Guest editorial by Sunita Basnet: Bhutanese refugee women and girls in NZ

I am currently a third year PhD student at the University of Waikato. My research investigates everyday mundane experiences of former Bhutanese refugees mostly women and girls in New Zealand. I am particularly interested in studying how these groups create a sense of home in New Zealand through their everyday activities.

These former Bhutanese refugee women and girls were resettled in Christchurch, Nelson, Palmerston North and Auckland since 2008 under the New Zealand refugee quota. According to the UNHCR Nepal, as of 30th June 2016, 104,009 Bhutanese refugees from Nepal have been resettled in eight countries. New Zealand has resettled 1,009 making New Zealand the fourth largest hosting country. The interviews were conducted in Nepali, then have been translated to English.

It is worth noting that the group has a very distinct social and cultural values, language and eating habits. I recruited 48 participants, including five men, from Auckland, Christchurch, Palmerston North and Nelson between February and November 2015. These participants differ in their age (12-85), education (from university degree to never been in a formal educational institution prior to resettlement in New Zealand), and religious beliefs. All of these refugees have been through six-week orientation programme in the Mangere refugee resettlement centre in Auckland as well as English language program.

It is very important to consider that there is a hybrid of Nepali speaking Bhutanese generations living in New Zealand- the generation of parents (who prefer to identify as either Nepalese or Bhutanese or both in some cases) and the young generation (who prefer to identify as
Nepalese/Bhutanese-New Zealander). Each group faces different challenges which I will discuss briefly tensions and challenges for women and girls in particular:

- My research also shows that inter-generational conflict within the family is being created by lingual assimilation. Often the older generation wants family members to speak Nepali ‘at home’ while the younger generation is using English as their common language to communicate with others. Most of the older generation in this study, however, felt ‘out of place’ and that they do not belong or fit in New Zealand because they are unable to understand the English language well.

- The sexual desire and practices of young Nepalese/Bhutanese-New Zealander women are also considered to be creating an inter-generational conflict ‘at home’ and in wider communities. There is significant parental worry when there are different opinions around sexual beliefs and practices among family members, particularly daughters. Parents in this study, especially mothers, expressed their fears that their adolescent daughters might follow the New Zealand practice of ‘defacto’ relationships or ‘living together’ which is deemed unacceptable among the Bhutanese community. The expectation is that young women must retain their virginity prior to marriage. Sex outside marriage among these young women is also deemed unacceptable. This might prompt inter-generational tensions when the traditional beliefs related to sexual desire and practices are challenged, especially by women, when this is considered a subject of silence.

- A few girls especially those aged between 12-15, outlined tensions and conflicts ‘at home’ in relation to what they understand to be harsh and rigorous family practices based on protective roles and decision-making processes put in place by their parents. Some of this group of respondents felt these family practices restricted their mobility during certain times and in certain spaces. Boys and young men, however, are more likely to be allowed certain freedoms, such as going out with friends to clubs and parties.

The guest editorial has kindly been provided by Sunita Basnet, PhD candidate at Waikato University. Sunita is a highly motivated international student from Nepal with a particular interest in Bhutanese Refugee populations living in New Zealand. The findings above are only a brief snapshot from her thesis which aims to uncover some of the everyday geographies of home and belonging among Bhutanese Refugee populations in New Zealand.

CEDAW Report

NZFGW Charitable Trust – Annual accounts/Performance Report
Pat Sivertsen, Treasurer, NZFGW Charitable Trust

Reporting format
The Review of the NZFGW Charitable Trust annual accounts is complete. Natalie Tham, from Audit Professionals in Dunedin has done a fantastic job of updating our presentation to fit the new Tier 3 (accrual) reporting standard for charities. A key role of annual accounts is to inform stakeholders, as all members, both present and past, of NZFGW are stakeholders in the Trust. They have all contributed to it, whether directly through donations and bequests, or through their Branch. I am really pleased with the new format. It fulfils both the governance role of financial transparency and that of providing clear and easily understood information to all stakeholders and the general public.

Results
Income: Once again our members are the stars when it comes to supporting young women in their education and research. This year NZFGW members supported the NZFGW Charitable Trust to the tune of $156,184. Most of this was through Branches although the level of direct donations by members is increasing. The level of donations looks particularly high this year. This is partly due to the timing of donations. The giving from the 2014/15 year, and the 2015/16 year from both Otago Branch and Graduate Women North Shore was included in this year’s donation income by the NZFGW Trust. Each year the Board makes a decision on which Award fund will receive general (untagged) donations. This year all untagged donations were allocated to the Susan Byrne Fund.

We also received a bequest from the estate of Pat Whitmore. We are grateful to Pat for thinking of NZFGW in her will. We are also grateful to her estate’s executor who went to quite some trouble to track us down as the will was made before the current trust was formed. This is a timely reminder to all of us to check that our will is current.

Award Distribution: $125,500 was distributed in Awards for the 2016 year. Awards Distribution was $125, 500. 10 Fellowships, 1 Susan Byrne Award, 1 Harriette Jenkins Award and 1 Mildred Keir Award (administered by New Horizons for Women Trust)

Going forward
We are on a nice even keel financially with over $500,000 invested in reserves. Our costs are low and funded by interest income so we are able to distribute all donations as Awards. The donations and Award distribution do not necessarily match in the year. In deciding the level of distribution for any given year we assess both the financial side – funds above $500,000 and the likely donation income, and the applications – i.e. the number of qualified applicants. The consistent level of donations from Branches makes the task so much easier.

The NZFGW Charitable Trust Performance Report will be posted on the NZFGW Website near the end of the second week in September after it has been formally approved by National Executive. You’ll find it in the area related to the AGM. The Treasurer’s report to the AGM will also be posted. If you would like a copy of the Performance report emailed to you please email me – patsivertsen@xtra.co.nz . Once approved by the AGM the Performance report will be uploaded to the Charities Website.
NZFGW AGM planning (Programme below)

Documents (e.g. Branch reports etc) for the AGM report MUST be with me ann.pomeroy@xtra.co.nz by 17 September 2016. If not they won’t be included!!

Names of delegates from Branches and IM Network to be with the secretary secretary@nzfgw.org.nz by 30 September.

Registration forms (SEE BELOW) for attendance at the AGM to be with Canterbury Branch thebranch@canterburynzfgw.org.nz by 30 September (Form at the end of the newsletter)

Proposed Speaker Lynda Murchison (PhD candidate, Lecturer in Environmental Management, Farmer and the President of North Canterbury Federated Farmers).

ADDITIONAL DETAILS: Please, registrants, book directly/pay directly with Academy Motor Lodge. They have extended a very advantageous room rate to us and this property is the closest to the University of Canterbury – just across the road!

The Conference on the 8th is in the C Block – Ground Floor – Lecture Theatre C2.

First In Gets Best Bed!!

Then please advise us, BY EMAIL, your travel and “stay” arrangements and any special requirements you have so that we may be able to provide them.

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NZFGW AGM

Hosted by Graduate Women Canterbury

Friday, 7 October 2016, 7pm: Dinner at Madam Kwong’s Restaurant
155 Blenheim Rd – behind Caltex Service Station on corner of Blenheim and Wrights Rds, Riccarton
The meal will cost $35-$40 and will include a complimentary glass of wine/juice)

Saturday, 8 October 2016

at Canterbury University, Illam Campus (TBC) There is no charge for attendance at the AGM

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<tr>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Morning tea</td>
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<td>10:00 am</td>
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<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Planning session</td>
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<td>Finish planning session</td>
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<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Speaker: Lynda Murchison (President of North Canterbury Federated Farmers; Lecturer in Environmental planning)</td>
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<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>Afternoon tea</td>
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Please advise us of key events and any worthy news from your award recipients, or members undertaking interesting activities - particularly those that promote our goals - email gaila@waikato.ac.nz with items for the next edition of NZFGW News by 20 September 2016 Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information in this newsletter, neither the Editor nor NZFGW accept liability for any errors of fact or opinion.
New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women National Executive 2016-2018

NOMINATION FORM

We the undersigned, hereby nominate

_______________________________

for the position of __________________________

Name of Proposer: __________________________________________

Signature of Proposer: ________________________________________

Name of Seconder: __________________________________________

Signature of Seconder: ________________________________________

Signature of Nominee: ________________________________________

The proposer and seconder must be current paid members of NZFGW either as a Branch member or as members of the Independent Members' Network.

Nomination forms must be received by the Secretary, at secretary@nzfgw.org.nz before Wednesday 31 August 2016.

The CV of the nominee must be included.
New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women Inc.
Whakaminenga Wahine o Aotearoa kua whiwhi Tohu

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / ‘CONFERENCE’
Saturday 8 October 2016
(venue TBC, probably University of Canterbury Illam) Christchurch

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING

Registration forms MUST be received by the Canterbury Branch NZFGW
by 30 September Email to: thebranch@canterburynzfgw.org.nz

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Preferred Name for Badge

Branch Affiliation (or Independent Member) Delegate/Observer (choose one)

Email

Phone Mobile

Your full Postal Address

ARE YOU COMING TO THE DINNER at Madam Kwong’s Restaurant at 7pm on FRIDAY night 7 October?
Madam Kwong’s is at 155 Blenheim Rd – behind Caltex Service Station on corner of Blenheim and Wrights Rds, Riccarton. The meal will cost $35-$40 and will include a complimentary glass of wine/ juice)

YES ☐ NO ☐

Some billets will be available on a first come first served basis – Do you need a billet? (If you would like help finding a motel, please let us know and a list of motels in the vicinity of the conference will be emailed to you by return request – once the conference venue is finalised – either at University of Canterbury or nearby College of Education, Illam/Riccarton area).

YES ☐ NO ☐

If being billeted, would you like to share with another registrant? (name of person) ...................................

Do you have any food allergies/special requests (including mobility needs)?

Christchurch Quake Tour: Do you want to go on this tour on Friday afternoon? (The tour will leave the University around 3:30 pm) YES ☐ NO ☐

Airport Pickups MAY possibly be available on first in first served basis otherwise taxis/shuttles available. If you need to be picked up from the airport, you must provide your FLIGHT NUMBER and ARRIVAL TIME If being picked up you will be met at the Pickup spot in the Carpark Building after a confirming text from you.

Flight: .......................................................... Arrival time: ..........................................................

Privacy Act: The Privacy Act 1993 requires your consent for your registration name and address details to be published for distribution to fellow delegates.

If you do NOT consent please insert your name here ..........................................................