

CATHERINE ADELINE BELL

NATIONAL HONORARY LIFE MEMBER – MAY 2014



Catherine studied through UNISA, obtaining a B.Sc. in 1994 (Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Operations Research) and in 2009 she studied a Programme in Financial Management.

Professionally, she develops strategies for, and implements, large sustainable projects, so brings both strategic thinking and leadership skills to any position she holds. She designs and presents practical, cost-effective and sustainable solutions, strictly within specified time limits and budgets.

Most of what she does is action orientated.

She has worked for and with everything from small companies with 20 to 30 people to large corporations with tens of thousands of people, and across industries from the services through airlines to fast moving consumer goods. All of this means that she has experienced many different working environments and situations, but always working from a service perspective.

Catherine's skills are in building teams and making them work together on projects of mutual benefit. She has extensive administrative management skills, using them on a daily basis in her professional work.

All of these skills she has brought to both SAAWG and to IFUW. She was a member of 2004 IFUW Task Force, presenting to that Board a suggested Implementation Plan based on the suggestions of the Task Force, which covered all aspects of the Task Force Report from governance structures to performance management systems. She has twice been the Board liaison to the Finance Committee (as the IFUW Treasurer) and the Hegg Hoffet committee 2007-2010 and 2010-2013). At the Triennial Conference in Istanbul in 2013 she was elected as IFUW President for the 2013-2016 triennium - the first member from an African IFUW NFA to hold this position.

Joining the South African Association of Women Graduates as a student member in 1984, Catherine initially actively assisted her mother, Jocelyn Bell, a long serving SAAWG and IFUW stalwart, with activities arranged at branch and national level. Since then Catherine has held office on national and branch committees, including as membership secretary, maintaining the database, and as treasurer, and has organized and managed the finances of conferences. She has been an invaluable member of the Johannesburg Branch Aurora Project Co-ordinating Committee.

It was with great pleasure that the Johannesburg branch and the National Executive nominated Catherine as National Honorary Life member at the May National AGM, and which was unanimously approved.