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National Council of Women Queensland Inc. October 2018 Newsletter

NEWS FLASH Jennifer Ann Davies, NCWQ Adviser for Arts and Letters has been appointed to that role at the International Council of Women. Congratulations Jennifer Ann! Read her report on Page 9.

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to Hon Jackie Trad
South Brisbane
Electorate for the
kind provision of
printing services**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is my first report as President and I am eager to learn from and lead an experienced, enthusiastic and committed Management Committee.

Thank you to the former Management Committee Members, Georgina Pickers, Pat Burgess and Margaret Vallance for all their hard work and commitment to the NCWQ over many years.

Congratulations to Jennifer Ann Davies for her position as the International Council of Women Arts and Letters Adviser. Please read her report on the 35th General Assembly of the ICW on Page 9

Current Highlights of NCWQ include;

- emerging National Council of Young Women QLD (NCYWQ)
- a LinkedIn Page to highlight NCWQ within the Business Community
- use of the Facebook Page to publicise the bursaries and events
- having an Australian International Adviser in Jennifer Ann Davies
- submission of a grant for a possible website upgrade
- supporting Drought Relief efforts

It was satisfying to see the August edition of the Office for Women Newsletter had two references to NCWQ - Longest Serving women's organisations in Queensland and Bursary winners.

As either Acting President or President, two events of interest I have attended recently are:

Girls Rising Fundraising Event on Friday 17 August

This charity event raised funds for 'Girl Rising' who work alongside NGOs to deliver programs, and create new films, to educate third world communities to empower girls in refugee situations.



L-R: Dr Julie-Anne Carrol (QUT School of Public Health and Social Work and Guest Speaker), Amy Henderson (Acting President NCWQ), Emma Herbert (Women's Property Panel and MC) and Renee Simpson (Youth Support Coordinator Sunnybank SHS and Organiser)

The campaign aims to strive for gender equality, educating girls on their rights.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Continued.)

Celebrating Women in Parliament

On Monday 3 September 2018 The Australasian Study of Parliament Group meeting theme was Celebrating Women in Parliament. The concept was that two current members of Parliament would be contrasted against a former member of Parliament in terms of how being a woman in politics has changed over the years.

The three speakers were:

- Joan Pease MP (ALP Member for Lytton and Senior Government Whip – elected in 2015)
- Jann Stuckey MP (LNP Member for Currumbin – elected in 2008)
- Beryce Ann Nelson (LNP Member for Aspley 1980 – 1989)

They gave a frank insight into being a woman in Parliament including the following points:

- The 'robust' /bullying of politics
- How hard they all work but are considered less than car salesmen
- How the media portrays politics as not a field for women and the negatives of politics
- Double standards of parenting – a question never asked of men but of women.

The whole session was being recorded for Hansard and I asked the first question of the evening which was along the lines of how do community organisations such as NCWQ stay relevant in today's society. I also mentioned that the NCYWQ was commencing. The answers they gave included the following points;

- Use technology to make it easier for the next generation to join and spread the word
- Keep it relevant
- Make it fun
- Succession planning is key.



Amy Henderson and Joan Pease MP

I do hope you enjoy reading this newsletter.

Amy Henderson, NCWQ President



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113TH CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Monday 20 August 2018 NCWQ welcomed over 30 women, many representing our affiliated organisations.

The Conference Guest Speaker was Philippa Vella, President of the Student Executive from The Women's College UQ. Information on Women's College can be found in an article by Phillipa in Members' Corner, page

As part of the AGM, a number of by-laws were updated to enable a more stream-lined Management Committee to function more efficiently in today's society.

Long-standing Management Committee members Pat Burgess, Georgina Pickers and Margaret Vallance did not stand for re-election. Avril Kent, Paula Ivanovic and Pat Pepper returned to the Management Committee after a break from previous MC duties.



Members of the 2018 -2019 Management Committee L-R: Irene Cayas OAM (Administration), Kathy Cavanagh (Bursary Program), Erin Cunningham (Vice President), Amy Henderson (President), Noela O'Donnell AM (Recording Secretary) Pat Pepper (State Co-ordinator), Paula Ivanovic (Treasurer). Absent: Avril Kent (Secretary)

NCWQ BURSARY PROGRAM CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

25 July 2018 marked the culmination of the 2018 bursary program, with the presentation to this year's recipients. This milestone in the bursary program is a cause for reflection and celebration.

Facts and Figures:

- Program commenced in 2009 with two bursaries sponsored by NCWQ
- 33 Bursaries were on offer in the 10th year of the program
- 172 female students across Queensland have now been NCWQ bursary recipients
- NCWQ has continued to sponsor these two bursaries throughout the 10 years
- Five affiliated organisations of NCWQ now sponsor bursaries: ESA, Soroptimist International, Soroptimist International Moreton North Inc; Older People Speaking Out; and Forum Communicators
- For a number of years, sponsors have represented all three levels of government.
- Other sponsors include individuals and a memorial bursary



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- Bursary criteria cover a wide range of diversity – Indigenous, refugee, disability, mental illness, LGBTIQ
- Study ranges from years 11/12 at high school to PhD candidates, across a range of study areas.

What are the factors of success?

1. Team Bursary:

There are now nearly 30 members of team bursary, across an overall bursary program coordinator; bursary coordinators, who generally look after about four bursaries; and selection panel members, who work with a coordinator to form a panel of three to determine bursary recipients. Team Bursary is cohesive, flexible, supportive of each other, but above all focussed on the bursary applicants and their selection responsibilities. Some bursary recipients are now members of Team Bursary – a handing-over of the baton.

2. Our recipients:

“Inspiring” is the word heard most often after each bursary presentation, closely followed by WOW. We continue to be amazed each year by our recipients. Some have accomplished a life-time of activity – and they are 18 years old! Others are on the way to achieving their educational and career goals, despite the obstacles thrown their way.

Team Bursary does remarkable work – but as is the way with volunteering, the returns given back outweigh that work.

The recipients grow tall with the acknowledgement of their efforts – and this inspires us to continue to find another year of wonderful, inspiring recipients.

Kathy Cavanagh, Bursary Program Coordinator

SPORTS WOMEN FOCUS of BURSARY FUND-RAISING MORNING TEA and FASHION PARADE

Queensland Sporting Women were acknowledged at this year's NCWQ bursaries fund-raising Morning Tea and Fashion Parade. We heard of trailblazers and champions of today, including the first public women's soccer game played at the Brisbane Cricket Ground in 1921; Australian Paralympic swimmer dual gold medallist Lakeisha Patterson OAM; Wendy Turnbull MBE the only player to be appointed to the International Tennis Federation; the story of the Brisbane Women's Hockey Association and Ruby Robinson AM, MBE who was instrumental in Downey Park, Windsor now being a field for women's sport; the recently retired Laura Geitz who has played netball for her country 71 times and Pam O'Neill who broke down the barriers for female jockeys when she was granted permission to ride against the males in May 1979.

In her forward to Dr Bridie O'Donnell's book "Life and Death", a cycling memoir, Dame Quentin Bryce AD, CVO wrote "It's exhilarating to see women's sport in our country getting the profile, the attention, the support and the respect it should.

"Decades of advocacy by visionary, determined, hardworking leaders are delivering change so that women and girls in 2018 can see a future in sport that welcomes their skills, passion and participation. Yes, much to celebrate, but still a lot to be done to level the playing field for women in both elite and grassroots sport".



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SPORTS WOMEN FOCUS of BURSARY FUND-RAISING MORNING TEA and FASHION PARADE (Continued.)

Forum Communicators member Ronda Nix OAM challenged us to nominate women for the Order of Australia awards reminding us that "The Team Doesn't Win Unless Someone Scores".



Jo Davie entertaining us during the Morning Tea

Queensland Conservatorium First Class Honours graduate and The University Medallist Jo Davie had us spellbound as she performed songs accompanied by her acoustic guitar. Her voice was so sweet and clear, everyone loved her performance.

Soubrét Pink boutique of Upper Mt Gravatt provided the clothing for the Fashion Parade component of the morning, featuring NCWQ members and friends, all parading with a sense of fun.



Fashions modelled from Soubrét Pink

Once again, we were inspired to hear the story of one of our bursary recipients. Madison Birtchnell. As

both the 2017 Elements Bursary and 2018 Forum Communicators recipient Madison shared with us some of her contributions to our community. Madison started volunteering at 6 years of age, assisting the elderly in her community. She was a volunteer at Ormiston House for 6 years, working with senior volunteers.



Madison Birtchnell, Bursary Recipient 2017

Since receiving the 2017 bursary Madison has:

- Been named Gold Coast Young Citizen of the Year
- Accepted a full tuition Corporate partners in Excellence Scholarship to study Business at QUT
- Been a recipient of one of 10 Overall International winners for the Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs Award
- Achieved a Women at Work – Winner Empowering Young Women Leadership Award

Along with her sister Taylor, Madison has managed the NCWQ Facebook page. This was at its peak during the time of bursary applications. Their efforts directly resulted in an increase in Facebook activity of over 90%.

Her ongoing community involvement has included debating, Red Cross, organising International Women's Day functions, Delivering Young Leaders Global Programme 2018-2019.

The over 200 guests enjoyed the hospitality, the entertainment, a delicious morning tea, the company of friends, raffle and lucky door prizes, the inspirational speakers; all the time contributing to the NCWQ bursaries program empowering Queensland women and girls. Many have already stated they will be back next year!

Noela O'Donnell AM



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NATIONAL COUNCIL YOUNG WOMEN QUEENSLAND (NCYWQ)

On Saturday 28 July, a range of young women joined the Acting President, Amy Henderson, the Secretary, Erin Cunningham and the Reporting Secretary, Noela O'Donnell AM at a local café for a networking afternoon. Very interesting conversations were held by the young women about their current situations, their aspirations, issues that interest them and much more.

Still in the initial stages of formation, NCYWQ has already built a small, yet strong foundation of young ladies who are keen to see this sub-organisation of NCWQ get off the ground.



NCYWQ has held two official meetings so far, and already has multiple events and projects in the pipeline. Our first official social event, a Morning Tea held in conjunction with UQ Women's College, promises to be a sell-out event.



NCYWQ would love to see more young ladies, aged between 18-35, to get involved in this fantastic venture.

Benefits of membership include:

- The exceptional opportunity to be a present voice for young women in Queensland and bring attention to areas which need improvement
- Membership of a parent organisation which is currently in its 113th year of operation
- Attendance at NCYWQ meetings and social events, to engage with other like-minded young women from across South East Queensland
- Invitations to various NCWQ forums, conferences, and social events, where you will connect with many influential and inspiring women
- Fantastic networking opportunities through NCWQ with other community organisations.

Erin Cunningham, Vice-President NCWQ and Convenor of NCYWQ



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NCYWQ (Continued.)

NCYWQ Morning Tea – Saturday 24 November 2018



**The National Council of
Young Women of Qld presents**
Young Women's Morning Tea

**Inviting ladies aged 18-35
wanting to make a difference to women
and families across Queensland**

**Saturday 24 November 2018
10.00am to 12.00pm**
Freda Bage Common Room, Womens' College
The University of Queensland, St Lucia



\$20.00 per person

**RSVP by 16 November
To info@ncwq.org.au
With any Dietary Requirements and
Payment Remittance made to:**

**NCWQ Inc
BSB 064-001
Acc # 0090 1888
Reference: (your name) MT**



**Free parking is available within
the Womens' College carpark**

**For more information on the
National Council of Women
visit:**

**www.ncwq.org.au
www.ncwa.org.au**

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WOMEN in MEDIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2018

The Office for Women provided an opportunity for the 2017 and 2018 Val French AM Bursary Recipients to attend the Women in Media National Conference 2018. The conference was held across two days at Bond University on the Gold Coast and focused on the theme 'Bigger, Better, Bolder'. Chloe Maxwell and Lauren Martin thoroughly enjoyed the empowering two days which included key note speakers, panel discussions, workshops and networking opportunities all with leaders in the industry.

Caroline Jones AO opened the conference with the quote, "If you want something done ask a Queensland woman, if you want something done magnificently ask a Queensland woman" which was well received by the Queensland dominated audience.

The conference was trending nationally on Twitter which was a key indication to how many journalists were in attendance.

Speakers including Virginia Trioli shared the importance of speaking up. Marina Go reminded us to support all women and not just the ones we know and are like us. We heard tips on entering the industry and gaining experience to succeed.



Presenters at the Women in Media National Conference 2018



L-R Kay McGrath, Chloe Maxwell, Lauren Martin, Minister Di Farmer

Overall, the conference was an empowering experience. Every woman in the room was supporting one another in the successes and also their down falls. Each speaker shared openly of their vulnerable moments - some which they had never shared publicly before.

Chloe Maxwell, 2017 Recipient Val French AM for a Student in Journalism



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REPORT on 35TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN



REPORT ON THE 35th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN/CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES FEMMES/CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MUJERES (founded 1888), 13-19 September 2018, YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA. "Salamat Siang"

This General Assembly was a highly successful and vibrant one, during which dignitaries and delegates were extended maximum hospitality and welcomed with excitement

and warmth by all, in this city of Education, Culture and History!

Huge efforts were made by the National Council of Indonesia (KOWANI), and in a welcome address by Chairman of Kowani, Dr. Ir. Giwo Rubianto Wiyogo, this gracious and remarkable woman stated the desire to commemorate and respect the Indonesian women; and reminded us that the first Women's Congress was held in Yogyakarta in 1928, and that this 2018 conference was a milestone for all. Special respect and thanks was accorded at all times, by all speakers, to Dr. Jung-Sook Kim and Mrs. Linda Liu 'for their constant guidance and support'.

Another special woman who extended warm greetings to all of us was Hadriani Uli T I Silalahi, Chairperson of the Organizing Committee, who greeted us with: "Peace be upon us. Om Swastiastu." We were addressed in a giant marquee, totally packed, as there were parallel meetings held for the women of Indonesia (Kowani), and we must have numbered some thousands! The Governor also welcomed us, then work began!

Although the list may make this report long, I believe it is important to note the Keynote Speakers and their topics, for each is important in a national and global context and each enhances or explores ICW themes, for women and to support our significant liaison with the many tendrils of the United Nations.

Dr. Patricia Licuanan – 'Women's empowerment through education and women's rights'; Phillipines

Remmy Rikken – 'Women's empowerment for transformative leadership'; Phillipines

Dr. Sharifah Hapsah – 'Raising economic capacity of women'; President NCWO Malaysia

Prof. Akiko Yamanaka – 'Women's empowerment in Political, Economic and Education fields'; Special advisor to the President of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN/ERIA

Rery Murdiyati – 'Media's role for the achievement of gender equality'; CEO Media Group

Yohana Yembise – Minister of Women's empowerment and Child protection, Indonesia



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REPORT of the 35TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL of WOMEN (Continued)

Dr. Ranjana Kumari – 'Getting to Zero Violence against Women'; India

Dr. Mohinder Watson – 'Protection of women against gender based violence'; ICW representative to UN

Dr. Sorosh Roshan – 'Women's equal right to health and social protections'; NCW USA Member and Chair of NGO Committee Vienna

This was a huge first day, with workshops in the afternoon, after lunch, and we had varied choices for these. A welcome dinner was held for all delegates of ICW and the Chairpersons of 91 Indonesian organisations.

Great excitement built in anticipation of the visit of President H.E. IR. Joko Widodo, president of the Republic of Indonesia and none were disappointed. This president is a prime performer and entertained his audience, after which innumerable photos were allowed.

Lots of hard work and concentration followed, as per constitution, including amendments to the Constitution, Procedures for voting, Presentation of candidates, Auditor's Report and Reports from varied National Councils. Dinner and beautiful traditional music and ballet were provided for us at Prambanan, stated to be the most beautiful Hindu Temple in the world, and protected by UNESCO and the Indonesian government. Because it had been a long working day, we saw this stunning edifice only in profile, against the horizon, yet the image and aura of it lingers....

Days 3 and 4 were devoted to candidate presentations; reports, including UN reports and the results of Voting for the Standing Committee Advisors, of whom I was one! I thought I would simply state that relevant information was on pp68-69, but was concerned about the countries who spoke of 'Functional Literacy Programmes' and I spoke of the value of Literacy and the fact that some 'functional' programmes can STILL KEEP WOMEN AND GIRLS SUPPRESSED!

This has been the case, even here, in Australia, in some refugee/migrant programmes, when the student/s are not literate in their first language; when the programme is not long or consistent enough, but funding is no longer available; when students had not had a written language in their culture until recent decades, and those habitually written by missionaries in a completely different language from the native or mother tongue of the students. It is vital that we do not accept 'tokenism' for language learners! Encouraged by Noela O'Donnell and Leonie Christopherson, endorsed by NCWA President, Barbara Baike and 14 Aussie delegates at this conference, I am honoured and proud to have been elected to the Communications portfolio, as Advisor in Arts and Letters, for a term of three years!

There is much more to relay from this enriching experience, but I think I should write of our homestay, school visits and other traditional activities, in my next NCWQ Report.

My deep thanks to all of you who have celebrated my writing and passion for language, and who have encouraged me through these past months when I wavered and wondered. I am deeply grateful and excited!

Jennifer Ann Davies, NCWQ and ICW Adviser on Arts and Letters



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NCWA TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE 17 – 19th OCTOBER, CANBERRA

To be held from Wednesday 17 to Friday 19 October 2018 in Canberra the program includes a focus on National Council of Young Women on the first day. The 14 proposed resolutions for the NCWA to consider show a wide range of topics:

- Environmental and Health Problems of Plastics
- Reduce Homelessness for Older Women
- Urge the Fed Govt to review current Gun Laws
- Request Govt to include a question in Census to identify kinship carers
- Eliminate Cyber Bullying
- Remove \$450 threshold for superannuation payment
- NCWA expresses support to Qld Children's Commissioner that children be treated as a separate party in Family Law Proceedings
- Govt to Amend Legislation related to job security
- The Govt to review the VET System
- Urge the Government to work with States through COAG to amend legislation for women seeking AVO
- Urge the Fed Govt to increase investment in relationship education for children
- Introduce Education to deal With Sexual Abuse of Older Women
- Govt to Increase penalties for Employers who don't pay employee superannuation
- Concern about compliance for the Hague Convention: International Parental Child Abduction (IPCA) regime

The Triennial Conference incorporates the AGM, with new office bearers for the next three years. The next newsletter will include information on the Conference and its outcomes

MEMBERS' UPDATES

WOMEN'S COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY of QUEENSLAND

The Women's College and NCWQ have had a long-standing relationship. Women's has hosted events for the NCWQ and also provided a pool of young leaders who hopefully join the ranks of the NCWQ in the future.

I was recently asked to speak at your AGM. I tried to cover a few things we do at Women's in an effort to ensure a positive college experience.

As I've learnt over my time staying at college and through being President this year, while a positive college experience is always possible, sometimes it doesn't eventuate.

Reality is that the residents, like all young people face many issues. For example, mental health, identity, financial issues and so many more. What's unique about the whole college situation is that there are people like me and my team to support and nurture our younger collegians while they live away from home for study. People like my team who are really purposeful in our actions and want to see and make a positive impact.



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WOMEN'S COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY of QUEENSLAND (Continued.)

College and Uni life is very busy. The mix of sport, cultural and social events keep us on our toes. That combined with a heavy study schedule, there's not much time left for looking after ourselves. This is something that we, the students, identified as an issue. In response, we began a night called Mental Health Chats.

We come together in a relaxed setting (couches food chai latte) and talk about the issues that people face and most importantly, strategies and advice on how to take care of our own mental health in the college setting.

Another initiative is what we call, Straight Up Chats; Jokes, not so straight. This night runs similar to the Mental Health Chats, but instead focuses on issues facing the LGBTIQ+ community in a college setting. As you can imagine, going to an all-female college can be quite daunting for people who may just be coming to terms with their own identity or sexuality. The night is about raising awareness, and teaching people to be mindful and about using appropriate language to ensure an inclusive environment.

Those two nights are just a small snippet of the efforts we make as a Student Leadership Team to achieve the self-awareness that's so important in becoming a functioning and contributing member of society.

That on top of community and fundraising events (i.e. supporting charities, fundraising events); it takes residents out of their own head and helps them reflect on their own values. With these values established, they can then determine how they can best give back to society.

I want my girls to feel empowered to make a situation where they can be confident. That adaptable confidence is real endurance and an important trait of any leader. By the time the girls leave Women's I hope they can take with them the these building blocks of leadership and really make a positive impact on society.

Philippa Vella, President of the Student Executive, The Women's College, UQ

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our newest members:

Leanne Francia

Jessica Small

Melissa Barnett

Thank you for becoming part of NCWQ



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ARTS and LETTERS

The following monthly reports are written by our newly celebrated ICW and NCWQ Adviser, Jennifer Ann. Covering a wide cross-section of the Arts, you are sure to find something which captures your attention and encouragement to further explore.

**Come September – smile, smell and see
Scents of spring, salads and sea.
Scrunchy sand, salt shores, shells and skipping
Scribbles of seagulls and stars in the sky.
Come September – spring's change is nigh. JAD**

Artist Antoni GAUDI once said: "Nothing is invented, for it is written in nature first. Originality consists of returning to the origin." In visual art, screenplays, theatre in general, dance and literature, the point of origin is often referred to as 'the place of the Mothers'.

Author, C.L. TAYLOR, began an unusual novel with this point of origin, taking herself and her reader on an extraordinary journey. An extract from her own notes cite three things that inspired **'The Missing'**. "...my mother and grandmothers, my son and my love of abnormal psychology. Grandma Millie had 11 children, husband and a haulage business. Grandmother

Olivia had 6 children, a husband and lived in a mining community. Only now that I have a small family of my own do I realize what incredible women they were. How strong must they have been to juggle so many children, a home, marriage and a business. How tired they must have felt when they fell into bed every night!"

You love your family. They make you feel safe. You trust them. But should you?

"Haunting and heart-stoppingly creepy." *Sunday Express*

C.L. Taylor – 'The Missing' Avon-a division of Harper Collins Publishers, LONDON 2016.

www.harcollins.co.uk www.cltaylorauthor.com

"Someone knows what happened to her son...."

Australia's A.J. RUSHBY doesn't return to a point of origin, but hurtles her text and the reader into yet another mystery, set right here. The text is promoted by Scholastic Australia.

What secret lies behind the door? 'THE FIFTH ROOM' by A.J. RUSHBY

An omnibus book from Scholastic Australia Pty.Ltd. 2017. A challenging read by an Australian author of a whole lot of books. Rushby is crazy about Mini

Coopers, Devon Rex cats and high tea! You can find her at www.allisonrushby.com

...brilliant High School students in 'the Society's' secret bunker, pitted against each other...

Gripping and page-turning, 'The Fifth Room' is a psychological thriller where no-one is to be trusted. Not even yourself. www.scholastic.com.au

Heather Taylor JOHNSON was born in the United States, but has lived in Australia since 1999. She has published two novels, of which '**Jean Harley Was Here**', is her second; four volumes of verse and is poetry editor for Transnational Literature. First published by University of

Queensland Press in 2017. www.uqp.com.au uqp@uqp.uq.edu.au This novel is a touching and original exploration of love, relationships and the ways in which we need each other.



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ARTS and LETTERS (Continued)_

Hannah Kent writes: "Heather Taylor Johnson has a Poet's understanding of the world. Her exploration of the way in which our lives intertwine, for better and for worse, is nuanced and poignant." This is, indeed, a book to savour.

Art Galleries recommended in the Maryborough and Wide Bay Areas!

WIDEBAY GALLERY – wbgallery@bigpond.com

- Conservation of Art Work
- Artist quality materials
- Artist/product information
- Free monthly newsletter

BOTTLEBRUSH CRAFT CENTRE – bottlebrushcraft@outlook.com

- Pottery
- Photography
- Paintings
- Wool Fibrecraft
- Sculptures

ALPHA31 ART SPACE GALLERY AND SCULPTURE GARDEN is a little further out of town – 7.9km – about 10 mins travel! www.alpha31artgallery.com.au.

Exhibited art comes in oils, water colours, pastels, acrylics and mixed media. Gallery Director, Inge Bayer welcomes all art lovers to enjoy the art exhibited inside the gallery and outside in the surrounding gardens. ingeborg@skymesh.com.au

FUN IN FRENCH FILM! 'AURORE', directed by Blandine Lenoir, can be viewed in both French and English. A hugely entertaining blend of humour, truthfulness and sensitivity, this warm-hearted romantic comedy centres on a middle-aged woman in the midst of major personal and professional changes. Aurore is played by the wonderful Agnes JAQUI, separated from her husband and newly employed, when she discovers she is to become a grandmother!

Aurore feels as though life has come to a standstill except for the awful hot flashes!! However, actress and co-writer, Jaoui, brings touching, true-to-life poignancy to an endearing portrait of the resilience of womanhood, as an everyday heroine on the road to (re)discovery. A common experience, depicted delightfully, with lots of laughs, tears and truth! Fun.

CAIRNS TROPICAL WRITERS FESTIVAL is a huge success, with a distinct 'place' in the region's ethos and events. Still growing, the biennial writes festival engages those who want to read, write, watch or just listen, for, in varied ways, we all have our own storylines and stories! I am delighted to report segments on SCREENWRITING with Craig Batty and PLAYWRITING CHARACTERS AND TURNING POINTS with Hannie Rayson.

The festival was dominated by the enriching world of 'Letters'- simply, the nourishing world of literature. **Jane CARO** read from "Just Flesh and Blood", the final book in a young adult trilogy on Queen Elizabeth I- (UQP). Jane spoke with vivacity, great humour and the audience was deeply engaged with the vast knowledge of historical detail lacing up the story of a woman who refused to abide by all the constricting social mores of her time, one of which was the possibility of death in child-birth, as well as the possibility of a male heir, often heralding the death of the birth mother, for her 'purpose' was often, in royal circles, fulfilled – then – 'off with her head'!



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ARTS and LETTERS (Continued)_

Caro spoke a great deal of mother/daughter relationships, which she intends to pursue in future historical novels. One inspiration was her discovery of a tiny picture of Elizabeth's mother in a ring she had always worn! – Mother has been given a 'voice' by Caro – but you will have to explore her novels to discover more. Jane is the author of nine books, but probably best known for her appearances on Channel 7 Sunrise, ABC's QandA and The Gruen Transfer. A luncheon was held, at which this vivacious author spoke of 'Unbreakable Women', based on two of her books. Historical novels are comforting, Caro believes, because in a world of 'unknowns', we already know the endings! University of Queensland Press. CairnsTropicalWritersFestival.com

Book Launch! JENUARRIE "Gift of Knowledge" The selected works of Jenuarrie Koinjmal Woman was launched with, with the NAIDOC chant "because of her" resonating, reverberating ... Jenuarrie is an artist of great stature, with a huge piece projected at the Sydney Opera House. She has a long history of working with earth /water/fire and promoting not only the beauty and creativity of the arts,, but the gifts, ethos and possibilities of her people. 'The Pacific Nation Arts,' Jenuarrie says, 'are still to grow!.

Like Gaudi, Jenuarrie is well aware that all creativity 'belongs' to the point of origin. Jenuarrie still works at Arts Nexus and was supported by an Arts Queensland grant for her publication. She explained that the book is a missing link in Australian Art History, and that she is proud to have forged that link, having worked for a lifetime as a visual artist and potter and now turned author! Jenuarrie and I will meet in the near future and I will provide further news on this extraordinary woman.

CAIRNS FESTIVAL includes a full program that features music, art, theatre, film, comedy and more. The Cairns Esplanade has traditionally been the central heartbeat of the festival, but this year City Lights features an expanded program with mesmerising Cairns City Library projection now being complemented by multimedia installations right across the city. One of these has been developed collaboratively between AGB Events and artist Vanghoua Anthony VUE.

The work reflects the artist's experiences growing up in Cairns and the complexities of his Hmong-Australian heritage, drawing on Vue's experiences during cyclone seasons, the tropical surrounds, the do-it-yourself approach and resilience of Vue's parents; and the push and pull of language, culture, identity and place. Having taught many, and written about the Hmong people and culture over the years, I am excited about this inclusion and congratulate Vang on this wonderful installation!

Many of us have Celtic ancestry and our tribes were also linked to 'the place of the mothers' and the natural world. From this ancient 'place' or point of origin, voices continue to whisper and sometimes sing...in chorus with the peoples of the Pacific Nations – in chorus with so many, all over our huge, extraordinary world... Earth, Air, Fire, Water, hear me now....

The Mothers' Daughter.

Earth, Air, Fire, Water, sing with me...

The Mothers' Daughter.

Earth, Air, Fire, Water, thank you from

The Mothers' Daughter.

Jennifer Ann Davies Arts and Letters Adviser