?”

“It certainly will make a difference to this one” said the old woman, as she threw the crab into the sea. Each one of us can make a difference however small it may be.”

Thus, our actions, that seem so small in comparison to the devastation we are trying to fix, will not improve everybody’s lives. But, it will improve someone’s life. Who knows what that person may be able to do one day for others as a result?

Where to from here?

AFUW WA is seeking to make a difference as well. We are:

- Concentrating on capacity building activities with a focus on fun for our members;
- Continuing collaboration with other like minded organisations and associations;
- Engaging other members apart from the committee and convenors to participate in activities and projects, such as the project organised by Lalani;
- Identifying and applying for available grants and other monies that could be used for advocacy and action;
- Focussing on a multiple-pronged approach h, with clear goals; and
- Embracing technology.

AFUW-NSW

A Very Different Scholarship Recipient - Virginia Ross, President AFUW-NSW Southern Highlands Branch

A Change Of Direction

This is a story about an opportunity which was presented to our branch and how we went about making a choice which reflected a major change in our policies in relation to scholarships. The story began in mid-2007.

Existing Scholarship Programme

Up to this time our branch had been contributing \$500 towards the educational costs of a young Timorese law student through the Mary McKillop Institute.

The balance of any funds we had available were dedicated to offering two or three small scholarships to students at the Moss Vale Campus of the University of Wollongong, the only university in our area.

This system had been working well and we had a strong relationship with the people at the Moss Vale campus and the Mary McKillop Institute.

Talk By Jean Dally

The process leading to this change began in June of 2007 with a talk in at one of our monthly dinners by Jean Dally, the Development Officer at the Berrima Correctional Centre, which is a women's prison in our local area.

Her job was to encourage the inmates to apply themselves to taking courses of study by correspondence which would increase their self esteem and their chance of employment on release. She spoke with such lucidity, compassion and commitment about the young women in her charge that all who attended the meeting were left great sense of respect for what was being achieved at the BCC.

Government Grant Of \$300

Ms Dally also explained to us that the government provides a 'one off' grant of \$300 to be used to pay for all study related expenses of an inmate including fees, internet downloads, stationary, postage and textbooks.

Suggestion By Committee Member

Following this dinner meeting one of the committee members recommended that the committee consider offering a scholarship to an inmate of the BCC. Our scholarship budget is modest and the point was put that we need to target students to whom a scholarship of \$500 would make a significant difference. This was followed up by some research from the scholarship sub-committee resulting in a recommendation to support this idea.

Matter To Be Addressed - Relationship With Uow

There was strong opposition to this notion on the grounds that the number of scholarships awarded to students at the Moss vale campus would have to be reduced.

Discussion of this matter took two meetings in which the pros and cons were thoroughly examined but at last it was agreed that the Scholarship sub-committee could approach Ms Dally about a possible scholarship for an inmate of the Berrima Correctional Centre.

This was negotiated on the basis that any candidate for one of our scholarships would have to satisfy our criteria.

Visit To The BCC By Two Committee Members

The next step was a visit to the BCC by two members of our Scholarship sub-committee of which I was one.

During the visit we asked Ms Dally if any of the inmates would be suitable for one of our scholarships. We explained to her that, according to our criteria, they would need to have completed one year of study at University and with a credit average or above. Ms Dally explained that almost without exception, the inmates had left school at about Year 9 level and that University would be well beyond them at this stage. She told us that there was, however, one young woman studying in the field of Real Estate and Business Studies at TAFE by correspondence who was outstanding in many respects and who would be a very worthy recipient if we could be more flexible about our criteria who I shall call Susan.

She told us that Susan's grant had been used up and that her future as a student was therefore not assured.

If we were to offer this scholarship it was clear that we would need to modify our criteria.

Back To The Committee With This New Information

More discussion of 'pros and cons' followed.

Would it be acceptable to AFUW NSW to give a scholarship to a TAFE student?
Would they be happy about us supporting someone in a correctional centre?
This matter was resolved following a phone call to the (then) President of AFUW-NSW Ivy Edwards who supported the idea enthusiastically.

Back To The Next Committee Meeting With Ivy's Seal Of Approval

There was one more matter raised. That was that it was not possible for a person with a criminal record to be registered as a Real Estate Agent which we knew was one of Susan's aims. An email was then sent to Ms Dally who explained the legal situation which is that a person with a criminal record can work in a Real Estate Agency in a clerical capacity and can become registered as a Real Estate Agent after two years providing certain conditions are met.
By this stage it was January 2008 and TAFE enrolments were due by the end of the month.

Committee's Final Agreement

Discussing and addressing these matters had taken six months but at last we had reached the point where all committee members were happy to accept the idea and an application form was sent to Ms Dally with a letter suggesting that Susan should apply.

Application Was Acceptable

The application came back fairly quickly was most acceptable to us. We were pleased to discover that she had participated in the Young Offenders Programme for Women run by the Department of Correctional Services at a property owned by them at Oberon in NSW. She was so successful there that she was chosen as participant of the year and asked to mentor other young women offenders. Her level of academic achievement was also impressive with a good number of Distinctions on her Academic record.

On that basis the committee agreed to award a scholarship to the value of \$500 to Susan and a letter was sent to her informing her of her success.

Presentation Of Cheque And Certificate

In February 2008 four AFUW Southern Highlands committee members attended a presentation at which we gave Susan a certificate from AFUW Southern Highlands as a tangible record of the award. Ms Dally accepted our cheque for \$500 on her behalf on the understanding that it would be put into a special account and used to help pay for Susan's educational expenses.

People Present

The presentation was attended by an impressive selection of the 'heavies' of the Corrective Services including the Deputy District Commissioner. Our recipient was dignified in her acceptance but it was clear that she was thrilled to be in a situation where she had never imagined herself.

After the ceremony we all had morning tea and our scholarship recipient posed for photos holding her certificate and chatted to us and to the visiting official guests undaunted by being dressed in her prison greens.

Her Academic Progress Since The Award

The follow up is that she topped her Real Estate Course in Semester 1 2008 and she was, by the end of 2008 in a pre-release institution and working full time as a clerical assistant in a 'work release' situation and studying in her spare time.

In January 2009 we were informed that she had completed the Business Studies Certificate IV course well within the usual time frame and at a high academic standard. Privacy issues have

precluded any further enquiries but we feel confident that her progress has continued in the same vein as in 2008. She may well be released by now.

No Regrets

Susan fulfilled our expectations in spades and we have no regrets about our decision to depart from our usual criteria for scholarship awards.

Unexpected Spin-Off

An unexpected spin off from this scholarship was that our local Cinema proprietors heard about the award and were so taken with the idea that they offered us the local premiere of the movie AUSTRALIA. The night was a sell out and we raised about \$2500.

This event raised our profile in the community and the interest this engendered has resulted in a significant increase in our membership which has given our branch a new vitality.

Will There Be Another Scholarship For An Inmate Of The BCC?

We asked if there was a suitable candidate for our 2009 scholarship. The answer was in the negative. It is possible that it will be years before another Susan comes up but next time, we will be ready.

AFUW Victoria

AFUW Victoria Scholarship Program - Margaret James, Immediate Past President

Awarding scholarships to women students is an activity common to all associations making up the Australian Federation of University Women. We have chosen to make a presentation on the development of the scholarship program in Victoria, because the changes made in recent years make it different from the scholarships awarded in other states.

In Victoria, an Endowment Fund for scholarships was established at the same time as the association itself (1920), with the sum of one shilling withheld from each subscription and added to by bequests and fundraising activities. Our constitution tells us to use the income of this fund for 'educational purposes in the interest of graduate women' – our founding mothers clearly did not wish to tie the hands of future committees. By 1931, there was sufficient money to award the first scholarship, which like its successors, was intended for members of AFUW undertaking postgraduate study overseas – or (later) in Australia. But by the early years of this century, we realised we needed to look again at our practices and ensure that our scholarships met the needs of women in the much-changed educational environment. We now offer a much greater range of scholarships, to women students in courses across the spectrum of university study. Each year, about 12-13 women are presented with their cheques and certificates at a special event, attended by representatives of the universities and by families and friends. It's a great day for members as well. There are scholarships for students enrolled in:

- Graduate Diploma of Education
- Postgraduate Coursework
- Postgraduate degree by research
- Fourth year honours in an undergraduate degree.

A scholarship is also awarded to an Australian Indigenous woman enrolled in an undergraduate degree and we also award a couple of undergraduate prizes. The value of the awards ranges from \$3000 down to \$200 for the prizes. Applicants must meet the criteria outlined on our website:

Female

A currently enrolled student at a Victorian university or at a Victorian campus of the Australian Catholic University

Experiencing or have experienced disadvantage in the pursuit of your studies.

It is the third criterion which differentiates the AFUW Victoria scholarship program from others. What do we mean by disadvantage? The term includes:

- Financial difficulty or low income
- English as a second language
- Migrant or refugee status
- Disability or medical condition
- Identification as Aboriginal or Torres Islander
- Delay or interruption to career or studies because of family responsibilities or illness
- Geographical isolation.

We ask the students to provide information to substantiate their disadvantage on the application form, in addition to references, and proof of enrolment and academic transcripts. The applications are screened by a subcommittee to ensure they meet the disadvantage criterion, and then passed to panels of academic women who recommend the winners based on academic achievement and potential. Our scholarships can therefore be described as based on both equity and merit.

What prompted the changes to our program, which we have to admit, has created a lot more work than a single scholarship would have done? One important factor was our recognition that Australia had moved into an era of mass higher education. There are now eight universities in Victoria and we wanted to make scholarships available to as many women as possible, even if it meant providing smaller sums of money to each winner. The advice of the academic assessment panels has been consistently in favour of increasing the number of scholarships.

When AFUW Victoria was founded, educational opportunities for women were very restricted, particularly at postgraduate level: for example, the prestigious Rhodes Scholarships were for men only. But for some years now slightly more women than men have participated in university education and it is only in courses like engineering where we find women are in a minority. We recognise that women increasingly seek to combine their family responsibilities with careers and that education opens up the kind of career opportunities women need. Many more mature age women enrol in higher education, greatly assisted by the expansion in the number of universities and the courses they offer. Nevertheless, although gender inequality in access to higher education has decreased, social inequalities remain entrenched. There is more financial pressure on students, as they frequently need to engage in paid work during their years of study to pay their fees, living costs and expenses associated with their course of study such as books, materials and travel. For women from non-English speaking backgrounds and women with a disability, participation in higher education presents particular challenges. We also understand the importance of education to the Indigenous community. This approach fits with the Government's agenda for higher education, which aims to increase the participation and success of social groups traditionally under-represented in higher education.

A final consideration was the expansion in our funding. Several new bequests have come to us in recent years, the most recent from Philippa McCall, a long serving member who died in May 2008. We made the decision to entrust the management of the capital to the Melbourne Community Foundation and their wise investment practices have led to substantial increases in both capital and income in the last few years. The committee has therefore been free to design its scholarship program in response to changes in university education and in the role of women in society.

The result has vindicated our approach: each year we are delighted with the courage, commitment and achievements of the winners, as they tell the story of their educational journeys to the audience on Scholarship Day. Some of these stories have been printed in our newsletters. The students bring us in touch with new developments in universities: for example, in 2009, several students commented that the availability of online courses made it possible for them to study, even though they were not able to travel to campus, because of distance or a medical condition.

The new approach to scholarships has led to enhanced relationships with the universities, who cooperate with us in publicising the scholarships on their websites. Inviting representatives of the universities to the Scholarship Presentation Day has led to greater interest and even to memberships and donations to the funds.

One unexpected benefit is the way we have connected current students with our older members, by introducing a practice of naming bursaries to honour long serving members. We provide the winners with brief biographies of these women – the winners are impressed and inspired by their achievements.

But it is from the students themselves that we discover the value of the scholarships. In preparation for this presentation, five scholarship winners consented to video interviews. They were asked to respond to the question: ‘What did winning the scholarship mean to you?’ Their answers are given below.

Susan Stoner: winner of the Yvonne Aitken Scholarship for a Diploma of Education student 2008

It was a case of either doing the Graduate Diploma of Education or not. As a single mother of two children I’d been struggling with doing the course, which is full time, what with childcare fees, petrol, food and the expenses of studying. I might as well have won a million dollars as a couple of thousand, it made all the difference. Since then I’ve been able to get into the position I was hoping for and my career seems to be taking off in the direction I’d hoped.

Susan completed her diploma and is now teaching at a special school with intellectually disadvantaged children.

Jessica Horton: Madeleine Capicchiano Scholarship for students entering an honours year, who are conducting research on issues of human rights and/or social justice at the local, national or international level, 2008

Winning the scholarship meant I had a much easier year. I had previously been studying part-time and working part-time. The jump to full-time study for the honours year was a really hard decision- I didn’t know if I could make it. Winning the scholarship meant I could throw myself into study, get the result I wanted and win the PhD scholarship.

Jessica is researching the history of child removal in Aboriginal communities in Victoria.

Kerri Ryan: Yvonne Aitken Scholarship for a Diploma of Education student 2009

I am really pleased I won the Yvonne Aitken scholarship. It meant a lot to me to get recognition and it helped my belief in myself. It also helped because I had to stop full time work to study – otherwise I couldn’t have done it.

Kerri completed her diploma and has obtained a position in a primary school teaching a combined prep, grade one and grade two class.

Julie Davies: Margaret Rumbold Bursary for a postgraduate research student 2009

Winning the scholarship was really important to me. I have a lot of health problems which make having to study and work at the same time really difficult. The scholarship is helping fund research trips I need to do to make my PhD the best it can be.

Julie's PhD thesis is titled *Science in an Enchanted World: Attitudes to magic and the occult in seventeenth century Britain*.

Leonz Sevier: Gwenda Jones Bursary for a Coursework Masters student 2008

Winning the scholarship gave me three things. First, recognition – of the struggle that some people undertake to get an education, a recognition based on pleading the case in the positive, not the negative, which is uncommon. Second, I met a bunch of women similar in age (rare in my faculty) and who have intellectual passion (rare in my friendship group). Third, I got to restore my health, without which I would have had to withdraw from the university.

Leonz is studying for her masters degree in urban planning and undertaking research on informal housing.

AFUW QUEENSLAND

Colleen Forrester, President AFUW-Q

AFUW-Q has four (4) Branches; they are:

Fellowship Fund Incorporated
Darling Downs
Gold Coast
Sunshine Coast.

AFUW-Q awards a \$650.00 bursary annually to a final year Indigenous student studying Education at ACU and in 2010 will also award a bursary to a female student from rural/remote Queensland; in 2010 both these bursaries will be \$1,000.00.

In March/April every year the President's Dinner is held and in 2009 our special guest was IFUW President, Louise Croot. AFUW President, Jenny Strauss also attended and both Louise and Jenny assisted in presenting Awards to Branch members in recognition of length of membership. Additional social functions include breakfasts and lunches featuring special guest speakers.

AFUW-Q co-sponsors the annual *Women in Parliament International Conference* at Queensland University of Technology and also co-ordinated the Brisbane, Mackay and Cairns consultations on *The Impact of the recession on Women*. ABC TV News interviewed Secretary Mary Crawford reporting on the Conference held at QUT and Channel 7 and ABC reported on the consultations in Queensland. They interviewed Mary and me for regional news in Queensland and in the process AFUW-Q received some wonderful publicity. Functions Co-ordinator Maureen Aitken organised the address by a young member of the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA).

Our State Committee was invited to participate in the Queensland State government consultation on Older Women. I attended "*Our Women, Our State Awards 2009*" where Queensland women and girls advancing other females in the fields of science, engineering and technology were acknowledged by the Queensland government.

As part of our Social Responsibility Program we are involved with the “Toothbrushes for Timor” project. The Association of Women Educators (AWE) is assisting the Alola Foundation in conducting a health education campaign through the schools aimed at educating children about personal hygiene matters. Our members are collecting new toothbrushes, shampoo and soap to be transported by Rotary to Timor-Leste.

We also send education tools to the Solomon Island where one of our young members is conducting research for her PhD. She discovered the children had no pencils, papers and other tools so for the last couple of years, all monies collected from raffles held at social functions enables us to purchase books, pencils, rulers and paper for projects for these children. Approximately \$600 has been raised for this project. AFUW-Q would like to donate \$80 to ‘top-up’ monies already collected at the Conference towards the training of a teacher in the Solomon Islands, thus enabling the one year training for a student teacher to be completely paid for.

AFUW-Q is represented on the National Council of Women Executive and Alumni Friends of the University of Queensland.

Darling Downs Branch awards a bursary annually to a student studying at the University of Southern Queensland. The Branch continues to meet every second month over a meal in the home of a member. Menus are prepared from recipes of a specific country and discussions centre on the role of women, the culture, education system and government in various countries. The Branch has started a book group. I would now like to pay a brief video of one of the meetings.

Gold Coast Branch awards two bursaries annually – the Sybil A.M. Vise Award to a graduating student in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Bond University and the Isobel Taylor Award to a student in Education at Griffith University. They have a range of social activities including Theatre parties and a book group. All branches celebrate International Women’s Day and in 2009 the Gold Coast’s celebration featured guest speaker Janet Edwards. Janet is a member of the Branch and was previously President of the Zimbabwe Federation of University Women’s Association; she spoke movingly of the turmoil the country faced and how women were coping with the problems they faced daily.

Fellowship Fund Inc awards two types of fellowship. These are:

- The Freda Bage Fellowship (three years)
- The Commemorative Fellowships (one year)

The Fellowships are named after women who have made outstanding contributions as scholars and leaders in tertiary institutions in Queensland. One is named after Barbara Williams who is a delegate from Queensland at this Conference and who continues working for the organisation by organising the volunteer roster for every one of the University graduations. The Commemorative Fellowships are named: Molly Budtz-Olsen, Dorothy Davidson, Freda Freeman, Audrey Harrison, Audrey Jorss, Mary McSweeney, Margaret Mittelheuser, Betty Patterson, Rosemary Venton, Barbara Williams and University of Queensland. Each Fellowship awarded is approximately \$22,000 annually across a range of disciplines.

FFI conducts the gown hiring business, employs staff, and supports branches by giving various amounts to branches enabling them to provide bursaries in their local communities.

Sunshine Coast Branch produces a newsletter for members; holds social functions, literary lunches, breakfasts and awards bursaries to women studying at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

They continue to support refugee girls with mini-bursaries and intensive language courses with funding raised by their gowning activities at USC. Members host the refugee girls in their homes and provide them with support during their time studying at the Sunshine Coast. Many of these girls have been through challenging times, some having spent time in camps waiting to come to Australia, some have lost contact with immediate families and all are wanting to achieve in their new homeland. The Branch has formed close links with its local university. The work of the Sunshine Coast Branch with their Refugee Program has received considerable publicity and the branch is much admired for this work.

The Branch also provides financial support for swimming lessons for a number of young Muslim students at St. Aiden's School. Special arrangements were made in order for the girls to participate – the pool is closed to all others during lesson time and permission for the activity was given by the leaders of the Muslim community.

They have produced an attractive, updated brochure providing a summary of AFUWQ-SQ activities and also have a new web site.

A Mentoring project for post-graduate students at the University of the Sunshine Coast has begun; the focus for the programme will be the particular challenges facing mature aged women post graduate students. Every year the Branch holds a book sale and raises a considerable amount of money, in 2009 it was in excess of \$800. Financial support has been given to the STEMM program in Nambour which supports and educates young mothers, some of whom complete the TPP course (preparation to be accepted into tertiary studies).

The Branch has produced a wonderful video featuring their activities and I invite you to look at it now.

Conference Dinner Speech – Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, AC Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

BA. LLB (Qld). Hon LLD (Macquarie). Hon DLitt (Charles Sturt). Hon DUiv (Griffith). Hon DU (QUT). Hon LLD (Qld)

Quentin Bryce was born in Brisbane in 1942 and spent her early years in Ilfracombe, a small town in Central Western Queensland. In 1965, she graduated with the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws from The University of Queensland and, in the same year, was admitted to the Queensland Bar. She has since enjoyed a rich and distinguished career as an academic, lawyer, community and human rights advocate, senior public officer, university college principal, and vice-regal representative in Queensland, and now Australia.

Ms Bryce's former roles – some, among firsts for women in this country – include:

- *Lecturer and Tutor in Law, The University of Queensland, 1968-1983*
- *Convenor, National Women's Advisory Council, 1982-1984*
- *Inaugural Director, Queensland Women's Information Service, Office of the Status of Women, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, 1984-1987*
- *Director, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, Queensland, 1987-1988*
- *Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, 1988-1993*
- *founding Chair and CEO, National Childcare Accreditation Council, 1993-1996*
- *Principal and CEO, The Women's College, University of Sydney, 1997-2003*
- *Governor of Queensland, 2003-2008*

Quentin Bryce's contribution to advancing human rights and equality, the rights of women and children,

and the welfare of the family was recognised in her appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1988 and a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2003. Also in 2003, she was invested as a Dame of Grace of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem.

Ms Bryce was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws by Macquarie University (New South Wales) in 1998, an Honorary Doctorate of Letters by Charles Sturt University (New South Wales) in 2002, and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws by The University of Queensland in 2006. She was conferred with the degrees of Honorary Doctor of the University by Griffith University (Queensland) in 2003, and Queensland University of Technology in 2004.

In her civic role as Governor of Queensland, Ms Bryce continued her work with women, families and young people while extending her influence across the State's broad and diverse spectrum, including the rural, regional, aged, indigenous, migrant, and disability sectors.

As a mother and grandmother, Quentin is a role model and mentor to women at every stage of their lives. She values and encourages women's capacity to form strong and enduring bonds of friendship, intellectual and emotional enrichment, and mutual support in their roles within the family, workplace and community. Quentin Bryce and her husband, Michael, were married in 1964. They have two daughters and three sons, and six grandchildren.

On 5 September 2008 Quentin Bryce was sworn in as Australia's twenty-fifth Governor-General. As the first woman to take up the office, she remains a pioneer in contemporary Australian society, and yet one who brings more than forty years of experience in reform, community building and leadership to the role.

Thank you for your warm welcome. I want you to know how delighted I am to be here sharing this special occasion with you.

I have great admiration and respect for Australian Federation of University Women - and indeed affection. It has been part of my life since I graduated in Arts at the University of Queensland when I was 19. My mother suggested I join and I was attracted to the idea of becoming a "university woman". I loved that "blue stocking" tradition and all that it implied in those years: Scholarship, intellectual endeavour, women's camaraderie.

There were some marvellous role models on our campus. Professor Dorothy Hill, Mrs Budtz Olsen, Mrs Jorss. Women who contributed to the Australian Federation of University Women and to the University in practical, effective ways; advancing the status of women; opening up opportunities for young scholars with funding for overseas study.

I love the story of the gown hiring enterprise which established the brilliant and outstanding international fellowship program.

I look back at how much those remarkable women valued their alma mater, how far sighted they were, how dedicated they were to women's education and how skilled they were in getting young ones like me involved.

I learnt so much from them and I wanted to be like them.

That was the beginning of a relationship I was to enjoy and appreciate again and again - through the support Australian Federation of University Women gave to me in my various professional and community roles in promoting and protecting the rights of children and equality for women.

I remember the thoughtful and influential leadership Australian Federation of University Women gave in the strenuous political debates surrounding Australia's signing and ratification of CEDAW and the introduction of those path-breaking reforms: Sex Discrimination Act, the Affirmative Action Act.

I have observed the participation of Australian Federation of University Women delegates at national and international meetings - always well informed, well prepared, strategic and inclusive.

This evening our conversations will turn to the achievements of the women's movement, the gains we have made, and to plan the way forward.

I believe that the most significant advances have been in education. As you well know and understand, education is the key to all that the women's movement stands for:

Choice
Autonomy
Independence
Financial security.

And that has been the focus of Australian Federation of University Women since it was established in the early 20's - working to ensure that women and girls receive the widest education and opportunities they need to achieve their full potential.

I note that today the Federation describes its mission as: "the voice of graduate women promoting the advancement of women world wide and their equality of opportunity through initiatives in education, friendships and peace".

Your international work through IFUW reflects these themes and it's exhilarating to see the breadth of the grass roots projects you are sponsoring across the world.

The founders of the International Federation (Louisa Macdonald), who met in London in 1920 could only have dreamt of:

the reproductive health programs;
the income generation projects; and
the health care

that are sponsored now by 150,000 women university graduates from 78 national Federations.

I know that you take a particular interest in women in development, and in supporting programs to improve the lives of women, and the opportunities for girls in developing countries. And that, like me, you care deeply about these issues.

At the request of the Government, I was proud to represent Australia in nine African countries - in Mauritius, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, and the Seychelles. And briefly in South Africa, where we met Mr Mandela, and his wife Graça Machel.

I felt the freshness of hope and the power of friendship.

I was there to deepen and broaden Australia's engagement with the continent and nation states of Africa, to offer our support and aid, and build strong relationships with African leaders and community workers.

I met with Presidents and Prime Ministers who spoke warmly and eloquently about their countries. I visited many humanitarian and aid programs, nearly all supported by Australian money and goodwill.

We had many sobering experiences; we saw deeply etched poverty and disadvantage. I nursed a small boy in a paediatric hospital in Maputo, suffering such severe malnourishment that his skin

was falling off his little bones. He was one of Africa's 12 million AIDS orphans, being raised by his grandmother who sat beside me. I looked into her face strained with anxiety and exhaustion. A wonderful senior nurse nearby quietly noted that this grandmother had no income at all, and no hope of one, and that the baby was probably being fed on leaves.

I gave the children 2 spoons of golden peas - their only meal of the day, served at school in a bowl they bring. They stand and wait. What would they eat at the weekend? I asked. No one could answer.

We also saw unquenchable joy and exuberance - we were met everywhere with singing and dancing, such fabulous rhythm, such smiles. Children waving our flag and theirs reached out to touch us. Many kisses on cheeks as I bent to thank them for being there.

We saw the promise of a new Africa.

My friends, it has been said that the face of poverty is a woman. What I have learned is that the face of the future leadership of Africa is also a woman.

Let me give you a few snapshots of some of the inspiring women I met: women who filled me with respect and admiration; women who are the creators and nurturers of a hopeful Africa.

Dr Catherine Hamlin, our beloved Australian. She went to Ethiopia fifty years ago with her husband Dr Reg Hamlin, both obstetricians, to set up a midwifery college. Fifteen years later they established the Fistula Hospital at Addis Ababa in response to overwhelming need. Reg died in 1993; Catherine has continued the work with the help of many Australian volunteers and supporters. At 81 she still does obstetric fistula surgery and is building the midwife training school she planned 50 years ago, as well as several fistula clinics in rural areas.

Dr Hamlin is tall and thin, now slightly stooped. Every gesture full of grace and kindness - we all felt drawn to her and deeply aware of her inner strength. She and I had dinner together. We talked about the things women talk about: our families, our lives, our growing up, and our growing older and of course, our grandchildren. The next day I went to her famous hospital. I walked arm-in-arm with her in her garden of bougainvilleas and fuchsias. She told me about the women who come to her - broken and shattered, ostracised by their families - and how they find tenderness, healing, and dignity there. Some stay to be trained and to work in the hospital.

When they arrive - after walking many miles - they are given a knitted patchwork blanket, made often by Australian women. This blanket may be the most valuable possession they ever own. It's a symbol of love from women far away. I gave Dr Hamlin gifts my sister had sent with me - needles and threads, embroidery cottons and wools, from her and her friends, who've been supporters of the hospital for fifty years. These gifts - simple in themselves - articulate profound connections, strong ties of kinship and generosity stretching from Australia to Ethiopia, and beyond.

In Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's port city, I met Dr Gertrude Mongella:

- former Minister of State and High Commissioner,
- Secretary General of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995,
- Under-Secretary and Special Envoy to the Secretary General of the UN on Women's Issues and Development.

Now the President of the Pan-African Parliament.

A woman of vitality, openness, wisdom and experience. We sat looking across the glittering bay to the island of Zanzibar. In these historic surroundings, we spoke about the plight of women in her country - the horrific maternal mortality rates. One of the main causes of these is that mothers in labour arrive at hospitals too late to be helped. Another is that they are married and having their first babies at such a young age, their bodies simply aren't ready.

Dr Mongella gave me the statistics:

- In most Western countries the risk of dying in childbirth is 1 in 4000; for Australia it's 1 in 13,300. For women in Africa, it's 1 in 13.
- Each year at least one million babies die in their first year of life; half a million in their first day.

The President of Tanzania, Jayaka Kikwete, told me that in his country, a newborn dies every ten minutes.

Another formidable woman, well-known in Australia, Justice Unity Dow, was Botswana's first female High Court Judge. Again, a woman of great presence. I first met Justice Dow through my involvement with IRAW - International Women's Rights Action Watch - an NGO that monitors CEDAW.

In Gabarone last month, our conversation soon moved to violence against women -to the huge cost to women of her continent, the disproportionate burden of their illness, disability and death caused by domestic violence, and by rape used as a weapon of war. I have observed, again and again, that wherever women meet about our rights and status, the discussion will centre on this grave issue, acknowledged as the most gross violation of human rights.

Next, Graça Machel, known also as Mrs Mandela, whom we were delighted to meet with Madiba at the office of the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg. On this memorable occasion with the great man, talk was about the work of the Foundation and the Mandela Trust; about the toll of HIV/AIDS and the role of the Global Fund. We focused, too, on maternal mortality and the special needs of the girl child. Graça Machel is one of the many African women deeply concerned with the future of the young girls of Africa, their education and opportunities. She is actively engaged in political life.

In each country, a minister of honour was assigned to accompany me. They were my constant companions. Very impressive women, so attractive in their traditional dress. We established immediate and easy rapport. I listened to the stories of their lives and families, their achievements and careers. I had a thousand questions for them - so many things I wanted to understand.

In Namibia, Dr Libertina Amalitha MP who studied medicine in Warsaw and London. She was an early freedom fighter, a highly regarded and much loved parliamentarian since Independence - now Deputy Prime Minister.

Catherine Namugala is Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Tourism in the Zambian Government. Her mother paid for school for her nine children by cutting wood and burning it to make charcoal in the bush, selling it in sacks on the outskirts of the city. With the first money she earned, Catherine built a house for her mother.

And in Tanzania, Dr Batilda Burian. Her PhD is in Development and Planning from University College London. She left her home for many years to study, to get the skills her country needs. She brought her four-year-old daughter to meet me in her bright yellow dress, beaded hair - enchanting and engaging. Her mother's struggle for education will give her a sound future - open to so few little girls.

A stark picture that Dr Mongella painted for me of the girl child in Africa is the way they are robbed of their childhood. At three they start work with their mothers, in the house and in the field. They might scrape through some primary education, but often they are married at thirteen, to a man many years their senior, who probably has other wives. Their situation is appalling.

But at last, attention is being given to them. It is understood now that the education of girls is the key to development of families, villages, communities, countries. Strong women - strong nation.

I visited a school in Lusaka where appropriate lavatories and free sanitary towels have increased girls' participation in school by 10%. Where their special needs are considered and supported at school, their lives and their prospects improve dramatically.

I met many children in Africa. They will always remain with me, but in particular, I remember the HIV/AIDS orphans at the Sishemo Foundation school in Zambia. Many of them live in child-run households with no water, no electricity, no floors; the only meals they get provided by the school. And they are the lucky ones. They sang for us about their dreams for their futures. Our whole group - even the toughest police and military personnel - were moved to tears. At this special place, their teachers instill a sense of self-belief and confidence in every child.

Many children touched our hands. They have a capacity to touch your heart like no other. They reach out for hope and opportunity to the power to make a difference that each of us holds in our hands.

That, ultimately, is what I brought back with me: the hearts and faces of all those women; the hopes and dreams of the children; the question of what I can do to help; what each of us can do.

And as I always do I came home with a sense of respect and admiration for what my fellow Australians contribute in so many ways to the wellbeing of a nation that needs support and care.

I thank you, and congratulate you, for what you do, and I wish you well this evening and always.

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Reflections on Conference Reports from Indigenous Student sponsored by the NSW Office for Women's Policy

Report on the opportunity to attend the Triennial conference of the AFUW - Jennifer Flood

I consider myself very fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend the Triennial conference of the Australian Federation of University Women in November 2009. Without the funding from the NSW Office for Women's Policy I may not have been able to attend and am very thankful that I was granted sponsorship by AFUW.

The conference has given me the opportunity to meet many inspiring women from Universities in Australia, Fiji and New Zealand. I have been able to make contacts with women who can assist me with my current research, who I may never have come in contact with otherwise. I am particularly grateful to the wonderful Gaynor who went out of her way to make sure I was introduced to as many of the women as possible. It was also a pleasure to have the opportunity to meet Jenny Strauss and Erica Jolly who's paper on Indigenous Australian in Higher Education I have used as reference material for my own research. Not only have these women assisted me themselves but they have put me in contact with others who are willing to support my research. This is an opportunity for like minded educated women to get together and share ideas and support one another in their endeavours. It was a wonderful experience to attend the Conference and I hope that this experience will be offered to other Indigenous women in the future.

Once again many thanks

Report by Kristy Kennedy for the 2009 AFUW Conference

My name is Kristy Kennedy. I was born and raised in Bourke and I am a descendent of the Barkinji and Ngarrendjeri Nations. Recently, I completed a Bachelor of Laws as a part of a Combined Law program at the University of Sydney. Whilst at university I spent time living at The Women's College. The current principal of the College, Dr Jane Williamson nominated me to be sponsored as an Indigenous student to attend the 2009 AFUW conference at Sancta Sophia in Sydney. Fortunately I was successful in securing the sponsorship.

I was inspired by all of the keynote speakers at the conference and by the State representatives who provided an update about local projects. In particular, I was especially enthusiastic to hear the presentation by Professor Mary Crock. Her passionate speech about human rights was absolutely fascinating. Additionally, the presentations by the Fijian delegates was insightful, particularly when it became apparent that younger graduates are the most active members of their organisation. This has encouraged me to join AFGW and I have encouraged some of my peers to join as well.

Other specific highlights of the conference for me relate to the social activities. I point out the social events of the conference not only for the entertainment that it provided participants of the conference with, but also for the networking opportunities it provided. The official reception at Sancta Sophia College was a great opportunity at the beginning of the conference to mingle and meet other attendees of the conference. Furthermore, the Sunset Harbour Dinner Cruise was a great opportunity to not only see the sights on Sydney Harbour, but it also provided an opportunity to sit and chat with people over dinner with whom I had not had the opportunity to yet meet at the conference. However, I have to be honest in saying that the Gala dinner at The

Women's Club was an excellent evening, particularly with Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia as the guest speaker.

Attending the conference was a very enjoyable experience and I am very grateful for the opportunity. I would encourage other graduate students to attend and I would urge ongoing support and sponsorship for other Indigenous students to attend.

At present I am living back in my home community of Bourke. However, in March I will be heading to Perth to undertake an internship through Aurora Projects with the Central Desert Native Title Services for 6 weeks. On completion of this internship I will endeavour to complete a Graduate diploma at the College of Law to satisfy the requirements to practice as a solicitor in NSW.

Thank you to the NSW Office for Women's Policy for providing the funding for the sponsorship to attend the conference, it was very much appreciated. I really enjoyed meeting all AFUW members at the conference, and I look forward to meeting you all again soon.

Report of AFUW Conference Women Building Sustainable Futures - Dorothy Meyer, NZFGW

This was the theme for the 34th Triennial Conference of the Australian Federation of University Women held at Sancta Sophia College, University of Sydney, 26 – 29 November 2009.

I was pleased to join Louise Croot, IFUW President, Dr Dot Page, NZFGW National President, Stephanie Hutchinson, Immediate Past CIR of NZFGW, and Cynthia McKenzie of North Shore Branch and a member of the 2006–09 NZFGW Executive at this conference. It was a significant Conference in that it was the last under the name of University Women. The Australians have joined us in becoming the Australian Federation of Graduate Women.

Following the Pre-Conference Council session and a business session an opening reception was held in the quadrangle of the College on a balmy summer evening. It was an informal occasion at which it was possible to catch up with old friends and get to know who the attendees were. The official opening took place on Friday morning when Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, State Governor and Chancellor of the University of Sydney spoke of the importance of scholars as ambassadors in their communities; of the need for collaboration on research and of cross-disciplinary and university mentoring. She spoke especially of the importance of being 'in loco parentis' for international students studying in our countries.

The theme was fully explored in a public session on Saturday 28 November when Professor Mary Crock, Professor of Public Law at the University of Sydney, opened the session with a discussion of the importance of human rights from a historical viewpoint. She was followed by Marie Persson, Deputy Director General, TAFE and Community Education with NSW Department of Education and Training, talking about the role of Training and Further Education (TAFE) in providing workers who are well trained in both the green economy and the traditional economy. Sustainable Built Environments was the title of the next address by Caroline Pidcock, an architect. She addressed the reality and risks of climate change and the need for reducing energy use in a more vigorous way. The final speaker, Professor Lesley Hughes, Professor and HOD of Biological Sciences at Macquarie University, talked about the impact of climate change on biodiversity.

We were left with plenty to think about in these addresses.

There were two other social occasions. On the Friday evening we were entertained with a Sunset Harbour Dinner Cruise – a glorious evening and a splendid three-course dinner. Saturday evening was the Conference Dinner held at the Women's Club in downtown Sydney. For this

occasion we were honoured by the presence of Her Excellency, Ms Quentin Bryce, AC, Governor-General of Australia.

As the Conference papers state *‘On 5 September 2008 Quentin Bryce was sworn in as Australia’s 25th Governor-General. As the first woman to take up the office, she remains a pioneer in contemporary Australian society, and yet one who brings more than forty years of experience in reform, community building and leadership to the role.’*

An interesting feature of the business side of the Conference was the manner in which they dealt with a large number of constitutional changes. The changes were grouped together according to topic and presented in the preliminary discussion as a group and any discussion was called for at that time. The only issues that came up were related to clarification or the need to delete because the clause was consistent with current practice when seen in context. This procedure meant that when it came to voting on the final day they were able to vote for the group of clauses rather than for the 43 separate constitutional items – very neat!

As a member of the IFUW Status of Women Committee, I was once more impressed by the quality and number of advocacy actions taken by AFUW during the last Triennium. In addition there was a 15-page document which accounted for the action and advocacy taken and achieved, continuing to be taken, or recommended for rescinding, archiving or re-wording on 50 AFUW Resolutions from the 27th to the 33rd Conferences since 2006.

The new – and inaugural – President of the Australian Federation of Graduate Women is Jane Baker of New South Wales. It was interesting to note that a number of office holders from the 2006–09 Triennium have been elected to a second Triennium, including Secretary ‘Tricia Blombery and CIR Dalma Jacobs. We wish them well in the challenging time ahead.

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