CONVENER’S REPORT: Kimberly Jarvis

OWLS held its 30th Anniversary Gala Dinner at Toitū on Friday 14 October 2016. It was a wonderful evening, attended by over 130 guests, including Judiciary, Queens Counsel, Life Members, past and present OWLS members, the Faculty, the local profession, and their partners. It was particularly great to see so many former Committee members and Convenors present. I was very proud to see how well supported the organisation is 30 years after its inception. Anita Chan QC was a fabulous Master of Ceremonies and we were treated to engaging and entertaining speeches from both Sally McMillan and the Hon. Dame Silvia Cartwright. We then danced the night away to live music from local band The Plus Ones. We have had some lovely feedback so far from those who attended, which makes all our hard work worthwhile.

One of my favourite things about the Gala was finally getting to meet a number of the women who were so influential in the early years, and about whom I have read so much of in Janet November’s Herstory of OWLS. We used this opportunity to take a series of photos for posterity that can also be used in the Herstory, which has had its first edit, and is on track to be published next year. Please watch out for the details of this (and a launch party) next year.

We have had a very hardworking Committee this year, and you will see from the newsletter that we have had some personnel changes in the last few months: we have farewelled our Treasurer, Sarah Eckhoff, and Secretary Lizzie McKenzie, and we welcomed Rebecca Barton to the Committee. Sarah and Lizzie did a great job on the Committee and I thank them for their hard work this year and over the past few years. Our new Treasurer, Karen Billinghamurst, and new Secretaries, Kylie Hope and Rebecca Barton are doing a great job so far. We will have some vacancies on the OWLS Committee next year, so I encourage all of our members to consider standing for the Committee in the new year.

Looking further into next year, as we announced at the Gala Dinner, we have secured our speaker for the 21st Annual New Zealand Law Foundation Ethel Benjamin Commemorative Address: Professor Nicola Peart. Nicola is a longstanding OWLS member, a Wise OWL, and will be the first of our members to present the Address since the inaugural Address was presented by Life Member, the Hon. Dame Silvia Cartwright in 1996. Watch this space for further details.
FAREWELL TO OWLS COMMITTEE MEMBERS SARAH ECKHOFF AND LIZZIE MCKENZIE

OWLS is sad to report the departure of Committee Member Sarah Eckhoff who left Dunedin in June for a new job with MinterEllison in Sydney. Sarah was the OWLS Treasurer since 2014 (when she also joined the Committee). We thank Sarah for her contribution to OWLS and wish her well in her new endeavour.

UPCOMING OWLS EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Company of Strangers Q&amp;A and Shopping Evening</td>
<td>Friday 11 November 2016</td>
<td>Company of Strangers, 320 George St, Dunedin</td>
<td>Drinks and nibbles provided by OWLS. Come along to hear from designer Sara Munro and enjoy a 10% discount on items purchased on the night. Please RSVP to <a href="mailto:members.owls@gmail.com">members.owls@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OWLS Christmas Lunch</td>
<td>Friday 9 December 2016</td>
<td>Plato, 2 Birch St, Dunedin</td>
<td>Lunch at own cost. A great chance to catch up with your fellow OWLS and celebrate another successful OWLS year. Please RSVP to <a href="mailto:members.owls@gmail.com">members.owls@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Aid Christmas Shopping Evening</td>
<td>Thursday 15 December 2016</td>
<td>Trade Aid, 133 George St, Dunedin</td>
<td>Drinks and nibbles provided by OWLS. Chocolate provided by Trade Aid. A great chance to stock up on some last minute Christmas gifts, all while supporting a great cause dear to our hearts. 10% discount on the night! Please RSVP to <a href="mailto:members.owls@gmail.com">members.owls@gmail.com</a></td>
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2017 ETHEL ANNOUNCEMENT:

The speaker at the 21st Annual New Zealand Law Foundation Ethel Benjamin Commemorative Address will be our very own Professor Nicola Peart! Congratulations Nicola. Stay tuned next year for more details!

OWNL SOCIAL MEDIA

Don’t forget to check out the OWLS website (otagowomenlawyerssociety.com) and to join the OWLS Facebook page.
PAST OWLS EVENTS

The 2016 OWLS Committee has brought you a wide range of events this year so far. We have attempted 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 most recent events below, including the OWLS 30th Anniversary Gala Dinner. 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.

16 June 2016: An Evening with Barbara Brookes

Professor Barbara Brookes from the University of Otago History Department spoke to a small but enthusiastic group of 15 OWLS on Thursday 16 June 2016 at the NZLS Branch Meeting Room. Her fascinating talk about “Past Injustices: History, Women, and the Law” was based on research from her new book *A History of New Zealand Women* and was extremely relevant to OWLS members. Those lucky enough to be in attendance were treated to an engaging, and at times, very entertaining talk showing how far women in New Zealand have come, and how much further we still have to go. Professor Brookes was a stellar presenter and we are grateful she gave up her time to speak with us. A very enjoyable evening all round!

7 July 2016: OWLS Mid-Winter Christmas Party

On Thursday 7 July 2016, approximately 20 OWLS members enjoyed the now annual Mid-Winter Christmas Party at Vault 21 in the Octagon. The evening began with drinks and delicious, albeit tricky to eat, nibbles and concluded with a sit down dinner for those who could stay on. Based on the intensity of the conversation and the laughter (at least from our end of the table!) everyone enjoyed catching up and celebrating the halfway point of the OWLS year in style!
14 July 2016: 20th Annual New Zealand Law Foundation Ethel Benjamin Commemorative Address

The Hon. Marcia Neave AO the Former Chair of the Royal Commission into Family Violence and Former Justice of the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court of Victoria presented the 20th Annual New Zealand Law Foundation Ethel Benjamin Commemorative Address at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery on Thursday 14 July 2016. The Address was entitled “The Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence – Responding to an Entrenched Social Problem”. Ms Neave spoke eloquently about the serious family violence problem in Australia, and explained how the Royal Commission undertook the consultation process. There was a focus on all kinds of family violence and the development of a 10 year bi-partisan plan to affect change via 227 individual recommendations to help those affected by family violence.

The topic of the Address was very timely, particularly considering New Zealand’s severe family violence problems, and provided a great deal of inspiration about what New Zealand could be doing better. The Address was extremely well attended by approximately 100 guests and OWLS were pleased to host another successful event with the help of our generous sponsors the New Zealand Law Foundation, the University of Otago Law Faculty, and the Williams Trust. The Address is available on the OWLS website and the DVD recording is available to watch on the New Zealand Law Foundation website <http://www.lawfoundation.org.nz/> for those who missed out. The Address will also be published in an upcoming issue of the Otago Law Review.

18 August 2016: Wise OWLS Birthday Drinks

On Thursday 18 August 2016, OWLS hosted Wise OWLS Birthday Drinks at Ombrellos to celebrate the Wise OWLS programme being up and running for two years. There were 20 OWLS and Wise OWLS present and everyone enjoyed the tasty drinks and nibbles in a nice relaxed atmosphere. We have also increased our number of Wise OWLS with Debbie Ericsson joining the ranks. Thank you to everyone who
made the evening such a success and to our Wise OWLS for sharing their wisdom with us all. We look forward to some more Wise OWLS lunchtime forums next year.

25 August 2016: First OWLETS Event

On Thursday 25 August 2016, the OWLS Committee hosted an event at Ombrellos with female law students from the University of Otago Faculty of Law who are interested in being involved in a new student branch of OWLS to be called the OWLETS (the name for a young OWL). One of the Committee’s goals this year was to build a closer relationship with our law students and to encourage more of them to become OWLS members. We intend to run the OWLETS group a bit like the Wise OWLS programme with a few social events alongside several lunchtime forums each year. Interested students will also be able to join OWLS if they wish and attend regular OWLS events. An OWLETS sub-committee has been established made up of six passionate female law students and they will be responsible for liaising with OWLS and administering a separate OWLETS Facebook page under the guidance of Deputy Convenor Ruth Ballantyne. Based on the impressive number of students in attendance (approximately 35) and their wonderful enthusiasm this initiative has got off to a great start.

23 September 2016: Suffrage Day Breakfast

On Friday 23 September 2016 OWLS hosted the annual (and extremely popular) Suffrage Day Breakfast, which was held at Ironic Café. Our guest speaker this year was the fascinating Liz Rowe of the Otago Chocolate Company (Ocho). Liz is an artist and former journalist, turned chocolate maker. She spoke about how her life got side-tracked by making ethical craft bean-to-bar chocolate and her journey along the way. The 25 OWLS in attendance certainly learned a lot about chocolate and I would encourage you all to check out her new shop/cafe at 22 Vogel St, Dunedin or online at <http://ocho.co.nz/>. Thank you to Liz for making the time to speak to us all (especially so early in the morning).
26 September 2016: University of Otago Women in Law Panel

On Monday 26 September 2016 an OWLS panel consisting of Anita Chan QC, Professor Nicola Peart, Rachel Brooking, Stephanie Pettigrew, Kim Jarvis, and Ruth Ballantyne spoke to 50 enthusiastic female law students for the Society of Otago University Law Students’ (SOULS) Wellness Week. The panel spoke about their experiences as female lawyers and academics and discussed things they wish they had known before they started out. This event also doubled as an OWLETS forum, with many in attendance, and other students joining up subsequently. Thank you to Julia Tillet (the SOULS Welfare Representative) for organising this event and to Russell McVeagh for providing the afternoon tea. We hope to have more events like this one in the future as part of the OWLETS programme.

14 October 2016: OWLS 30th Anniversary Gala Dinner and Dance

On Friday 14 September 2016 OWLS hosted a special Gala evening to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of OWLS at the Toitū Otago Settlers Museum. The Judiciary, Queens Counsel, Life Members, past and present members, the Law Faculty, and the local profession all attended in large numbers (133 in total), much to our delight, to help OWLS celebrate in style.

At the start of the evening, guests were welcomed with canapés and a Jazz Band, which was followed by a delicious meal and dessert bar provided by BB Catering. Master of ceremonies Anita Chan QC helped the evening run smoothly, and guests were treated to extremely impressive speeches from Sally McMillan, and the Hon. Dame Silvia Cartwright. Sally shared some of the history of OWLS and played excerpts from the oral histories of Life Members Marion Thomson and Margaret MacKay, which was particularly special. She also wove Ethel Benjamin’s journey into a rather inspiring fairy-tale. Dame Silvia gave an engaging speech about her experiences as Governor-General and the various hats she wore in that role! It turns out she should be a stand up comedian!

Our Convenor, Kim Jarvis, presented owl brooches to three Life Members, the Hon. Dame Silvia Cartwright, Judge Annis Somerville, and Judge Rosemary Riddell, after it had been discovered that the tradition of giving such brooches to life members did not begin until after their appointments, thus they had previously missed out!

The formalities of the evening were concluded by cutting a stunning cake in the shape of a law report, which was made by the Slice of Heaven Cake Company and a series of formal photos by photographer Jemma Wells, including members of the first OWLS committee, past convenors, and all past and present OWLS members. Once the formalities had concluded, guests danced the night away to live music from The Plus Ones. The Gala was certainly a night to remember and was enjoyed by all in attendance. We look forward to doing it all again in another 10 years! A big thank you to the extremely hard-working Gala Sub-Committee for pulling it all together in such style!! All photos by our photographer Jemma Wells. Check out more of her work at <http://www.jemmawells.com/>.
RECENT CHANGES

We have had some changes to the composition of our 2016 OWLS Committee. These are reflected in the list below. Note that Sarah Eckhoff (former Treasurer) and Lizzie McKenzie (former Secretary) are no longer on the OWLS Committee. We thank them both for their years of service and wish them well in the future. Rebecca Barton joined the Committee in July 2016 to replace Sarah Eckhoff. Please find her profile below. Karen Billinghurst has taken over Sarah’s role as Treasurer. Kylie Hope and Rebecca Barton have jointly taken over Lizzie’s Secretary duties.

2016 OWLS Committee (At October 2016)

- **Convenor:** Kimberly Jarvis
- **Deputy Convenor:** Ruth Ballantyne
- **Co-Secretaries:** Kylie Hope and Rebecca Barton
- **Treasurer:** Karen Billinghurst
- **General Committee:**
  - Lenore Brady
  - Alison Douglass
  - Val Farrow
  - Anne McLeod
  - Shayne Milne
  - Louise Trevena-Downing

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Rebecca Barton: Co-Secretary

**Previous Involvement with OWLS:** I have been a member since I started practising in 2015. This is my first year on the OWLS Committee.

**Employment/Area of Practice:** I am a solicitor at Anderson Lloyd and I work in the litigation team (never a dull moment!)

**About Me:** I grew up in Dunedin and attended University here, graduating with a LLB/BA (Hons) at the end of 2014. Outside of work you can find me curled up on the couch with a video game or in the kitchen trying my hand at new recipes.

**Something Interesting About Me:** I am an avid Simpsons fan; I am able to recite many of the earlier episodes virtually line for line and I have the Lego Simpsons house in my office (which took about 7 hours to build).

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HUNGRY OWLS:

Christmas Pudding and Brandy Sauce – By Lenore Brady

Now is the time to make your Christmas pudding before the silly season sets in. My advice…splash out! Buy the best fruit you can for this once a year treat. If this is all you are having at Christmas for dessert then this serves 6 to 8 people. But as a taster it is enough for more.

**Ingredients (for the Christmas Pudding):**

- 100g butter
- 125g flour
- 1½ tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ¼ tsp nutmeg
- ¼ tsp salt
- 480g dried fruit
- 150g glace cherries (or replace with dried fruit)
- ½ cup bread crumbs
- 150g brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp fresh rind
- 180 ml milk

**Instructions:**

1. Blend the first seven ingredients in the food processor until it looks like breadcrumbs.
2. Mix dried fruit in a bowl.
3. Add the ingredients from step 1 above and the breadcrumbs and mix.
4. Mix the egg, milk, and sugar together then stir through the fruit. I use my hands (not a wooden spoon) as my food mixer is too rough on the cherries. Put it into:
   - a greased pudding bowl and cover tightly with tin foil, or
   - a boiled (to sterilise), greased, and floured calico (make sure you leave room for it to expand) and boil for 4 ½ hours in gently boiling water.
5. Store hanging in a cool place in the calico or remove from bowl, wrap in layers of paper and store.
6. On the day boil again for two hours. I put mine on when we sit down for the first course.

**Ingredients (for the Brandy Sauce):**

This is an old recipe my Mum always loves. She has good taste. It is nothing short of stellar. This can be made the day before then reheated to make for a less stressful day for the cook.

- 300g brown sugar
- 4 eggs
- 115g butter
- 250ml cream (cow or coconut)
- 120 ml brandy

7. Melt butter and sugar, then add brandy.
8. Mix yolk and cream then stir into ingredients from step 7 above.
9. Cook on a low heat, stirring constantly until thick, this can take a while. (This part can be done in the microwave, but watch it as it goes from no to woe in a short space of time).
10. When it is almost thick beat the egg whites to the soft peak stage.
11. Once the caramel is thick pour it into the egg whites with the mixer still going.