

### NCWQ Annual Dinner

NCWQ members and guests gathered for the 2017 NCWQ Annual Dinner held at Parliament House in March. Sallyanne Atkinson, the guest speaker, inspired everyone with her entertaining speech about her time as Lord Mayor, her career as a journalist and other life experiences. The dinner was an opportunity to honour women, past and present, and their achievements that have improved our society. Ailsa Scurr was named as Honorary Life Member for her commitment to NCWQ for more than 30 years during which time Ailsa worked hard to raise issues of the day and bring about change. Tracy Davis MP, Member for Aspley, hosted the dinner and was joined by other members of Parliament and local government including Fiona Simpson MP and Ros Bates MP and Cr Vicki Howard. Barbara Baikie, President of National Council of Women Australia and her husband, Peter, also attended.

### In conversation with Sallyanne Atkinson

As this year's NCWQ Annual Dinner keynote speaker, Sallyanne Atkinson has a wealth of experience in government, business, social affairs and the community. As someone who has been directly involved in Local Government, State Government and the Commonwealth Government, she is uniquely placed to understand government from the bureaucratic perspective as well the political. Her 20-year business career has seen the evolution of changes in Australian companies and management and built on her role as leader of Australia's largest and most multi-functional local authority.

Best known as Brisbane's first woman Lord Mayor from 1985 to 1991, she has also been the Australian Government's Senior Trade Commissioner in France, Belgium, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, and the Queensland Government's Special Representative in South East Asia.

'My greatest professional highlight was definitely being Lord Mayor. I found it to be a very creative role, with an opportunity to shape a city and really nurture it – as well as the lives of the people in it. This was very rewarding'.

Read our full interview with Sallyanne [here!](#)



## NCWQ 2017 Bursary Program

It is a busy peak in the bursary program timeline as we finalise the sponsorships for the 2017 bursaries, and complete all the behind-the-scene preparations for the launch on 3 April 2017.

With the addition of a couple of new sponsors, it is significant that there are now four affiliated organisations of NCWQ who now sponsor bursaries. A warm welcome to Forum Communicators and Soroptimist International Moreton North Inc with their sponsorship in the 2017 bursary program.

**ESA International** was the first, sponsoring now for several years. With their considerable involvement with organisations like the Leukaemia Foundation and the Cancer Council, their bursary is for a female tertiary student with an immediate family member diagnosed with cancer.

**Soroptimist International**, Region of South Queensland, next came on board as a sponsor, with their bursary for an Indigenous female student undertaking a course in the medical field – enrolled nurse, registered nurse, or other allied health field.

**Forum Communicators** are sponsoring a bursary for a female tertiary student who has a track record of public speaking, school debating. This reflects their organisational goals of increasing skills in this area.

**Soroptimist International Moreton North Inc** are sponsoring a bursary for a female student in the creative industries. This bursary is focusing on assisting the student towards the end of their studies when assessment requires them to stage some type of production, exhibition etc. This is often a financial burden on the struggling student. This is a new study area for the bursaries program to address.

As bursary applications will be closed by the time of the next newsletter, please note these dates:

**Monday 3 April** – Applications open

**Monday 5 June** – Applications close

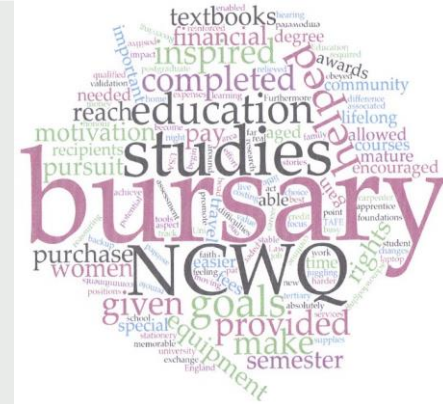
**Saturday 1 July** – Moderation Selection Panels

**Wednesday 26 July** – Presentation Function

The success of the bursary program relies on the applicants.

Although we send out over 1,000 emails, the assistance of all affiliated organisations and members to spread the word through their networks is just as vital.

Full details will be on the website over the next few weeks at [www.ncwq.org.au](http://www.ncwq.org.au) or email me at [bursaries@ncwq.org.au](mailto:bursaries@ncwq.org.au)



**From Kathy Cavanagh,  
NCWQ Bursary Program  
Coordinator**

## Newest Honorary Member: Ailsa Scurr

Ailsa Scurr was a member of the 1985 – 1986 National Council of Women of Queensland (NCWQ) Executive Committee. Daphne Buckley was the President, Mollie-Jean Hunt was one of the five Vice-Presidents and the Honorary Treasurer was Zita Sidaway. Others on the Committee were Val Cocksedge, Yvonne Herbert and Dr Laurel Macintosh. Advisers at that time included Val Cocksedge, (Home Economics); Georgina Pickers, (Women and Employment); and Daphne Buckley, (Education). Ailsa was a delegate of the Liberal Party of Australia (Queensland) Women's State Council.

During 1986 – 87, under the presidency of Yvonne Bain, Ailsa was one of the members involved in the Colonial George Street Day. NCWQ opened Harris Terrace for a Victorian themed display and Ailsa coordinated the hot dog stall. Over 1,000 hot dogs were sold making over \$700.00 profit for the Bicentennial Fund.

The following year Ailsa stepped into a Vice-President's role. The annual report for that year tells us the Bicentennial Project, Ballard Cottage, received accreditation. "The project is to furnish the cottage and to provide vignettes on the lives of early Queensland women in written form to provide a history of Queensland through the experiences of women from diverse areas and walks of life, for the perusal of Queensland schoolchildren and other interested parties." Ballard Cottage is one of the original homes in the area being re-erected on the Mt. Elphinstone Site of the Pullenvale Field Study Centre of the Department of Education by the Apex Club." Ailsa was a donor to this project.

Also during this year "Vice-President Ailsa Scurr, willingly undertook a major research project to fulfil the requirements of the National Council of Women of Australia for a 'Smoking Report on Girls 14 – 25 Years', in such a manner that the Council could apportion some of the grant to provide Drug Arm Prevention Kits in two schools." Ailsa was appointed a member of the Board of Drug Arm.

As one of the five Vice-Presidents in 1989-90 Ailsa attended the Heritage Day at Pullenvale Field Study Centre where Ron Tooth instructed members on the work of our pioneer women and their children in the 1880's and 1890's.

The Minutes of the General Meeting held on June 27 1991 tell us that Ailsa Scurr presented a report on the MBF Luncheon. At the same meeting, she "gave up-to-date information on Drug Arm initiatives which include a new high school kit to be placed in every school in Australia, which includes a video made at Ferny Grove High School."

In August of that year, she agreed to act as convenor for outside activities connected with the Colonial George Street Day. She also brought to the attention of the meeting the plight of farmers and their families. Mrs Scurr spoke of this and the existing inequality which precludes farmers with little or no income from receiving financial relief. Mrs Scurr agreed to frame a resolution on this topic, with supporting background, to be brought to the next meeting.

To read Ailsa's full story and involvement with NCWQ, [CLICK HERE!](#)



*Ailsa Scurr (middle) with  
Noela O'Donnell (left) and Lyn  
Buckley (right) at the 2017  
NCWQ Annual Dinner*



*Re-creating the first NCWQ  
AGM at the Centenary AGM*

### **Nutrition Report, March 2017**

U.N. Decade – General Assembly decides 2016-2025 will be the Decade of Action on Nutrition, recognising the need to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition worldwide, particularly under-nourishment, stunting, wasting, underweight and overweight in children under five years of age.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



### **Child and Family Report, March 2017**

In February I received an email from the CEO of the Lady Musgrave Trust, Karen Lyon Reid which read in part as follows. “*Today we are proud to announce that The Lady Musgrave Trust is launching ‘The Handy Guide’ mobile website application.....* [to read more, [click here](#)]



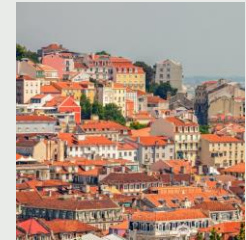
### **Consumer Affairs Report, March 2017**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) urged businesses to adopt the new industry code designed to reduce the number of deaths and injury resulting from children swallowing button batteries in Australia.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



### **Arts and Letters Report, March 2017**

Lisbon is new to me. It is like a huge Museum which one could explore for many, many days or weeks! – here there are not only male chubby cherubs, but girl angels as well – in the main city squares, flanked by or flanking beautiful, proud, brave female ‘marbles’ (statues)!!.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



### **An update: Erin Cunningham, past bursary recipient**

Erin Cunningham was the recipient of the inaugural Moreton Bay Regional Council bursary. She became quite involved with NCWQ – organising a group of Leos to help at the Children’s Conference. Erin was kind enough to share an update with us – to read her blog, [click here](#)!





## **Habitat Report, March 2017**

South East Queensland comprises 6 cities, 17 urban centres, 47 towns and many rural centres, inside an area equivalent to the Netherlands. SEQ is benchmarked against 25 other regions over the past 20 years and our performance has been variable, .....[to read more, [click here](#)]



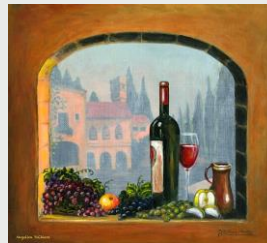
## **International Relations & Peace Report, March 2017**

While the feminist heart in me wanted Hilary Clinton to finally break the most powerful 'glass ceiling' in political history, my pragmatic head had to concede, that as distasteful as many remarks made during the election campaign.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



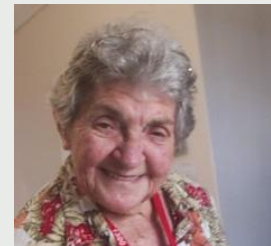
## **Arts and Letters Report, February 2017**

In a place of beauty, extraordinary legacies, change, and vibrant histories, indelible ghosts hover, whisper and smile.....the Arts are still highly valued, not as fluffy stuff, nonsense, flippant and unnecessary, but as essential.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



## **Saying goodbye to Marjorie Royce**

When the National Council of Women was formed in Queensland in 1905 one of the affiliate organisations was the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). The organisation closed its Queensland operation in 2012. From 2001 to 2011, Marjorie Royce represented WCTU.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



## **UNAA Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls Report**

As an organisation that promotes the values and the work of the United Nations, the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) sees the economic empowerment of women and girls as central to the protection and fulfillment of human rights..... [to read more, [click here](#)]



## **Young Women's Forum: *Leading Social Change***

The Young Women's Forum is fast coming up on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May, from 4:30-6:30pm in the Barbara Fielding Room at Brisbane Girls Grammar School. This year's event theme is 'leading social change'. We will be sharing an event flyer very soon! For more information, contact Steph Carter @ [stephycarter@gmail.com](mailto:stephycarter@gmail.com) or +61 410 157 477.

