



**Graduate
Women**
New Zealand

Graduate Women New Zealand
PO Box 2006
Wellington 6140

Papers for

**Graduate Women New Zealand
40th Annual General Meeting**

And

**Graduate Women New Zealand Charitable Trust
40th Annual General meeting**

**Saturday 10th October 2026
Rutherford House, Victoria University, Wellington**

Hosted by Graduate Women Wellington

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41st GWNZ Inc AGM 2026

Date: Saturday 10th October 2026
Venue: Rutherford House, Victoria University, Wellington
By zoom: <https://vuw.zoom.us/j/96537826870?from=addon>

AGENDA

1. Welcome - record of attendance and apologies
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Minutes of 40th GWNZ Annual General Meeting, 2025
 - 3.1 Matters arising
4. Reports from National Executive, Branches and Independent Members – taken as read, with brief highlights provided by each member (20 minutes)
 - 4.1 President
 - 4.2 Treasurer – Annual Financial Report
 - 4.3 Advocacy Convenor
 - 4.4 International Convenor
 - 4.5 Branches: Manawatu, Otago, Wellington
 - 4.6 Independent Members' Network
5. Performance Report from GWNZ-CT – taken as read
6. Election of National Executive 2026-2027
7. Remits
 - 7.1 Updating the use of the 22nd IFUW Conference Commemoration Fund
 - 7.2 Increasing the Annual Capitation Fee paid to GWNZ Inc, 2027-2028
 - 7.3 Updating the Use of the Travel Fund
8. General Business
9. Close of AGM

PAPERS

1. Welcome - record of attendance and apologies
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Minutes of 40th GWNZ Inc Annual General Meeting, 2025

40th GWNZ Inc AGM 2025

Saturday 4th October 2025. 10.00 am

Manawatu Golf Club, 19 Centennial Drive, Hokowhitu, Palmerston North

Welcome

Sally Dunbar, President, welcomed members to the meeting, both those attending in person and online via the Zoom platform.

Attendees

GWNZ Manawatu – Jo Innes, Micaela Buckley, Megan Hooper Smith, Carolyn Wirth, Emma Le Lievre, Jane Russel Bowen, Gretta Mills

GWNZ Wellington – Janet Stribling, Rae Duff, Sally Dunbar, Perya Short, Noza Djazolova
Trish Keeper (Online)

GWNZ Otago – Otila Osborne, Barabra Benson, Pheobe Rose Osbourne, Margaret Bahr, Linda Roberston, Shirley Gillett (online), Menna Mohamed (online)

GWNZ Independent – Danielle Julian, Lorelle George, Bernadette Devonport, Christine Ball (online), Cynthia Mckenzie (online), Dorothy Meyer (online)

Apologies

Carolyn Harvey, Marlene Smith, Fay Pankhurst, Frances Bell, Glennis Oliver, Vanessa Ward, Sally Hassel, Jane Calhoun, Clare McAloon-Balfour, Louise Croot, Lorraine Isaacs, Nadja Smith, Julien Gross, Sue Cathro, Susan Stein

Alteration to Agenda Items 6 and 7 change, remits will come before the election.

Adoption of the Agenda and Papers Mover Dr Jo Innes, Seconder: Lorelle George

QUORUM HAS BEEN MET

Minutes 2025 SGM Approved. Mover, Lorelle George, Seconder Rae Duff

Minutes 2024 AGM Corrections (spelling mistakes) Ioanna Katiforis and Rae Duff.
Approved. Mover: Perya Short, Seconder: Barbara Benson

Reports from the National Executive, Branches, and Independent Members Taken as read with no further comments. Mover: Lorelle George, Seconder: Carolyn Wirth

Treasurer's Report Moved Rachel Baskerville, Seconded, Lorelle George

Approval of Reviewer, Carolyn Fowler Mover: Rachel Baskerville, Seconded, Jo Innes

Voting on Remits:

7.1 Updating the Use of the IFWU Conference Fund

OUTCOME: MOTION FAILED: No (26), Yes (24), Abstain (3)
Comments made that there were worries that the fund would deplete and not be refilled, Otago stated their desire to see the money used for younger members' travel to GWI Trienniums and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the UN (New York, USA).

7.2 Establishing an Annual Honorarium for the GWNZ Secretary Role (including IT Responsibilities)

OUTCOME: MOTION CARRIED: Yes (53), No (0), Abstain (1)

There was a desire expressed by Barbara Benson on behalf of Graduate Women Otago to not have the honoraria written into the constitution in case the responsibilities are divided between people like previously rather than IT, Communications, and Membership currently under the remit of the Secretary.

It was noted by members of the National Executive that it was not the intention to include this motion in the Constitution.

Note: Danielle Julian abstained from voting.

7.3: Reintroducing an Annual Supplementary Fee from Branches

OUTCOME: MOTION CARRIED: Yes (56), No (1), Abstain (0).

Comment was made by multiple members that there be an upper limit to keep the branch operations sustainable.

7.4: Resolving Tied Votes Through a Coin Toss Mechanism

OUTCOME: MOTION FAILED: Yes (23), No (31), Abstain (3)

Comment was made by the Vice President, that factors of merit should be considered by the President rather than the fate of a coin.

7.5: Introducing a Rotational Hosting Model for the GWNZ AGM

OUTCOME: MOTION CARRIED: Yes (50), No (1), Abstain (3)

Please note there are variations in the counting as some members did not raise their hand in abstention.

6. Election of the National Executive and Council members

National Executive:

President – Otila Osborne

Treasurer - Mandy Xie

CIR – Perya Short

Council:

IMNC – Lorelle George

Moved: Janet Stribling, Secunder: Rae Duff

Congratulations to our new incoming National Executive and Council Members

General Business:

Official thanks given to the outgoing members of the National Executive, Council and Charitable Trust: Sally Dunbar, Rachel Baskerville, Shirley Gillett, Jo Innes and Carolyn Wirth, with flowers presented to those present (Sally, Jo and Carolyn).

Thanks, were also expressed to Jo Innes, Acting President Manawatu, and her team for providing such an enjoyable and well-run AGM in Palmerston North.

A special acknowledgement was given to Louise Croot MNZM, for 50 years of advocacy work: Movers Rae Duff and Barbara Benson.

Jane Russell Bowen asked that the AGM's Hegg Hoffett fundraising activity be noted in the minutes. The Silent Auction raised \$500.

GWNZ-CT 40th Annual Report 2025: Approved. Mover: Carolyn Wirth, Secunder Lorelle George and Barbara Benson

Meeting closed: 12:27pm

4. Reports from National Executive, Branches and Independent Members

4.1 President, Lorelle George, Acting President, GWNZ

It is my privilege to present the President's Report for the year ending June 2026, from my role as Acting President; noting that I only took on this role on 28 March, stepping up from Vice-President due to the resignation of Otilia Osborne, elected President at last year's AGM. My reflection looks at the full financial year 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

The year in review

2025 AGM

Last year's AGM was held in Palmerston North on Saturday 4 October, hosted by Graduate Women Manawatu, under the leadership of Jo Innes, President, and my huge thanks are extended to Jo and the Branch for a very well run and immensely enjoyable event. Our pre-AGM event began on the Friday night with drinks and nibbles at the Manawatu Golf Club, our venue for both days, and during the evening a Panel presented on the topic, "Shaping the Future: Women, Work and Artificial Intelligence (AI)." I am sure this was a challenge to us all in considering how AI is changing the way we are communicating now, alongside giving us some insight into how quickly this new technology is finding its way into all facets of our lives.

Twenty-seven people attended (in person and online) the GWNZ Inc & GWNZ-CT AGMs on Saturday, where Annual Reports were presented, Remits were proposed (accepted and declined, as noted in the AGM Minutes), Perya presented an overview of the Members' Survey, Shirley Gillett and Perya updated on the GWI Triennium held just the month prior in Zambia, and the afternoon workshops challenged us further, through discussions and the inclusion of a second presentation on AI.

We said farewell to Sally Dunbar, who stepped down as President, and I acknowledge Sally's enormous contribution to GWNZ over the previous three years. Sally's commitment to the values and purpose of GWNZ has been evident in her professionalism and leadership during this time. We also farewelled Rachel Baskerville (NE Treasurer), Shirley Gillett (CIR), and Carolyn Wirth (CT Treasurer). To replace all these wonderful women, we appointed and welcomed – Otilia Osborne (President), Mandy Xie (NE Treasurer), Perya Short (to the CIR role alongside the Advocacy Lead role) and Noza Djalolova (CT Treasurer).

To bring this excellent event to a close many members (and some partners/husbands) gathered at the Golf Club to enjoy a delicious dinner. It was so good to chat and catch up with members widely dispersed from Auckland to Dunedin over these one and half days.

Branches

Someone recently commented to me that the "heart of Graduate Women is in its branches" and include this comment here, as for me it so very appropriately represents

how the branches embody the three GW pillars of *Think, Act, Connect* across their distinct communities.

Over the past year branches have continued to flourish, increasing in size, and providing opportunities for members to come together through meetings and a variety of events featuring interesting speakers, also enabling postgraduates and graduates to speak about their research. While each Branch has its own distinct personality and culture, the goals are the same: connecting and empowering women through education. Through gowning activities, Branches continue to provide a variety of awards locally and to contribute financially to the GWNZ-CT national Scholarships and Awards. I genuinely acknowledge the tireless efforts of Branch Presidents: Jo Innes (Manawatu), Barbara Benson (Otago), and Janet Stribling (Wellington); and the committee members who support you.

The Independent Network has also increased in size this year, and an overview of the past year is provided in my report as Convenor. It has been heartening to see this increase in the IMN, especially being able to welcome the growing number of Postgraduates who have joined. An important aim is that membership of and access to the wider GW organisation through the Network provides members with the connection and support they are seeking.

Advocacy

Advocacy continues to play a central role in our work both in the branches, in the wider community and nationally. As our Strategic Plan notes:

“The vision of Graduate Women New Zealand is to empower and advance women and girls through education, advocacy, and research. We aim to promote gender equity and equal opportunities for women in all areas of society, including education, employment, and leadership positions.”

I acknowledge the work that Perya Short has undertaken in the Advocacy space on our behalf this past year. Perya continues to represent us at various levels nationally (and internationally), and to link locally with a small group of members who are part of an ‘advocacy working group’ contributing feedback on significant issues. Advancing our advocacy agenda at a national level this year has brought challenges, particularly as a result of the current Parliamentary environment, and the Advocacy webinar held in August aims to contribute to the vision towards the way forward in the year ahead.

International

Perya’s Advocacy role this year very much inter-connected across the International (CIR) role that she took on at last year’s AGM, particularly in this first half of 2026; and I thank her for representing GWNZ so professionally across all these spaces.

I mention briefly two conferences below, that I felt were of immense importance to GWNZ: CSW70 and the Women Deliver conference.

CSW70

The Commission on the Status of Women, CSW70, held in New York in March was well represented by five GWNZ members: Perya Short, Advocacy & International Lead, Otila

Osborne, President, Anna Campbell, Ioanna Katiforis and Phoebe Rose Osborne (GWO).

GWI, in an email following CSW, noted the attendance of members from many NFA's from around the world, including NZ, and acknowledged their contribution to the global discussion on "ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls", emphasising the role of education as a foundation for rights, equality and participation. A central message emerging from CSW70 is that access to justice for women and girls is closely linked to access to education, legal literacy, digital inclusion, and social protection. These goals underpin our work here in New Zealand.

Women Deliver Conference

My thanks go to Perya for identifying that this conference was a significant event for GWNZ to attend. It provided an opportunity to hear the thoughts of international speakers on issues we identify as central to GWNZ's aims; to network with a wide variety of attendees; and to increase GWNZ's visibility at an additional international level.

It was important for GWNZ to be present at both these conferences, and to be in a position to take advantage of the opportunities that conferences of this size present (just under 5,000 for CSW and over 6,000 for Women Deliver).

Perya's Advocacy and International reports comment in depth on the breadth of her work on behalf of GWNZ this past year.

Graduate Women International

GWI 35th Triennial General Assembly and Conference, Lusaka Zambia

In addition to the two conferences above, Perya Short (GWW) in her role as International Lead, together with Shirley Gillett (GWO and GWI Board) and Anna Campbell (GWO) attended GWI's Triennial Conference in Zambia in September 2025. It seems such a long time ago now, as much has happened in between.

Perya's report back on the Triennial conference noted the impact the experience had had on her, including her comments that: "To be with women from all over the world working on research and policy to improve women and girls' access to education was motivating" and "to Chair presentations where women were speaking about the courageous work they were doing in challenging circumstances such as internally displaced people's camps in Nigeria, or very remote communities in other countries to improve education access was humbling". This conference brought together 100 members from 19 NFAs.

GWI noted in a post-conference mailout that: "Over three inspiring days, delegates engaged in dynamic discussions on the theme "Building the Future: Integrating Culture, Education, and Empowerment for Sustainability." The conference explored pathways toward a sustainable future by addressing key issues such as gender equity in education, cultural integration, intergenerational collaboration, and the role of technology and innovation in empowering women and girls.

It is inspiring to read and hear news from delegates such as Perya, Shirley and Anna who have attended the Trienniums, and who bring that inspiration back to New Zealand to contribute to and further our work here. In addition, Shirley played an integral role in

enabling, organising and delivering the conference in Zambia. Thank you to you all for representing GWNZ so well on the international stage.

GWI Board Strategic Planning and Regional Meetings

The GWI Board, under Pat Patten's leadership, undertook two global online regional conversations this year. The discussions were organised to enhance collaboration between GWI and its NFAs, creating space for shared learning, dialogue, and alignment of priorities at various levels.

The Pacific discussion, on 25 March 2026, was the first of the regional discussions, and involved GWNZ, Australia and Fiji. Pat Patten and many of the Board members, including our Shirley Gillett (GWO, and VP Education) attended, providing an opportunity to hear first-hand about the current GWI strategic planning work; and for us share an overview of our Branch activities and advocacy work undertaken in the past year which, in the advocacy space, covered digital, education and pay equity. It was also an opportunity for us to meet with and hear updates on activities at GW Fiji, and the GW 're-building' work in beginning in Australia. We also had the opportunity to comment on our gowning hire, and how the funding gained through this long-standing GWNZ activity has enabled us to provide scholarships to a huge number of women from universities and other tertiary institutions around New Zealand over all these years.

The second discussion was a 'Report back' on 3 June 2026, where all GWI Board members shared their strategic goals for the year ahead, based on the earlier regional conversations. Take-away messages for me were to focus on what is important for us, raise our voices collectively, and plan for the future, including investing in young leaders and working to ensure the organisation is sustainable.

Shirley Gillett, with her EDUCOM hat 'on', also noted the importance of Sustainable Development Goal 4, which "aims to ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education for all, promoting lifelong learning opportunities and skills development globally", which underpins all our work.

GWNZ Representation on the GWI Board

I congratulate Shirley Gillett, GW Otago, on her success in being appointed for her second term as VP Education on the GWI Board, at the GWI 35th Triennial General Assembly and Conference in Zambia last September. Shirley leads the EDUCOM group whose members come from several different countries; and their 'Education & Diversity' webinar, timed so that we could take part here in the Southern Hemisphere, was held in June.

The Mentorship Programme

Unfortunately, the mentorship programme, developed by Sally Dunbar and led by the late Dr Beverley McNally in 2025-26, did not continue this year. We sincerely acknowledge the 'hole' that Beverley's passing left in the organisation, and we have unfortunately been unable to identify someone lead the programme this year. It is hoped that the programme will be resumed, because of the value it brings, in the year ahead.

Charitable Trust

I acknowledge the significant contribution of the GWNZ Charitable Trust alongside the work of the Branches, in supporting women through the provision of Scholarships and Awards. A rewarding part of the work as a member of the Trust is to be able to hear the stories contained in the Scholarship applications. I also had the privilege of attending the New Horizons for Women's Trust/Hine Kahukura awards afternoon in Flat Bush earlier this year, to present the Mildred Keir award for Second Chance Learning. Hearing the background story from not only our awardee, but all of the women being celebrated that afternoon, many of whom had faced enormous struggles to even start their degree, let alone juggling families, often as single mums, to achieve their goal, filled me with immense admiration for their achievement; and pride that I was part of this organisation whose aims and vision are to support women through education.

Barbara Benson was appointed Trust Chair this year, taking over from Sally Hasell, who remained in the Trust Secretary role; and Trustees also include Noza Djalolova (Trust Treasurer), Janet Stribling, Jules Gross and myself; with Jo Innes continuing in the Scholarship Officer role. Barbara's Trust report is presented later at the AGM meeting.

National Executive

It has been a challenging and busy year! The Constitution allows for 10 members on National Executive, alongside the additional members on Council, which includes the Branch Presidents and the Independent Members' Network Convenor.

However, we have been a very much reduced group over the past twelve months: our Secretary, Dannie Julian, resigned in November; our Treasurer, Mandy Xie did not really take up her role, resigning early in the year for personal reasons; Perya took on the International role alongside Advocacy Lead; and with Otila's resignation in March, I moved from VP into the Acting President role. Over these past months we have searched for a new Secretary, Treasurer and President, both internally and externally. We were pleased to coopt Ishita Desai to the Treasurer role in June, but to date have been unsuccessful in filling the Secretary role, and this search continues.

And so, since March, NE has comprised Barbara Benson (Trust Chair), Noza Djalolova (Trust Treasurer), Perya (Advocacy and International) and me (now AP and IMN Convenor), with Ishita joining in June; alongside the Council with Barbara Benson (also Acting President GWO, due to illness), Janet Stribling (President GWW) and Jo Innes (President GWM and Support). As GWO will be, we are appreciative that Barbara stepped into the GWO Acting President role over the past months. In addition, we are immensely grateful to Rachel Baskerville who continued to 'hold' the Treasurer role these past twelve months, facilitating a hand-over to Ishita in June, with Noza Djalolova's support.

My thanks go to these fabulous women on NE/Council who have worked together over these past twelve months on behalf of the organisation, and since March to support me in the Acting President role.

As Vice-President over the past 6 years, it has never been my wish to move into the President role – I moved into the VP role to support the President and the organisation. However, due to changing circumstances I have been pleased to undertake the Acting President role since the end of March. My 6-year tenure on NE comes to an end at the AGM,

but I look forward to continuing my involvement with NE/Council as IMN Convenor, on Council, for another year (or two).

The 2026 AGM will bring further changes to both NE and Council: joining NE will be a new President, a new Vice-President and a new Advocacy Lead; and leaving from Council will be Janet Stribling and Jo Innes (stepping aside as Presidents of their Branches at their AGMs in September). Jo Innes will take with her, her immense organisational knowledge and experience, especially in the IT/Support space, and she will be enormously missed. And Janet, we will so miss you from around the table – your calm and thoughtful input to our discussions, and currently your work as the newsletter go-to person over past months, alongside planning for the 2026 AGM in Wellington, have been hugely appreciated. I hope you both enjoy stepping back from your Branch and Council roles and having a little more time for other things with which you wish to become involved.

We searched for a new President from within the membership over several months, and because no one came forward to take on this role, we extended our search externally. The response to our search was overwhelming. We have been interviewing several fabulous women over the past 2-3 weeks and, as I write this, we are finalising the selection process. National Executive looks forward to introducing the applicant we are recommending for appointment to this important GWNZ role on 10 October 2026.

I take pride in our collective achievements in the past year, and am excited to welcome a new President, supported by a dedicated Executive, to lead us in the year ahead.

Lorelle George

Acting President, GWNZ

(appointed March 2026)

4.2 Treasurer, Prof Rachel Baskerville, Retiring Treasurer, GWNZ

Financial Report for GWNZ Inc for the year ended June 30th 2026

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Treasurer's report to the AGM 2026

Report dated July 10 2026.

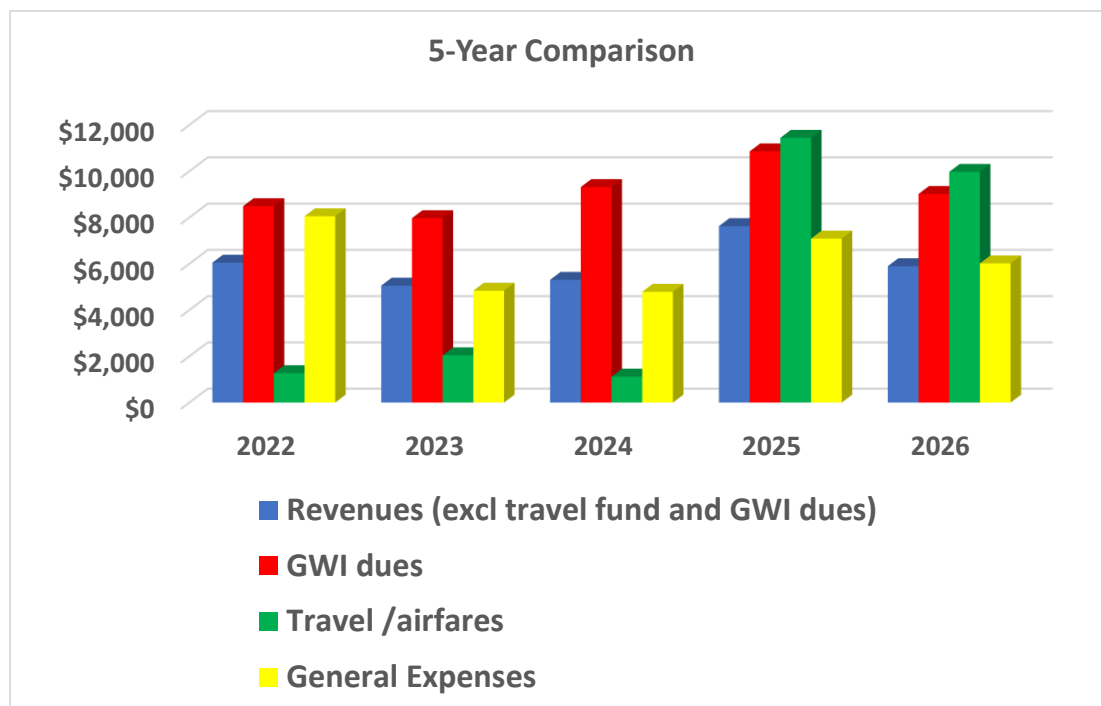
The new Treasurer for GWNZ Ishita Desai was appointed in June 2026, so this is a joint report. Thank you to Wellington Branch for organising this AGM event.

At year-end we have a small deficit, but generally the Executive have been very careful with expenditures. It is very encouraging that Lorelle has worked so hard in promoting and supporting the Independent Member network with a remarkable increase, almost tripling the membership. There are many new members in addition to those who transferred into this group from North Shore Branch.

The balance sheet shows that we have \$6,990 in the reserve to pay Graduate Women International at year-end, but this will be supplemented by the capitation receipts from

branches around September 30th. We retain the same level of Members' funds (\$42,020 this year, \$42,141 last year).

The five-year comparison shows the increase in airfares (green on chart) with which we are all familiar. The travel fund will not be able to sustain this pattern indefinitely.



We move

- a) The adoption of this financial report; and
- b) That the branch capitation remains the same as last year; Graduate Members (*includes Members Emeritae and Postgraduates*) @ \$70; Associate Members @ \$30. Reminder: \$40 of every Graduate member's capitation goes directly to GWI for the activities which are an important part of our aims and objectives for GWNZ.

Thank you all for your loyal support,

Ishita Desai (Treasurer from June 2026)

Rachel Baskerville, Retiring Treasurer

Entity Information

Legal Name of Entity: Graduate Women New Zealand Inc.

Other Name of Entity: Previously known as the NZ Federation of University Women

Type of Entity and Legal Basis:

We are an Incorporated Society under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022; the new 2025 GWNZ constitution governs all the operations of the entity.

Non-Consolidation of Associated Entities

An associated entity, Graduate Women NZ Charitable Trust [Inc. No. 1717013 and Charity Reg. No. CC10729] is controlled by the National Executive of Graduate Women New Zealand Inc. This entity files their annual return with Charities Services NZ. This associated entity is not consolidated with Graduate Women New Zealand Inc. because (i) in spite of being controlled by the National Executive of Graduate Women New Zealand Inc., all its members have been informed about, and do not object to, Graduate Women New Zealand Inc. not presenting consolidated financial statements; and (ii) both Graduate Women New Zealand Inc. and this associated entity produce financial statements that are available for public inspection, and comply with NZ PBE standards.

Registration Number: Incorporation number 226280

Address: P O Box 2006, Wellington, 6140

Website: www.gwnz.org.nz.

Entity's Purpose:

Graduate Women New Zealand was formed in 1921. Our purpose is to empower women through education. Through our relationship with Graduate Women International we are consultants to the United Nations and its agencies.

Mission:

- ✓ Think: We believe in the power of education. That's why we support women in their pursuit of knowledge.
- ✓ Act: We are champions for women's rights. The work we do is an influential force for positive change.
- ✓ Connect: We provide a platform for graduate women to share ideas, information and broaden their network.

Entity structure

GWNZ is an umbrella organisation, aiming to fulfil our mission largely through the activities of our four Branches, the Graduate Women NZ Charitable Trust (see above), and independent members. We are affiliated to Graduate Women International (GWI) and support their activities through our Convenor for International Relations. The Branches of GWNZ, whose rules align with GWNZ, are Manawatu, Wellington and Otago. GWNZ also encourages membership for individual women who reside in an area where there is no Branch of GWNZ, and these form the Independent Members' Network.

Entity's governance arrangements

Ten members of the National Executive are elected in each AGM. The GWNZ Council consists of members of the National Executive, together with one representative from each Branch (usually the Branch President) and the Independent Members Network Convenor.

Acting President	Lorelle	president@gwnz.org.nz
Secretary	George	
Convenor for International Relations	tba	secretary@gwnz.org.nz
Advocacy Convenor	Perya Short	international@gwnz.org.nz
Independent Member's Network Convenor	Perya Short	advocacy@gwnz.org.nz
Otago Branch President	Lorelle	independent@gwnz.org.nz
Manawatu Branch President	George	
Wellington Branch President	Nadja Baker	otago@gwnz.org.nz
Newsletter	Jo Innes	manawatu@gwnz.org.nz
Support Officer	Janet	wellington@gwnz.org.nz
Treasurer	Stribling	
Trust Secretary	tba	news@gwnz.org.nz
	Jo Innes	support@gwnz.org.nz
	Ishita Desai	treasurer@gwnz.org.nz
	Sally Hasell	trustsecretary@gwnz.org.n
		z
Trust Treasurer	Noza	trusttreasurer@gwnz.org.n
	Djalolova	z

Entity's reliance on volunteers

Although Branches may provide remuneration for key duties (such as Regalia Convenors), much of the work undertaken by the National Executive and Council is voluntary. An honorarium of \$800 pa for the Secretary was approved last year. Apart from this GWNZ is very reliant on volunteers.

Statement of Service Performance

Medium- and long-term objectives for GWNZ are the basis for our activities:

a) Connecting to and supporting Graduate Women International

www.graduatewomen.org

Our international connection with GWI remains vital. We encouraged members to participate in the Graduate Women International (GWI) 35th Triennial General Assembly and Conference, being held in Lusaka, Zambia last September, attended by delegates Anna Campbell, Alyson Manning, Shirley Gillett and Perya Short. The theme, “Building the Future: Integrating Culture, Education, and Empowerment for Sustainability,” spoke directly to our shared values. A Resolution addressing On-line harassment of women was taken to the Triennium meeting (written and proposed by Perya Short, seconded by the Australian President).

We also supported the GWI 105 Heritage Fundraising Wall in 2025 — an opportunity to contribute to global girls’ education while honouring GWI’s remarkable legacy.

Graduate Women New Zealand had a strong presence at the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70) held in New York in March 2026. Perya Short, our GWNZ Advocacy and CIR Representative was joined by President Otila Osbourne and four other [Graduate Women Otago](#) members Dr Shirley Gillett (GWI Vice President Education), Dr Ioanna Katiforis, Anna Campbell (Advocacy) and Phoebe Rose Osborne (Youth and Membership Representative). Both Anna and Phoebe Rose were also attending as [Aotearoa Women's Watch NZ](#) (formerly Pacific Women's Watch).

Graduate Women New Zealand also supported Perya Short, our GWNZ Advocacy and CIR Representative, to attend the Women Deliver conference (WD2026) which took place in Narm (Melbourne), Australia in April 2026.

(b) Supporting the scholarship and awards of the GWNZ Charitable Trust

The GWNZ Charitable Trust made five fellowship awards for women pursuing a PhD, a Mildred Keir award for a woman returning to education, a Susan Byrne award for a woman making a significant career change and a Harriette Jenkins award to a member of GWNZ in support of their academic progression.

c) Championing women's rights and being an influential force for positive change.

During 2025-6, GWNZ has made several submissions on issues that impact directly on women’s rights.

(d) Offering opportunities for members to connect and build networks in New Zealand

Our Independent Members' Network has offered a mentoring with Dr Gayle Avery on sustainable leadership, starting with self. Menna Mohammed, a Graduate Women Otago young member, was the speaker for an online webinar on 26 March posing the following questions for consideration: “how might we want to contribute ‘our voice’ locally and internationally”, and “what does meaningful engagement look like in

2026”? In June 2026 Rev’d Sarah Pidgeon offered a theological approach to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Graduate Women New Zealand (GWNZ) AGM 2025 was hosted by Graduate Women Manawātū (GWM) and took place on 3–4 October 2025. As part of this, Graduate Women Manawatu hosted a panel discussion: Shaping the Future - Women, Work and Artificial Intelligence. The panel of women leaders in technology explored:

- The gendered implications of AI and automation
- Why inclusive perspectives in AI design and policy matter
- Practical strategies for women to engage with AI meaningfully
- Stories and insights in AI adoption

Motions at the AGM included establishing an annual honorarium for the GWNZ Secretary role (including IT responsibilities); reintroducing an annual supplementary fee; and introducing a rotational hosting model for the GWNZ AGM.

Distribution of the Centenary booklets edited by Vanessa Ward: “Empowering Women Through Education: Centennial Reflections, 1921-2021” continued this last year; ten copies remain for purchase.



Profit and Loss

Graduate Women New Zealand
For the year ended 30 June

		2026	2025
Line	Revenues		
1	Bequests	850	650
2	Branch Membership capitation	2,385	4,480
3	Donations	90	0
4	Independent member subscriptions	720	278
5	Interest revenue	1,039	2,053
6	IRD refund	12	168
7	Net Sales of Centenary Book	91	-745
8	Supplementary contribution from GWO	800	0
9	Total Revenues	5,987	6,883
10			
11	Expenses		
12	Bank Fees	110	872
13	Reviewer	97	78
14	Administration (Incl \$520 honorarium this year)	799	901
15	Subscriptions	115	100
16	IT expenses		
17	Mailchimp expenses	561	773
18	Website expenses	241	801
19	Xero	362	528
20	Total IT expenses	1,164	2,101
21	AGM direct costs (excl travel)	1,130	690
22	Conference registrations (GWI etc)	2,692	0
23	Professional fees - archivist	0	1,600
24	Total Expenses	6,108	6,342
25			
26	Surplus/deficit on ordinary operations	-121	541
27			
28	Movements in Liabilities & Components of Equity		
29	Graduate Women International dues		
30	GWI dues received from Branches	6,320	8,120
31	GWI dues from Independent Members	1,800	660
32	Payments to GWI	-9,018	-11,168
33	Net change in GWI liability	-898	-2,388
34	Travel Fund (Equity)		
35	Travel fund dues from Branches	2,295	3,480
36	Travel fund dues from Independent Members	435	143
37	Travel fund expenses paid	-9,972	-11,444
38	Travel to Branches by President	0	-378
39	Interest revenue for Travel fund	514	1,348
40	Net change in Travel Fund (Equity)	-6,728	-6,852
41	Interest revenue for Conf Commemoration fund	412	762
42	Interest revenue for IM expenses fund	14	26
43		-7,200	-8,452
44			
45	Comprehensive surplus/deficit	-7,320	-7,911



Balance Sheet

Graduate Women New Zealand

As at

30 Jun 2026 30 Jun 2025

Line	Assets		
46	Bank		
47	Graduate Women New Zealand Inc	10,002	8,232
48	Online saver Westpac	1,032	1,031
49	Westpac Term deposits 0033 & 0037	73,186	81,682
50	debit card account	1,298	944
51	Total Bank	85,517	91,888
52	Current Assets		
53	Debtors	0	2,950
54	Centenary books on hand	304	395
55	Total Current Assets	304	3,345
56	Total Assets	85,821	95,233
57	Liabilities		
58	Current Liabilities		
59	Creditors	909	3,003
60	Total Current Liabilities	909	3,003
61	Non-current Liabilities		
62	GWI Reserve July 1st	7,888	10,274
63	changes this year	-898	-2,388
64	Graduate Women International Dues Reserve	6,991	7,886
65	Total Non-current Liabilities	6,991	7,886
66	Total Liabilities	7,899	10,889
67			
68	Net Assets	77,922	84,344
69			
70	Equity		
71	Member funds		
72	Member Funds (General)	42,141	41,601
73	Current Year Earnings	-121	541
74	Total Member funds	42,021	42,141
75	Travel Fund Reserve	24,730	31,582
76	changes this year	-6,728	-6,852
77	Travel Fund Reserve year end	18,002	24,730
78	22nd IFUW Conference Commemoration Fund	16,895	16,133
79	interest this year	412	762
80	Independent Members' Expenses Reserve	578	552
81	interest this year	14	26
82	Total Equity	77,922	84,344

Cash flows statement

for the year to June 30th

Liine	Operating inflows		2026			2025		
83	Branch Dues	11,090				16,883		
84	Independent Membership income	2,955				278		
85	Bequests	850				650		
86	GWO supplementary payment	800						
87	Book sales	182						
88	I.R.D	12				168		
89	Currency conversion adjustments	3	15,892			17,978		
90								
91	Operating outflows							
92	GWI Dues	9,018				11,168		
93	Overseas Air fares	9,971				11,374		
94	Centenary book					775		
95	Overseas Conference fees etc	2,692						
96	Archivist Hirini Johnston	1,600						
97	AGM contribution to GWM	1,427						
98	Picrights fine					725		
99	Mailchimp	561				773		
100	Honorarium	520						
101	General Admin, P O Box, Flowers AGM	770				744		
102	Xero	472				753		
103	NCW subscription	115				100		
104	Website	45	27,192			801	27,212	
105	Net operating outflows		-11,300			-9,234		
106	Investing inflows							
107	Interest	4,928	4,928			4,188		
108	Net change in accruals					-849	3,340	
109	Net outflows		-6,372			-5,894		
110	Reconciliation:	opening	change in cash	closing		opening	change	closing
111	Current account	8,232	1,770	10,002		7,732	500	8,232
112	Online Saver	1,030	1	1,032		10,318	-9,288	1,030
113	Debit card account	944	354	1,298			944	944
114	Term Investment	81,682	-8,496	73,186		79,732	1,950	81,682
115		net outflows	-6,371			net outflows	-5,894	

Statement of Accounting Policies

a) Legal Entity

Graduate Women New Zealand Inc. is an Incorporated Society operating in accordance with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. Our new 2025 Constitution was filed with the Registrar for Incorporated Societies in February 2025.

b) Basis of Preparation

Graduate Women New Zealand Inc. has elected to apply PBE SFR-A (NFP) Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting - Accrual (Not-For-Profit) on the basis that it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses of equal to or less than \$2,000,000.

All transactions in the Performance Report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting.

The Performance Report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

c) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Graduate Women New Zealand Inc. is not registered for GST. Therefore, amounts recorded in the Performance Report are inclusive of GST (if any).

d) Income Tax

The only income tax expense for Graduate Women New Zealand Inc. is that charged on interest received and is deducted at source from each interest payment received in the year to June 2026. These revenues are reported net of tax. There was a small tax refund received in April 2026.

e) Investments

Investments in Term Deposits are recorded at the book values.

f) Receivables

Both non-current and current receivables are recorded at historic value.

g) Bank Accounts and Cash

Bank accounts and cash in the Cash Flow Statement comprise cash balances and bank balances (including term deposits).

h) Changes in Accounting Policies

There were no changes in accounting policies during the current financial year.

Notes to the Financial Report

Note 1: Term deposits at Westpac:

as at June 30 year end 2026:				
	TD	start date	end date	interest rate
TD0033	\$27,633.22	30-Jun-26	30-Dec-27	4%
TD0037	\$45,552.79	27-Jun-26	27-Jun-28	4.30%
	\$73,186.01			

	Last year July 1st 2025	end date	interest rate
TD0036	\$13,024.68	3/08/2025, 3/02/2026	4.80%
TD0037	\$42,296.00	27/06/2026	5.50%
TD0033	\$26,361.14	30/06/2026	4.60%
	\$81,681.82		

TD0036 was not renewed when it matured				
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Note 2:

Other assets: There are 10 Centenary books on hand valued at cost (\$30.40).

Note 3: Commitments and Contingencies

There are no commitments as at balance date.

(last year: for the upcoming costs of the AGM at Manawatu, around \$4,800 was shared between Branches, GWNZ CT, GWNZ IMs and GWNZ).

There are no contingent liabilities or guarantees as at balance date (Last Year - nil)

Note 4 - Related Party Transactions

There were no significant transactions, or any other transactions requiring disclosure, involving related parties during the financial year. (Last year: The independent Archives contractor Hirini Johnston is the son of a member of the Executive, Perya Short; paid \$1,600 for Archives services).

Note 5 - Events After the Balance Date

There were no events that have occurred after the balance date that would have a material impact on the Performance Report. (Last Year nil).

ADDENDUM

At the date of distribution of this Annual Report, the GWNZ Inc financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2026 have been reviewed by the NE, but the independent review process has not yet been completed. Accordingly, the financial information included in this report is presented in draft form and remains subject to amendment arising from the completion of the independent review. The final reviewed financial statements and independent review report will be made available to members as soon as they are received.

4.3 GWNZ Advocacy Convenor, Perya Short

Graduate Women New Zealand Advocacy Report for the AGM

Reporting period: October 2025 to September 2026

Overview

Since the last AGM, advocacy has remained central to GWNZ's identity as an organisation committed to empowering women through education, advocacy and community. The year has been one of reflection as well as action: GWNZ has continued to affirm its role in speaking for gender equality, peace and education for women and girls in Aotearoa New Zealand, while also asking how advocacy can be made more visible, more participatory and more effective for current and future members.

Advocacy activity during the year

GWNZ's national advocacy work has continued to be grounded in the organisation's purpose: supporting women and girls in their pursuit of education, championing women's rights and connecting members with opportunities to influence positive change. The public description of GWNZ's work highlights advocacy through submissions to Government, connection with like-minded women's organisations, links through Graduate Women International and a continuing commitment to improving education and employment outcomes for women and girls.

The year's advocacy activity has therefore included both external-facing activity and internal strengthening. Externally, GWNZ has continued to promote gender equality, education and women's leadership as public-interest issues through engagement in fora like the International Women's Caucus, the Education Hub meetings of the National Council of Women and staying abreast of political issues affecting women and girls such as the continuing reforms of the senior secondary school curriculum.

Internally, members have been encouraged to consider how advocacy should be organised, prioritised and communicated so that it remains practical for a volunteer organisation and meaningful for branches, independent members and national officeholders.

Modernising advocacy

A significant theme since the 2025 AGM has been the need to modernise advocacy. This does not mean moving away from GWNZ's long-standing values. Rather, it means finding contemporary ways to express those values, engage members, reach decision-makers and collaborate with other organisations. Modern advocacy may include formal submissions, but it can also include public education, coalition-building, webinars, social media, member briefings, branch-led conversations, storytelling, mentoring, research summaries and practical tools that help members act locally.

This work has involved considering several questions: what issues should GWNZ prioritise; how can members with limited time contribute; how can advocacy reflect the diversity of women and girls in Aotearoa; how can branches and independent members be better connected; and how can GWNZ make its advocacy more visible without over-extending its volunteer capacity?

August 2026 advocacy webinar

The clearest example of this modernisation work was the national advocacy webinar held online in August 2026, titled “What does GWNZ’s Advocacy look like to You?” The webinar was chaired by Advocacy Officer Perya Short and facilitated by Anna Campbell. Its purpose was to canvas the different ways advocacy can happen and to explore the most impactful initiatives GWNZ could lead for gender equality, peace and education for women and girls in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The value of the webinar was not only in the event itself, but in the signal, it sent about the future of advocacy within GWNZ. It created a space for members to identify what advocacy means to them, to move beyond a narrow reliance on formal submissions, and to consider advocacy as a shared organisational activity. The webinar also recognised that advocacy expertise exists across the membership and that members need accessible ways to contribute according to their interests, time and experience.

Challenges for advocacy

Advocacy remains challenging for GWNZ for several reasons. First, the organisation relies heavily on volunteers, which means capacity is uneven and can be affected by members’ work, study, family and community commitments. Secondly, the policy environment moves quickly, and opportunities to make submissions or respond to public issues may arise with short timeframes. Thirdly, GWNZ must decide where it can add distinctive value rather than duplicating the work of larger or more specialised organisations.

There are also strategic challenges. Advocacy must reflect the diversity of women and girls in Aotearoa New Zealand, including differences of age, ethnicity, disability, geography, income, education pathway and life stage. GWNZ must continue to ensure that its work is inclusive, evidence-informed and aligned with its charitable and organisational purpose. It must also balance national advocacy with the strengths of branches, where local relationships and community knowledge are often strongest.

Benefits of advocacy

Despite these challenges, advocacy brings significant benefits. It gives practical expression to GWNZ’s values and connects scholarships, education, leadership and community work to broader social change. Advocacy enables GWNZ to contribute to public conversations about gender equality, to amplify issues affecting women and girls, and to build relationships with organisations that share similar aims. It also gives members a way to use their education, professional experience and community insight in service of the public good.

Advocacy also strengthens the organisation internally. When members are invited into advocacy conversations, they gain a clearer sense of GWNZ’s purpose and relevance. Branches can share local concerns, younger and newer members can see opportunities for participation, and national leaders can draw on a wider pool of ideas and expertise. Done well, advocacy can therefore support recruitment, retention, public profile and intergenerational connection.

4.4 GWNZ International Convenor, Perya Short

International Activities 2025–2026

Prepared for the Graduate Women NZ Annual General Meeting, October 2026

Executive Summary

Since the last AGM in October 2025, Perya Short, Coordinator of International Relations (CIR), has led a more connected international programme for Graduate Women NZ (GWNZ). The reporting year has centered on four linked areas: participation in the seventieth session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70) in New York; attendance at the Women Deliver 2026 Conference in Melbourne; sustained participation in International Women's Caucus meetings in Wellington; and renewed conversations about GWNZ's role in the NGO Asia Pacific regional forum ecosystem. Together, these activities have strengthened GWNZ's international presence and deepened relationships with Manatū Wāhine Ministry for Women and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

Context and Reporting Scope

This report covers international activities undertaken between October 2025 and October 2026. Its emphasis is not simply on attendance at meetings, but on the value of those engagements for GWNZ's mission: advancing the education, rights, leadership, and wellbeing of women and girls in Aotearoa New Zealand and through international networks. The year was notable for a convergence of global and regional gender equality work, with CSW70 focusing on access to justice for all women and girls, Women Deliver 2026 bringing global feminist movements to the Oceanic Pacific region for the first time, and regional civil society actors revisiting how Pacific and Asia-Pacific advocacy can be coordinated more effectively.

CSW70: United Nations, New York, March 2026

CSW70 happened between 9 to 19 March 2026. The priority theme was ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including through inclusive and equitable legal systems, the removal of discriminatory laws and practices, and action on structural barriers. The review theme addressed women's participation and decision-making in public life and the elimination of violence against women and girls. GWNZ was represented by Perya Short as GWNZ Advocacy and CIR, alongside other GWNZ representatives, creating a strong delegation presence at CSW this year.

Benefits of Attendance

- GWNZ contributed to the international policy conversation on women's access to justice, including the intersections between justice, education, legal literacy, and structural discrimination.
- The delegation created direct opportunities to engage with New Zealand officials, other Aotearoa NGOs, Graduate Women International representatives, and global civil society organisations.
- Participation enabled GWNZ to identify which global commitments in the Agreed Conclusions have direct relevance for New Zealand, particularly around legal access, discrimination, public participation, violence prevention, and survivor-centred services.

- The presence of several GWNZ representatives supported intergenerational learning and helped connect youth, advocacy, education, and international workstreams.

Costs, Limitations, and Risks

- CSW attendance is resource intensive. Travel, accommodation, registration-related costs, time commitment, and preparation requirements are substantial for a volunteer-led organisation.
- The global forum is increasingly difficult to access equitably because of travel, visa, cost, security, and capacity barriers, meaning that participation can privilege those with resources and flexibility.
- The formal negotiations are controlled by Member States, so NGO influence is important but indirect; the practical value depends on strong preparation before CSW and disciplined follow-up afterwards.
- Global statements can be broad and politically negotiated, requiring further work to translate them into specific New Zealand advocacy priorities.

Assessment

On balance, attendance at CSW70 is beneficial for GWNZ, provided that the organisation treats attendance as part of a continuum rather than a stand-alone event. Its value lay in advocacy positioning, direct relationship-building, information gathering, and the ability to bring global commitments back into domestic discussions. The main risk is that attendance becomes symbolic rather than strategic. This year Perya tried to mitigate that risk by focusing on follow-up with Manatū Wāhine Ministry for Women and MFAT on the New Zealand implications of CSW outcomes.

Women Deliver 2026: Melbourne, April 2026

The Women Deliver 2026 Conference was held in Narm/Melbourne from 27 to 30 April 2026 and was the first Women Deliver conference hosted in the Oceanic Pacific region. It provided a major regional opportunity to connect GWNZ with feminist, youth led, First Nations, Pacific, health, climate justice, education, and human rights networks. The conference's emphasis on shifting power, movement-building, and regional leadership aligned strongly with GWNZ's education and advocacy mandate.

Benefits of Attendance

- Attendance placed GWNZ within a large regional and global gender equality convening at a time when the Oceanic Pacific voice was especially visible.
- The conference broadened the frame beyond formal UN negotiations, offering practical movement-building, regional networking, and thematic sessions on climate justice, gender-based violence, economic empowerment, First Nations leadership, youth leadership, and sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Melbourne's proximity to New Zealand made participation more accessible than New York and offered better opportunities for wider GWNZ member engagement.
- The event helped GWNZ link CSW outcomes to regional advocacy, particularly where access to justice intersects with climate, education, violence prevention, and economic security.

Costs, Limitations, and Risks

- Women Deliver is broad and high-energy; without clear objectives, the range of sessions and networks can dilute organisational focus.
- Not all conference themes map directly onto GWNZ's traditional strengths, so benefits depended on careful selection of sessions and disciplined reporting back to members.
- The scale of the conference can make relationship-building episodic unless contacts are followed up promptly and linked to concrete advocacy or partnership opportunities.

Assessment

Women Deliver was a valuable complement to CSW. Where CSW provided formal multilateral policy language, Women Deliver provided regional energy, practical movement-building, and a stronger Pacific context. For GWNZ, the benefit was greatest where the conference helped translate global gender equality commitments into regional and domestic action.

The main lesson from attending both CSW and Women Deliver is that GWNZ should approach future large conferences with defined objectives, a delegation plan, and a post-event implementation process.

International Women's Caucus Meetings

Throughout the reporting year, Perya Short participated in International Women's Caucus meetings in Wellington. These meetings provided an important domestic civil society bridge between international processes and New Zealand advocacy. They supported information sharing across women's organisations, preparation for CSW, discussion of the NGO delegate process, and follow-up on the implications of global gender equality commitments for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Benefits and Strategic Value

- The Caucus strengthened GWNZ's connection with other national women's organisations and helped ensure that GWNZ's voice was part of collective civil society representation.
- It provided a practical channel for sharing intelligence from CSW, Women Deliver, and Asia-Pacific discussions with New Zealand-based organisations.
- The meetings supported stronger engagement with Manatū Wāhine Ministry for Women and helped keep civil society perspectives visible in government-facing conversations.
- They gave GWNZ a forum for testing advocacy priorities, particularly around access to justice, women's leadership, violence prevention, and the relationship between education and rights.

Limitations

- Domestic caucus meetings can become discussion-heavy unless outcomes, responsibilities, and follow-up actions are clearly recorded.
- The value for GWNZ members may not be obvious unless reports from the meetings are translated into accessible updates, advocacy positions, or member engagement opportunities.
- There is a need to ensure GWNZ's international engagement remains connected to branch-level concerns and does not appear remote from members' everyday priorities.

Renewed Focus on the NGO Asia Pacific Forum

During the reporting year, conversations about the NGO Asia Pacific Forum and related regional civil society processes have become increasingly important. CSW70's priority theme exposed shared regional concerns: discriminatory laws and practices, uneven access to legal assistance, violence against women and girls, digital and economic barriers, climate-related insecurity, and the need for women's leadership in public decision-making. Renewed attention to Asia-Pacific civil society coordination offers GWNZ an opportunity to contribute a New Zealand education and advocacy perspective while learning from Pacific and Asian partners.

Benefits and Risks

- **Benefits:** The Asia-Pacific focus can help GWNZ avoid an overly New York-centred model of international engagement and strengthen regional solidarity on issues that directly affect Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific.
- **Benefits:** It offers a route for sustained advocacy between annual CSW sessions and can create opportunities for shared submissions, regional statements, and knowledge exchange.
- **Risks:** Regional forums can be resource-intensive and may duplicate other networks unless GWNZ is clear about its unique contribution.
- **Risks:** GWNZ will need to ensure any renewed engagement is realistic for volunteer capacity and aligned with its constitutional purposes and member priorities.

Engagement with Manatū Wāhine Ministry for Women and MFAT

A key achievement of the year has been the increased engagement led by Perya Short between GWNZ, Manatū Wāhine Ministry for Women, and MFAT. This engagement has been particularly important in relation to CSW70 outcomes and their impact in New Zealand. The central question has been how commitments on access to justice, women's participation in public life, and the elimination of violence can be reflected in New Zealand policy, civil society advocacy, and international reporting. Through these conversations, GWNZ has been better positioned as a constructive, education-focused civil society partner able to connect global commitments with domestic realities.

The benefits of this engagement include earlier awareness of government priorities, clearer channels for civil society feedback, and stronger opportunities to advocate on issues that affect women and girls in New Zealand. These include access to legal information and representation, protection from violence, education as a pathway to justice, participation in public decision-making, and the experiences of women facing intersecting barriers. The limitation is that engagement with Ministries must be sustained and evidence-based; occasional meetings will not be enough unless GWNZ maintains clear priorities and provides practical, well-supported recommendations.

Graduate Women International Fundraising Committee

Perya Short contributed to Graduate Women International's fundraising work from the perspective of GWNZ's international engagement, advocacy priorities, and practical fundraising experience. Between October 2025 and October 2026, this work built on her representation of GWNZ at the GWI 35th Triennial General Assembly and Conference in Zambia and her dual GWNZ leadership responsibilities as International (CIR) and Advocacy Lead. During this period, her involvement in the GWI Fundraising Committee supported efforts to strengthen international collaboration, promote fundraising for girls' and women's

education, and connect New Zealand's experience in advocacy and charitable fundraising with GWI's wider mission of expanding educational opportunity for women and girls globally.

Overall Analysis: Benefits, Challenges, and Organisational Value

The international activities undertaken during 2025–2026 have supported GWNZ's visibility and connectedness. They have enabled the organisation to move between global policy, regional movement-building, national civil society coordination, and government engagement.

The strongest benefits are reputational, relational, and strategic: GWNZ has been present where gender equality priorities are being shaped, has connected with organisations facing similar challenges, and has brought back insights that can inform New Zealand advocacy. The challenges are equally clear. International engagement requires time, funding, preparation, and follow-through. If GWNZ attends major events without a defined purpose, the return on investment will be limited. If, however, attendance is planned around priority themes, reporting obligations, member education, and government advocacy, the benefits can be substantial.

4.5 Branches: Manawatu, Otago, Wellington

Graduate Women Manawatū (GWM) Annual Report, 2025-2026

Dr Jo Innes, President, GWM

Period: 1st July 2025 to 30th June 2026

Who we are

Graduate Women Manawatū is a small, active branch with a diverse membership. We had 35 members, as of 30th June 2026, including life members, graduate members, post graduate student members and undergraduate student members. Over the past year we have welcomed 13 new members.

Offering high-value events, awards and applying a systematic process to new membership requests is working for the branch. A join us request is followed up with a welcome email which includes links to the website, events & the GWNZ + GWM newsletters; plus, options for connecting with branch members.

My thanks to the hard-working branch committee for 2025-2026 with members taking on a number of roles: Jane Russell Bowen (NCW liaison, events), Emma Le Lievre (events), Gretta Mills (Treasurer, Charitable Trust liaison), Annu Mehta (Friendship Bridge convenor), Vicki Gifkins (communications), Micaela Buckley (events), Megan Hooper Smith (President elect, events).

Highlights for the 2025/2026 year

GWM had the opportunity to host the 40th GWNZ and GWNZ CT AGM, 3-4 October 2025. Held at the Manawatū Golf Club, we hosted a panel discussion on the Friday night, followed

by the AGM and workshops on the Saturday. All up, 37 people attended the weekend including 26 members. A silent auction generated \$500 for the GWI - Hegg Hoffett Fund for Displaced Women Graduates.

The other highlight for the year was the finalization of the GWM Constitution (20 November 2025); with final approval being received on 17 March 2026. Thank you to Gretta Mills and Susan Stein for your leadership and work in achieving this important document.

Activity

GWM contributes to the purpose of GWNZ by undertaking initiatives that align with the three pillars: Think, Act, Connect

Think

Our education activities offer local scholarships and events that make us THINK. Some highlights are noted below:

Workshops

Practical Prompting – A hands on AI workshop (26 July 2025) lead by Value 32 from Wellington provided an introduction to AI and some valuable resources. This workshop was repeated for the wider GWNZ membership at the AGM (4 Oct 2025).

Research Symposium

GWM hosted a face-to-face Research Symposium (6 September 2025). Working with Massey University, we invited five speakers from early career researchers to experienced researchers. Our guest speaker was Associate Professor Claire Matthews, talking on 'Balancing academic ambition with wellbeing | Navigating gender bias in academia.'

Awards

GWM offered a Travel Award, valued at \$1,000, for the first time in 2026. The award assists Graduate Women Manawātū members to advance their careers through travel. The Award raised the profile of GWM and encouraged some new members. We are offering the award again in 2027.

Act

We are passionate about making a difference in the lives of women, particularly as it relates to education. We show we are advocates by taking Action within our community.

In 2025, GWM supported a driving programme offered by ELP, Levin; designed to assist Latino women with children achieve their Learner's License. As the programme was shown to be effective, we extended our support into 2026, to support these women achieve their Restricted License.

Our social project for 2026/2027 will focus on women and mental health. We have approached two community organisations to submit a proposal for support. MASH Trust is an established charity providing support services for people with mental health conditions. The HOPE Collective is a new trust dedicated to supporting the maternal/perinatal mental health and wellbeing of pregnant māmā and new parents in the Manawātū.

Connect

GWNZ is a community, connecting at the branch, national and international levels. Our branch is a vibrant space where women can connect, build relationships and flourish.

For members, we offer monthly events and ad-hoc social activities such as film evenings and social catch ups. Our members also stay connected via the monthly branch newsletter, GWM Facebook and the GWM What's Ap. We connect with local like-minded women's groups such as National Council of Women and Zonta International by participating in their events and adding items of interest to each other's newsletters.

We have relaunched the GWM Friendship Bridge. Supported by Massey University, this group facilitates the connection between members and international post graduate students at the university. Our first event for the year held on 13 May 2026, was a 3MT style speech competition. Ten participants presented their research and shared their thoughts on how their research has the potential to impact the world. The winner received \$500 and an opportunity to present at the GWM Research Symposium.

We connect with our local community and raise the profile of GWNZ by offering events of interest to the public for example the Practical Prompting AI workshop. We have also presented on GWNZ to like-minded groups, for example NZ College of Mid-Wives, Manawatū subregion and Manawatū Women Accountants.

Future Thoughts

As a small branch, we have an active committee offering a range of initiatives to meet the diverse interests and needs of our members while lifting the profile of GWNZ in our community. Over the year we have recruited younger graduates to the branch committee and look forward to seeing where they take the branch in the coming year.

Dr Jo Innes

President, GWM

3 September 2026

Graduate Women Otago (GWO) Annual Report, 2025-2026

Barbara Benson, Acting President, GWO

Who we are

At 105 we are the oldest branch of GWNZ. We are also the largest. We are an active branch with a monthly meeting held on the 4th Thursday of the month (but not in January, May or December), along with some special events throughout the year. Total membership numbers sat at 120 at the end of the 2025-2026 financial year, with the following demographic spread: 50 graduate, 67 postgraduate and 3 student members.

The GWO Committee is made up of committed members who give their time, expertise and interest at all times. As Acting President, I acknowledge the significant contribution made by each of them: Margaret Bahr, Nadja Baker, Julia Camilli, Christine Clegg, Shirley Gillett, Jules Gross, Julia Lawrence, Linda Robertson, and Phoebe Rose Osborne. Barbara Benson became Acting President due to the newly elected President, Nadja Baker, being overseas till late December 2025. Unfortunately, in February of this year, Nadja had an accident which resulted in her experiencing ongoing concussion, as a result Barbara Benson has been in the role of Acting President since the AGM last year.

A number of members are holding national and international roles in the organisation. We are delighted to report that Shirley Gillett is a GWI Vice President and a member of the GWI Board for a second, three-year term. Barbara Benson and Jules Gross are both on the GWNZ Charitable Trust, with Barbara becoming the Charitable Trust Chair in November 2025, and she now represents the Trust on the GWNZ National Executive. Barbara and Christine Clegg have represented the branch at National Executive meetings as the GWO Council member this year.

We were disappointed to learn in late March 2026, that Otila Osborne had resigned from the position of GWNZ President. We thank her for her short contribution to the national body. We thank her for her complete refresh of the GWO website, launched in October 2025. It now has a more modern, fresh look, and revised organisation. We also thank Phoebe Rose Osborne for her contribution to the website refresh.

We thank our members who come to assist with gowning sessions at graduation time. Without this source of income, we would not be able to do what we do in terms of a range of donations and activities. We have a strong donor philosophy and take pride in what we do. In particular, we thank Jules Gross, Walter Lawrence, and Christine Clegg for their respective roles in the academic dress hire activity of GWO.

Tribute

It is with deep sadness that we have recorded the death of Anne Cuthbertson who was the Academic Dress Accountant for 12 years, 1995-2007. She had excellent accounting skills, was meticulous and brought a warm smile to all that she did.

Highlights

1. Nine meetings with excellent keynote speakers
2. In February we reviewed and registered a new GWO Constitution to meet the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022
3. International Women's Day Breakfast in March, where we joined with the University of Otago Staff Women's Caucus who were the organisers, with speaker Jackie Bannon from The Bowling Club community eatery in Caversham.
4. CSW70 presentations were held at our GWO Gowning Room where Shirley, Anna, Ioanna, Phoebe Rose and Otila shared their learnings and experiences from the meeting
5. Funded \$117,350 in awards, scholarships and donations: comprising \$40,680 in 16 Travel Awards, \$36,000 as scholarships, \$9,770 in Community Awards, \$13,500 in donations, and \$17,400 in travel support for 4 members to CSW70
6. Sponsors of the annual Suffrage Lecture held at the University of Otago
7. GWO website refresh launched in October 2025, thank you to Otila and to Phoebe Rose for your contribution and to the Myth website developers
8. Participation by members in the Pacific NFA Regional online discussion in March and the Advocacy meeting online in August 2026
9. Three Otago students awarded GWNZ Fellowships in 2025
10. Congratulations to Professor Emeritus Jocelyn Harris who was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Literature in August by the University of Otago for her lifetime work and contribution to literature and its academic study.

Looking Forward and our 2026 – 2027 Focus

We continue to work towards the implementation of our digital stock control system in Academic Dress Hire. This is a considerable branch investment in our business, and it will increase our efficiency in the processing of items during graduation hiring sessions, and in annual stock taking.

Our 2026 – 2027 priorities are on growing membership, increasing GWO visibility, and organisational awareness. We will continue our social media postings and celebrate our new website. Both illustrate the 'impression' of GWO and contribute to enhanced communication with existing and potential members.

Barbara J Benson
Acting President, GWO

GWO 2025 – 2026 Meetings Speakers

2025

September: panel of the **four GWNZ delegates** at the GWI 38th Triennial General Assembly and Conference: Lusaka, Zambia, 11-13 September 2025.

Shirley Gillett, Anna Campbell, Alyson Manning and Perya Short shared their findings and impressions of the business and conference proceedings.

October: Dr Jane Malthus, curator of the fashion exhibition *Eden in Dunedin* at Toitu (Settlers Museum) shared her lifetime work on what is now the Eden Hore Collection.

November: Perya Short GWNZ CIR and Shirley Gillett former GWNZ CIR shared with us their experiences at, and learnings from the GWI 38th Triennial General Assembly and Conference in Lusaka, Zambia where the priority theme was: **Building the Future: Integrating Culture, Education, and Empowerment for Sustainability**. Shirley also updated us on the new GWI Board and the focus of the 39th Triennium.

2026

February: Dr Liz Breslin a Dunedin resident, poet, writer, and published author. Liz was granted a GWO Travel Award in 2025. Her third book "*show you're working out*" was published in mid-2025.

March: Dr Angela Clark: Forensic anthropologist at the University of Otago: *Saying Yes to Opportunities: My Journey from Graduate Women Otago to Academia and International Governance*.

April: Special Event: We heard from each of our members who were delegates to CSW70 (Commission on the Status of Women) at the United Nations in New York in early March. The delegates are;

Graduate Women International: Shirley Gillett, Ioanna Katiforis and Otila Osborne.

Pacific Women's Watch: Anna Campbell, and Phoebe Rose Osborne.

June: Professor Janine Hayward from the Politics Department at the University of Otago. In this election year, she reviewed New Zealand voting systems, including 30 years of MMP.

July: Emma Neale shared with us her life as a writer and a poet. She has published seven novels, seven poetry collections and a short fiction collection and won multiple awards for her work.

August: Alannah Corson Keogh and Isabel Mooney two of our Travel Award recipients both attended the Association of Psychological Science (APS) 2026 Annual Convention in Barcelona, Spain, where they shared their qualitative research exploring how undergraduate university student's beliefs about mental health may act as barriers to their seeking help and their progression to actually getting help.

Graduate Women Wellington (GWW) Annual Report, 2025-2026

Janet Stribling, President, GWW

Who we are: Graduate Women Wellington was established in 1922. We are a medium-sized Branch, and membership is drawn from Wellington City, Hutt Valley and Kapiti area.

Members meet monthly at Rutherford House, Pipitea Campus of VUW, with a speaker, and the Branch AGM is held in October. We connect with members and interested women through a newsletter. Our meetings can usually be accessed via Zoom also and we are pleased that members from other branches also join from time to time.

Membership We currently have 46 Graduate members, including 1 Member Emerita, 3 Associate and 5 Student members. There are also 18 honorary members who are GWW awardees.

Executive Committee The 2025-26 Committee has comprised of Janet Stribling (President), Trish Keeper (Secretary) Loree Kallinen (Treasurer) Heather Rae (Membership Secretary), Rosanna Rahman (Awards and Scholarships), Rae Duff (GWW-CT), Ellie Johnson, Bhavika Sharma and Jane Colhoun. We were delighted that Ellie and Bhavika stepped up as they were scholarship awardees and have made a significant contribution to the branch.

Barbara Mabbett

It was with sadness we noted the passing of one of our longstanding members. **Barbara Mabbett** was an educationalist and long-time supporter of GWW- even attending international meetings.

She was a long-standing and valued member of the Graduate Women's organisations in New Zealand. She joined in 1954 and remained a member until 2020. Over the years she was active in several branches, including the Auckland Branch (1954–1968), Hutt Valley Branch (1972–1979), and later Graduate Women Wellington (1979–2020). She served on the branch committee and was President from 1995 to 1997, later serving as Vice-President.

Highlights:

Think

Our monthly meetings have been varied and interesting with speakers, theatre trips and meals. We are pleased to combine with other sister organisations for events on occasions. All speakers have prompted many questions and discussions.

We joined with National Council of Women (Wellington) and Zonta (Wellington) for our Annual Women's debate. This year we titled it Vision for Women and Girls in Aotearoa. Candidates from 5 parties gave their policies on topics pertaining to women. On a personal level most didn't differ and it is always encouraging to see the cooperation between female MPs.

A highlight of our programme is sharing a meal with our awardees and their whānau and friends. They always inspire as they speak of their academic journey, work, research and aspirations.

Perya Short (GWW and a member of the GWI delegation) attended CSW70 in New York in March and spoke to us of her experiences, impressions and achievements of the commission. She also attended the 35th Triennial General Assembly and conference of GWI in Zambia. We were fascinated to hear from her about the meeting at our AGM last year.

GWW funded Laura Oei in the Otago University Summer Research Project, and she and her supervisor, Associate Professor Kirsty Danielson spoke about the research topic: Extracellular Vesicles and their effect on Triple Negative Breast Cancer.

GWNZ Harriette Jenkins awardee Teresa Salter has continued to be an online part of our branch from Auckland and participates in that way.

Connect

Rosanna Rahman, Rae Duff, Janet Stribling, Clare McAloon Balfour and Mary Trounson have met with awardees at functions at VUW and also WelTec as well as Whitireia Graduations. We are continuing to work with VUW Post-Graduate Student's Association and sponsored the best female at the 3-minute Thesis competition. All this builds awareness and profile of GWW and we see this as important for the future of our organisation

We held a Women in Leadership breakfast for Postgraduate women and members with the guest speaker, Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy a former Governor General and current Chair of the Climate Change Commission. She was in conversation with Dr Rosanna Rahman and this covered, among other things, how she achieved leadership positions in formerly male dominated areas.

Ebbe Anderson from the Wellington Women's House which is a non-religious, women-centred organisation that provides temporary housing for single women who need support spoke about how The House caters to a range of women in need; homeless women, women sheltering from domestic violence, women recovering from substance issues and also women in transition in need of support having just moved to a new city. Members brought supermarket vouchers and supplies for the women especially to take with them as they leave the security of WWH.

Taslim Parsons spoke about the scope of her **Yes for Success** charity which provides services to people in the Wellington region to build the skills and confidence they need to reach their aspirations in work and life. Their programmes include: get ready for work course, careers advice, work experience, success workshops, styling and clothing support. Members brought suitable clothing to donate.

Dr Leanne Ivil (operation manager of WelTec/Whitireia spoke of the changes in the Polytechnic sector of tertiary education and how Wellington region will come through this.

Rae Duff is the EO of Grad Gear, our GWW Charitable Trust that distributes money to women and girls through hiring of regalia. We enjoy getting together in Graduation weeks and helping with the distribution and collection of the gear. This year we have held sewing bees to mend gowns and hoods and this is a good social time too. The Trust disbursed

thirty-two awards and scholarships to the value of \$168,000 according to eight specific objectives, all with a focus on education.

VUW held two graduations this year – May and December.

GWW has representation at GWNZ with, Rachel Baskerville Treasurer National Executive, Sally Hasell Secretary GWNZ-CT, Perya Short (Advocacy/International), Janet Stribling GWNZ Council and Charitable Trust.

Janet Stribling, and Sally Hasell participated in the GWNZ-CT scholarships selection panel.

Members have participated in online meetings/webinars of GWNZ. Thanks to Rae Duff for her leadership in this area.

We try to cater for all and have dinners to celebrate achievements but we will continue to look at ways to attract younger people and make our meetings and branch goals relevant and purposeful as well as increase participation in advocacy. Our strengths are our relationships with the tertiary institutions in Wellington, especially VUW and also our close relationship with our charitable Trust.

Warm regards,

Janet Stribling

President, Graduate Women Wellington

4.6 Independent Members' Network

Lorelle George, Convenor

Who are we

The GWNZ Independent Members' Network offers a flexible option for women graduates and undergraduates who wish to join GWNZ but may not have access to a local Branch. The Network sits alongside the three Branches in Palmerston North (Manawatu), Wellington, and Dunedin (Otago). As an important part of GWNZ, Network members are able to connect with the wider organisation locally, nationally, and globally through Graduate Women International.

The Independent Member option has proven to be especially beneficial for women in remote or rural areas, those living internationally, or individuals who wish to remain connected to GWNZ without the structure of branch activities – offering a fantastic way to stay connected and engaged.

It aims to provide an online option that also offers our pillars of *Think, Act and Connect* which are the cornerstone of Graduate Women's mission to empower women through education.

Reflecting on the 2025-26 Year

I look back on the year with huge satisfaction as our membership has grown from 20 members in 2025 to 50 members this financial year. Our members live in all corners of New Zealand, from Whangarei in the north to Christchurch in the south; and one member is currently studying at Monash University in Melbourne. Several members have transferred from the North Shore Branch, which sadly closed in June 2025, to the Network and it was invaluable to be able to offer the Network so that these members could remain part of GWNZ.

Postgraduate members make up almost half our membership this year, highlighting the appeal of being part of a national organization for graduate women that can offer support and professional development opportunities for those who are not able to be part of a branch environment.

Virtual gatherings offer a chance to connect, collaborate, and exchange ideas in an inclusive and supportive environment. Over the past twelve months we have offered three webinars, with two more scheduled for the remainder of 2026:

- In September 2025 Bex Howells, an immediate past GW member, spoke on the topic "Undervalued to Unstoppable: Reclaiming Women's Economic Power" based on her Masters' research challenging the undervaluing of women's work, for example in such professions where there is an unpaid practicum component of study.
- In March 2026 Menna Mohamed, a GWO member, spoke on her involvement with Graduate Women International's Young Members' Network, discussing ideas around engaging more actively at the global level
- In June Rev Sarah Pidgeon, an IMN member, provided a snapshot of her research entitled "Nobody heard us: the case of Ms T & Ms S – A theological approach to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care in Aotearoa New Zealand"

While attendances have been reasonably small, these virtual ‘meet-ups’ have been an opportunity to not only be exposed to a variety of research areas, but they also offer the opportunity to discuss and consider these topics during the Q&A at the conclusion of the presentation. I personally have enjoyed meeting members whose names I have only known through emails and also catching up with those members I have known for some time but do not see outside of AGMs and webinars.

While the webinars are designed for IMN members, I commend the webinars to all members, and I look forward to meeting you at the next series of webinars, next year! Do join us to be inspired and connected.

Looking ahead

The GWNZ IM virtual network breaks down the geographical barriers facing members living at a distance from a branch. It enables members to keep in touch, to feel a sense of belonging and to contribute to a national and international organisation. For example, in the year ahead we are looking at ways for members to have more input in the advocacy space. Continuing to grow the network remains a goal, as is continuing to support and empower members who are an important part of the wider GWNZ community.

Lorelle George
Convenor
GWNZ Independent Members’ Network

5. Annual Report for the GWNZ Charitable Trust, 2026

Barbara Benson, Chair

Awards

The Trust awarded 7 Fellowships of \$10,000 each to Michaela Hughes, Sarahmarie Kuroko, Emma Le Lievre, Isabella Patrick, Jane Reeves, Kisha September, and Ann Way (Huynh Trieu An Tran).

There were many excellent applications, making the selection panel's decision far from easy. Their fields of study span genetics, psychology, midwifery, climate change, medicine, dance therapy, and dance pedagogy. These are a wide range of topics of value to the future wellbeing of women and their families.

Three Susan Byrne awards of \$5,000 each were made to Victoria Sinclair, Toni McFelin, and Christabel Wagner. All recipients are undertaking tertiary studies – in Speech Language Therapy Landscape Design, and International Development and Planning,

A Harriette Jenkins award of \$5,000 was made to Teresa Salter, a member of Graduate Women Wellington. She is undertaking research for a Doctorate in Education which focuses on young single Māma's experiences within the primary school system.

The Mildred Keir second chance award (our only undergraduate award) of \$3,000 which New Horizons for Women Hine Kahukura administers on our behalf, went to Cayla Christni from Northland, who is studying for a Bachelor of Accounting at the Open Polytechnic.

Trustees

Jo Innes in her role as Scholarship Officer, reviewed and updated the website information for our awards. We are very sorry to be farewelling Jo from this support role for the GWNZ Trust and profusely thank her for her expertise and commitment to the Trust and all our online systems. Jules Gross (GWO) who joined the Trust at the 2024 AGM has kindly agreed to take over the Scholarships Support role.

We extend many thanks to Sally Hasell who is leaving us at the 2026 AGM. Sally has served as both Trust Chair and Trust Secretary, always with meticulous attention to detail. I especially thank her for supporting me in my first year as Trust Chair. Many thanks to each of the Trustees for their contribution to our work and to our awards selection panels.

Funds and donations

Noza Djalolova has completed her first year as our Trust Treasurer.

Donations from the Otago Branch, Wellington Branch and Manawatu Charitable Trust totalling \$80,000 were gratefully received and will be distributed this August.



Barbara J Benson

Chair, GWNZ Charitable Trust

6. Election of National Executive 2026-2027

National Executive consists of 10 positions: President, Immediate Past President, Vice Presidents, x6 others. President, IPP & VP may serve for a total of six years (2 years in each position); Other members of National Executive may serve for up to 3 consecutive terms of 2 years (6 years in total).

National Executive position /role	Existing members and term in current role	Continuing/ Appointed 2026-27	Nomination 2026-27
President/Acting President	Lorelle George, IMN (Mar-Oct) 2026		Sarah Lockwood, IMN (Co-opted Sept 26)
Immediate Past President	Otila Osborne, GWO (Oct) 25 – (Mar) 26		
Vice-President	Lorelle George, IMN (Oct) 20 – (Mar) 26		Perya Short, GWW
Secretary			Sonya Giles, GWW
Treasurer			Yvette Absalom, IMN
International Convenor	Perya Short, GWW 2025-26	Perya Short, GWW	
Advocacy Convenor	Perya Short, GWW 2024-26		Anna Campbell, GWO
Member (GWNZ Charitable Trust)	Barbara Benson, GWO 2025-26	Barbara Benson, GWO	
Member (GWNZ Charitable Trust)	Noza Djalolova, GWW 2025-26	Noza Djalolova, GWW	
COUNCIL			
Graduate Women Manawātū President	Jo Innes, GWM 2019-26		Megan Hooper-Smith, GWM
Graduate Women Wellington President	Janet Stribling, GWW 2021-26		(New) President, GWW
Graduate Women Otago President	Nadja Baker, GWO 2025-26	Nadja Baker, GWO	
Independent Members' Network Convenor	Lorelle George 2025-26	Lorelle George, IMN	
OFFICERS			
Marketing/ Membership			TBA
News Editor			TBA
Archives			TBA

6.1 Nomination Form, Sarah Lockwood, President



Graduate Women New Zealand,
PO Box 2006,
Wellington 6140

GWNZ Nomination | National Executive

I am happy to be nominated for a position on GWNZ National Executive for the term 2026-2028 and confirm I am a current GWNZ financial member.

NE Position: President

Name: Sarah Lockwood

Branch/Independent Member: IMN

Email: sarah.lockwood@toiohomai.ac.nz

Mobile number: 027 5516919

Nominated By [must be current financial GWNZ member]:

Branch/Independent Member: Lorelle George, IMN Convenor

Signature:



I agree to my name being published for distribution to GWNZ members.

Signed:



Date: 18.09.2026

Please email the completed form to president@gwnz.org.nz by _____

Addendum: Certificate of Eligibility

I certify that I am a financial member and that I am not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member under Clauses 16.2 (1–7) or Clause 16.3(b) of the GWNZ Constitution 2025 and the Incorporated Societies Act 2024:

GWNZ Constitution

16.2. Qualifications

Prior to election or appointment, every National Executive member must consent in writing to be a National Executive member and certify in writing that they are not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member by this Constitution or the Act.

The following persons are disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member:

1. a person who is under 16 years of age,
2. a person who is an undischarged bankrupt,
3. a person who is prohibited from being a director or promoter of, or being concerned or taking part in the management of, an incorporated or unincorporated body under the Companies Act 1993, the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013 or the Takeovers Act 1993.
4. a person who has been convicted of any of the following, and has been sentenced for the offence, within the last 7 years:
 - a. an offence under subpart 6 of Part 4,
 - b. a crime involving dishonesty (within the meaning of section 2(1) of the Crimes Act 1961),
 - c. an offence under section 143B of the Tax Administration Act 1994,
 - d. an offence, in a country other than New Zealand, that is substantially similar to an offence specified in subparagraphs (i) to (iii),
 - e. a money laundering offence or an offence relating to the financing of terrorism, whether in New Zealand or elsewhere,
5. a person subject to:
 - a. a banning order under subpart 7 of Part 4 of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022;
 - b. or an order under section 108 of the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003;
 - c. or a forfeiture order under the Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act 2009;
 - d. or a property order made under the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988, or whose property is managed by a trustee corporation under section 32 of that Act.

6. a person who is subject to an order that is substantially similar to an order referred to in paragraphs above, under a law of a country, State, or territory outside New Zealand that is a country, State, or territory prescribed by the regulations (if any) of the new Incorporated Societies Act.
7. Any person who is disqualified or does not comply with any qualifications for officers as prescribed from time to time by a resolution of the National Executive.

16.3. Election or appointment

The election of National Executive members shall be conducted as follows:

- a. National Executive members shall be elected during Annual General Meetings. However, if a vacancy in the position of any National Executive member occurs between Annual General Meetings, that vacancy shall be filled by resolution of the National Executive (and any such appointee must, before appointment, supply a signed consent to appointment and a certificate that the nominee is not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member by this Constitution or the Act).
- b. A candidate's written nomination, accompanied by the written consent of the nominee (who must be a financial member) with a certificate that the nominee is not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member by this Constitution or the Act, shall be received by the Secretary at least 30 Working Days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. If there are insufficient valid nominations received, further nominations may be received from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.

I understand that my nomination and consent must be received by the President at least 30 Working Days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

Signature:



Date: 18.09.2026

6.2 Nomination Form, Sonya Giles, Secretary

GWNZ Nomination | National Executive

I am happy to be nominated for a position on GWNZ National Executive for the term 2026-2028 and confirm I am a current GWNZ financial member.

NE Position: Secretary

Name: Sonya Giles

Branch/Independent Member: Wellington

Email: srwgiles@gmail.com

Mobile number: 0274144775

I'm a Wellington-based lawyer, strategist, and career public servant. I'm seeking nomination to this role because I'm passionate about governance and keen to deepen my involvement in my local community and support women's ability to access and thrive in education.

Nominated By [must be current financial GWNZ member]:

Branch/Independent Member: Lorelle George

Signature:



I agree to my name being published for distribution to GWNZ members.

Signed:



Date: 25/09/2026

Please email the completed form to president@gwnz.org.nz by _____

Addendum: Certificate of Eligibility

I certify that I am a financial member and that I am not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member under Clauses 16.2 (1–7) or Clause 16.3(b) of the GWNZ Constitution 2025 and the Incorporated Societies Act 2024:

GWNZ Constitution

16.2. Qualifications

Prior to election or appointment, every National Executive member must consent in writing to be a National Executive member and certify in writing that they are not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member by this Constitution or the Act.

The following persons are disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member:

8. a person who is under 16 years of age,
9. a person who is an undischarged bankrupt,
10. a person who is prohibited from being a director or promoter of, or being concerned or taking part in the management of, an incorporated or unincorporated body under the Companies Act 1993, the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013 or the Takeovers Act 1993.
11. a person who has been convicted of any of the following, and has been sentenced for the offence, within the last 7 years:
 - b. an offence under subpart 6 of Part 4,
 - f. a crime involving dishonesty (within the meaning of section 2(1) of the Crimes Act 1961),
 - g. an offence under section 143B of the Tax Administration Act 1994,
 - h. an offence, in a country other than New Zealand, that is substantially similar to an offence specified in subparagraphs (i) to (iii),
 - i. a money laundering offence or an offence relating to the financing of terrorism, whether in New Zealand or elsewhere,
12. a person subject to:
 - a. a banning order under subpart 7 of Part 4 of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022;
 - b. or an order under section 108 of the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003;
 - c. or a forfeiture order under the Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act 2009;
 - d. or a property order made under the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988, or whose property is managed by a trustee corporation under section 32 of that Act.

13. a person who is subject to an order that is substantially similar to an order referred to in paragraphs above, under a law of a country, State, or territory outside New Zealand that is a country, State, or territory prescribed by the regulations (if any) of the new Incorporated Societies Act.
14. Any person who is disqualified or does not comply with any qualifications for officers as prescribed from time to time by a resolution of the National Executive.

16.3. Election or appointment

The election of National Executive members shall be conducted as follows:

- c. National Executive members shall be elected during Annual General Meetings. However, if a vacancy in the position of any National Executive member occurs between Annual General Meetings, that vacancy shall be filled by resolution of the National Executive (and any such appointee must, before appointment, supply a signed consent to appointment and a certificate that the nominee is not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member by this Constitution or the Act).
- d. A candidate's written nomination, accompanied by the written consent of the nominee (who must be a financial member) with a certificate that the nominee is not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member by this Constitution or the Act, shall be received by the Secretary at least 30 Working Days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. If there are insufficient valid nominations received, further nominations may be received from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.

I understand that my nomination and consent must be received by the President at least 30 Working Days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

Signature:



Date: 25/09/2026



6.3 Nomination Form, Perya Short, Vice President



**Graduate
Women**
New Zealand

Graduate Women New Zealand,
PO Box 2006,
Wellington 6140

GWNZ Nomination | National Executive

I am happy to be nominated for a position on GWNZ National Executive for the term 2026-27 and confirm I am a current GWNZ financial member.

NE Position: Vice President

Name: Perya Short

Branch/Independent Member: Wellington

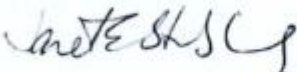
Email: perya.short@sofconsult.co.nz

Mobile number: +6427 2645361

I've been serving on the NE since being elected in 2024 to be the Advocacy Officer, and last year, being elected to be the CIR also. So I would bring a few year's experience of the NE's systems and processes to being Vice President, as well as my professional background. That includes strategic thought leadership, business planning, wide engagement in New Zealand's education system and its overseas connections.

Nominated By: Janet Stribling

Branch/Independent Member: Wellington

Signature: 

I agree to my name being published for distribution to GWNZ members.



Signed:

Date: 27 August 2026

Please email the completed form to president@gwnz.org.nz by 10 September 2026



Addendum: Certificate of Eligibility

I certify that I am a financial member and that I am not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member under Clauses 16.2 (1–7) or Clause 16.3(b) of the GWNZ Constitution 2025 and the Incorporated Societies Act 2024:

GWNZ Constitution

16.2. Qualifications

Prior to election or appointment, every National Executive member must consent in writing to be a National Executive member and certify in writing that they are not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member by this Constitution or the Act.

The following persons are disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member:

1. a person who is under 16 years of age,
2. a person who is an undischarged bankrupt,
3. a person who is prohibited from being a director or promoter of, or being concerned or taking part in the management of, an incorporated or unincorporated body under the Companies Act 1993, the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013 or the Takeovers Act 1993.
4. a person who has been convicted of any of the following, and has been sentenced for the offence, within the last 7 years:
 - a. an offence under subpart 6 of Part 4,
 - b. a crime involving dishonesty (within the meaning of section 2(1) of the Crimes Act 1961),
 - c. an offence under section 143B of the Tax Administration Act 1994,
 - d. an offence, in a country other than New Zealand, that is substantially similar to an offence specified in subparagraphs (i) to (iii),
 - e. a money laundering offence or an offence relating to the financing of terrorism, whether in New Zealand or elsewhere,
5. a person subject to:
 - a. a banning order under subpart 7 of Part 4 of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022;
 - b. or an order under section 108 of the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003;
 - c. or a forfeiture order under the Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act 2009;
 - d. or a property order made under the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988, or whose property is managed by a trustee corporation under section 32 of that Act.
6. a person who is subject to an order that is substantially similar to an order referred to in paragraphs above, under a law of a country, State, or territory outside New Zealand that is a country, State, or territory prescribed by the regulations (if any) of the new Incorporated Societies Act.



7. Any person who is disqualified or does not comply with any qualifications for officers as prescribed from time to time by a resolution of the National Executive.

16.3. Election or appointment

The election of National Executive members shall be conducted as follows:

- a. National Executive members shall be elected during Annual General Meetings. However, if a vacancy in the position of any National Executive member occurs between Annual General Meetings, that vacancy shall be filled by resolution of the National Executive (and any such appointee must, before appointment, supply a signed consent to appointment and a certificate that the nominee is not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member by this Constitution or the Act).
- b. A candidate's written nomination, accompanied by the written consent of the nominee (who must be a financial member) with a certificate that the nominee is not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member by this Constitution or the Act, shall be received by the Secretary at least 30 Working Days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. If there are insufficient valid nominations received, further nominations may be received from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.

I understand that my nomination and consent must be received by the President at least 30 Working Days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

Signature:

Date: 27 August 2026

6.4 Nomination Form, Anna Campbell, Advocacy Convenor



Graduate Women New Zealand,
PO Box 2006,
Wellington 6140

GWNZ Nomination | National Executive

I am happy to be nominated for a position on GWNZ National Executive for the term 2026-2028 and confirm I am a current GWNZ financial member.

NE Position: Advocacy

Name: Anna Campbell

Branch Member: Graduate Women Otago

Email: anna@beekeeper.org.nz

Mobile number: 0273522929

Anna Campbell has over 10 years of NGO experience aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. As a volunteer and professional she has held roles on the executives of Graduate Women Otago, NCW Dunedin, the Hone Tuwhare Trust and the Hoiho Governance Group. As General Manager of Te Tautiaki Hoiho Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, Anna campaigned publicly to protect hoiho at sea as well as supporting wildlife recovery and conservation projects across Te Waipounamu, Rakiura and the sub-Antarctic. An early career highlight was raising \$2M in equity for a social enterprise, which led to cocoa sourcing in PNG and the Solomon Islands. She is engaged in doctoral research on sustainability transitions and holds degrees in international business and art history from Otago. As a student she was a delegate to the World Business Dialogue in Cologne while studying global management and French at Grenoble École de Management. More recently Anna has been an NGO representative at CSW in New York, the UN Ocean Conference in Nice and the GWI Triennial and Conference in Zambia.

A proud Southland Girls' High alumna, Anna was named the 2025 Gattung Foundation Young Enterprise Alumna of the Year and profiled by the Climate High-Level Champions. She enjoys beekeeping and strives to be a good mother, kaitiaki and global citizen.



**Graduate
Women**
New Zealand

Graduate Women New Zealand
PO Box 2006
Wellington 6140

Nominated By [must be current financial GWNZ member]: Barbara Benson

Branch Member: Graduate Women Otago

Signature:

Date: 16 September 2026

I agree to my name being published for distribution to GWNZ members.

Signed:

Date: 11/09/2026

Please email the completed form to president@gwnz.org.nz by 11/09/2026



Addendum: Certificate of Eligibility

I certify that I am a financial member and that I am not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member under Clauses 16.2 (1–7) or Clause 16.3(b) of the GWNZ Constitution 2025 and the Incorporated Societies Act 2024:

GWNZ Constitution

16.2. Qualifications

Prior to election or appointment, every National Executive member must consent in writing to be a National Executive member and certify in writing that they are not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member by this Constitution or the Act.

The following persons are disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member:

1. a person who is under 16 years of age,
2. a person who is an undischarged bankrupt,
3. a person who is prohibited from being a director or promoter of, or being concerned or taking part in the management of, an incorporated or unincorporated body under the Companies Act 1993, the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013 or the Takeovers Act 1993.
4. a person who has been convicted of any of the following, and has been sentenced for the offence, within the last 7 years:
 5. an offence under subpart 6 of Part 4,
 6. a crime involving dishonesty (within the meaning of section 2(1) of the Crimes Act 1961),
7. an offence under section 143B of the Tax Administration Act 1994,



8. an offence, in a country other than New Zealand, that is substantially similar to an offence specified in subparagraphs (i) to (iii),
9. a money laundering offence or an offence relating to the financing of terrorism, whether in New Zealand or elsewhere,
10. a person subject to:
 - a. a banning order under subpart 7 of Part 4 of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022;
 - b. or an order under section 108 of the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003;
 - c. or a forfeiture order under the Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act 2009;
 - d. or a property order made under the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988, or whose property is managed by a trustee corporation under section 32 of that Act.
11. a person who is subject to an order that is substantially similar to an order referred to in paragraphs above, under a law of a country, State, or territory outside New Zealand that is a country, State, or territory prescribed by the regulations (if any) of the new Incorporated Societies Act.
12. Any person who is disqualified or does not comply with any qualifications for officers as prescribed from time to time by a resolution of the National Executive.

16.3. Election or appointment

The election of National Executive members shall be conducted as follows:

1. National Executive members shall be elected during Annual General Meetings. However, if a vacancy in the position of any National Executive member occurs between Annual General Meetings, that vacancy shall be filled by resolution of the National Executive (and any such appointee must, before appointment, supply a signed consent to appointment and a certificate that the nominee is not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member by this Constitution or the Act).
2. A candidate's written nomination, accompanied by the written consent of the nominee (who must be a financial member) with a certificate that the nominee is



**Graduate
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New Zealand

Graduate Women New Zealand
PO Box 2006
Wellington 6140



not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member by this Constitution or the Act, shall be received by the Secretary at least 30 Working Days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. If there are insufficient valid nominations received, further nominations may be received from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.

I understand that my nomination and consent must be received by the President at least 30 Working Days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

Signature:

Date:

11/09/2026

6.5 Nomination Form, Yvette Absalom, Treasurer

GWNZ Nomination | National Executive

I am happy to be nominated for a position on GWNZ National Executive for the term 2026-2028 and confirm I am a current GWNZ financial member.

NE Position: Treasurer

Name: Yvette Absalom

Branch/Independent Member: Independent Member

Email: Yvette_absalom@hotmail.com

Mobile number: 020 111 1555

Graduate Women New Zealand is a fantastic initiative. I am a huge advocate for affordable and accessible adult education, supporting other women to progress in their studies. I am a Chartered Accountant and hold an MBA as well as a Masters in Digital Learning Leadership. I run an Educational Consultancy, and have a background in public practice prior to entering the education sector.

My previous board roles include Advisory Board Member of Eureka Idea Co, consulting on educational elements of projects while forming part of the governance team; co-founder and Treasurer of Letterboxer anti-junk mail initiative and Treasurer of the Murray McGeorge Toy Library.

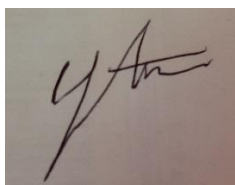
Nominated By Lorelle George:

Branch/Independent Member: IMN

Signature: 

I agree to my name being published for distribution to GWNZ members.

Signed:



Date: 6 October 2026

Please email the completed form to president@gwnz.org.nz by _____

Addendum: Certificate of Eligibility

I certify that I am a financial member and that I am not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member under Clauses 16.2 (1–7) or Clause 16.3(b) of the GWNZ Constitution 2025 and the Incorporated Societies Act 2024:

GWNZ Constitution

16.2. Qualifications

Prior to election or appointment, every National Executive member must consent in writing to be a National Executive member and certify in writing that they are not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member by this Constitution or the Act.

The following persons are disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member:

15. a person who is under 16 years of age,
16. a person who is an undischarged bankrupt,
17. a person who is prohibited from being a director or promoter of, or being concerned or taking part in the management of, an incorporated or unincorporated body under the Companies Act 1993, the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013 or the Takeovers Act 1993.
18. a person who has been convicted of any of the following, and has been sentenced for the offence, within the last 7 years:
 - c. an offence under subpart 6 of Part 4,
 - j. a crime involving dishonesty (within the meaning of section 2(1) of the Crimes Act 1961),
 - k. an offence under section 143B of the Tax Administration Act 1994,
 - l. an offence, in a country other than New Zealand, that is substantially similar to an offence specified in subparagraphs (i) to (iii),
 - m. a money laundering offence or an offence relating to the financing of terrorism, whether in New Zealand or elsewhere,
19. a person subject to:
 - a. a banning order under subpart 7 of Part 4 of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022;
 - b. or an order under section 108 of the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003;
 - c. or a forfeiture order under the Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act 2009;
 - d. or a property order made under the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988, or whose property is managed by a trustee corporation under section 32 of that Act.

20. a person who is subject to an order that is substantially similar to an order referred to in paragraphs above, under a law of a country, State, or territory outside New Zealand that is a country, State, or territory prescribed by the regulations (if any) of the new Incorporated Societies Act.
21. Any person who is disqualified or does not comply with any qualifications for officers as prescribed from time to time by a resolution of the National Executive.

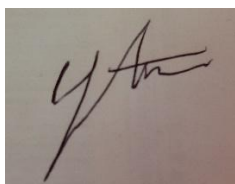
16.3. Election or appointment

The election of National Executive members shall be conducted as follows:

- e. National Executive members shall be elected during Annual General Meetings. However, if a vacancy in the position of any National Executive member occurs between Annual General Meetings, that vacancy shall be filled by resolution of the National Executive (and any such appointee must, before appointment, supply a signed consent to appointment and a certificate that the nominee is not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member by this Constitution or the Act).
- f. A candidate's written nomination, accompanied by the written consent of the nominee (who must be a financial member) with a certificate that the nominee is not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a National Executive member by this Constitution or the Act, shall be received by the Secretary at least 30 Working Days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. If there are insufficient valid nominations received, further nominations may be received from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.

I understand that my nomination and consent must be received by the President at least 30 Working Days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

Signature:



Date: 6 October 2026

7. Remits

7.1 Updating the use of the 22nd IFUW Conference Commemoration Fund

A. MOTION: for the 2026 AGM to alter the balance and use of the 22nd IFUW Conference Commemoration Fund

B. Moved: Lorelle George, Acting President, GWNZ

C. Seconded: Jo Innes, President, GWM

The Resolution reads:

That clause 24.3(b) shall be amended to read:

(b) The capital of the 22nd IFUW Conference Commemoration Fund shall be held at a minimum of \$10,000.

The current Constitution states:

a) There shall be a fund known as the 22nd IFUW Conference Commemoration Fund, comprising the surplus funds raised by GWNZ members on the occasion of that Conference in 1986.

b) The capital of the 22nd IFUW Conference Commemoration Fund shall be held at a minimum of \$15,000.

c) The net income of the fund shall be used at the discretion of the National Executive to subsidise attendance at GWNZ meetings and conferences.

d) Funds are to be allocated with special consideration for younger members and/or members otherwise unable to attend.

Rationale for the Proposal

The 22nd IFUW Conference was held in Christchurch 27 August - 3 September 1986¹. This Fund was the surplus from that conference. It is now intended to utilise \$4,500 from this Fund, over the next three years, as a contribution towards the annual cost of the IT Support contract.

GWNZ has dedicated Travel funds to support conference attendance, so there is some overlap in the objectives of these components of Equity.

The National Executive/Council and the Charitable Trust members have spent some considerable time over the past months discussing the matter of GWNZ's increasing operational costs, in particular the IT security and capability. Both the National Executive/Council and the Charitable Trust have thoroughly considered all the options before coming to final decisions. We suggest a mixed strategy:

¹ Its Archives are at https://archives.library.auckland.ac.nz/repositories/2/archival_objects/29494

- Increasing the contribution to operational costs from National Executive and the Charitable Trust, by \$2,000.00 each
- Reintroduction of the Annual (Branch) Supplementary Dues (approved 2025 AGM) to contribute to shared costs of benefit to branches and independent members, ie IT security and capability
- Re-purposing the 22nd IFUW Conference Commemoration Fund (Remit 7.1)
- And increasing members' fees (Remit 7.2)

Implications

It is proposed the 22nd IFUW Conference Commemoration Fund be reduced by \$1,500 each year over the next three years, to a total of \$4,500, beginning in the 2026-2027 financial year. This enables a staged reduction in the fund; with a review of the organisation's position at the end of the first and subsequent years.

7.2 Increasing the Annual Capitation Fee paid to GWNZ Inc 2027-2028

A. Motion for the 2026 AGM to approve an increase in the Annual Subscription Fee paid by each Branch and Independent Member to GWNZ for 2027-28 by \$10.00.

B. Moved: Barbara Benson, Acting President, GWO

C. Seconded: Lorelle George, Acting President, GWNZ

Under the terms of the GWNZ Inc Constitution, Clause 12 *Subscriptions and Fees*, the annual subscription paid by Branch and Independent members to GWNZ, and any other fees for membership, shall be set by resolution of a GWNZ General Meeting.

Rationale for current remit

The cost to National Executive of providing shared services, particularly for Technical Support, will increase as from 1 October 2026. These costs include:

- Provision of an annual contract for Technical Support by an independent contractor
- Updates /maintenance of the GWNZ website and other digital platforms/services
- Ensuring risk management and security measures are in place

The National Executive/Council and the Charitable Trust members have spent some considerable time over the past months discussing the matter of increasing costs to the organisation, and proposals to increase members' fees and/or reintroduce the Annual (Branch) Supplementary Dues. Both the National Executive/Council and the Charitable Trust have thoroughly considered all the options before coming to final decisions on re-introducing the branch Annual Supplementary Dues and increasing the Graduate Members' fee.

Implications

National Executive's recommendation is to increase:

- (a) the annual Graduate Members' fee payable to GWNZ as the Annual Subscription Fee from the current \$70.00 to \$80.00, and
- (b) the annual Postgraduate Members' fee from \$55.00 to \$65.00.

This increase is to take effect from 1 July 2027.

We note that the members' fee has not been increased for some years. In considering what an increase might look like at this time, we were mindful of the economic climate in which we currently find ourselves; alongside having to meet our financial commitments. We therefore comment that, in keeping this fee to a minimum this year, we may be required to reconsider this increase again next year.

7.3 Updating the Use of the Travel Fund

- A. MOTION:** That travel grants may be provided for accommodation expenses when representing GWNZ at international meetings.
- B. Moved:** Lorelle George, Acting President
- C. Seconded:** Jo Innes, President, GWM

Current constitution wording:

24.4 The Travel Fund

The following payments, in addition to any other payments approved from time to time, may be made from the Travel Fund. Unless otherwise stated, travel grants are to be based on reasonably priced economy travel expenses from home to the place of the meeting. The amount reimbursed with all such grants is at the discretion of the National Executive.

Proposed new constitution wording:

24.4 The Travel Fund

The following payments, in addition to any other payments approved from time to time, may be made from the Travel Fund. Unless otherwise stated, travel grants are to be based on reasonably priced economy travel expenses from home to the place of the international meeting, when representing GWNZ. Travel grants may also provide for actual and reasonable accommodation costs. The amount reimbursed with all such grants is at the discretion of the National Executive.

Background

GWNZ is invited to send representatives to the GWI Triennial General Assembly and Conference, and other international meetings aligned with our purpose. The Triennial General Assembly is hosted throughout the world. Other international meetings include at least the annual Commission on the Status of Women held at the United Nations, New York; and potentially a Women in Leadership conference held in the Pacific annually, and the Women Deliver conference which is held around the world triennially.

To date GWNZ representatives at international meetings have had their travel expenses reimbursed by the GWNZ Travel Fund. All other expenses, including accommodation, are covered by a combination of support from Branches to which NE members belong and the representatives themselves. For example, in 2025 GWNZ delegates to the GWI Triennial

General Assembly and Conference in Lusaka, Zambia had their travel covered by the Travel Fund but also by Branches and accommodation by the mix of Branch and personal support.

The Travel Fund accumulates each year with 'travel fund dues from Branches' contributing to the Fund, as well as interest being generated on the capital reserve. The Travel Fund Reserve year end (2026) is \$18,002.

Rationale for current remit

It is important GWNZ is represented in person at the GWI Triennial Conference and other international meetings aligned with our purpose. As an organisation founded on equity, GWNZ recognises costs to attend international meetings may create a barrier to participation for our delegates. The Travel Fund has the means to provide customised support, including accommodation costs, to enable participation.

Implications

National Executive would have the authority to consider financial support, for delegates appointed to act on our behalf at international meetings, that includes travel + accommodation. Representatives would have the opportunity to request customised support. Consideration would be on a case-by-case basis.

41st GWNZ-Charitable Trust AGM 2026

Date: Saturday 10th October 2026

Venue: Rutherford House, Victoria University, Wellington

By zoom: <https://vuw.zoom.us/j/96537826870?from=addon>

AGENDA

1. Welcome - record of attendance and apologies
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Minutes of 40th GWNZ CT Annual General Meeting, 2025
3.1 Matters Arising
4. Reports from the Trust Board – taken as read
Annual Report for the GWNZ Charitable Trust
Trust Treasurer
5. Appointment of Trustee
6. Approval of Reviewed Financial Accounts
7. Approval of Reviewer
8. General Business
9. Close of AGM

PAPERS

1. Welcome - record of attendance and apologies
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Minutes of the 40th GWNZ-CT Annual General Meeting, 2025

40th GWNZ-CT AGM 2025

Saturday 4th October 2025. 12.30 pm

Manawatu Golf Club, 19 Centennial Drive, Hokowhitu, Palmerston North

Welcome

In the absence of Sally Hassel, GWNZ CT Chair, Lorelle George stepped in to present the GWNZ-CT AGM.

Attendees

GWNZ Manawatu – Jo Innes, Micaela Buckley, Megan Hooper Smith, Carolyn Wirth, Emma Le Lievre, Jane Russel Bowen, Gretta Mills

GWNZ Wellington – Janet Stribling, Rae Duff, Sally Dunbar, Perya Short, Noza Djazolova
Trish Keeper (Online)

GWNZ Otago – Otila Osborne, Barabra Benson, Pheobe Rose Osbourne, Margaret Bahr, Linda Roberston, Shirley Gillett (online), Menna Mohamed (online)

GWNZ Independent – Danielle Julian, Lorelle George, Bernadette Devonport, Christine Ball (online), Cynthia McKenzie (online), Dorothy Meyer (online)

Apologies

Carolyn Harvey, Marlene Smith, Fay Pankhurst, Frances Bell, Glennis Oliver, Vanessa Ward, Sally Hassel, Jane Calhoun, Clare McAloon-Balfour, Louise Croot, Lorraine Isaacs, Nadja Smith, Julien Gross, Sue Cathro, Susan Stein

Adoption of the Agenda.

Mover: Jo, Secunder, Janet Stribling.

Reports from the Trust Board - tabled and taken as read.

Annual Report from the Chair

Trust Treasurer's Report – Carolyn Wirth (out-going Treasurer), together with Noza Djazolova (new Treasurer) spoke to the report, and noted GWNZ-CT had distributed \$368,000 over five years in scholarships and awards; with \$85,000 awarded in 2025; and annual expenses of \$6,000.

Approval of Reviewed Financial Accounts.

The Reviewed Financial Accounts were approved

Moved: Carolyn Wirth, Secunder Gretta Mills.

Approval of Reviewer.

Motion for the approval of the Reviewer, Natalie Trent.

Moved: Carolyn Wirth, Seconder Gretta Mills.

General Business.

There was no General Business.

The meeting closed at 1:00pm

4. Reports from the Trust Board

4.1 Annual Report for the GWNZ Charitable Trust

Barbara Benson, Chair

Awards

The Trust awarded 7 Fellowships of \$10,000 each to Michaela Hughes, Sarahmarie Kuroko, Emma Le Lievre, Isabella Patrick, Jane Reeves, Kisha September, and Ann Way (Huynh Trieu An Tran).

There were many excellent applications, making the selection panel's decision far from easy. Their fields of study span genetics, psychology, midwifery, climate change, medicine, dance therapy, and dance pedagogy. These are a wide range of topics of value to the future wellbeing of women and their families.

Three Susan Byrne awards of \$5,000 each were made to Victoria Sinclair, Toni McFelin, and Christabel Wagner. All recipients are undertaking tertiary studies – in Speech Language Therapy Landscape Design, and International Development and Planning,

A Harriette Jenkins award of \$5,000 was made to Teresa Salter, a member of Graduate Women Wellington. She is undertaking research for a Doctorate in Education which focuses on young single Māmā's experiences within the primary school system.

The Mildred Keir second chance award (our only undergraduate award) of \$3,000 which New Horizons for Women Hine Kahukura administers on our behalf, went to Cayla Christni from Northland, who is studying for a Bachelor of Accounting at the Open Polytechnic.

Trustees

Jo Innes in her role as Scholarship Officer, reviewed and updated the website information for our awards. We are very sorry to be farewelling Jo from this support role for the GWNZ Trust and profusely thank her for her expertise and commitment to the Trust and all our online systems. Jules Gross (GWO) who joined the Trust at the 2024 AGM has kindly agreed to take over the Scholarships Support role.

We extend many thanks to Sally Hasell who is leaving us at the 2026 AGM. Sally has served as both Trust Chair and Trust Secretary, always with meticulous attention to detail. I

especially thank her for supporting me in my first year as Trust Chair. Many thanks to each of the Trustees for their contribution to our work and to our awards selection panels.

Funds and donations

Noza Djalolova has completed her first year as our Trust Treasurer.

Donations from the Otago Branch and Manawatu Charitable Trust totalling \$50,00 were gratefully received and will be distributed this August.



Barbara J Benson

Chair

GWNZ Charitable Trust

4.2 Annual Report from the Trust Treasurer

Noza Djalolova, Trust Treasurer

Overview

GWNZ Charitable Trust is enormously grateful for the generous support of the Charitable Trusts associated with branches Graduate Women Wellington, Graduate Women Manawatu, and Graduate Women Otago. We appreciate the hard work of dedicated teams of volunteers that goes into generating funds donated. With their help, the Trust has distributed \$388,000 in awards/scholarships over the past five years.

Donations recognised in the 2026 financial year were \$70,200, compared with \$50,000 in the previous year. The 2026 amount included a \$20,000 donation from the Graduate Women Manawatu Charitable Trust received in July 2025. A further \$30,000 donation from the GWNZ Wellington Charitable Trust was received after the 2026 year-end and will support awards paid in the following financial year. The Trust aims to distribute as awards all donations within a few months from receipt. Together with funds contributed by GWNZCT, more than \$108,000 was made available to pay out as awards after year-end, in September 2026.

Five Year Results Summary

Year ended 30 June	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	<u>5 year total</u>	<u>5 year average</u>
Total Income	\$104,370	\$84,078	\$89,199	\$121,526	\$89,361	\$488,534	\$97,707
Expenses	\$5,701	\$5,584	\$5,138	\$4,494	\$21,457	\$42,374	\$8,475
Net Surplus before Distributions	\$98,669	\$78,494	\$84,061	\$117,032	\$67,904	\$446,160	\$89,232
Grants Distributions	\$103,950	\$85,450	\$68,300	\$82,000	\$48,300	\$388,000	\$77,600
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-\$5,281	-\$6,956	\$15,761	\$35,032	\$19,604	\$58,160	\$11,632
Total Funds	\$620,040	\$625,321	\$632,277	\$616,516	\$581,484		\$615,128

Income 2026

Total Income: \$104,370

The 2026 income was \$20,292 higher than in previous year. This is mostly due to Donations increasing from \$50,000 in the prior year to \$70,200 as well as increased gain on the Westpac Active Balanced Fund (\$13,503). This was partially offset by a slight decrease in interest returns on fixed income investments (\$20,667) due to the timing of interest received.

Expenses 2026

Expenses before Distributions: \$5,701

As with past years, all members of the Graduate Women New Zealand Charitable Trust used their professional skills to provide services at no charge to the trust. The Trust's largest operating expense for 2026 was the review fee payable to Audit Professionals (\$3,393). Once again, the trustees were successful in keeping expenses well below the five-year average.

Distributions 2026

Total Distributions: \$103,950

The distributions paid each year do not match the donations received in that year. Rather, the Trust aims to pay out donation income received within a few months of the financial year-end. Awards distributed in the 2026 financial year included seven Fellowships (\$70,000), three Susan Byrne Awards (\$25,500), one Harriette Jenkins Award (\$5,000), one Mildred Keir Award (\$3,450).

Finally, GWNZ CT would like to thank all of the branches and their corresponding Trusts for their generous donations during the year.



Noza Djalolova

Treasurer, GWNZ Charitable Trust

5. Appointment of Trustee

Lyn Howe, Trust Secretary

6. Approval of Reviewed Financial Accounts

[Performance Report for Year Ended 30 June 2026](#)

7. Approval of Reviewer

Audit Professional Ltd, Chartered Accountants, Dunedin