



Meri Kirihimete,

The OWLS committee wishes you and your whānau a very happy, healthy & safe festive season.

A very big thank you to all of you who support OWLS by being members. Thank you also to the law firms and businesses who have continued to support OWLS through another year of uncertainty.

I am very grateful to the hard-working 2021 OWLS committee who planned CPD and Social events and then changed them again and again.

CPD

We are eagerly anticipating the following two events early in 2022:

THE INDIGENISING THE NEW ZEALAND LAW DEGREE EVENT - Inspiring National Indigenous Legal Education for Aotearoa New Zealand's Bachelor of Laws Degree - a Presentation and Discussion

THE WISEOWLS PANEL EVENT

Following the WISEOWLS subcommittee survey of the WISEOWLS members, OWLS decided to hold WISEOWLS panel events with experienced practitioners sharing their wisdom with other members of the profession.

Coffee Catch-ups

We continued to hold Coffee Catch-Ups which were permitted under the previous Covid-19 Level 2 - the most popular of which at Catalyst attracted 20 OWLS. As a Committee we value live in person events which give us the opportunity to mix and mingle, make new connections and strengthen existing friendships.

Now that Aotearoa is in the traffic light system, it will be more straightforward to hold both CPD and Social events for the majority of our members. We will endeavour to provide CPD virtually in addition to in person so that OWLS living outside Dunedin, and OWLS who do not hold a vaccine pass can attend.

Ethel Benjamin Commemorative Address

As Convener, I was extremely disappointed that the Annual New Zealand Law Foundation Ethel Benjamin Commemorative Address did not proceed due to Covid-19 Restrictions. The OWLS Committee considered holding the Address virtually, but decided against this for a number of reasons including the gravitas of the event and that there would be no opportunity for socialising for loyal supporters of the Address, who had travelled from Dunedin or further afield. Barring unforeseen circumstances, the 2022 Address will be held in September next year.

Christmas Lunch

OWLS staged a mini-takeover of Nova on Thursday 2 December 2021 when we held the annual Christmas Lunch. Originally 46 OWLS planned on attending, however 42 were able to attend on the day. We were really impressed with how efficiently Nova delivered the pre-ordered meals - Vietnamese Salad was the most popular with 17 orders, next Spiced cauliflower 8, and 3rd = Pumpkin risotto and Eggs benedict.

On the day OWLS members donated \$190 to Women's Refuge which was matched and rounded up to \$400 by the OWLS committee.

OWLS committee 2021

We farewelled Catherine Donaldson in August from the OWLS committee and thanked her for her four years of service, one as Deputy Convener.

We welcomed Korrie Middendorf as a new OWLS committee member based in Queenstown.

The OWLS committee also celebrated becoming honorary OWLS aunties with the arrival of Melissa Hammer's son Arthur in November.

In 2022 we will farewell Lizzie Rutherford and Georgia Stumbles from the OWLS committee, both of whom have been on the committee for four years. Georgia as Treasurer for all four years, and Lizzie as Convener and Secretary for one year and a general committee member for the other two years.

20-Year Lunch

In November OWLS hosted a luncheon to celebrate OWLS members who had reached the milestone of either being admitted or holding a practising certificate for 20 years during 2020 or 2021. The 20 Year Celebratory lunch was a joyous occasion held at Bacchus.

Five of the eight OWLS who reached the milestone were able to join us. Sadly Rachel Brooking was in Invercargill with MP duties, and Nadia McKenzie had a clash with a board meeting. We look forward to them being feted in 2022.



Back: Rochelle Crossman, Lisa Brown and Sarah Eyre
Front: Tammy Whelan and Kate Hesson

Joining the OWLS committee

I would encourage those of you who are interested in joining OWLS to have a think about whether this could be on your bucket list for 2022. There are many benefits to joining the Committee: governance experience, but more importantly you meet and make friends with a wide range of women from the Otago legal community. If you are interested, job descriptions for the office bearer roles and general committee members are on the website under the Committee Tab. Nomination forms will go out with the notice of the AGM. A number of current members are returning so experienced OWLS members will be there to support new committee members as they learn the ropes.

AGM

We plan on holding the OWLS AGM in mid to late February 2022 and hope to see you there.

Meri Kirihemete

I will close with one of my favourite sisterhood quotes from Cheryl Barton which I referenced at the 20 -Year Celebratory Lunch

“I believe in the power of sisterhood, so be that sister that another woman needs or when you need a lift, find a sister”

See you all on the other side of the holiday.

Meri Kirihemete - Kia hari te tau hou 2022.

Grace Ockwell
OWLS Convener 2021