GRADUATE WOMEN NSW

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

President's report

Dear Members,

This month I took a tumble and broke my right wrist as you will see in the photos included, so we are running a bit late with the Newsletter. November is the month of the GW NSW Annual General Meeting (15 November in person) so please see the attached notice and book in if you can. City Branch's AGM (4 December via Zoom) is taking place in early December so its notice is also included.

City Branch's annual TAFE awards event is reported below and there is a report from Prof Shirley Randell on the group of City Branch members who attended the Graduate Women International Conference in Lusaka, as members of Australian Graduate Women.

Every best wish for the month ahead,

Christine

Dr Christine Jennett
President
Graduate Women NSW

CITY BRANCH'S 2025 TAFE AWARDS

These awards are an annual opportunity to celebrate the achievements of three outstanding female students from across NSW who have overcome hardship to complete their TAFE Tertiary Preparation Certificate to a high standard and successfully complete their First Semester at University. For this year's awards the President Shirley Randell was in hospital recovering from surgery, so I went and gave out the certificates to the awardees on her behalf. The presentation took place at Ultimo TAFE 11am-12:30pm on Wednesday 29 October with light refreshments to conclude. The guest speaker was Belinda Mackinnon, Executive Director of Equity, Foundational Skills, Aboriginal Culture and Languages, TAFE NSW. Belinda was awarded the Public Service Medal in this year's King's Birthday Honours List. As usual Susan Wilson liaised with Samantha Calabrese, TAFE's State Tertiary Pathways Coordinator, to bring about the selection of the awardees and the award event. City Branch is most grateful to them and especially to Susan for undertaking this role on its behalf.



Belinda Thompson-White completed her TPC at Ultimo TAFE and is now studying a Bachelor of Social Sciences Degree at Macquarie University MAJOR: Climate, Environment and Society Major Critical Indigenous Studies Major 2025



Sarah Jane Egan completed her Tertiary Pathways Certificate at St Leonards TAFE Campus, Sydney and is now undertaking a Bachelor of Arts at Macquarie University.

The third awardee was Annabelle Nixon who completed her TPC at Coffs Harbour TAFE Campus, Northern Region. Annabelle is an Indigenous student and is studying a Bachelor of Education at Southern Cross University. Unfortunately, she was unable to attend the event as she was working.

Prof Shirley Randell addresses the event via Zoom form her hospital bed. What follows is an extract from her address.

‘Over 50 years of my adult life (I am now 85) I have been involved in the management of education at all levels in Australia and overseas: in the Pacific, Asia and Africa. I have greatly admired Australia’s TAFE education system that offers practical, hands-on training, leading to quicker entry into the workforce with skills that generate higher earnings and the likelihood of ongoing employment. Benefits of a TAFE education include flexible learning options, shorter course lengths, lower costs, and industry-specific skills. A TAFE education also provides pathways to universities that our awardees today are now experiencing so successfully.

I am delighted that two of my grandchildren began their tertiary education in TAFE colleges in Sydney. One completed a Diploma course in music performance. This gave her valuable experience in live performance and helped build her connections in the industry. It has enabled her joy in participating in regular gigs in her band across Sydney and New South Wales. She is now studying a Bachelor of Environment Science and hopes she will join animal and land conservation in the future. Her partner also studied a Diploma of Music Performance, as well as a Certificate 3 in conservation and ecosystem management. This Certificate gave him the required qualifications for bush regeneration, and with TAFE references, enabled him to find a job in the industry immediately after completing the course.

A second grandchild completed Certificates 2, 3 and 4 in Youth Work at TAFE before completing her Diploma in Community Services in tertiary studies. This allowed her to begin her current career, first as a Youth Worker followed by promotion to a Caseworker. Then while working full time she undertook university studies part time over 3 and a half years before graduating with a Bachelor of International Development degree. This assisted her to obtain her current role as a Senior Case Manager for Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors. She highly values her TAFE studies as the stepping stone crucial to equipping her with the skills and attributes to complete her university degree at a later stage.

I am disappointed that I am unable to celebrate with you all today – I very much enjoyed being with you at last year’s ceremony. However, only my surgery to replace my right knee has prevented my attendance and it may even be possible to be zoomed in this morning from my hospital bed!

Once again, congratulations to you three awardees and appreciation to Samantha and Susan. Go well in your careers’.

Dr Christine Jennett
President
Graduate Women NSW

GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ZAMBIA

The organisation by the Zambian Graduate Women of Graduate Women International's 2025 conference at the Lusaka conference centre was extraordinary. The business sessions were sandwiched between a welcome traditional feast (where Emilia and our fellow participants sampled caterpillars, among other traditional delicacies!) and a farewell Gala dinner event. We two were part of the four-member Australian Graduate Women delegation: Belinda Mason Knierim OAM, Aunty Dixie Link-Gordon, Emilia Randell and Shirley Randell AO. Our team represented AGW with other country delegations representing their national organisations, and the four of us were also proud to be members of Graduate Women NSW City Branch.

The New Zealand Graduate Women delegation also had four members, and apart from Zambia and Canada with larger delegations, AGW had the most delegates, all participating as speakers in the workshop sessions. Belinda and Dixie opened the workshop day, speaking on "*Cross-Cultural Collaboration and Co-Design: A Conversation between Dixie Link-Gordon and Belinda Mason OAM*". Emilia and I spoke in the final session on "*Intergenerational Experiences enabling Growth and Sustainability: 33-year-old Emilia Randell, 63-year old Dixie Link Gordon, and 85-year-old Professor Shirley Randell AO"*. Emilia and I voted as Australian delegates for the new Graduate Women International President and Council members for the 2026-28 triennium, and on the acceptance of several recommendations on key international issues from around the world. I was proud to present AGW President Professor Jaya Dantas' substantial triennial report on our activities over the 2023-25 triennium.

Prof Shirley Randell AO
President
City Branch
Graduate Women NSW

GW-NSW 2025 AGM Notice

Notice of Annual General Meeting.

The AGM of GW-NSW Inc. will take place on Saturday 15 November 2025 at Castlereagh Room, 2nd Floor Castlereagh Boutique Hotel. 169 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

10:00am Education Trust AGM

11:00am Graduate Women- NSW AGM

Followed by a light lunch and speaker

Speaker: Prof. Emerita Eileen Baldry AO.

"The Criminalisation of First Nations Women and Girls: education's role in preventing it"

RSVP by 7 November 2025 to Lesley Potter catch63@bigpond.net.au

$40 Payments (including a light lunch) to BSB: 062 216 Account: 10097646 Name: GWNSW City Branch. In 'Reference' please insert your full name.

Email: with your attendance information, details of Direct Deposit payment and names of guests.

CITY BRANCH'S 2025 AGM Notice

Dear Members of City Branch,

Please see attachments for AGM & Special Meeting 4 December 2025 via Zoom.

RSVP by 1 December 2025 to Lesley Potter catch63@bigpond.net.au.

Members must be financial to be able to vote at this meeting.

Here is the link to join the online meeting for AGM of the NSW Graduate Women - City Branch.
Topic: AGM City Branch Zoom Meeting
Time: Dec 4, 2025 10:00 AM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
Join Zoom Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6708065718?omn=88029467112
Meeting ID: 670 806 5718
Lesley Potter
Secretary

Calendar of Events

15 November 11.00 – 2 pm GW NSW **Annual General Meeting** at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel preceded by the Education Trust Annual General Meeting at 10 am.

4 December 10 – 11 am City Branch Annual General Meeting via Zoom.

28 January NCW ***Celebrate Being Australian Awards***.