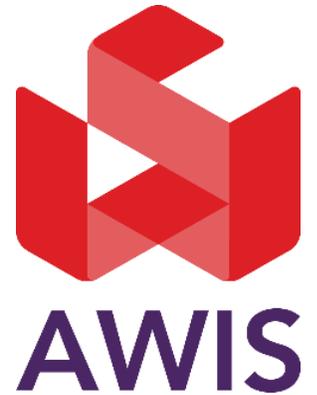


Association for Women in the Sciences



AWIS Convenors' Report 2022

Submitted on behalf of AWIS by:

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AWIS National Co-Convenors

30 July 2022

Membership in our Regions

AWIS had 89 members at the end of the 2021/22 year, broken down into regions:
Auckland 20, Christchurch 13, Dunedin 32, Manawatu 2, Rotorua 1, Tasman 5,
Waikato 5, Wellington 11

Auckland, Dunedin, Christchurch and Wellington regional branches 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.

Our Auckland branch held a range of virtual (Online drinks, Sep 21; PhD panel, Nov 21; Predator-free panel, March 22) and in person events (An Evening with Susan Turner, April 22 and AUT Women in STEM film festival, July 22). Christchurch also held an in person catch up in April 22, while Dunedin had a Christmas get together in Dec 21. The Wellington branch celebrated Di Tracey's Dell Award also in Dec 21.

AWIS triennial conference - Embracing Diversity

AWIS 2021 - Embracing Diversity was held in Dunedin 8-9th July 2021, and counted with 150 attendees among WiS from private companies, Crown Research Institutes, academic staff and postgraduate students. The opening Keynote address was delivered by Prof Tanya Smith from Griffith University (Australia), and the closing Keynote address by Prof Dame Juliet Gerrard, Chief Science Advisor to the NZ Prime Minister. The conference had three main concurrent streams (Science bits, Professional development and Embracing diversity) throughout two days. A family-friendly science outreach event happened on the afternoon of 8 July, where attendees' families could also join the conference. The conference was sponsored by the University of Otago, NIWA, Plant and Food Research, MBIE, ESR, GNS Science, AFT Pharmaceuticals, Maurice Wilkins Center, Landcare Research, Te Punaha Matatini, The Macdiarmid Institute and Cawthron.

Dell Award

The 2021 Miriam Dell Award for Excellence in Science Mentoring was awarded in December 2021 to Di Tracey, a deep-sea fisheries and ecology scientist at NIWA.

The Miriam Dell Award was introduced in 2013 and is awarded on a biennial basis to someone who demonstrates outstanding mentoring efforts to retain females in science, mathematics or technology. The Award is named for Dame Miriam Dell, Patron of AWIS, botanist, secondary school teacher and advocate for women's advancement.

Passing of Dame Miriam Dell

Our Patron, Dame Miriam Dell, passed away in 22 March 2022. During her lifetime, she was a committed advocate for women's issues, for which she was honoured with several awards. Dame Miriam was a regular attendee at the AWIS conferences. In 2013, we launched the Miriam Dell Award for Excellence in Science Mentoring in her honor, which will continue to bear her name.

AWIS conference - ICWES 2023

Planning is well underway for the 2023 International Conference for Women Engineers and Scientists (ICWES19), a triennial conference of the International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES) in partnership with AWIS. The meeting will be held in Auckland in September 2023 and we anticipate receiving more than 500 attendees from New Zealand and overseas. The programme is currently under development, and we welcome any ideas for speakers, topics or workshops. Please send your suggestions to icwes19.nz@gmail.com

Our scholarships

The AWIS Women in STEM scholarship 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 AWIS Women in STEM scholarship, administered by the New Horizons for Women Trust, was not awarded in 2022. This was due to the impact of the COVID pandemic in our capacity to fundraise for the scholarship and guarantee its longevity. We expect to be able to offer the scholarship again in 2023.

The Gatehouse Travel Award was not awarded this year due to lack of applications. These scholarships help cover indirect costs associated with attending events with personal/professional development opportunities, with a maximum value of \$250.

AWIS AUT Women in Science Film Festival

Originally planned to run from 1-7 July as a fundraiser for the Women in STEM Award, the event was sponsored by AUT School of Science and University of Auckland Faculty of Science. The film festival was reorganised to run for 2 nights only due to low ticket sales. The launch was held on 1 July, and the other film was shown on 3 July. The team organising this event are looking at opportunities to show the remaining films over an extended period of time rather than all at once.

In parallel, we ran an online auction item of a 3D printed anatomical model donated by the Creative Design and Additive Manufacturing Lab (Faculty of Engineering, UOA), and a givealittle page was established for donations. Timing of the festival and other ongoing fundraising options like the givealittle page the final figure fundraised for the scholarship is not presented here, but will be shared in a future executive meeting.

NZ Women in Sciences Statistics

Led by the previous national convenor Emma Timewell, and with the support of biostatistician Dr Heloise Pavanato, the Women in Science in New Zealand statistics data is finally available: <https://www.awis.org.nz/assets/Stats-ppt.pdf>

Using data from the Ministry of Education, Statistics NZ, CRIs and Tertiary institutions, the report provides an evaluation of women enrollments in science per subject, tertiary education completion, employment and average salaries, with data ranging from 2004 to 2018. The data is available for anyone to use and reference, with credit to AWIS.

Other activities

We made a submission to the Te Ara Paerangi Future Pathways Green Paper 2021, highlighting the obstacles for Women in Sciences in Aotearoa. The submission can be found here:

<https://www.awis.org.nz/assets/AWIS-submission-green-paper-2022.pdf>

We attended the Australia, New Zealand and Oceania Researchers in Japan Network (ANZOR) online panel on "Perspectives on STEM Gender Equity from Australia, New Zealand, and Japan" on 22 April 22, providing an overview of challenges and perspectives for Women in STEM in NZ.

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

Thanks

Thanks to all who have served in the Executive for their help and support, and supported Carolina and Kieren as co-convenors. Many thanks as well to the regional convenors for organising AWIS events throughout the country, especially those who have stepped down as regional convenors.