

## **Australian Federation of University Women – Victoria Scholarship Report to AGM, 16 September 2006**

### **SCHOLARSHIP ADMINISTRATION**

Scholarship administration has been conducted by the Scholarship Committee consisting of Margaret James, Marian Quartly and myself. I would like to formally thank the members of the scholarship committee and the general committee for their support and help throughout the year.

In 2006 we continued to use the web-site as the main source of information for prospective applicants. The Scholarship Secretary's email address and phone number were available for queries and queries were received from applicants from all over the world. Vice-Chancellors of Victorian universities were contacted by letter, requesting assistance in communicating scholarship availability to students. To further facilitate communication committee members took on the responsibility of contacting all faculties at all universities. This proved to be very successful with applications being received from all universities and many campuses.

The tradition of naming bursaries after founding mothers of AFUW has been continued. With each scholarship winner's cheque a brief biography of the individual is included. Scholarship recipients have been appreciative and in many cases overawed by these role models.

I would like to thank Associate Professor Meg Tasker from the University of Ballarat for her continued assistance in administering the Ruth Andrews Prize.

Building on the process introduced previously scholarships were available to women who had achieved academic excellence and had overcome disadvantage in the pursuit of their studies. The term 'disadvantage' was widely defined to cover such matters as family responsibility, geographical isolation, ethnic origin, disability and economic disadvantage. Application forms and where applicable the Guidelines to Referees could be downloaded from the web. An administration fee of \$20 was charged for each application.

Each application was checked by the Scholarship Committee for eligibility and to make sure the disadvantage criteria had been met. Eligible students were then assessed for academic merit by three panels of senior women academics, representing three universities and a range of disciplines. We are extremely grateful to this group for finding time in their busy schedules to assist us. To keep the examiners' names confidential these women are not named individually but a heartfelt thankyou has been sent to each one. We are building up a dossier of women who are prepared to do this important job. If there is anyone who may be prepared to help in this rewarding task please contact me.

### **SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION DAY**

The Scholarship Presentation Day was held in the Cabrini Hospital Auditorium in June. We were pleased to welcome Jane Rennie a previous scholarship winner and committee member as guest presenter, the scholarship winners, their friends and families together with representatives from La Trobe University, University of Ballarat and University of Melbourne and a representative from the Melbourne Community Foundation. We were also

particularly pleased to welcome Professor Margaret Clayton from Canberra, who has supported us for many years as chair of scholarship examiners' committees. One of the bursaries for postgraduate research students in 2006 was named after her. Once again, we thank Professor Sandra Legg and her assistant Sally Bennett for arranging the use of the auditorium; it is a pleasant and comfortable venue where we feel very much at home. We again chose not to have a guest speaker as the committee felt that the scholarship winners' talks are so impressive they stand alone. We learnt about the winners' educational backgrounds and research areas – we will never look at Argentine Ants in quite the same way again. Treasurer Marian Quartly gave information about where the funds for our scholarship programme come from and a brief bio of each of the named bursaries. There was also a display of photos of the rebuilding of Nurani Dunia School in Aceh which is supported by donations from AFUW Vic.

The scholarships awarded in 2006 are listed below:

### **Postgraduate**

**William and Elizabeth Fisher Scholarship for postgraduate research students (\$2500):** *Antonia Gamboa Rocha, University of Melbourne*

**Bursaries for postgraduate research students (\$1000 each):**

**Jean Alcorn Bursary:** *Deborah Mayersen, University of Melbourne*

**Margaret Clayton Bursary:** *Elissa Suhr, Monash University*

**Discretionary Grant (\$250):** *Gwenyth Rankin, Deakin University*

**AFUW-Vic Scholarship for coursework masters students (\$2000):**  
*Carol Grimshaw, Monash University*

**Bursaries for Coursework Masters Students (\$1000 each):**

**Pat Kennedy Bursary:** *Annabella Fung, Deakin University*

**Fifi Hansen Bursary:** *Mehroonisha Jainullabudeen, University of Melbourne*

**Discretionary Grant (\$250):** *Ainura Tursunaliyeva, Monash University*

**Presentation Day Scholarship for a clinical nurse enrolled in a Postgraduate degree (\$1000):** *Kay Kenchington, University of Melbourne*

### **Undergraduate**

**E.D Daniel Scholarship for an undergraduate student entering Honours year (\$2000):** *Huddia Amiri, Monash University*

**Bursaries for undergraduate students entering Honours year (\$1000 each):**

**Lucy Bryce Bursary:** *Sarah Golding, Monash University*

**Frances Pennington Bursary:** *Kate Rogers, Deakin University*

**Discretionary Grant (\$250):** *Elizabeth Gay, Victoria University*

**AFUW-Vic Indigenous Award to an indigenous student enrolled in a degree at La Trobe University (\$2000):**

*Kerri Douglas, La Trobe University Bendigo Campus*

**Ruth Andrews Prize for a student enrolled in English Literature at University of Ballarat (\$250):** *Katherine McMahon*, University of Ballarat

The AFUW-Vic Indigenous Award was awarded for the first time for a number of years. Our thanks go to the people at La Trobe University who chose a very worthy winner of this award. Due to time constraints the Clare Taylor Prize for an undergraduate female student was not offered in 2006. There were no Education Grants awarded in 2006 although there is an application (more documentation required) pending.

For historical purposes Margaret James is compiling a list of details of bequests and another list of all scholarships awarded by AFUW-Vic in the past, together with some details of the winners. This is an ongoing project to consolidate all the vital information about our scholarships in the same document.