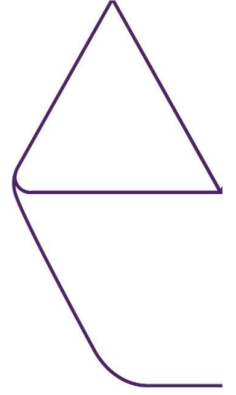




Association for Women in the Sciences



AWIS Convenor's Report 2020

Emma Timewell, National Convenor
Presented on 2 July 2020

Our regions

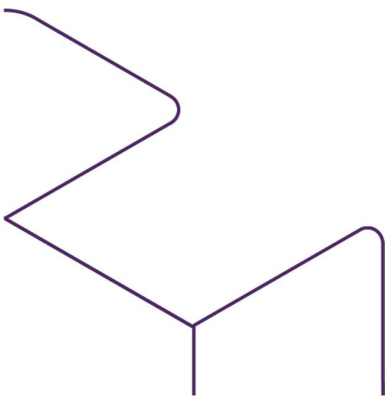
AWIS had 93 members at the end of the 2019/20 year, broken down into regions:

- Wellington 12
- Waikato 4
- Tasman 5
- Manawatu 13
- Dunedin 23
- Christchurch 8
- Auckland 27

Auckland, Dunedin, Christchurch and Manawatu have been active this year, but with plans for many of our events put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Events have included Pink Ribbon breakfasts, a Women's breakfast as part of the Food Safety Science & Research annual meeting and a Women in Science panel at the Otago Science & Technology Expo.

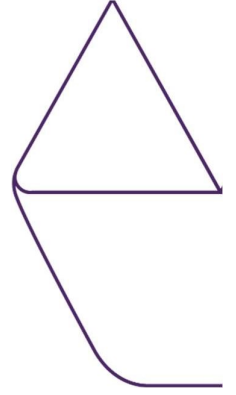
The triennial conference was due to take place this week in Dunedin, but we made the decision to postpone until next year due to COVID-19 and the uncertainty associated with the lockdown. We're very glad to not be in lockdown but are glad we made the decision to move the conference. The conference will now be held on 8-9 July 2021 at the University of Otago.

In October, AWIS announced the newest Dell Awardee, Professor Abigail Smith from the University of Otago. We had 10 nominations from across the country, from universities and CRIs. Abby will be presented with her award at the conference next year.





Association for Women in the Sciences



With Engineering New Zealand, we submitted a bid for the 2023 International Conference for Women Engineers and Scientists (ICWES19). This bid is currently in negotiation with the overarching organisation INWES, but, if successful, will see Auckland host the 2023 conference alongside its usual AWIS triennial event.

Our new brand

As noted at last year's AGM, the Executive Committee spent a lot of this year implementing our new strategy. The most obvious part of this is our new logo and brand, which has been implemented across our social media platforms and a new website which speaks directly to our three main streams of work – addressing bias, developing careers and ensuring work-life balance.

We've had a number of discussions about how we can take the new strategy forward and have a plethora of interesting ideas about how we can help support women in science into the future. We're excited to get back on track with rolling these out post-COVID.

Our scholarships

The AWIS Women in STEM scholarship was awarded for the second time, administered by the New Horizons for Women Trust. Three women benefited from the scholarship – based in Auckland and Wellington – 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 – in line with our new strategy, this has been changed to focus on travel for development purposes.

Thanks

Thanks to all the Executive for their help and support, and particular thanks to Miriam Hall for her time on the Executive as she steps down to pursue other activities.

