

AWIS Convenor's Report, 14 July 2017

Emma Timewell, National Convenor



AWIS had 65 members and 3 corporate members at the end of the 2016/17 year, broken down into regions:

- Auckland 20
- Christchurch 15
- Dunedin 9
- Manawatu 3
- Nelson 4
- Rotorua 1
- Waikato 3
- Wellington 9

Five of our regions have been active with events this year – Auckland, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch and Palmerston North. The Auckland region took part in the MOTAT Science Street Fair for the third year running, doing a great job engaging kids of all ages with science. There have been a number of opportunities for women in science of all ages to get together and network, and I'm particularly jealous of Christchurch's ability to "Paint n Sip" while sharing their experiences!

We've hit 500 followers on our Facebook page, which is great – it means our messages are getting out to a really wide and varied audience. We've still only got about 350 on Twitter, so need to catch up there!

The Hidden Figures fundraiser was an amazing series of events across our regions this year. What started as a single cinema-screening organised by some keen advocates in Auckland turned into a national event, with more than \$15,000 raised for a tertiary education scholarship. We're currently in discussions with the New Horizons for Women Trust about how we can best put this investment to good use. Thanks to Nicola Gaston, Siouxsie Wiles and Kate Hannah for coming up with the idea and getting it off the ground.

We instigated our AWIS Travel Scholarship and awarded two scholarships to students from John Paul College to attend the Conrad Spirit of Innovation Challenge in Florida.

We put a proposal in to the International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES) to host their 2020 conference in Auckland. Unfortunately this was unsuccessful, but has allowed us to strengthen our links with the Institute of Professional Engineers IPENZ.

We are still a Constituent Organisation of the Royal Society of New Zealand. This has been incredibly useful for us to continue to be involved in discussions about the science system, most notably on gender diversity in New Zealand science organisations.

Thanks to all the Executive for their help and support, and particular thanks to Kimberlee Jordan, Lauren Fletcher, Tara Creaven-Capasso and Bal Devgun for their time on the Executive as they step down to pursue other activities.

This is my last AGM as National Convenor – the rules say we are only allowed to stay in the position for three years at a time. I am very grateful for all the Executive's support, it's been a tough few years for various reasons but I think this has added to our strength as a group and will stand us in good stead going forward. I'm excited about the possibilities that have been brought to our attention during the conference and how this can add to our future strategy, both for our members and women in science across the board.

Events:

- Auckland
 - November 2016: Christmas catch-up
 - February 2017: Hidden Figures screening
 - March 2017: MOTAT Science Street Fair
 - April 2017: Networking catch-up
- Christchurch
 - July 2016: Mid-Winter Networking Drinks
 - December 2016: Christmas catch-up
 - February 2017: Hidden Figures screening
 - March 2017: Paint n Sip
- Palmerston North
 - December 2016: Christmas catch-up
 - February 2017: Hidden Figures screening
- Wellington
 - February 2017: Hidden Figures screening
- Nelson
 - November 2016: Networking evening and panel discussion
 - March 2017: Year 13 "Meet the Scientist"