

The Spark

Newsletter 1 – 2019

Dear Members

As I take over the helm of Graduate Women Western Australia (GWWA), I wanted our first newsletter to provide a brief profile of each committee member, so you can put a face to a name and have a glimpse of their skills as they work behind the scenes in progressing education for women and girls.

In this first newsletter for 2019, I share my reflections on attending CSW63 at the UN in New York from 11 to 22 March. We congratulate two long standing GWWA members on receiving accolades at the recent University of Western Australia (UWA) convocation on 12 March. Jenny Jones and Wendy McCallum, attended a moving and inspiring Department of Communities (Child Protection) achiever awards ceremony on 28 March that GWWA contributed to, and share their thoughts.

We discuss the recent Special General Meeting (SGM) of the Australian Federation Graduate Women (AFGM) that took place on 6 April, and the transition to Australian Graduate Women (AGW). I briefly mention revisions we are making to the GWWA constitution to align to the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety – Consumer Protection Model Rules and Schedule 1. Finally, I highlight positive developments at the GWWA Property on Park Road and present our event calendar for Graduate Women WA for 2019. I look forward to communicating more frequently and welcome your comments.

Professor Jaya Dantas (PhD)

President GWWA

President AGW

Dean International Faculty of Health Sciences, Curtin University.

THE GRADUATE WOMEN COMMITTEE FOR 2019



Dr Jaya Dantas accepted the position as **President of GWWA** in February 2019. She is currently Dean International and Professor of International Health in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Curtin University in WA. Jaya has worked for 32 years in India, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Australia and has undertaken teaching and research in Timor Leste, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Pakistan and South Africa. Her research focusses on post-conflict resettlement among migrants and refugees especially women and youth. She is a passionate advocate for education of women and youth. As a migrant woman from India whose life has been immensely impacted by education, she brings lived experiences on gender, education, and health.



Helen Charlesworth is currently **Vice-President of GWWA**, she graduated from Claremont Teachers' College and Edith Cowan University. Her teaching career lasted for over thirty years and for ten of those she was a Deputy Principal. For six years, she was a Council Member on the Edith Cowan Governing Council and for twelve years, she was on the Board member of Carers WA becoming Chair for the last three years and a member of Carers Australia Network of Board Presidents. She has been a Carer Representative on State Mental Health Committees and a Member and Carer Mentor of the Australian Mental Health Council. Since 2003, Helen has been a member of GWWA, being a committee member since 2015.



Wendy McCallum is the **Secretary of GWWA**, and has been a member of Graduate Women for over 40 years and have served for most of that time on the Committee. She has been the National Registrar, Deputy Chair of organising the International Conference in Perth, Convenor of Academic Dress, Convenor of Park Road Book Club, Chair of the House Committee, Co-author of the History and at present Secretary. She is very proud of and supportive of the goals of the Association and of what has been achieved by supporting women with scholarships. As a former teacher, she believes very strongly in the power of education to enable women to achieve their potential. As a long standing GWWA member, she has been privileged to meet and work with many remarkable women both within Australia and Internationally.



Alison Hayden is currently **Treasurer of GWWA**. Alison worked with the Commonwealth Bank for 23 years. While working, she studied a Bachelor of Business (Accounting) and completed a Graduate Diploma in Education and taught in schools teaching Accounting and Finance. She also taught English in China for a year. Alison worked for eight years as a finance administrator for a charitable organisation in Broome, WA. Whilst working in Broome in 2001, Barbara Hale visited from Perth and gave a talk about GWWA. Alison became a member of the Broome group which although small held regular meetings and joined with the Soroptimists to raise scholarships for local Broome women to continue with tertiary education. On her return to Perth, Alison became a committee member and later Treasurer of GWWA. She is committed to being part of an organisation dedicated to assisting women achieve their potential through education.



Rhoda Chance is a long time **committee member** of GWWA. Rhoda is a proud mother of three daughters and has seven grandchildren. Her love of music led to an AMusA pianoforte and several years studying singing under the late Mr AJ Leckie. She completed a BA and a BEd degree as a mature age student and became a teacher and taught in a variety of positions, moving in and out of teaching while raising her children. She also established and for a time was responsible for the day to day organisation of a 39 place child care centre. After joining GWWA, so that she could be involved in the Saturday Book Club, she became a more active member and has been on the committee for a number of years.



Jenny Jones is the immediate **Past President** of GWWA on the Committee. She completed a Bachelor of Science at UWA, followed by a career as a Teacher, Computer Programmer and Systems Analyst, and an Academic. She has raised children and step-children, and is now enjoying her time with grandchildren. Since retiring, she has been involved with several not-for-profit groups, finding a particular resonance with the goals of Graduate Women both here in Australia and Internationally. As well as an on-going interest in science and its ability to inform public debate in different areas, she also enjoys reading, writing poetry, philosophy and travel.



Judith McLean is a **committee member** and **Education Convenor** for GWWA. She has been a member of GWWA for five years, and enjoys associating with women who share the same ethos of providing life-long education for girls and women. She strongly endorses the role of the organization in promoting the role of women in society and the provision of scholarships to enhance that role. Judith commenced her career in primary teaching and pursued Post Graduate Studies in Special Education, Learning Difficulties and ESL. Her whole career has been enriching the education and lives of disadvantaged children and she especially endorses the latest scholarships that have been given to the Smith Family and the Department of Child Protection. She enjoys the opportunity to interact with women who recognize and value the benefits of education.



Chinelle van der Westhuizen is a committee member and former Treasurer of GWWA. Chinelle is a law lecturer at the University of Notre Dame, Western Australia specialising in commercial law. She completed her LLB and LLM in South Africa and her Masters by Research in Australia. She is currently completing her Doctorate in Law (LLD). She is passionate about women's rights and actively participate in various organisations/associations that support the rights of women to education and the workplace.



Felicity Farrelly is currently **committee member** of GWWA and has been involved in community consultations since the 1990s. She was nominated as a community representative on the State Government's Women's Advisory Council and the King Edward Memorial Hospital Consultative Committee. She worked as an analyst and Research Manager at BHP and managed an agricultural organisation. In the early 2000s, she completed a Masters Preliminary in Landscape Management and was offered a scholarship to undertake a Master's degree at KVL University (University of Copenhagen) in Copenhagen, Denmark and lived in Frederiksberg with her children. During this time she received a post graduate scholarship from UWA. In the last ten years, she has taught Secondary Students Horticulture and Science. Felicity was asked to join the GWWA committee by the then President, Hilary Silbert. She was President from 2010-13 and hopes to contribute positively to GWWA as a committee member.

REFLECTIONS FROM CSW63 at the United Nations in New York



Prof Shirley Randell and Prof Jaya Dantas attended the **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63)** at the United Nations in New York from 11 March to 22 March 2019. They were delegates of Graduate Women International.

Shirley and Jaya also presented two parallel sessions at CSW63. They attended a reception held by the Australian Ambassador to the United Nations, HE Gillian Bird and an inspiring Town Hall by the Secretary General, Antonio Guterras.

Jayde Frank – a third year medical student from Curtin University and Jaya with the Minister for Women – Hon Kelly O'Dwyer, and HE Gillian Bird, the Australian Ambassador to the UN.



Shirley and Jaya – sixth and seventh from the right at the GWI breakfast meeting on 11 March

Some messages from CSW63 were:

CSW63 allowed us to reflect on global progress made on empowering women and girls to live equal lives, and on the challenges that impact progress. CSW63 endorsed the vital importance of gender considerations in social protection and services to facilitate women and girls’ access to education and health care

- Some powerful strategies governments can implement to reduce disparities are: fair taxation, universal social protection, equitable income distribution, gender responsive budgets, and tackling inequality.
- Global migration continues to be a politically divisive issue across the world.
- Emergence of conservative protectionist governments across the world (Hungary, Brazil, USA, Austria, Italy, Turkey).
- Sexual and reproductive health issues continue to be controversial and punitive in some countries.
- The need to promote dignity of work for women and men around the world.

GW I presented a Parallel Session on Women’s Empowerment through a Holistic Approach to Education that was extremely well attended. From left to right – Shirley from Australia, Sylvie from Rwanda, Jennifer from USA, Nayana from Mexico, Stacy – ED of GWI from Geneva, Nolwazi from Zimbabwe, Hazel from South Africa and Jaya from Australia. Apart from Hazel and Stacy all the rest presented.

For those interested the link to the final agreed CSW63 conclusions is <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/outcomes> & <https://undocs.org/en/E/CN.6/2019/L.3>

A more detailed report on CSW63 and reflections will be circulated by Shirley and Jaya in the next few weeks.



UWA HONOURS GWWA MEMBERS AT MARCH CONVOCATION

GWWA was delighted to hear that **Hilary Silbert**, a long-standing member was awarded the Convocation medal at the Autumn Meeting of the UWA convocation on the 22nd March 2019. We know how diligently and effectively Hilary has worked for UWA and GWWA. We were also pleased to learn that **Dr Lesley Cala**, one of our most senior members was elected Deputy Warden of the Convocation. Both Hilary and Lesley have made valuable contributions to GWWA over the years. Congratulations from GWWA on this well-deserving accolade!

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES ACHIEVER AWARDS PROGRAM

GWWA joined various partners to deliver the Department of Communities Achiever Awards program on 28 March. Jenny Jones and Wendy McCallum attended a most moving Presentation Ceremony, where 46 young people who had been in care were honoured. It made them feel humbled when the stories and obstacles that these young people faced were heard and yet each had persisted to make the best for themselves. It was also very uplifting to hear their praise of the people who had helped them and the gratitude for any support.

Graduate Women received acknowledgement for its contribution and received this framed plaque and both Jenny and Wendy were very pleased that GWWA played a small part in the Achiever Awards program. Our scholarship will be well used and make a difference in a young person’s life. The Department have identified two potential candidates for the 2019 STEMbassador Scholarship from the recent 2019 Achiever Awards, who will benefit from the GWWA contribution. We will keep you informed in subsequent newsletters.



SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING (SGM) OF THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF GRADUATE WOMEN (AFGW)

The SGM was held on 6 April and the name of the association changed from Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc to Australian Graduate Women (AGW) Inc. This decision was unanimously carried. Jennifer Strauss and Jocelyn Eskdale worked hard to produce the Rules that were accepted by Council in a unanimous vote and the Constitution of the AGW was accepted in its entirety as the Constitution of the Association. The Constitution and revised name of the organisation have been accepted by Fair Trading NSW last week.

The nominated candidates were elected as the Executive for 38th Triennium and three of them are from GWWA:

- President – Jaya Dantas GWWA
- Coordinator of International Relations - Shirley Randell – AFGW NSW
- Secretary – Jenny Jones – GWWA
- Honorary Business Manager/Treasurer – Alison Hayden – GWWA

At the AGW AGM early in the next financial year the three councillors decreed in the new rules will be elected from the full membership with a vote by members. We will keep you informed of developments. A newsletter will be sent to all members of AFGW with an update.

UPDATE ON THE PARK ROAD PROPERTY

It is with pleasure that we report that the GWWA Park Road Property has been rented for 2019 through Shellabears Property Management and there is a tenant for each of the flats. Wendy McCallum from the Committee very ably liaises with Shellabears.

REVISIONS TO THE GWWA CONSTITUTION

Every incorporated association has a set of rules (called the constitution) which outlines how the association is operated and managed by its members. The *Associations Incorporation Act 2015* (the Act) includes 19 matters (known as the Schedule 1 requirements) that need to be addressed in the rules of the association. Associations have a choice of writing their own rules, or using the Prescribed Model Rules which are set out in Schedule 2 of the *Associations Incorporation Regulations 2016* (the Regulations). We are currently revising our constitution to address Schedule 1 of the 2015 Act. We will be keeping you informed and I thank Jenny Jones, Dorothy Collins, Kerry Evans and Jenny Mills for their work on the revisions.

GWWA EVENTS - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1. 13 May 2019: 7 pm – General Meeting of GWWA to discuss Allocation of funds for 2019 GWWA awards and revisions to the GWWA constitution. I will be touch with further details.
 2. 30 May 2019: 7 pm - Scholarship Research Presentation Night (Winners from 2018)
 3. 27 June 2019: 6.30 pm – Annual Anniversary Dinner
 4. 12 Sept 2019: 7 pm - Awarding of GWWA PhD Scholarships and Bursary event
 5. 30 October 2019: AGM
 6. End of November – Special Guest Speaker and Sun-downer event. To be confirmed
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**If you are interested in getting involved in GWWA events, please email
Graduate Women WA (office@graduatewomenwa.org.au)**

We are updating the GWWA website and will keep you informed of progress

**We acknowledge the Nyungar people as the traditional owners of the land and pay our respects to their elders
past and present.**