CONVENOR’S REPORT: Kimberly Jarvis

It is my pleasure to be the Convenor of OWLS for 2016 – a milestone year. This year marks both our 30th year and the 20th Annual New Zealand Law Foundation Ethel Benjamin Commemorative Address. Look out for celebrations of our milestones throughout the year and mark your diaries now for the following events.

The 20th Annual New Zealand Law Foundation Ethel Benjamin Commemorative Address will be delivered by the Hon Marcia Neave AO on Thursday 14 July. A former Judge and Commissioner, the Hon Marcia Neave AO has recently delivered the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence report and will no doubt deliver an engaging Address.

Our 30th Anniversary celebrations will culminate in a Gala Dinner on Friday 14 October at Toitū. The Gala Dinner will be a fabulous black tie event open to members, their partners, and the wider profession to mark our 30th in style. Please mark this date in your diaries now.

As part of the 30th celebrations, Janet November is writing the “Herstory” of OWLS. I have had the privilege of reading some of her early drafts. I have been very impressed by both the engaging writing and the amazing stories that our members have relayed to Janet. Thank you to everyone who has spoken with Janet and shared their memories.

Funding of the history project has been a big focus for this year’s committee. It was wonderful to see so many of our members, their supporters, and the wider profession attend our fundraising quiz night on 12 April. We had amazing raffle prizes donated and I remain very jealous of the winner of the $250 Bracken voucher! Your support raised over $1,900 for the costs of the history project, and we now have some funds in reserve to contribute to the (likely significant) cost of publication in hard copy. In the course of reading the draft “herstory”, it has struck me how far we have come since the early days of OWLS. OWLS have flown to the Bench, the Inner Bar, and even the Law Commission. Not only do we have a permanent seat on the Council of the Otago Branch of NZLS, our members have had a significant presence in the organisation, including as Presidents of the Branch (and predecessor ODLS), council members, section chairs, and a Vice-President of NZLS. However, while overt discrimination may now be a rarity, we clearly still have further to go before women are equally represented at the top of the profession. OWLS has a clear role to play in addressing issues such as unconscious bias. To this end, we are currently working on a further panel discussion for later this year to build on last year’s discussion of these issues in the “Diversity in Law: How to Improve Your Bottom Line” event.

Our 30th year is a time for celebration, but also reflection. I look forward to spending this year celebrating and reflecting with you all at the exciting events planned for 2016.

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3-4 Past OWLS Events: Pictures and information about recent OWLS events.
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10 Hungry OWLS: Lenore Brady’s Killer Chocolate Tart.
SAVE THE DATE:
Thursday 14 October 2016

OWLS 30th Anniversary Gala Dinner
Toitū Otago Settlers Museum

More details coming soon!!

SAVE THE DATE:
Thursday 14 July 2016

20th Annual New Zealand Law Foundation Ethel Benjamin Commemorative Address

Speaker: Hon Marcia Neave AO – Former Chair of the Royal Commission into Family Violence and Former Justice of the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court of Victoria

UPCOMING OWLS EVENTS
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An Evening with Barbara Brookes
Thursday 16 June 2016 at 5.15pm
NZLS Meeting Room
Drinks and nibbles provided by OWLS
Come along to hear from Barbara Brookes, the author of A History of New Zealand Women as she speaks about her incredible new book and on the topic of “Past Injustices: History, Women, and the Law”.

Please RSVP to members.owls@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO DONNA BUCKINGHAM

OWLS is delighted by Donna Buckingham’s recent appointment as a Law Commissioner. OWLS celebrated Donna’s significant and well-deserved achievement in March (see the Past OWLS Events section for pictures of this lovely function).

Donna remains a life member of OWLS, as well as a Wise OWL, and would love members to visit her in Wellington.

We wish you well in your new position Donna and we know you will do Dunedin (and OWLS) proud. We will miss you!

OWLS SOCIAL MEDIA

Don’t forget to check out the OWLS website (otagowomenlawyerssociety.com) and to join the OWLS Facebook page. We are hoping to encourage members to better utilize the OWLS Facebook page in 2016 as a way to communicate with other members and to share relevant material.

To join the OWLS Facebook page:
1. Log in to Facebook
2. Type Otago Women Lawyers’ Society into the Facebook search box
3. Ask to join the group
PAST OWLS EVENTS

The 2016 OWLS Committee is looking forward to bringing you a wide range of events this year. We once again plan to provide a mixture of social and educational activities across a range of different times to accommodate members’ busy lives as much as possible. Check out the details of our first four events below. We always welcome feedback on our events and event ideas from our members. Please feel free to contact us at members.owls@gmail.com or via our Facebook page.

23 February 2016: OWLS 2016 AGM

The OWLS Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 23 February 2016 at Ombrellos Bar and Restaurant. The meeting was well supported, with a good turnout of members. The AGM began with members catching up with each other over drinks and nibbles, before the business part of the evening began. Firstly, the 2016 Committee was established. We have a full OWLS Committee once again this year, with four new committee members, Val Farrow, Kylie Hope, Shayne Milne, and Louise Trevena-Downing, joining the Committee. Kate Fallow (nee O’Boyle) has stepped off the Committee this year after many years of OWLS service (two as Convenor), as has Jess Withnall. We thank them both for their service and contribution to the Committee.

As well as general business matters, discussions were also held about a special celebration gala to mark the 30th Anniversary of OWLS and the ongoing archiving/history project. After the formal part of the meeting was concluded, members stayed on for dinner, during which SDHB Commissioner Kathy Grant delivered an extremely positive and inspiring presentation about her experiences in her position thus far. All in all the AGM was a very successful and enjoyable event.

10 March 2016: Drinks and Nibbles to Celebrate Donna Buckingham’s Appointment to the Law Commission

On Thursday 10 March 2016, OWLS hosted a function at Ironic Café and Bar in honour of Life Member Donna Buckingham to celebrate her well-deserved appointment as a Law Commissioner. A large number of OWLS members were present to celebrate with Donna and wish her well in her new position. Donna has made an immense contribution to OWLS over a vast number of years and her support will be greatly missed. It also turns out that Donna taught the vast majority of the OWLS who were present. Luckily for us, although Donna will be primarily working in Wellington, she remains a member of OWLS (as one of our cherished Life Members) and has also agreed to stay on as a Wise OWL. She will also make it to events from time to time where she can and has
instructed any OWLS who find themselves in Wellington to go and say hello!

12 April 2016: 30th Anniversary History Project Fundraising Quiz

On Tuesday 12 April OWLS held an extremely fun and successful quiz at the Kensington Tavern to raise money to fund the history project undertaken to mark the 30th Anniversary of OWLS. We were delighted to raise nearly $2,000 for this project. We are extremely grateful for our wonderful sponsors who donated rather impressive raffle prizes and to everyone who attended.

6 May 2016: Pink Ribbon Fundraising Morning Tea

On Friday 6 May 2016, OWLS hosted the annual (and extremely popular) Pink Ribbon Morning Tea to raise funds for the New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation. It was fantastic to see such so many (predominately-pink-clothes-wearing) OWLS there, with around 30 members in attendance. Everyone enjoyed the baked goods on offer and, most importantly, we managed to raise $421 for the New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation, which is such an important cause, and one that is dear to all of our hearts as women. Thank you to everyone who donated money, and to those who provided the extremely delicious morning tea, as well as to Anderson Lloyd for letting us host the event in their Boardroom.

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Otago Women Lawyers’ Society Inc

Thank you for visiting our Fundraising page. We are taking part in Pink Ribbon Breakfast this year to raise money for the New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation.

Eight women a day are diagnosed with breast cancer in New Zealand. This year, the money raised from our fundraising events will be used to fund early-stage research projects and medical grants to help improve the survival rates of breast cancer in New Zealand.

Please consider making a donation today. We cannot do this alone, but with your help, we can make a difference.

Otago Women Lawyers’ Society

$421.30 raised
$300.00 target
2016 OWLS Committee

Convenor: Kimberly Jarvis
Deputy Convenor: Ruth Ballantyne
Secretary: Elizabeth McKenzie
Treasurer: Sarah Eckhoff

General Committee: Karen Billinghurst, Lenore Brady, Alison Douglass, Val Farrow, Kylie Hope, Anne McLeod, Shayne Milne, Louise Trevena-Downing

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Kimberly Jarvis: Convenor

Previous Involvement with OWLS: This is my fourth year on the Committee.

Employment/Area of Practice: Family Law – mainly relationship property.

About Me: I have a background in commercial litigation, but have recently moved to family law. I am currently the CPD Convenor on the Otago Branch of NZLS Council. Outside of work I love to spend time with my husband, family, and friends. I am an avid veggie gardener, cook, and “trainee” runner.

Something Interesting About Me: Between my running and general lack of co-ordination, I ended up with three simultaneous ACC claims last year...

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Ruth Ballantyne: Deputy Convenor

Previous Involvement with OWLS: This is my fourth year on the OWLS Committee and I am looking forward to another productive year.

Employment/Area of Practice: I am a Professional Practice Fellow at the University of Otago Faculty of Law specialising in family law research. I have worked at the Law Faculty for the past seven years.

About Me: I am originally from Oamaru and moved to Dunedin to go to University and never left. In my spare time I love to travel, take photos (of anything, everything, and everyone!), collect old suitcases and law books, hang out with my cat, and spend time with my partner, family, and friends.

Something Interesting About Me: I have size 13 (Euro 45) feet, which makes buying shoes very difficult (and expensive!), but it does mean I am good at measuring the square footage of a room!
Elizabeth McKenzie: Secretary

Previous Involvement with OWLS: I have been a member of OWLS since 2013 and have been on the Committee for the last three years.

Employment/Area of Practice: I work as a Human Resources Advisor at Dunedin City Council, but in my previous life I practiced employment law.

About Me: I grew up on an arable and blackcurrant farm in Mid-Canterbury and studied at Canterbury. After doing the typical Kiwi OE I returned to Christchurch to work in HR. I then moved south to practice law and I can’t imagine living anywhere else. Outside of the office I can often be found walking at Ross Creek or frequenting one of Dunedin’s great cafés (unless it’s Saturday morning in which case I’ll be at the Otago Farmers Market!)

Something Interesting About Me: I love to sing and I adore musicals!

Sarah Eckhoff: Treasurer

Previous Involvement with OWLS: Member since 2013, Treasurer since 2014.

Employment/Area of Practice: Property/Commercial/Wills and Estates at Gallaway Cook Allan.

About Me: I grew up in Dunedin, graduated with Law and Linguistics in 2010, worked in London for a couple of years, before returning to Dunedin to complete Profs in 2013.

Something Interesting About Me: I am going on holiday to Thailand this year and would welcome any recommendations about good places to visit.

Karen Billinghurst: General Committee

Previous Involvement with OWLS: I have been on the Committee since 2013, and joined OWLS as a member in 2012.

Employment/Area of Practice: Senior In-House Counsel at Chorus NZ Ltd, working on complex contracts (eg Spark, Nokia, plus field service – aka the guys in the white vans).

About Me: Early 40s, new-ish to Dunedin, two small children, living in St Clair. Somehow I’ve ended up having a career in the ICT industry as an in-house lawyer even though I can’t download music! I’m originally from New Plymouth and arrived in Dunedin three years ago via Mt Maunganui, UK, Auckland, and many years ago I graduated from Auckland University.

Something Interesting About Me: When I was at University I had a part-time job as a postie. I was trained by Jim Hickie’s son and delivered mail to “the mother of the nation” Judy Bailey. I also own a Ducati Monster 695!

Lenore Brady: General Committee

Previous involvement with OWLS: This is my third year on the Committee, and my fourth year practising as a solicitor.
Employment/Area of Practice: I work alongside the fearless Antony Hamel who has a general practice.

About Me: Before working in the law, I trained as a psychotherapist, taught English in Japan, and trained at Toi Whakaari the New Zealand Drama School. I also work as an actor at the medical school. This year I will also be helping a refugee family adapt to life in Dunedin.

Something Interesting About Me: I am cool – at long last. All the skills that my Nana and Mum valued and taught me (such as sewing, making bread, preserving, and general DIY living) are finally hip. Long may it reign!

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Alison Douglass: General Committee

Previous Involvement with OWLS: This is my third year on the OWLS committee. I am newish to Dunedin having shifted from Wellington with my family in 2011. OWLS has been a great way to meet other women lawyers in Dunedin.

Employment/Area of Practice: I am a barrister with a broad litigation background, specialising in health and disability law. I have been a staff solicitor, partner, and then consultant to Wellington law firm Tripe Matthews and Feist (a smallish firm with six partners) prior to going to the Bar in 2008. This year I am completing a legal research project on how New Zealand might update our mental capacity law. I am very fortunate to have been the recipient of the 2014 New Zealand Law Foundation International Research Fellowship and spent time in England during 2015. Who knows where your legal career might take you!

About Me: I grew up near Christchurch and I am very happy to be living in the South Island again after 20 years in Wellington. Life is pretty busy in our household as we have three teenage children at three different schools in Dunedin. My work/life balance is constantly under threat, a common theme for women in the profession.

Something Interesting About Me: I have spent a lot of time being passionate about the outdoors and being in the mountains, both in New Zealand and overseas.

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Val Farrow: General Committee

Previous Involvement with OWLS: I’m pretty sure I was on the OWLS Committee many years ago as a young practitioner, although I soon had baby number one and so my involvement was fairly limited and my recollection rather vague!

Employment/Area of Practice: I was admitted in 1999 after graduating from Otago University. I principally practiced Criminal and Family Law until 2008 when baby number three arrived, at which time I took up a position with the Institute of Professional Legal Studies. I have been with Polson McMillan since 2013, where I enjoy a varied practice with a particular focus on Relationship Property, Children’s Issues, Employment, and Immigration Law.

About Me: I was born in Rotorua, spent my school years in Canada and have called Dunedin home since 1991. John and I have three children aged eight through 12 who keep life interesting, and me on my toes. We love the lifestyle Otago offers and are proud Dunedites, who love our respective sport, camping, and adventuring when our busy schedules permit. I have a commitment to community service and governance and have worked with a range of community organisations.
Something Interesting About Me: I love country music and rodeos.

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Kylie Hope: General Committee

Previous Involvement with OWLS: This is my first year on the OWLS Committee.

Employment/Area of Practice: I am going to be admitted in May and will be working in the commercial team at Gallaway Cook Allan.

About Me: I am a born and bred Dunedinite and have just recently graduated from Otago University. Prior to studying I worked at the NZTA for a number of years as a Transport Officer (auditing commercial transport operators and making sure they complied with the many transport rules). Outside of work I can be found in the kitchen (I love cooking), at the beach, playing golf, spending time with family and friends and travelling.

Something Interesting About Me: I am a slave to the sun and have been to Thailand more times than I can count.

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Anne McLeod: General Committee

Previous Involvement with OWLS: I was on the OWLS Committee many, many years ago.

Employment/Area of Practice: I am a Partner at Anderson Lloyd practicing in the corporate commercial area.

About Me: After being a Partner at Anderson Lloyd in Christchurch for eight years, I have been back in Dunedin for six years. It is such an easy place to live! I have three children: Emily, Hannah and Luke. They keep me very busy with all their activities — thank goodness everything is close by in Dunedin.

Something Interesting About Me: Life is pretty busy which reduces the ability for “interesting” activities. Social activities centred around wine and good food always help!

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Shayne Milne: General Committee

Previous Involvement with OWLS: I have been an OWLS member since I started practising in 2012. This is my first year on the Committee.

Employment/Area of Practice: I am a Solicitor at Webb Farry and I work on the commercial and property team.

About Me: I grew up in Auckland and moved to Dunedin when I was 18 to do my degree, met my (now) husband, and never ended up leaving. I started out in general practice initially and enjoy the more narrow focus commercial and property law provides. Outside of work I enjoy running (especially on a sunny day), spending time with family and friends and weekend trips through to Central Otago whenever I can manage it.

Something Interesting About Me: I have an identical twin sister who is also a lawyer in Auckland.

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Louise Trevena-Downing: General Committee

Previous Involvement with OWLS: This is my first time being a part of the
OWLS Committee after a year of attending the wonderful events the society has to offer, I am looking forward to helping to carry on the fantastic work the past members have undertaken!

**Employment/Area of Practice:** I am in my first year of working at Anderson Lloyd, specialising in Resource Management.

**About Me:** I spent most of my younger life in sunny Nelson, where my family is based. I moved to Dunedin as a student and completed most of my LLB/BA at the University of Otago, before embarking on an exchange to Vancouver to complete my degree (and travel, of course). I moved back down to Dunedin upon my return to start my career mid-2015. Outside of the working environment I am really keen on running, biking, and skiing/snowboarding and I also love to read – I am part of a book club! I am also a committee member for various other committees for young professionals around Dunedin.

**Something Interesting About Me:** In late 2014 I went to Cambodia to volunteer teaching English in a low-decile school and what a challenge that was. I now have a well-founded respect for teachers!!

**OWLS OUT AND ABOUT**

**Kimberly Jarvis – Women You Can Bank On – April 2016**

On 18 April, a number of OWLS members attended “Women You Can Bank On” at the Town Hall. Hosted by Rachel Smalley, the event featured a keynote address from Raelene Castle, CEO of the Canterbury Bulldogs Rugby League Team, a debate that was MC’d by OWLS’ own Anita Chan QC, as well as a delicious three course dinner.

During the inspiring Keynote Address Ms Castle spoke about the challenges she has faced as a CEO as well as her tips on leadership. The debate topic, “that the best place to be in a man’s world is out of it” lent itself to spirited and often humourous arguments from a number of talented and successful women. In the end, the crowd voted the negative team the victors by rousing applause.

The event was slickly produced by the Dunedin Venues team and is set to become a regular event. If the response from the OWLS attendees is anything to go by, it looks like the event will be well-supported into the future.
HUNGRY OWLS:
Killer Chocolate Tart
By Lenore Brady

This astoundingly smooth and luscious tart is embarrassingly easy to make. This keeps absolutely perfectly for two to three days in the fridge so is a cracker to impress made a few days before. N.B. The Committee taste-tested this tart in February at a potluck dinner at Lenore’s house and can attest to just how delicious it is!

For a 24cm tart (enough for eight generous serves).

**Ingredients (for chocolate tart shell):**
- 140g flour
- 40g cocoa
- 75g icing sugar
- 115g butter
- 1 large egg yolk
- 1T cream (or coconut cream)
- ½ t vanilla

**Instructions:**
1. Blend the first four ingredients in the food processor until it looks like breadcrumbs.
2. Mix the wet ingredients in a small bowl. Add to the dry ingredients and pulse to combine. Don’t do it so long that it forms a ball.
3. Press into a tray. I find a flat-bottomed glass helpful for this especially if you lay a piece of baking paper down so that the dough doesn’t stick.
4. Freeze for 20-30 minutes.
5. Remove tart from the freezer, double line it with tin foil, and put in pie weights. Fancy ceramic ones are best as they heat up (they solved all my many blind baking issues) but people claim that beans work for them too.
6. Cook at 180° for 30 minutes, then remove the weights and cook another 5 or so. Check with your nose as it is hard to see if it is burnt because of the cocoa in it.
7. Immediately after it comes out of the oven fill with...

**Ingredients (for chocolate filling):**
- 250ml coconut cream (or cream)
- 350g 50%+ chocolate
- 90g butter
- 15ml brandy

8. Heat the coconut cream until it is hot, remove from heat, pile in the chocolate and butter, put a lid on, and wait for two minutes. Remove lid, stir vigorously, and then when it is almost mixed add the brandy and mix some more. Pour the filling into the shell.
9. Once cool let the tart set uncovered in the fridge for at least two hours. Then gladwrap it.
10. To serve, cover with fresh berries (or freeze dried raspberry powder or icing sugar), cut, and enjoy.