

WISNET Newsletter – September

Upcoming Events:

The monthly meetings of the Monash/Clayton group have been continuing. Meetings are held on various days during the first week of each month. The next meeting is at 12.30 on Thursday 2nd October, at the Monash University Science Center. Bring your own lunch or arrive early to purchase it from the café. For further details or to be added to the Monash mailing list please contact Alena Glaister (Alena.Glaister@sci.monash.edu.au), phone 9905 5658 or 9905 5643.

Planning is underway for a wine and cheese type meeting in the Melbourne University area. It will be on Wed 29th of October at 5.30pm. Jan Thomas has offered us the use of the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (www.asmi.org.au) seminar/tea room which is on the ground floor of the new ICT building in University Square (Street address 111 Barry St, Carlton). There should be street parking available at this time of the day, alternatively you can park in the Underground parking for \$2 – enter off Burkley St. I hope that WISNET members from across Melbourne (and Victoria?) will attend. This event is also intended to be a starting point for a Parkville/Carlton based group that can meet regularly.

Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Research; School of Political and Social Inquiry – Semester 2 Research Seminars:

SEMINARS ARE HELD ALTERNATE WEDNESDAYS AT 1pm, Rm W1115, Menzies Building, Clayton Campus

Wed 24th September: Maryanne Dever, Woman's Studies

“They say I'm selfish”: Women, voluntary childlessness and the popular imagination

Wed 8th October: Sharon Pickering, Criminal Justice

Sex trafficking and law enforcement

Making a Difference:

An opportunity from Anna to raise the profile of women in science:

Hello everyone,

I am starting to be inundated with requests from different organisations to nominate women for many prizes, awards, honours etc. My experience is that most women are very shy at nominating themselves or others. It seems appropriate for WISNET to take this role.

While appearing simple, the nominations usually have criteria and require considerable researching and collaboration. I would therefore appreciate each member forwarding me a two page 'self-portrait' as soon as possible so that I can see where best to nominate - and start early! The 2-pager should include your

- name,
- contact details,
- professional history,
- community involvements,
- special services to Australia. etc and if possible,
- the names of one or two people who could act as primary referees. They can be friends or colleagues... just someone that you are happy for us to contact.

If sent by email, could it be in WORD format please - NO photographs at this stage. I just need an overview for the moment and will then get back to you for more information as required.

Nominees need to be financial members of WISENET. Please also let me (or your Link Group Convenor) know if you do not wish to be involved in this or have objections to nomination for any specific type of award.

In emails, I would appreciate the subject title to be as it is in this email. I will have a special mailbox set up to receive the emails automatically. (subject line: **WISENET: Honouring Womens Program**)

I am very much looking forward to being busier in this enjoyable way!!

cheers,
Anna.

Dr Anna Robinson
National Convenor,
Anna Robinson <anna.robinson@bigpond.com>

Science Meets parliament Day

October 14-15th, 2003. Registration closes Sept 30th. There is a link on the WISENET web site.

An update from Anna:

Science Meets Parliament Day is a wonderful and usually exhilarating experience that gives scientists a chance to come and talk to the decision makers about their science. It might be just a conversation, a plea, serious negotiation, real complaint or a request to link in, even a compliment. There are no limits as to how many people can register from one affiliated society (ie WISENET). Registration is very reasonable \$198 for general registrations or \$99 for students/post-docs for 2 days (covers meals).

As it is a two day event, if you are coming from interstate you will need travel money and accommodation for one night. I would like to think that your organisations would sponsor you. Please do ask. I am very happy to support an application so please let me have details of whom I should contact on your behalf if you need my help. I really encourage as many of you as possible to attend. It really is an exceptional experience.

If you are in the ACT, please may I encourage even more so to take part. Everyone who has been before says it is a totally exciting and broadening experience. I would like to particularly encourage people in the CSIRO and higher education sector - note the reduced registration for post-docs and students. It provides a rare opportunity for you to become involved in 'the rest of the world' processes that can very much enlighten your own working environment. As Sally Stowe said, we can't have enough women there. And numbers of people saying the same thing often has a bigger impact than one or two emphatic voices.

REGISTRATION: You can go into the links through the notice on our home page website to get all the details AND to register. Otherwise go direct to: <http://www.fast.org> There is so much extra information there. Please note that there is an additional fee for registrations after October 1. FASTS would appreciate registrations before then if possible.

To ensure WISENET representation, I asked WISENET ACT members if someone could go on our behalf. I'm pleased to say that Julie Christie and Frances Shannon have both accepted. I know other ACT WISENET members will also be attending - you can go either with WISENET or representing your own organisation (or do both). I'd be happy to put WISENET attendees in contact with each other.

If possible, it would be so great if Link Group Convenors or a representative from each Link Group could come along. Unfortunately we don't have funds to offer financial support. But this is a professional development activity and I hope will be supported by your organisation. Please do at least ask.

At conclusion, I would like to invite you all to a get-together either somewhere central in town or at my home where we could 'hear the news' after the event. Please let me know if you are coming and would like to join us afterwards.

Being a member of WISENET provides a lot of wonderful opportunities: this is one of them. I hope as many as possible will take advantage of it. Please let me know if you need more information on this.

Reprinted from the AWIS (NZ) mailing list:

Dear AWIS

I know this open day is in the UK, but what a great scheme this is for women returning to the workforce. How enlightened in this grindstone age.

Jean

ALL WELCOME AT DAPHNE JACKSON TRUST OPEN DAY

Wednesday 27th August 2003, 10am - 4pm

Sports Hall, University of Surrey

The Daphne Jackson Trust arranges Fellowships for Returners to SET careers after a break for family reasons

Are you a Scientist, Engineer or IT Specialist on a Career Break?

Would you like to return to work and update your skills at the same time?

Would a part-time, paid, Research Fellowship unlock your potential?

Come to the Open Day and talk to current Fellows, Trust staff and others about the exciting opportunities offered by a Daphne Jackson fellowship.

We will keep your children, friends or family amused, while we discuss returning to your Career.

Have you some other reason which meant you could not continue with your career? e.g.

- putting a career on hold to bring up children?
- relocating because of a partner's move?
- single parent trying to juggle a job and children's needs?
- single and stepped back from a career to care for a relative?

If you are interested, or **know someone who might be, come to the Open Day and see what the Trust could do for you**

Call us on 01483 689166 (Jenny Woolley, Trust Director; Sue Smith, Fellowship Administrator)

Email us at <djmft@surrey.ac.uk>

visit <<http://www.daphnejackson.org/>>

Media Enquiries: Katie Perry, Press Officer, the Daphne Jackson Trust, tel 0771 7005239 (mobile)

<katie.perry@surrey.ac.uk>

Notes for Editors:

The Daphne Jackson Trust enables talented women and men to return to their careers in science, engineering and technology after a break due to family commitments. The Trusts proven formula normally provides 2-year half-time fellowships.

The Daphne Jackson Trust is a charitable organization based in the Physics Department at the University of Surrey. The Trust has awarded over 100 Fellowships and has achieved a 98% success rate for returning scientists to their careers following a break. The Daphne Jackson trust has developed an impressive list of sponsors, supporters and host Institutions to whom it is very grateful. see <http://www.daphnejackson.org/> for full lists.

Children, Women and Science

Last months newsletter contained an item by Julie Christie on a breakfast at Parliament House (ALP Caucus Status for Women Group post-budget breakfast briefing). She made the following point:

The first of the three points made was regarding the effect of student debt on opportunities for Australian women to have a family and it was suggested that "the cost of having children coupled with this debt could mean an increase in abortions amongst women who already had two children."

Jenny O'Connell sent in the following response to this statement:

"I disagree that this [cost/debt] is the main issue here but I thought that it was interesting because it made me think of a story that I read recently about the inverse relationship between number of degrees a woman has and her likelihood of having children. I don't think that there will be an increase in abortions for women who already had two children is the issue at all. It is more that they are less likely to have children in the first place. If I can take a quote from the article and then give you the reference if you would like to read all of it:

from "Graduate and Childless" <http://www.maths.unsw.edu.au/~jim/fertility.html>

"The differences in fertility rates with education levels is also striking. The effect of graduation is dramatic. Of women with no tertiary qualifications, the average number of children is 2.3, for those with one degree, 1.8, for those with a higher degree, 1.3 - that is, half a child off per degree. (Figures are for 40-year-olds, from the 1996 census - the question was not asked in the 2001 census.). The figures for childlessness tell the same story: for the three groups, 11%, 22% and 34% respectively were childless."

The full story gives a fairly good explanation for why this is the case and I found it chillingly familiar and not at all voluntary. That is really disturbing when you consider that the more successful a man is the more likely he is to have children not less likely.

Jenny

Newsletter distribution and submissions

I'm going to try and get into a better routine for sending out this newsletter. If you have anything you would like to let WISENET members know about please send it to me by the beginning of each month. I will endeavor to produce and distribute it a week later.

I'm happy for you to send this list onto friends. If you would like to be added to the mailing list let me know. If you no longer wish to receive these e-mails drop me a line and I'll remove you from the distribution list.

Don't forget to visit the website regularly – particularly the link group pages. The site is constantly being updated. Eventually I hope to be able to put most of what goes into this newsletter onto a Melbourne link page (all in good time!!). www.wisenet-australia.org

Diane Webster

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