GRADUATE WOMEN NSW
JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

It is pleasing to be able to announce the winners of two of our awards at last after our Scholarships Convenor, Dr Janet Ramsay has had such a challenging time finding sufficient assessors for the very large number of applications we received for the Education Trust Awards this year. We are very grateful to the assessors who have helped out this year. Without them our wheels would not continue to turn! See details of the winners below in Jane Baker's report. Cate and Emily are two young women who are truly worthy of the support that GWNSW is able to provide.

We also have reports from our branches, featuring City Branch's July Morning Tea event, Canberra's address by Dr Catherine Evans on her travels along the Silk Routes and Central West's work to raise GWNSW's profile with the Country University Centres (CUCs) through the efforts of our Vice President Susan White.

Thank you to all those who have renewed their memberships, a gentle reminder to those who have not and thanks to those who have attracted new members.

All the best to for the month ahead,

Christine

Dr Christine Jennett
President - Graduate Women NSW

JAMIESON AND EDUCATION TRUST WINNERS

Both the Jamieson and Education Trust Awards attracted outstanding candidates. Emily Cook was the unanimous decision for the Jamieson Award where evidence of community involvement is preferred as well as academic excellence and she shows both to an

outstanding degree. Emily won the GW prize in English at USYD in 2024. Cate Fitzpatrick is the assessors pick for the Education Trust Award and again is an outstanding student.

In summary:

Emily Cook, JAMIESON AWARD WINNER

BSc and B Advanced Studies (Honours) majoring in English and Neuroscience.
4Ds in first semester but HD in everything since! Many prizes and scholarships including AFGW English our earliest prize - over 100 years!
Tutoring, in remedial literacy and Maths and HSC Biology and English, Social visitor in Residential Dementia Care. Youth group leader, Music ministry, Mission partnership involved in raising $1.6million and several support groups within the university.



Emily Cook, Winner of the Jamieson Award



Kate Fitzpatrick, Winner of the Education Trust Award

Cate Fitzpatrick, EDUCATION TRUST WINNER

Cate is in the third year of a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Advanced Studies, with majors in Neuroscience and Philosophy. In 2026 she plans to undertake an Honours project in either cognitive neuroscience or neurogenetics with a focus on young people. She is hoping to be able to continue to postgraduate research with an aspiration to eventually pursue scientific journalism and plans to be involved in an internship in that field while pursuing her Honours project.

Those who assessed Cate's application were impressed not only by her outstanding results but also by her personal impact statement. She speaks of the challenge of suffering with a spinal fracture which impacts her physical and mental health. She believes that success with our award will enable her to afford more advanced physiotherapy as well as relieving her anxieties about the financial implications of pursuing her study ambitions.

While such disadvantage is not a consideration for this award as it is, for example, with the Joan Ritchie Award, I believe that Cate stands out in a strong field not only in terms of her academic achievement and aspiration but as an applicant for whom the award would make a real difference in assisting her to pursue her significant studies and ambitions.

Emily plans a new laptop and Cate extra physiotherapy. Both were very excited to hear

they have succeeded in their applications and hope to be able to attend the next Scholars Day.

Dr Jane Baker
President - Education Trust

GW-NSW CITY BRANCH

The Branch hosted a morning tea on 17 July at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel. Speakers were Beverly Baker, President of the Australian Older Women's Network and the Older Women's Network NSW, together with Professor Shirley Randell AO, Ambassador for the National Older Women's Network and President of GWNSW City Branch, and Stephanie Martin, Dr Randell's carer and assistant. They particularly focused on the recent forum: *Active Aging: Building an Age Friendly Society: Asia Pacific Regional Forum on the Human Rights of Older Persons and Ageing,* convened by the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia, and shared key insights from the recent international conferences in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on the Draft United Nations Convention on the Rights of Older Persons, as foreshadowed by the United Nations Human Rights Council, Geneva.



Prof Shirley Randell AO wearing a Del (traditional Mongolian attire)

City Branch hopes to continue Morning Teas as a monthly event. As well as contributing to the social engagement of members, these events are an important source of fund-raising for the local scholarships awarded to TAFE students and others. It will be hosting another morning tea event from 10am to 12 noon on Thursday 14 August. The speaker will be Dr Zeny Edwards OAM, Architectural Historian and Human Rights Advocate who will present her book *Painting with Stone: The Story of the Melocco Brothers* which has been published and has enjoyed book launches, media interviews and articles. Talks and tours have also

been organised for the rest of the year.

This morning tea will be held at Castlereagh Boutique Hotel and will be advertised on Humanitix. The topic continues City Branch's commitment to publicised the stories of older people, migrant people, Aboriginal people and people with disabilities to celebrate diverse communities in Australia.

Prof Shirley Randell AO and Dr Rosemary Huisman

GW-NSW CENTRAL WEST BRANCH

Central West Branch members are following up their successful fund-raising efforts with preparation for the Annual General Meeting to be held 10th September 2025.

Members are being encouraged to renew their membership before the AGM so that they can participate as fully paid-up members with voting and nomination rights.

Emails have been sent out to the Managers of all the Central West Country Universities Centres (CUCs) advertising the Dr Barbara Wright Scholarship. This scholarship includes the criterion of having a strong connection with the Central West region and therefore is relevant to the CUC female students in Cowra, Mudgee and Parkes.

As a result of the liaison with Managers, there has been some interest from staff about Graduate Women NSW as an organisation. This may become an opportunity to promote membership of GW among staff and postgraduate female students in CUCs.

Susan White
Central West Branch Representative

GW-NSW CANBERRA BRANCH

Dr Catherine Evans spoke on her recent travel to visit one of the China Silk Routes in June. The trip started at Urumqi, the capital of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous region, and the largest city in Western China and 2,500 km from the nearest sea.

It is the location of the 'Mummies of Urumqi' which were discovered in 1994. Urumqi is also close to the Mongolian border in northwestern China. The tour concluded at Xi'an before flying back from China via Guangzhou International airport. Unfortunately, the departure from Xián was delayed due to heavy storms so the tour members arrived at Guangzhou at the time of the scheduled departure so missed the departure flight to

Australia. Fortunately, there were 2 native Chinese speakers amongst the tour so they dealt with the authorities to get accommodation until the next morning or afternoon depending on final destination city.

The 30 tour members were from various Eastern states but had a few different ethnic backgrounds including the 2 Chinese women so it was an interesting and enjoyable tour group. We did not see the 'Mummies of Urumqi' due to some renovations of the museum but we did see various monuments, many of which had been restored, interesting UNESCO sites, a geological park which is home to the famous Rainbow Mountains with rock strata of different colours, the Giant Buddha Temple (Dafo Temple) where Kublai Khan supposedly was born and home to the largest indoor clay reclining Buddha in China and the bronze Galloping Horse treading on a flying swallow statue in Zhangye.

The fast train was experienced on 2 occasions, the second occasion arriving in Xi'án and the famous terracotta warriors and a short drive the following day to the panda location on the free day in Xi'án.

The daily outside temperature was often in excess 38°C but the hotels were air conditioned after our outside activities. The variety of foods in our breakfast buffets were interesting but was surprised that black coffee was not available until Xián. As English was not at all common in even the hospitality arena, our member was fascinated by the mobile phone translation activity she experienced even in the hotels.
We have several people travelling in coming weeks, so may not be able to provide an August update.

Jocelyn Eskdale PhD
GW NSW (Canberra)



GW-NSW CANBERRA BRANCH

Thu, 14 Aug, 10am - 12pm AEST

To obtain Tickets, please follow link following
https://events.humanitix.com/gwnsw-city-branch-morning-tea-event-meet-dr-zeny-edwards-oam/tickets

Or You may also purchase Tickets at the door

Venue: Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 169 Castlereagh St., *S*ydney NSW, Australia - Function Room **5th Floor**

RSVP: Dr Lesley Potter, email – catch63 @bigpond.net.au by **12 August.**

Event description
You are invited to the **August GWNSW City Branch Morning Tea Event**, featuring guest speaker **Dr Zeny Edwards OAM**, an esteemed architectural historian, award-winning biographer, cultural heritage consultant, and human rights advocate.

Dr Edwards has held significant leadership positions including President of the National Trust of Australia (NSW), Chair of UN Women Australia (NSW), and Immediate Past President of the Australian Council for Human Rights Education. She currently serves as President of the Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance, Coordinator of International Relations at Australian Graduate Women, and Board Member of the Museum of Understanding Through Tolerance and Inclusion.

Dr Edwards will reflect on her decades of national and international experience in cultural heritage, human rights, and global governance. She will explore the role of heritage in fostering peace and sustainability, and how women's leadership in civil society can shape inclusive and equitable futures. She will also talk about her recent book about early migrants who have left their mark on so many marble artworks around the city of Sydney: "Moroccan Artists in Sydney Australia".

This morning tea event offers an opportunity to hear directly from a passionate advocate and accomplished leader whose work bridges history, diplomacy, and social justice. It will also provide a meaningful space for dialogue on how GWNSW members and guests can engage with global conversations on heritage, peace, and gender equity.



Calendar of Events

Monday 1 September – Central West Branch - Dr Barbara Wright Postgraduate Scholarship closes.

Thursday 25 September – City Branch Morning Tea - Speaker will be Dr Zeny Edwards OAM, Architectural Historian and Human Rights Advocate.

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