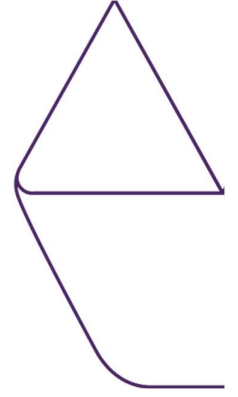




Association for Women in the Sciences



AWIS Convenor's Report 2021

Emma Timewell, National Convenor
Presented on 9 July 2021

Our regions

AWIS had 64 members at the end of the 2020/21 year, broken down into regions:

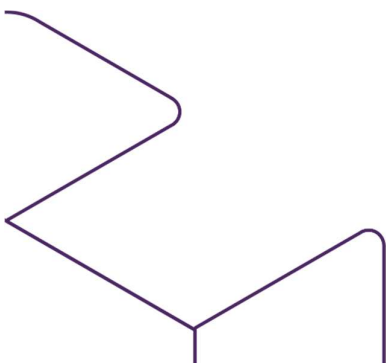
- Wellington 12
- Waikato 3
- Tasman 2
- Dunedin 13
- Christchurch 10
- Auckland 22
- Rotorua 2

Auckland, Dunedin, Christchurch and Wellington have been active this year, but plans for many of our events were put on hold due to the uncertainty associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Casual events such as meeting over lunch or dinner have taken place in the majority.

Our brand rollout

Over the past year we've continued to roll-out our new brand. We held a competition to design a clothing brand for AWIS in late 2020 that incorporated our new logo. On the back of this, we opened an online clothing and merchandise store, where anyone can purchase AWIS-branded T-shirts, hoodies, mugs and water bottles.

We've also updated our pull up banners and everyone at the conference will receive some branded goodies in their bags.



ICWES 2023

In late 2020, AWIS and Engineering New Zealand were awarded the contract to host the 2023 International Conference for Women Engineers and Scientists (ICWES19), a triennial conference of the International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES). We have subsequently contracted a Professional Conference Organiser, Conference Innovators, to work with us on putting the conference together. It is anticipated, COVID notwithstanding, that upwards of 300 female women in STEM will travel to New Zealand to attend the conference. It will be the largest conference we've put together, totalling about 600 people altogether, and will incorporate our next AWIS triennial conference.

For those wishing to save the date, we'll be hosting in Auckland in early September 2023.

Our scholarships

The AWIS Women in STEM scholarship was awarded for the third time, administered by the New Horizons for Women Trust. Two women benefited from the scholarship – one studying for a Bachelor of Engineering and one for a PhD in Computer Science – which aims to support women studying STEM for undergraduate or postgraduate qualifications with study or living costs. The Award is aimed at women studying a field where women are currently under-represented and whose social identity is under-represented in their field.

The Gatehouse Travel Award was not awarded this year – for those that don't know of the award, these scholarships are for of up to \$250 to cover indirect costs associated with attending events with personal development opportunities. We also offered extra scholarships specifically for attending the conference for which we received no applications.

Statistics update

Over the past few years we've been looking at updating the women in science statistics that we previously published in 2010. We contracted a PhD student, Heloise Pavanato, to crunch some of the numbers and these will be available on our website as a downloadable pdf. We anticipate adding to these and analysing trends on a subject basis, but the top level secondary, tertiary and employment data is now available for anyone to reference.

Other activities

We are an active Constituent Organisation of the Royal Society Te Apārangi, and have attended Zoom meetings and supported Fellowship nominations.

Thanks

Thanks to all the Executive for their help and support, as I step down as National Convenor at the end of my three-year term. Also thanks to the 2020 conference organising committee who had to pivot and have done a great job reorganising the conference for 2021.