



## Australian Graduate Women Inc.

ABN: 93656106863

### *The Catalyst*

## Newsletter 2 – 2019

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Dear Members

It is our pleasure to present this report for the Australian Federation of Graduate Women (AFGW) and Australian Graduate Women (AGW) members on the GWI 33<sup>rd</sup> Triennial, General Assembly and the Peace through Education Conference held from 24 to 28 July 2019 at the University of Geneva, Switzerland.

Best wishes

**Professor Jaya Dantas** (President) and **Professor Shirley Randell**, AO (CIR)

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### **AGW Report on the 33<sup>rd</sup> Triennial and Peace through Education Centenary Conference**

**25 – 28 July 2019**

400 women from nearly 50 countries attended the 33<sup>rd</sup> Triennial and Centenary conference held at the University of Geneva. Australia was well represented with 18 members led by President Prof Jaya Dantas and Co-ordinator of International Relations Prof Shirley Randell. The AGW members were:

| No | Name                    | Role                           |
|----|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1  | Prof Jaya Dantas        | Delegate & Presenter           |
| 2  | Prof Shirley Randell AO | Delegate & Presenter           |
| 3  | Dr Jennifer Strauss AM  | Delegate                       |
| 4  | Dr Jane Baker           | Alternate Delegate             |
| 5  | Dr Miranda Mortlock     | Alternate Delegate & Presenter |
| 6  | Dr Stefania Piantavigna | Alternate Delegate             |
| 7  | Emily Lawson            | Centenary Song Winner          |
| 8  | Amie Khosla             | Young member                   |
| 9  | Dr Marion Myhill        | Observer & Presenter           |
| 10 | Merle Thompson OAM      | Observer                       |
| 11 | Tricia Blombery         | Observer                       |
| 12 | Jenny Jones             | Observer                       |
| 13 | Carol Little            | Observer                       |
| 14 | Dr Catherine Evans      | Observer                       |
| 15 | Dr Alba Romano          | Observer                       |

|    |                      |          |
|----|----------------------|----------|
| 16 | Dr Christine Andrews | Observer |
| 17 | Felicity Farrelly    | Observer |
| 18 | Jacqueline Marchant  | Observer |

### ***The theme song of the GWI Centenary***

#### ***Every Woman and Every Girl***

**Every Woman and Every Girl**

Verse 1:  
Like the Stars in the sky  
We shine, shine, shine  
With the strength of all nations  
We strive, strive, strive

Education is what we stand here for  
For every woman and every girl  
All around the world

CHORUS:  
We are advocates  
We are leaders  
The change we want to see  
Spreading hope and changing lives  
through opportunity

Graduate Women International  
Educating through Peace  
And we're gonna change the world

VERSE 2:  
We educate through friendship  
We are strong, strong, strong  
We share our successes  
We are one, one, one

Education is what we stand here for  
For every woman and every girl  
All around the world



**GRADUATE WOMEN  
INTERNATIONAL**  
**100**  
*years*

#### ***Written By Emily Lawson (Australia)***



***Singing the Centenary song during the conference dinner and receiving her certificate from GWI VP Membership – Eileen Focke-bakke.***

***The winning song is featured on the right along with the centenary logo***

#### ***Emily's wonderful note on her song***

This song, 'Every Woman and Every Girl' recognises and pays respect to the organisation that has advocated for the empowerment and advancement of women and girls on a global scale. This song honors the great work Graduate Women International have done in past 100 years through their initiatives to ensure opportunities and education for all women and girls around the world.

The focus on education and peace as interlinked concepts is one that underpins this song as well as the GWI Centennial Celebration. Fostering peace through education and in turn educating through peaceful means that fostering friendship and empowerment of women worldwide is the central message of this song. The word peace is very meaningful and expressive and reflects the absolute need for peace in the current global climate.

'Every Woman and Every Girl' celebrates the interconnectedness of women and girls globally as they push forward and strive to elevate their position in the world. The repetition of "we" throughout the song both refers to the women of GWI and every woman working to obtain a better future. This song was written in the first person to acknowledge all the hard work women have done as a united front to secure a better future for all. The words in this piece describe and honor the attributes of every strong, hardworking, striving, shining, supportive woman and girl who share in others' successes and use friendship to build others up.

The lyrics are inspired by the illuminating power of women in all walks of academic, community, family and career life - strong, powerful leaders in all aspects of life who continue to advocate for themselves and others. As women and girls in my society are usually told to make themselves smaller and diminish their accomplishments, I wanted the lyrics to be able to be sung proudly by everyone.

This song is a tribute to the organisation that has directly impacted my life. I am a grateful past recipient of an educational bursary from Graduate Women Victoria (GWV), Australia, which greatly assisted me in completing my Masters' degree in Secondary Education. I personally know how important the work that GWI does, and how significant this organisation is in the lives of women and girls around the world."

### ***Day 1 of the Triennium and General Assembly***

The first day of the GWI 100 years 33rd Triennial General Assembly Program and Documentation, Geneva 2019 began with a flourish. Geeta Desai, our 2017-2019 World President opened the day for over 400 women from 40 countries. Our AGW delegates were Prof Jaya Dantas, President, & Prof Shirley Randell AO, CIR (co-leaders), and Dr Jennifer Strauss. The alternates were Dr Jane Baker, Dr Miranda Mortlock, and Dr Stefania Piantavigna.



***The GWI Centenary banner flying with the Swiss National Flag and Canton of Geneva Flags on the Mount Blanc bridge over Geneva River***



*A cross-section of National Federation and Association (NFA) members from around the world in the main conference Hall at the University of Geneva*

One of the first speakers was **Brigitte Mantilleri**, Director General of Gender Equality at the University of Geneva who provided examples of Gender biases and misogyny from around the world. There was a call made to reduce the Gender Gap on Wikipedia and to become more gender aware to reduce the inequalities that continue to exist.



*AGW President Prof Jaya Dantas and CIR Prof Shirley Randell, who led the Australian delegation near the GWI banner and the curved stairs of University of the Geneva in the background*



## Election of the 2019-2022 Board of Directors, Committee Members and Committee Convenors

The 2019-2022 GWI Board of Directors are:

1. **President:** Terry Oudraad (Graduate Women Netherlands (GW-NL))
2. **Vice President Membership:** Eileen Focke-Bakker (GW-NL)
3. **VP Advocacy and Education:** Louise McLeod (Women Graduates-USA (WG-USA))
4. **VP Fundraising:** Basak Ovacik (Turkish Association of University Women)
5. **Treasurer:** Katharina Strub (Swiss Association of University Women (ASFUDU))

### *Centenary Celebration and Buffet dinner*



*Australian delegates at the conference dinner*

On 25 July 2019 evening, more than 300 GWI members and friends gathered in the grand atrium of the University of Geneva Main Campus to celebrate 100 years of GWI friendship and understanding.



### *The Centenary Cake, the Centenary Lamp and a cross-section of members in the University of Geneva Atrium*

The evening began with the Recognition of Honorary Co-Chairs from NFA countries that were represented at the first International Federation of University Women Conference in 1920 and all NFAs that today form the dynamic GWI family, the GWI Lamp Ceremony, and the performance of “Every Woman and Every Girl”, GWI

Centenary Song by song competition winner, Emily Lawson of AWG. Ms Lawson was awarded a certificate for her cherished musical contribution to the Centenary celebration.

Ms Maria Ronna Luna Pastorizo-Sekiguchi of Graduate Women Fiji, winner of the GWJ Logo Contest was also honoured with a certificate in recognition of the beautiful logo she created for the occasion.

The Fellowship Committee presented the GWJ Centenary Fellowships and Awards to welcome the winners:

1. The **GWJ Caroline Spurgeon Centenary Fellowship** (CHF 12,000) awarded to Vidya Diwakar from Cambridge University
2. **The Fund for Women Graduates (FfWG) Crosby Hall Fellowship** (£6000) awarded to Ariana Markowitz from University College London
3. **The BFWG Marjorie Shaw Fellowship** (£5000) awarded to Mireille Widmer from Sussex University
4. The **Chitra Gosh Award** (CHF 1000) awarded to Swati Bedekar from India
5. The **Nazan Moroglu Young Member Award** (CHF 1000) awarded to Irina Trofimova from Russia

The evening concluded with the cutting of the centenary cake and multicultural song and dance performances presented by Japan, India, Nigeria and Turkey.

*President Jaya with delegates from USA, Austria, Nigeria and Mexico at the conference dinner*



## **Day 2 – 26 July 2019**

Along with the new Board, new Committee Convenors and Members were elected to support the GWJ Board and share their work and expertise and support in leading the future directions of GWJ.

### **Membership Committee:**

- **Convenor:** Meera Bondre (Indian Federation of University Women's Associations (IFUWA))
- **Members:** Nneka Chiedozie (Nigeria Association of University Women), Perine Wadgy (Egyptian Association of Graduate Women, (EAGW), Pouya Saeedi (Graduate Women New Zealand (GW-NZ))

### **Education Committee:**

- **Convenor:** Shirley Gillett (GW-NZ)
- **Members:** Shaila Mistry (WG-USA), Gloria Ramirez (Federacion Mexicana de Universitarias), Confidence Dikgole (South African Association of Women Graduates), Alba Evelyn Cortez (Asociación de Mujeres Universitarias de El Salvador).

### **Finance Committee:**

- **Assistant Treasurer Canada:** Beverley Rhodes, Canadian Federation of University Women
- **Assistant Treasurer Switzerland:** Karoline Dorsch (ASFUDU)
- **Members:** Kathryn B. Horvat (WG-USA), Pat Siversten (GW-NZ), Abeda Inamdar (IFUWA).

***The GWI General Assembly adopted the resolutions listed below:***

Eight new policy resolutions submitted by NFAs around the world, which define the GWI advocacy priorities for the next triennium were passed by the General Assembly with minor amendments. GWI's advocacy programme encompasses the following resolutions:

Policy Resolution 1: Diversity in Teacher Education as a Positive Contribution to an Equitable Education

Policy Resolution 2: Building Peace through Women's Education

Policy Resolution 3: Sexual and Reproductive Health Education as a Human Right for All

Policy Resolution 4: Women and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

Policy Resolution 5: Human Rights for Refugees and Migrant Women and Children

Policy Resolution 6: Fair and Non-Discriminatory Management of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Policy Resolution 7: Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

Policy Resolution 8: Sustainable Development Goals, also known as Global Goals

**World Trade Organisation (WTO) Keynote Discussion on Trade and Gender**



***The WTO panellists***

GWI members and friends were invited to the impressive World Trade Organisation headquarters for a panel presentation on the importance of gender equality in trade followed by a reception. Having the opportunity to visit the WTO where trade decisions take place was a wonderful opportunity. The panel shared the introduction of gender as an integral part of the WTO's work in the past two years.



***From Left: Australian delegates – Amie Khosla, Dr Marion Myhill, Prof Jaya Dantas, Dr Christine Andrews, & Prof Shirley Randell.***



### Day 3: Peace through Education Conference (27 July 2019)



Nelson and Winnie Mandela's granddaughter **Zanaswazi Dlamini Mandela** was a keynote speaker giving us some special insights into her grandparents' lives and their encouragement of her.

She shared that her grandfather: Nelson Mandela always told her not to harbour resentment as 'bitterness was toxic'.

She challenged us to be active global citizens with the courage to stand for those that cannot stand for themselves, that there is no room for

complacency and encouraged us to give back, to embrace a cause and bring about change.

#### Panel: *The Evolving Roles of Education and Gender Equality in the Prevention and De-Escalation of Conflict and in Building Sustainable Societies*



**Dr Barbara Mercer- Moser**, Founder of In-Zone, who has pioneered innovative approaches to communication and higher education in communities affected by conflict and crisis.

**Dr Christelle Rigual**, Researcher and Coordinator at the Gender Centre at the Graduate Institute. She has researched the relationship between gender inequality and armed conflict.

The most passionate speaker was **Adiba Qasim**, a **Yazidi refugee** from Sinjar District in Iraq. She is currently a student at the University of Geneva in foreign and security policy at the Geneva Centre for

Security Policy. She shared her personal experiences of war, flight and seeking asylum and the power of education to make a difference.

#### Presentation on Global Migration, Education and Integration: Challenges of Working with Refugees



Prof Shirley Randell AO spoke on current worldwide challenges with migration, refugees and resettlement, drawing on her experiences in Rwanda, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. She concluded her presentation by drawing attention to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that recognises the contribution of migration to sustainable development: 11 out of the 17 SDGs contain targets and indicators relevant to migration or mobility, e.g. trafficking, remittances, international student mobility. SDG Target 10.7 is 'to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, well-managed migration policies'. The Agenda's core

principle is to "leave no one behind," including migrants/refugees.

*Photo above: Shirley preparing for the presentation on migration*



## Swiss Culture Night Dinner Cruise on 'Lake Geneva' or in French 'Le Leman'



*The cruise boat 'Simplon' and a view of Lake Geneva from the boat.*

It was a wonderful 'Swiss Culture Night' on Boat Simplon, on the evening of 27 July 2019 on Lake Geneva known for its beauty. The Swiss Association of Graduate Women (SVA) hosted the evening and the cruise was accompanied by traditional Swiss musical entertainment (pictured below)



*The happy Aussies enjoying the dinner*

### ***Day 4: Workshop on Impactful advocacy and policy for women's alliances: examples from Australia***



Through this interactive workshop, Prof Jaya Dantas and Prof Shirley Randell AO provided an overview of the National Women's Alliances in Australia funded by the Office for Women. AFGW and now AGW is an active member of two of the six alliances and advocates for national changes that impact women's education and rights.

***Jaya and Shirley at their workshop.***



***The Australian delegates at the workshop***



**Dr Jane Baker sharing her experiences on ERA – Equality Rights Alliance**

### **Pacific and African Caucuses**

Members of the Australian delegation then attended the Pacific Net Caucus made up of Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. The stewardship of the Pacific Caucus has been taken over by Graduate Women Fiji under the leadership of Elizabeth Fong for the next three years.





At the request of members of the Forum of University Women of Africa, Shirley attended the African caucus.

## Reflections from some members and presenters

### *Reflections from Dr Miranda Mortlock*

I presented a Poster on “Exploring Strengths of Gender Statistics and Indicators for Monitoring and Decision Making for Women's Policy” by M Y Mortlock and Dalma Jacobs. This was presented in a small room, rather than being displayed in a more usual poster friendly space. I had a healthy, engaged audience in a full room, with especially good support from the Australian contingent.



***Dr Miranda Mortlock with her poster and Linda Williams from Sierra Leone***

I firstly acknowledge Ms Dalma Jacobs as my co-author, who is a very experienced statistician with many years of work in the prestigious and well-recognised Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Dalma continues to make valuable contributions to our data collections. Currently she provides expert advice to ABS on the Australian Time Use Survey.

I highlighted key messages on designing the appropriate questions, understanding data definitions, being aware of what is available and what is practical data to collect. I also talked about the issues of collecting gender data, such as a current discussions in some jurisdictions on whether to even collect gender, data. To stop collecting data on gender would be a big loss for society. We need to monitor changes over time in our indicators.

### ***Emily Lawson on her song performance***

As the winner of the GWI song-writing competition, I had the great opportunity to attend and perform at the GWI centenary conference in Geneva, Switzerland. A group of musicians and myself from various GWI NFAs performed the winning song called ‘Every Woman and Every Girl’ at the GWI Gala dinner.





The Gala dinner night was filled with fun, dancing, laughter and the important recognition of the GWI's hard work and legacy over the years. On the night, I was presented with a beautiful certificate for being the competition winner.

The song was also performed on the Swiss cruise culture night with a traditional Swiss band. I had a great experience meeting many amazing, interesting and accomplished women from across the globe as they shared their stories, important research and their future endeavours.

I have come back to Melbourne very inspired to continue my work in education but to also explore my professional and music opportunities on a global scale.

### ***Reflections from Dr Stefania Piantavigna***

I recently joined GWV as a member of the committee. This role gave me the opportunity to participate in the GWI conference, held in Geneva at the end of July, as an alternate delegate. I had the opportunity to understand more clearly the aims/ goals of this organisation and the amount of work involved.

I had the privilege to hear some inspiring speakers such as Dr Barbara Moser Mercer, when she talked about doing research on refugee camps from inside a camp, or Adebba Qasim a student and asylum seeker escaped from Iraq. Adiba shared with all the audience her courage and perseverance in leaving her country.

I had the chance to listen to different point of views from various delegates, to see how debates can become endless and tedious just for one or two words and how hard work it is keeping the conference on 'track' without disappointing anybody.



***Dr Stefania on the right***

Finally, I was pleased to meet other members from AGW such as Jaya Dantas and Shirley Randell and to know about their projects. Overall, attending the conference has been a privilege and a big opportunity to meet with other members and to know the various realities, issues from other countries. Learning about the past and the present, seeing positive attitudes and inputs and understanding more about the importance of education, I felt proud to be part of GWI.

One thing I took from this experience is that, it does not matter if we are living in a 'developed country', there is still a lot to do in our domestic reality to give a chance to minorities such Aboriginal communities and asylum seekers to let education empower women. Finally, I want to highlight the importance of creating a network between all the Graduate Women NFAs in Australia and in the Pacific area. The need and importance of connecting people came out often during the conference. Therefore, I want to thank GWV for giving me the opportunity to attend this important event.

### ***Dr Marion Myhill presents her thoughts***

It was a privilege to attend the GWI Conference in Geneva, Switzerland in July. Along with the other 400 international delegates and attendees, we were treated to four days of inspiring speakers, interesting seminar papers and posters, and enjoyable social activities. I met the wonderfully warm community of women from all over the world united in similar national struggles for women's rights, education, health and

the broad social issues that affect women across the world that can be summarised under the banner of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

I focussed on the conference, which had the theme of peace education. I was pleased to be able to present a seminar paper that described a university education program to provide Australian teachers with the confidence and skills to incorporate peace education into their own pedagogy. I was also pleased to find that our program was of interest to others internationally - and I am now involved in many follow up conversations. I was also delighted to be able to chair and attend other seminar sessions where women from countries as varied as India, Nigeria and Mexico spoke passionately about the women's peace issues they were addressing and the solutions they were working on to make a positive difference. One aspect I was particularly impressed with was the opportunity and support that the GWJ conference gave to many young women who were presenting their work in an international forum for the first time.

Other personal highlights for me were the presentations by Nelson and Winnie Mandela's granddaughter who spoke movingly about her grandparents and the work she is now doing in rural children's literacy improvement work in South Africa (a very creative use of shipping containers!).

The Iranian refugee who had to gain her education by listening outside the local school window because she was from a minority group not permitted to attend school. (She is now a student at the University of Geneva). Another highlight for me was the WTO visit, with excellent presentations and a reception overlooking Lake Geneva - a truly beautiful location.



*Dr Marion Myhill with Shirley and Jaya*

A bonus of the conference for me was the opportunity to have so many very interesting conversations with women over lunch, the Lake Geneva dinner cruise and the Centenary celebrations (the Mexicans were very vibrant and welcoming to this Australian). It was impressive to see not only the many long-term friendships that had developed, but also the many young women who attended, including mothers with their daughters, which seemed a positive sign for future growth.

I haven't mentioned the unexpected heat in Geneva (mid-30s most days), which seemed rather overwhelming; but the warmth I remember most now was the great warmth (and positivity) expressed by all the women towards each other. It was great to have such a strong Australian contingent at the conference, including our President and CIR; and to see the very important influence that our delegates had on the deliberations and outcomes of the General Assembly business sessions. It was also excellent that an Australian member had the honour of creating the Centenary song. I was personally very interested to learn about the sterling work of the Pacific Graduate Women's Network and impressed to see the commitment to ongoing collaborations for furthering women's issues in our region.

As a conference attendee for the first time (since Graz in 1998!), I found it a very positive, vibrant and rewarding conference. My thanks go to AGW for its much-appreciated support.

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In the words of Nelson Mandela's granddaughter, Zanaswazi - as global citizens and graduate women, we need to have the courage to stand for those who cannot stand for themselves. The GWJ 33<sup>rd</sup> Triennial and Peace through Education Centenary Conference was a success, it showcased the power of networks and friendships and reinforced the vital and uncontested importance of education to empower and make a difference to people's lives.