



***Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc.***

**PO Box 48 Nedlands WA 6009**

**www.afgw.org.au**

10 March 2015

Dr Amber Beavis,  
Western Australian Museum  
James St,  
Perth  
WA 6000

Dear Amber,

I am writing on behalf of AFGW to congratulate you for being among the Top 5 Under 40 scientists recognised by Radio National and UNSW as passionate science communicators. Your work on the biodiversity of spiders in WA and the Pacific and your discovery of their amazing “bandaging” powers sounds challenging. As you observed spiders often get very bad press although personally I enjoy them. We are delighted that a young woman is taking on the task of effectively communicating this underappreciated field and its complexities.

AFGW is the national voice of graduate women working, since 1922, through initiatives in Education especially for the advancement and wellbeing of women and girls. We view education as essential for empowering people; reducing poverty; improving health; understanding human rights; and, maintaining human security and building peace. We have been especially concerned with the education and employment of women and girls in the less traditional fields of engineering and science.

We have been concerned with enabling women and girls to develop skills especially in the less traditional fields and to take an active place in the workforce. Our parent body the International Federation of University Women took a presentation to the meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women 58 promoting science and technology as twin pillars of progress. We see science and technology as important for our nation’s productivity and competitiveness, for the creation of decent work opportunities and as a significant contribution to people’s well-being.

Each year AFGW, its affiliated state bodies and branches, give over \$0.5 million in scholarships to woman and girls to further their education particularly at tertiary level. Many of these awards go to women studying in the varied fields of science. We also support a number of education projects for girls in the developing countries. We advocate at state and federal level for improvements in education especially through development of curriculum, provision of resources, and initiatives in training staff.

I have enclosed our president’s International Women’s Day Press Release for your information. We look forward to more of your passionate science communication particularly to children and student who need to be inspired to follow careers and interests in science.

With best wishes,

‘Tricia Blombery  
Convener  
Standing Committee for Education  
For Dr Madeleine Laming, President

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