



Celebrating 113 years

Affiliated with the National Council of Women of Australia Inc. Ltd and the International Council of Women. Patron: His Excellency Paul de Jersey AC Governor of Queensland

Acting President: Amy Henderson - Secretary: Erin Cunningham – Recording Secretary: Noela O'Donnell AM - Acknowledgements to Hon Jackie Trad, South Brisbane Electorate for the kind provision of printing services

Report from the Acting President

High Tea Event

A past Bursary recipient and now NCWQ Secretary, Erin Cunningham, co-ordinated a very successful High Tea event which attracted many younger women, strengthened relationships with existing members and raised funds.

With 60 attendees we were also honoured to have ICW Vice-President and NCWA Past President Leonie Christopherson AM and her husband Brigadier (Ret) Geoff Christopherson join us.

In particular, the guest speaker, Gina Masterton, shared her research into “The Experience of Women Domestic Violence Victims as Respondents in International Parental Child Abduction Cases”. The Hague Child Abduction Convention (1980) establishes international law for handling cases in which children are abducted by a parent from one country to another.

The networking, conversations, atmosphere, wonderful food and company made the afternoon event a real delight and raising funds from the raffle sales added the practical element to the event.

Bursary Program

This year is the 10th anniversary of the program. It is administered by Bursary Program Coordinator, Kathy Cavanagh, and a team consisting of nearly 30 people. This team of very dedicated members work tirelessly from January to June to ensure the 33 bursaries available for Queensland women to assist with their educational expenses are organised, publicised and administrated.

We are proud that sponsorship comes from all three levels of government: Federal, state and local. Other sponsors are women's organisations affiliated with NCWQ and individuals. Commencing with two bursaries in 2009, these days the program has gathered its own momentum – we generally don't seek out new sponsors – they come to us. Last year when we changed the timeline, universities were contacting us when they didn't receive their flyers at the usual time.

Many of our recipients have achieved steps towards their study and career aspirations despite the obstacles put in their way. Perhaps sometimes because of those very obstacles. Criteria for the bursaries range for students from Year 11/12 to PhD level; students with a disability; mental illness; study in specified fields such as health and aged care, journalism, law, early childhood and special education; engineering or other STEM and science areas; specific groups such as Indigenous or LGBTIQ; place of residence; family member with cancer; with a history of volunteering.



Office Relocation to Gabba Towers

Due to the proposed construction of Cross River Rail, the NCWQ office has been relocated from the LandCentre to Gabba Towers. Our postal address remains the same – PO Box 6128 Woolloongabba 4102.

We are very grateful to Noela, Avril and Kathy who have put in an amazing effort in organising the relocation and the NCWQ material.

Governance updates

In order to keep up-to-date with technology, encourage new members and acknowledge changing times, six resolutions were prepared and passed by the Management Committee making proposed changes to our By-Laws. These resolutions will go before at our Annual General Meeting in August.

NCWQ within the Community and Membership Engagement

Noela and other members have been active in representing the NCWQ at various events including the following:

- WOW Festival
- Lady Day Service at St John's Cathedral
- Catholic Women's League (CWL) Mass, AGM and luncheon
- Braille House AGM
- Christina Hopper, 2017 NCWQ SIMNI Bursary recipient exhibition "I'm Irrational Too".
- Centaur Commemorative Service and laying a wreath
- Queensland Medical Women's Queensland Medical Women's Society – official opening of exhibition "Pioneering Women Doctors in Outback Queensland" and "Medical Women at War" at Marks-Hirschfeld Museum of Medical History
- UNAAQ Peacekeepers Ceremony

Quota Regional Conference in Toowoomba

Quota International recently held its Regional conference in Toowoomba. One of the outcomes of the conference was that as part of the commemoration of their centenary in 2019, Quota International will sponsor two bursaries next year – The Quota Centenary Bursaries one for Audiology and one for Speech Therapy.

Help for the Hearing and Speech Impaired is one of the key areas that Quota has been involved in for many years, and when Quota was zoned in Districts they did have a Scholarship that covered this area of their service, so it is fitting that in their Centenary year they should once again sponsor a bursary in each of the areas involved.

Attendees at the conference included Avril Kent, Ali Lingard and QI's new Regional Director, Janette Taylor.

NCWQ Bursary Update

2018 NCWQ Bursary Program

With applications having closed on 4 June, the 28 members of Team Bursary are busy during this month with the arduous task of determining the recipients of the 33 bursaries on offer. This is always a difficult time given the high quality of applicants; but it is also a time of wonderment in reading about the applicants, what they have achieved to date and their passions that are steering them in their chosen direction of study.

Bursary Presentation Function

Mark the date of 25 July 2018 in your diary. Commencing at 5:30 pm with light refreshments, the venue is again Brisbane Girls Grammar School, The presentation begins at 6:00pm with each recipient being presented her bursary by the sponsor or their representative.

This year marks the 10th year of the NCWQ Bursary program, commencing with two bursaries in 2009, and over 140 Queensland female students since assisted by the program. But each year we are amazed at the stories of achievement that we hear. This may be the first time that these achievements have been recognised. Our recipients are amazing. Whilst the financial benefit (\$1,000 - \$2,000) is significant, it is the recognition and growth in self-belief that inspires us each year.

Full details are on the web, and a copy of the invitation in this Newsletter, but please contact me if you have any queries. We hope to see you on 25th July. You will see why Team Bursary carries on the work of the program each year.

Kathy Cavanagh
NCWQ Bursary Program Coordinator
bursaries@ncwq.org.au 0407117378



NCWQ High Tea

Friendship, fellowship, delicious food, good company, conversation and laughter filled the room at the Clear Mountain Lodge when NCWQ hosted a high tea.

The event, organised by NCWQ Secretary Erin Cunningham was an outstanding success with members, families and friends in attendance. Member organisations represented included Quota International, Mantle Housing, Zonta International, ESA International QLD, MU Australia and the Queensland Rural Regional & Remote Women's Network.

We were honoured to be joined by Leonie Christopherson AM, International Council of Women Advisor Arts and Letters and past president NCWA and her husband Brigadier (Ret) Geoff Christopherson AM. NCWQ Acting President, Amy Henderson addressed the guests. She believes that the relevance of the organisation today lies in the three words emblazoned within the logo "Empower, Advocate, Connect"

Empower - Due to its reputation (and we stand on the shoulders of many women before us) the NCWQ administer over \$35,000 for bursaries each year, from a very wide range of organisations and individuals, to further the education and empower women. We need to continue to engage the generous organisations and individuals who support the NCWQ and continue to strengthen the Bursary Program.

Advocate - On a practical level this means debate, education and support about issues that face women, families and children today - such as elder abuse, cyber-bullying or domestic violence. Letter writing, submissions, gathering experts to talk at Forums are all part of the NCWQ commitment to help improving society.

Connect - NCWQ is the members. These are women who have developed strong friendships and networks with many other individuals who represent or work within a very wide range of organisations. This means we can advocate other organisations issues as well as gaining support for issues the NCWQ would like to advocate. Most importantly, for the future of NCWQ, we can connect the next generation.

Kathy Cavanagh, Bursaries Program Coordinator, reminded us that this year is the 10th anniversary of the program and of the sponsors. We are proud that sponsorship comes from all three levels of government: Federal, state and local. Other sponsors are women's organisations affiliated with NCWQ and individuals. With a word cloud created from the words of recipients, we saw the benefit of receiving a bursary. Kathy acknowledged three recipients in the room, Erin Cunningham (2015 Moreton Bay Regional Council), Chloe Pacey (2016 Moreton Bay Regional Council) and Rebecca Masterton (2017 Soroptimist International).



What's Missing from Australia's Foreign Policy? A Youth Strategy (words by Elise Stephenson)

The ASEAN Special Summit wrapped up last month, and Australia moved on to the next big opportunity to shape international relations on our home soil: the Commonwealth Games. Both opportunities are significant milestones for Australia, but also have represented unique opportunities for Australian youth.

The #ASEANinAUS Special Summit provided a unique opportunity for youth entrepreneurs to be part of funded events specifically building the capacity and relations in the region. One month later, reinforced by the wrapping of another major international event on Australian soil, the Commonwealth Games, I have had time to reflect on young people's place in forums and events like it.

With agencies like the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade now evidencing Women in Leadership and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategies, where is Australia's Youth Strategy for engaging with the world?

At events for the ASEAN Special Summit attendees learned that Indonesia's Youth Enterprise Council HAS 6 million youth members. The Malaysian Association of ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs (MAAYE) pioneers how youth, government and business can work together to further the economic development and regional relationships in the region. Example after example highlighted how youth have a role not just in creating opportunities and people-to-people links with other countries, but in informing and advising government on new and innovative ways of doing so too.

This is reinforced and reflected by what is happening within the Commonwealth. We have Commonwealth Youth Councils, Youth Programmes, and Youth Networks all forming important parts of international diplomacy and collaboration. As a member of the Commonwealth Youth Gender Equality Network, I can testify to the value these networks and strategies bring to informing international decision-making, from contributing at Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to turning their eye towards events like the Commonwealth Games.

Future planning

Seeing as our current generation of youth is the largest we have ever seen in the world, representing nearly half of the population, should we be making more of an attempt to engage and listen to youth? 60 per cent of the world's youth population aged 15–24 reside in our own Asia Pacific region. 213 million youth (aged 15–34) reside in the ASEAN region. While little research exists that places an economic value on the work, capabilities and capacities of youth, an absence of evidence is not evidence of absence of the value that young people bring to international relations. With rising sea levels, regional instability and shifting power relations, and an aging population, now more than ever is the time to ensure we are properly engaging and utilising youth across the region and the world.

DFAT already has a track record for valuing the soft power and public diplomacy potential of young people through its New Colombo Plan program. As a New Colombo Plan Scholar in its inaugural year, I can attest to the strong potential of young people to foster and build relationships and relevance within the region. Since my stint in Hong Kong, I have been able to work with young people, businesses and organisations across Japan, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Taiwan. Some of my closest relationships overseas are based on business collaborations through the enterprise I co-founded on my return to Australia, or my role in the Commonwealth Youth Gender Equality Network. My experience is different to established business and government leaders who represent Australia internationally, but I believe it can be just as valuable. Those I am meeting and building networks with now will be the leaders and influencers in the future. I can also see what is happening now through a different lens, and therefore can take note of the variety of ways in which we could add to our soft power, grow our economic relations, or build on our people-to-people links.

What's Missing from Australia's Foreign Policy? A Youth Strategy (words by Elise Stephenson)

DFAT has already recognised the value of youth to Australia's foreign policy and international relations, the next logical step is formalising this in a Youth Strategy. Much like the Women in Leadership or Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategies, the Youth Strategy could be an opportunity give young Australians a role in informing and advising government across a variety of issues, including those pertinent to Australian international affairs. It will also provide an opportunity to reflect on the specific barriers and challenges experienced by youth across the region and the world — with youth frequently forming some of the most disadvantaged and marginalised groups in society and young women in many societies facing increased barriers to safety and security, education, economic independence and political participation than other groups.

Despite this, young people are also providing much of the innovation across the world too. At the ASEAN social enterprise event I attended, one youth participant from Myanmar had developed an enterprise providing vital waste management and recycling services in Yangon, in an absence of government services. Another had pioneered changes in the sexual and reproductive health space in Vietnam to improve health outcomes and educate young people where traditional forms of education were proving ineffective. Yet another again was transforming the entire fishing industry across Indonesia to increase transparency and improve the pay and circumstances of farmers, many of whom are in geographically isolated and remote regions, and part of diverse indigenous communities.

According to a [2014 study by Youth Policy.org](#), 62% of countries have a youth policy. Queensland and South Australia have a Youth Strategy. Western Australia is developing their new Strategy, and multiple city councils around the country have Youth Strategies, from Hobart to Fairfield. While Australia has had historic national policies under the Rudd government, the landscape is clear to make way for the next iteration, particularly with reference to a Youth Strategy for international affairs.

Because the [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#) already provides technical assistance for national and regional youth policies, the way is open for innovative leadership to seize this opportunity to affect real change and inclusion of young people in government. With the ASEAN Special Summit over, and the Commonwealth Games wrapping up, I keep wondering what opportunities Australia and its youth are missing out on by not recognising and formalising a strategy to include them in our international affairs. If anyone can help us navigate the rise of China and India, power shifting within the region, and a rapidly changing economic, diplomatic and security landscape, young people who are increasingly being forced to work innovatively can do it. When your cohort is prophesised to work in [five different careers over 17 different jobs in a lifetime](#), you get used to dealing with uncertainty. When your cohort knows that [over half of young people in schools today will end up working in new job types that don't yet exist](#), you hone your skills in identifying and capitalising on opportunities, and transferring your skills to take advantage of whatever comes your way. When your cohort is not effectively engaged in decision-making over issues which affect them, a Youth Strategy engaging them for the future is the first step forward. If Australia wants to be a significant, relevant leader in the region and the world, engaging youth now is critical.



Mental Health – it's not just a problem for the Military

This is a reprint of an article first published in the April 2018 edition of "The Australian Reservist"

Leonie Christopherson AM BA DGSJ, Australian Council of Women of Australia

'The impact of the stress and strain of war upon the physical and mental health of veterans and upon ageing processes is a vital area of research, with ultimately immense application to the community as a whole.' Sir Edward Dunlop AC Kt CMG OBE KCSJ

Introduction

It is a tragic fact of which many Australians are unaware, that there were 325 Defence certified suicides in the period 2001 to 2015, 78 suicides by veterans in 2016, and 84 in 2017. There are 487 defence families out there who are still asking themselves: *'Did I say the wrong thing to push him or her over the edge? Could I have done more?'*

Veterans' health is the key priority of Minister Dan Tehan. (The Age' 8 May 2017.) The Government allocated \$350m for Defence for mental health and \$220m exclusively for suicide prevention in the 2017 budget.

All Defence personnel now undertake mandatory annual suicide awareness training in order to help personnel recognize the tell-tale behaviours. Workmates, colleagues and families, (i.e. those who spend the most time in daylight hours with the returning veterans) are in the best position to recognize whether colleagues are not coping or exhibiting worrying behaviour.

However trauma and stress which may lead to suicide is not exclusive to Defence. The Beyond Blue organisation estimate that three million Australians are living with anxiety or depression. [Beyond Blue](#) and several other organisation provide excellent information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health.

Identifying problems

Problems with mental health can first manifest themselves, at home and in the case of returning Reservists, in the civilian workplace, in behaviour such as:

Always looking for an escape route if in a closed environment.

Dislike of being confined in a crowded carriage while commuting; they may prefer to get out and walk to work.

After five months in South Sudan on minimal fresh food, a peace-keeper had to get out of a Coles supermarket unable to adjust to the vast variety, colour, and sheer abundance of fresh fruit and vegetables on display in contrast to what was available in Sudan because of famine. It was a severe culture shock in comparison.

Irritability and intolerance of other people's inefficiency compared with the discipline of military life.

Finding day-to-day activities banal after experiencing life-changing incidents on deployment. *'All people back here can talk about are the footy scores and if they win Tattsлото.'*

By addressing such erratic behaviour early, we can aid recovery and adjustment for anyone before coping methods such as absenteeism and alcoholism trip in. These can, in the worst case scenario, lead to job loss and worse. Fellow workers and families need to recognise these warning signs and deal with them sympathetically. Importantly, time is needed to adjust from being in a combat zone one day and a suburban home in Australia shortly after.

Getting Help

A number of organisations provide excellent advice on Beating the Blues, Stress Management, Doing Anger Differently, Managing your Drinking and Suicide Prevention for veterans, families and mates. SOLDIER ON, AT EASE, and the RIGHT MIX, are all addressing the problem.

There are a number of resources that provide assistance including:

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)

www.dva.gov.au/health and wellbeing _____ The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) provides support to current and former serving members and their families and carers through a range of services and payments (including ongoing or one off payments). These services are designed to assist personnel to manage their health and lifestyle and support those you care for.

'[At Ease](#)' is DVA's portal to online mental health information. It provides self-help tools and information to support mental health and wellbeing and is a gateway to websites and free mobile apps about stress, PTSD, alcohol management, resilience and suicide awareness and prevention. The portal also links to a wide range of mental health resources for health professionals and GPs for effective assessment and evidence-based treatment of veterans.

Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service

www.vvcs.gov.au Call [1800 011 046](tel:1800011046) _____ The Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) provides free and confidential, nation-wide counselling and support for war and service-related mental health conditions, such as posttraumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, sleep disturbance and anger. Support is also available for relationship and family matters that can arise due to the unique nature of military service.

Defence Family Helpline 1800 624 608

Lifeline 131114

Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467

Beyond Blue <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/> 24 Hours - Call 1300 22 46 36

The Traumatic Stress Clinic

www.traumaticstressclinic.com.au _____ The Traumatic Stress Clinic provides cutting-edge, evidence-based treatments and undertakes world-class research for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and prolonged grief. The Clinic is an affiliation between a number of researchers, organisations and clinical psychologists, and is based at the Westmead Institute for Medical Research and the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

www.therightmix.gov.au _____ This site provides help with tips, tools and strategies that can reduce the impact of drinking on your lifestyle.

Spreading the word

The ADF does not need to be defensive about mental health as 'trauma' is rife in the civilian world. We can teach others all that we have learned. We can help those who have suffered random violence, natural disasters, family tragedies and abuse; who can all suffer PTSD. Excellent aids that have been developed by the many support organisations in Defence should be distributed in the general community as much as possible. We could turn any perceived stigma of mental health in the military around by acknowledging that 'trauma' is not exclusively a defence product. Civilians suffer trauma. They need help too.

We should be proud of, and share, such things as the PTSD Coach app available on the DVA Website. It is a self-diagnostic and healing tool which one can use in privacy. It is particularly helpful to those of us who do not want to spill their soul to a stranger in counselling. You can view the app and you can say '*Oh look, I've missed out on Self Blame and could I have done more to help in the situation. Better go back and check that out....*'

To spread the word, we could start with the supportive employers of Reservists and ask them to run this information in their staff magazines / newsletters. It is applicable and available to all. It should also be displayed in every corporate tea room and factory floor in the country.

Conclusion

Let's acknowledge there can be problems adjusting on returning from deployment and that 'trauma' does not just come in khaki. Let's spread the help available for veterans and their families to all in the wider community. Defence can be proud of what it has achieved.

If this proposed initiative only saves one life, it will be worthwhile.

Featured Posts

Environment Report, June 2018

In 2015 global plastic production reached 322 million tonnes (Mt), a dramatic increase compared to the 279 Mt produced in 2011. The plastics demand in the European Union was 58 Mt, of which 29.7% was recycled.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



Arts and Letters Report, June 2018

Short stories! I was asked the other day what had happened to 'the short story'? Whilst some of our Queensland and Australian writing competitions promote the short story, many seem to disappear after brief exposure.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



Arts and Letters Report, May 2018

In our chaotic world, it is infinitely sensible and peaceful to see and know the beauty, simplicity and joy of the uncomplicated. Thusly, readers can enjoy the wise and immeasurably enchanting tale written by Lyons.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



Arts and Letters Report, April 2018

Musee des Beaux-Arts de Dijon, France
Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy, welcomes visitors to what was once his palace constructed around 1450, in the capital of his duchy.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



Welcome to our new members!

Welcome to Alexandra Martin, Marguerite Xavier, Melissa Barnett and Jessica Small.

Environment Report, June 2018

By Pat Pepper, NCWQ Environment Adviser

Plastic Waste –Problem: In 2015 global plastic production reached 322 million tonnes (Mt), a dramatic increase compared to the 279 Mt produced in 2011. The plastics demand in the European Union was 58 Mt, of which 29.7% was recycled, 39.5% was recovered in the form of energy (mainly incineration) and 30.8% was sent to landfill. Kalargaris, Ioannis Guohong Tian, Sai Gu The utilisation of oils produced from plastic waste at different pyrolysis temperatures in a DI diesel engine Energy 131 (2017) 179e185; Association of Plastic Manufacturers Europe, Plastics e the Facts 2016. An analysis of the European plastics production, demand and waste data. European Association of Plastics Recycling and Recovery Organisations; 2016 p. 1e38. Geyer et al estimated that 8300 Mt of virgin plastics had been produced between 1950 and 2015, of which 30% was still in use. They estimated that in 2015, 407 Mt of primary plastics (plastics manufactured from virgin materials) entered the use phase, whereas 302 Mt left it. Thus, in 2015, 105 Mt were added to the in-use stock. The cumulative waste generation of primary and secondary (recycled) plastic waste amounted to 6300 Mt of which around 9% had been recycled, 12% incinerated, and 79% accumulated in landfills or the natural environment i.e. about 60% of all plastic ever produced is in landfill or litter. Four to 12 Mt of plastic waste generated on land was estimated to enter the marine environment of all major ocean basins in 2010. Geyer et al also noted plastics' largest market was packaging most of which leaves use the same year they are produced

Geyer, Jambeck, Law Sci. Adv. 2017;3: e1700782; (DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.1700782)

The fate of plastic packaging material is illustrated below. With 78 Mt of plastic packaging used in 2013, only 14% was collected for recycling, 14% incinerated and the remaining 72% ended up in landfill or as litter in the environment

GLOBAL FLOWS OF PLASTIC PACKAGING MATERIALS IN 2013

World Economic Forum, Ellen MacArthur Foundation and McKinsey & Company, The New Plastics Economy — Rethinking the future of plastics(2016, <http://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/publications>).. <https://theconversation.com/the-new-100-recyclable-packaging-target-is-no-use-if-our-waste-isnt-actually-recycled-95857>

Health and Environmental Issues: Toxins in or attached to microplastics can embed themselves in the marine food chain. The smallest plastic particle, nanoplastics, can carry larger amounts of environmental toxicants due to their high surface/volume ratio and can enter organs and body fluids of marine or land organisms and could be a risk to humans if digested. Supporting information for submissions on micro and nano plastics from NCWA & NCWQ Environment Adviser, Plastics, such as ethylene and propylene, derived from fossil hydrocarbons, are not biodegradable and as a result, they accumulate, rather than decompose, in landfills or the natural environment. Geyer et al *ibid* Over the very long term landfill would result in production of greenhouse gases through slow decomposition of plastic in a putrescible landfill. Final-report-Panel_Hume-Waste to-Fuel-Facility.pdf

Strategies to combat this waste problem include avoiding products becoming waste (reduce and reuse); finding an alternative use for waste (recycle and recover); and as a last resort, disposing safely. Unfortunately landfill can be the default for the latter..

Environment Report, June 2018

Reduce and Reuse: There can be no argument about reducing plastic waste, like using alternative material to plastic e.g. hemp bags instead of plastic bags for shopping. However, there is a proviso on continual reuse of plastic containers. For example to make the plastic flexible, phthalates might be used in the manufacturing of plastic bottle. Phthalates are endocrine disruptors, a major environmental concern, and which can mimic the actions of hormones in the human body.

<https://www.thoughtco.com/safest-type-of-water-bottle-1203973>

Recycle and Recover: The Plastics Identification Code (PIC) identifies the type of plastic resin a product is made from, its properties and possible use when recycled.

- Code
- Resin
- Examples of plastic products Characteristics Examples of recycled plastic products
- PET/PETE – Polyethylene Terephthalate Soft drink bottles, sleeping bag filling Clear, rigid, often used as a fibre Soft drink bottles, clear film for packaging
- HDPE – High density Polyethylene Milk bottles, crinkly shopping bags Hard to semi flexible, usually opaque Wheelie bins, detergent bottles, agricultural pipes
- PVC – Polyvinyl Chloride Cordial and juice bottles
- Shoe soles, garden hose
- Flexible, clear and semi-elastic Pipes, tiles
- Hose cores, industrial flooring
- LDPE Low-density Polyethylene Ice cream lids, garbage bags Soft and flexible, waxy surface Freezer bags, plastic packaging
- PP – Polypropylene Ice cream containers, crisp packets Flexible but strong Compost bins, worm farms
- PS – Polystyrene
- EPS Expanded Polystyrene
- Yogurt pots, plastic cutlery, hot drink cups, take-away containers Rigid and brittle, clear or glassy looking, lightweight and foam-like Clothes pegs, coat hangers
- All other Plastic All other plastics Includes acrylic and nylon Varies Imitation timber and concrete products

Cleanaway Fact Sheet

However, these numbers do not mean that the items are automatically recyclable. The PIC tells recyclers what type of plastic a product is made from. Not all plastics are recyclable e.g. hard thermoset plastics commonly used in electronics. Even those plastics that are recyclable often need mechanical or hand sorting into separate plastic polymer classes before they can be processed. Currently only three of the seven categories are economically viable to recycle: PET (soft drink bottles); HDPE (milk bottles); and PVC (shampoo bottles). The other four – LDPE (garbage bags); PP (microwaveable cookware); PS (foam hot drink cups); and other plastics are less economically viable and so are recycled at much lower rates.

<https://theconversation.com/the-new-100-recyclable-packaging-target-is-no-use-if-our-waste-isnt-actually-recycled-95857> Incentives like supplying labelled bins in convenient locations could encourage the public to sort their own plastic waste. Contamination can be a problem.

Effect on human health and the environment: Recycled plastics aren't able to continually serve the same purpose after recycling. The process of melting down and recycling plastic produces volatile organic compounds that can harm plant and animal life including humans near the industrial site if not carefully controlled. Plastic is manufactured from petroleum and this substance can leech into foods stored in recycled plastic containers. Plastic manufacturers only use a small portion of recycled plastic, if any, when producing food containers and packaging. Because of the potential health threats recycled plastic poses, much plastic recycling is actually downcycling e.g. a plastic water bottle may be downcycled to become artificial turf or plastic furniture.<https://sciencing.com/disadvantages-recycled-plastics-7254476.html>

Market for recycled plastic: Lack of market for recycled plastic can be a disincentive. One recycling business which turns soft plastics such as milk cartons and squeezable shampoo bottles into sturdy plastic play equipment, termite-proof boardwalk decking and bollards, processes about a third of what it has the capacity to. This firm with at least one other only accepts plastic waste from organisations willing to buy back the recycled products. <https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2017/may/22/recycling-in-australia-is-dead-in-the-water-three-companies-tackling-our-plastic-addiction>.

The Federal Government is to be commended for negotiating with the State and Territory Governments for a target of 100% of Australian packaging to be recyclable, compostable or reusable by 2025. The Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation, working with its 950 member companies are to deliver this target. However, the definitions of different waste categories vary by state and territory, so there is no commonly accepted working definition of what constitutes "recyclable, compostable or reusable". Because some products that are technically recyclable are not accepted in most councils, kerbside recycling collection the target is unlikely to be met without policies and market incentives. e.g. Almost 80% of glass and plastic bottles are recycled in SA which has container deposit legislation compared to 65% in WA where similar legislation is only at the discussion stage. Atiq Zaman, Curtin University, advocates

- 1.legislation, regulations or incentives for manufacturers to develop new packaging types;
- 2.an increase in public participation rates in recycling; and
- 3.the development of a strong domestic market for recyclable materials.

<https://theconversation.com/the-new-100-recyclable-packaging-target-is-no-use-if-our-waste-isnt-actually-recycled-95857>

Conversion of plastic waste to fuel: Geyer et al note the vast majority of monomers used to make plastics, such as ethylene and propylene, are derived from fossil hydrocarbons. None of the commonly used plastics are biodegradable so they accumulate, rather than decompose, in landfills or the natural environment. The only way to permanently eliminate plastic waste is by destructive thermal treatment, such as combustion or pyrolysis. Geyer et al, *ibid*.

The pyrolysis process to convert plastic waste to oil, the suitability of various plastics for this process and some of the commercial machines available to do this have been reported previously. Some types of plastics e.g. pure hydrocarbons, such as polyethylene (PE) and polypropylene (PP) are more suitable than others for using this technology NCWQ Environment Adviser's Reports, February 2018 Many Australian jurisdictions specify that the waste sourced as input for waste to energy plants must target genuine residual waste that cannot feasibly be reused or recycled. Final-report-Panel_Hume-Waste to-Fuel-Facility.pdf A commercial scale facility capable of converting waste plastics to fuel at a rate of 50 feedstock tonnes per day was commissioned in NSW by Integrated Green Energy (IGE) with Foyson Resources using a catalytic restructuring process. <http://plasticpyrolysisplants.com/50-tpd-plastics-to-diesel-plant-produces-first-batch-in-australia/> However, in a Report to the ACT Minister for Planning and Land Management on the Proposed FOY Group plastic to fuel facility in Hume industrial zone, an independent panel noted the IGE proposal was not supported by NSW EPA as the "proof of performance" requirement in the NSW Energy from Waste Policy was met. Final-report-Panel_Hume-Waste to-Fuel-Facility.pdf The company also planned a plastics-to-fuel plant that would convert 73 tonnes of plastic into 77.5 million litres of fuel a year to be built at Hume in the ACT. The company claimed their technology removed ash, dealt with hydrocarbon contaminants, and used waste gas for heating to burn off gas at a high enough temperature to destroy noxious compounds. <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/national/act/foy-group-walks-away-from-plasticstofuel-plant-in-hume-20180114-h0i0qw.html> The independent panel reported the company's environmental impact statement failed to sufficiently address key risks, including the risk of explosions, the potential damage to surrounding land, and the effects on air quality. They also recommended ACT should have a "proof of performance" requirement. Hence the plan was shelved. <https://the-riotact.com/foys-planned-oil-refinery-has-hit-a-major-obstacle/202920> Recently, Integrated Green Energy Solutions (IGES), announced a joint venture agreement with the Chinese Crown World Holdings to construct a waste plastic-to-fuel facility in Weifang in Shandong Province of China. The facility will have an initial production capacity of 200 tonnes per day, producing 70 million litres of road-ready fuels per annum. IGES's patented plastic-to-fuel process is claimed by the company to reduce the environmental impacts of waste plastic, that would otherwise be used in landfills or discarded into the environment. <http://www.manmonthly.com.au/news/australian-company-convert-chinas-waste-plastics-fuel/> The Hume-Waste to-Fuel-Facility Panel also noted that most proposed energy from waste facilities in Australia have not progressed to a commercial operation due to unanticipated complexities dealing with contamination in the mixed waste stream, resulting in mechanical handling problems, plant damage or failure to reliably comply with contemporary air emission standards. An additional complication can be the challenge of maintaining a sustainable product in a marketplace where this competes with conventional products, and is influenced by world oil prices. Final-report-Panel_Hume-Waste to-Fuel-Facility.pdf Maybe, given the waste disposal problem exasperated by China's ban on imported solid waste, the need for sustainable continuous energy supply and that Australia only has 48 days aggregated fuel reserves, the limitation on resin type to be used in waste to energy plants should be reconsidered.

Another method of producing fuel from plastic waste is Gasification which involves heating the waste plastic with air or steam, to produce a valuable industrial gas mixtures called "synthesis gas", or syngas. This can then be used to produce diesel and petrol, or burned directly in boilers to generate electricity <http://theconversation.com/if-we-cant-recycle-it-why-not-turn-our-waste-plastic-into-fuel-96128>

However pyrolysis is reported to have better advantages towards environmental pollution and reduction of carbon footprint of plastic products. Pyrolysis minimizes the emissions of carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide compared to combustion and gasification. A review on thermal and catalytic pyrolysis of plastic solid waste <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301479717302992>

Arts and Letters Report, June 2018

By Jennifer Ann Davies, NCWQ Arts and Letters Adviser

Literature

Short stories! I was asked the other day what had happened to 'the short story'? Whilst some of our Queensland and Australian writing competitions promote the short story, many seem to disappear after brief exposure.

Once upon a time short stories were published in magazines, particularly Women's magazines, as well as in bound collections. Stories varied, and provided the reader with a wide range of themes, styles, ideas and plots. The basic Australian Oxford Dictionary defines 'story' n. "account of imaginary or past events, narrative, tale, anecdote; course of life of person, institution etc."

I realised, whilst searching shelves, shops and sites, that there is a distinct kinship between short stories and poems! Often, the short story writer and the poet may have work published in a magazine, local newspaper, or regional, national or international publication; but it takes time and a huge effort to find a publisher for an entire anthology or collection.

The following history of Cate KENNEDY'S collection of wonderful, authentically 'Australian' short stories may serve to partially explain this publishing process. The stories are varied, yet wholesome and 'earthed' in a way one may not have read for a long time.

LIKE A HOUSE ON FIRE – Scribe Publications

Cate Kennedy is the author of the highly acclaimed novel 'The World Beneath', which won the People's Choice Award in the NSW Premier's Literary Awards in 2010. She is an award-winning short-story writer whose work has been published widely. Her first collection, 'Dark Roots' was shortlisted for the Steele Rudd Award in the Queensland Premier's Literary Awards and for the Australian Literature Society Gold Medal. She is also the author of a travel memoir, 'Sing and Don't Cry', and the poetry collections 'Joyflight', 'Signs of Other Fires' and 'The Taste of River Water'. The latter won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Poetry in 2011. Cate lives on a secluded bend of the Broken River in north-east Victoria. Contact: info@scribe.com.au

Still in the World of Letters! – STELLA – The 2018 Stella Prize Shortlist

Celebrating great books by Australian women

Mirandi RIWOE is one of the shortlisted authors. "THE FISH GIRL" is inspired by the 'Malay Trollope' in W. Somerset Maugham's story, "The Four Dutchmen". This novella, slender, supple, is tender and delightful. 'The Fish Girl' tells of an Indonesian girl whose life is changed irrevocably when she moves from a small fishing village to work in the house of a Dutch merchant. There she finds both hardship and tenderness as her traditional past and colonial present collide. www.seizureonline.com www.xoum.com.au

Miranda Riwoe is a Brisbane-based writer who has been shortlisted for the 'Overland' Neilma Sidney Short Story Prize, the Josephine Ulrick Short Story Prize and the Luke Bitmead Bursary. She has also been longlisted for the ABR Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize and the CWA (UK) dagger awards. Her work has appeared in 'Review of Australian Fiction', 'Rex', and 'Peril and Shibboleth and Other Stories'. Her first novel, 'She be Damned', was released by Legend Press UK and Pantera Aust. In 2017. Miranda has a PhD in Creative Writing and Literary Studies from QUT, Brisbane, Queensland.

Riwoe's novella is language rich, which reassures the reader of its informed authenticity, and the sheer beauty of a culture about which we know little, despite our geographical and historic proximity.

'The girl parts her hair with the backs of her hands, so that the shiny tresses are like the wings of a black bird.'

'A sob...lodges in her throat like a frog in a tree hollow...' p.5

'The fish girl has brought the smell of the sea with her.' p.17

'...the ocean's whisper...the ocean's presence...Mina remembers who she is. But the memory has weight, sinks in her chest like a pebble in the sea.' p.19

'She felt like she was bursting through her skin, like the lush, buttery flesh that peeks through the spiky crevices of an overripe durian.' p.54

"Cantik!" = beautiful in Indonesian – Kamus Moderen 3 Milyar.

Other shortlisted publications are:-

The Enlightenment of the Greengage Tree – Shokoofeh Azar

Terra Nullius – Claire G. Coleman

The Life to Come – Michelle de Kretser

An Uncertain Grace – Krissy Kneen

Tracker – Alexis Wright

Info: thestellaprize.com.au

Another Aussie! With a cast of unforgettable characters, 'THE SHELLEY BEACH WRITERS' GROUP' is an irresistible story of loss, change and reinvention.

The heroine has been dumped by her husband, for his PA; their company has gone broke and her nearly-published novel is cancelled! This wonderful character leaves behind the air kisses, pretences, power dressing and is constantly surprised, if not astounded, at new discoveries in a new, very, very simple life. The novel is peppered with an abundance of 'Bloody hell's' – but even that over-seasoning becomes somewhat palatable when the reader understands the enormity of the changes our character manages. Bartering in a small, stormy, sleepy seaside sanctuary, our heroine realises how little she has seen of the sky, throughout her years of being a city working woman, wife and mother.

"I'm sure I saw the Dog whisper to Bossy Child to ignore me and invite her friends whenever she wants. The Dog likes the Bossy Child's friends because they make such a fuss of him. He's not keen on children under the age of three though, unless they've been dog trained!" p.77 Viking an imprint of Penguin Books Australia. penguin.com.au

Australian, June LOVES, is the author of over one hundred non-fiction books for both children and adults. She has also been a newspaper journalist, freelance writer and teacher librarian. She now lives near the beach in Victoria with her husband, but no Dog!

FILM

Alliance Francaise de Cairns presented the French Film Festival to Far North Queensland. Eight films were presented over a three day period, all of which had English sub-titles. The small theatre at Event Cinemas Cairns City was packed, with 'The School of Life' a favourite!

THE SCHOOL OF LIFE – L'ECOLE BUISSONNIERE – France. Comedy/Drama 2017.

Directed by Nicolas Vanier. Starring Francois Cluzet, Eric Elmosnino, Francois Berleand, Jean Scandel. Filmmaker Nicolas Vanier (directors Belle and Sebastian) borrows from his own childhood experiences growing up in Sologne to inform The School of Life – a gratifying, feel-good story about a boy whose miserable existence in a Parisian orphanage is changed forever when he is taken to live in rural France. www.afcairns.org.au In addition to the sheer enjoyment of the film itself, audience members loved the very beautiful scenery and cinematography.

SOCIAL HISTORY – A sometimes forgotten element of our culture.

WARTIME WALK promoted by Cairns Libraries and the RSL Sub-Branch, takes those interested, back in time to explore the buildings of Cairns City and their use during the wars. Bookings are essential on (07) 4044 3720. Walking time approx. 2 hours, morning tea provided for \$5, payable to the RSL Sub Branch.

25 May, 22 June, 27 July, 24 August and 28 September 2018. 9am – 12 noon

Historic walks are often organised in cities, but not so often in regional areas*

VISUAL ART – Four exciting new works were purchased by Cairns' Art Gallery for the Gallery Collection. One of these was "A WEAVE THROUGH TIME", which comprises three large-scale body sculptures that explore traditional and contemporary body adornment, with the style and media of each representing the past, present and future. Grace Lillian LEE is a Cairns based artist whose fashion and body sculptures have been represented at major fashion shows and cultural events around Australia.

UQ Museum of Art, in partnership with Monash University Museum of Art presents a series for the public 'TIME CRYSTALS', which includes film, visual art and lectures. The presentations are early in June, but are widely publicised and promoted and full details are available:- artmuseum@eq.edu.au

Dick ROUGHSEY Retrospective Exhibition – Can you help?

Cairns Art Gallery, in partnership with the Queensland Art Gallery/Galley of Modern Art, is curating a major survey exhibition of the work of Dick Roughsey (Goobalathaldin), which will be exhibited in Cairns in late 2018, before touring to Brisbane in 2019. The Gallery has asked for anyone with works by Dick or Lindsay Roughsey, or information about them, to make contact during the research phase of the exhibition.

Dick Roughsey (C.1920-1985) had strong friendships with artists Ron Edwards and Ray Crooke, and as well as explaining many cultural features to those of us in the world of Arts/Letters in Cairns, transitioned traditional Aboriginal art from Mornington Island into a contemporary art practice.

Any information which may assist the Gallery in locating works by Dick or his brother, Lindsay, would be gratefully appreciated. Contact:- Gallery Curator: Teho ROPEYARN (07) 4046 4800 or teho.r@cairnsartgallery.com.au

PERFORMING ARTS/BALLET Performances are on the move along the Queensland coast this winter! Details in future reports.

“Special” times are when a Wonderful Day

becomes a whole week’s holiday...

and a Wonderful Magickal Night

becomes almost a summer’s length!

Jennifer Ann Davies

The TANKS Art Centre – lots of kids are looking forward to the travelling performance which delights audiences – young and old! – THE 78-STOREY TREEHOUSE begins in early June, at The TANKS Art Centre, Cairns.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD is a cultural event open to the wider community showcasing African cuisine, music, art and dance, with performances from local children, in many centres along the coastline. This event is in its 13th year in Cairns, in Far North Queensland. The event is traditionally scheduled for 16th June and commemorates the establishment of the Organization of African Unity in 1991. The 2018 theme? “Leave No Child Behind for Africa’s Development. ACERWC

There is an informative PDF online, displaying the spread of funding across cultures, towns and cities, in Queensland. **SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICANTS FOR 2018 EVENTS.**

For those who have been concerned about the withdrawal of funding for Arts and Letters, at State, National and even global levels, the events and cultures to which funding has been granted in the state of Queensland may prove interesting. One simple element of change is the inclusion of ‘arts’ in cultural events; whilst, in truth, there is no funding, support, or place for the development of new art, artists, performers, students or our young, in the everyday community.

It is heartening to note funding for some events and for some cultures and centres – chilling to note the absences. It is grand that we are able to support cultural events and enhance ‘cultural collaboration’, yet we should not be complacent about the diverting of public funds which may, in turn, be depleting some of our former educational objectives.

Mackay this year is celebrating the Multicultural Queensland Grants Program for which the city is one of many successful recipients. Their grants will fund the International Day of the African Child and the Mackay-Australia South Sea Islander Recognition Week 2018. This poem is dedicated to MR. FATNOWNA.

He was huge, the Kanaka, to us kids,

And black and proud and beautiful.

He had no parallel in the blandness

And whiteness of the pages of our

Social Studies' books – none at all.

How could we possibly know the

Truths of men stealing men? Of

Pitcairn and blackbirding? How?

Everyone called him MISTER Fatnowna

With respect and reverence – genteel...

And he had no parallel in the pomposity

And whiteness and absences of our

Written social histories – none at all!!

Somehow, all of us kids KNEW that,

Way back, when we all called out

“Hello, Mr. Fatnowna!” – With respect.

Jennifer Ann DAVIES Book Five: Always Becoming

This gentleman was one of the well-known members of this large family with whom we grew up, in Mackay!

Many more community and cultural events are occurring along our coastline and in the regions and rural areas – check your area online to discover a host of these events which mesh people together and support all of our Arts!

Arts and Letters Report, May 2018

By Jennifer Ann Davies, NCWQ Arts and Letters Adviser

In our chaotic world, it is infinitely sensible and peaceful to see and know the beauty, simplicity and joy of the uncomplicated. Thusly, readers can enjoy the wise and immeasurably enchanting tale written by Lyons born Antoine de Saint Expuery, and possibly review what IS important.

This wise and beautiful tale, 'The Little Prince' was written in the United States of America during the French author's self-imposed exile from occupied France in 1943. The edition to which I refer was translated into English by Katherine Woods – a definitive translation.

"It is only with the heart that one can see rightly;

What is essential is invisible to the eye."

With exquisite irony and charm, de Saint Expuery has his grown-up-getting-older-thwarted artist-pilot-Narrator, write, rather sadly, that because people did not understand his child-like 'seeing' in his art, he would not talk to most about boa constrictors or primeval forests or stars; all of which he had drawn. Instead, he would 'bring himself down to the level' of the grown-up with whom he spoke and talk about bridge, golf, politics and neck-ties – and the grown-up would be greatly pleased to have met such a sensible fellow! p.3

With determined questions, a strange charm and logic, the Little Prince roams through the Universe, pondering and pronouncing. "If someone loves a flower, of which just one single blossom grows in all the millions and millions of stars, it is enough to make him/her happy just to look at the stars. He/she can say: 'somewhere, my flower is there...'"

However, the Little Prince had declared, if the flower is eaten – if that flower is destroyed, in one moment all the stars will be darkened..."and you think THAT IS NOT IMPORTANT?!" p.23

Egmont UK Limited/The Yellow Building/London W11 4AN 2017

www.egmont.co.uk

A FAREWELL OF GREAT IMPORTANCE

This is to farewell the truly great Stephen William HAWKING, who died on 14 March 2018, in his homeland, the United Kingdom.

An extraordinary human being, the English theoretical physicist, cosmologist, author and Director of research at the Centre for Theoretical Cosmology at Cambridge University was not only outstanding in his thinking, knowledge of the universe and related subjects and elements, but was one of the bravest Men in human history, who continued to work and live with an horrendous, motor-neuron disease.

Hawking's earthly remains rest with those of the famed and infamous – Dean's Yard at Westminster Abbey, London.

A little of his knowledge rests in his renowned book: "A Brief History of Time".

More can be gleaned from his children's books and academic papers – some infused with his long-term thinking on the many worlds interpretation of quantum mechanics.

Stephen William HAWKING – we salute and farewell you.

University of Queensland – St Lucia – Brisbane

UQ Art Museum Student Engagement Council continues to welcome members of the student body to offer feedback and ideas to the Museum.

Current members are hoping for advice, from a new generation of scholars, artists and those involved in the dynamic and vital world of Arts and Letters, on what will engage more members and how the council should proceed to communicate and implement the new ideas, advice and processes.

artmuseum@uq.edu.au

QUEENSLAND WRITERS' CENTRE is encouraging poets, authors and illustrators to take up residencies for an intense one month, to concentrate on research, development and/or editing of new work. Information on this possibility is available on the website: qldwriters.org.au

STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND now invites young writers to submit entries for the 2018 Young Writers Award! Information is online and the news has been spread by many throughout our state, including in regional areas. communications@slq.qld.gov.au

Queenslander, Jason NAHRUNG provides a website 'Vampires in the Sunburnt Country' to advise details of Literary festivals in 2018.

'Watch for these throughout the year,' Jason writes:-

- OUTSPOKEN, Maleny, Qld. General literary author talks
- RIVERBEND Poetry Series, Brisbane, Qld.

Details & dates: jasonnahrung.com/2018-australian-literary-festival-calendar

ANOTHER GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG WRITERS

HOWEVER, YOU WILL HAVE TO DO THIS QUICKLY!

I have only just received the email relevant to this screen play opportunity.

A great opportunity to let imaginations run wild!

Stories can be scary, funny, serious or true.

Perhaps about music, friendship, or someone or something special in your life?

Have FUN and give it a go! You'll be part of the screenplay Mini Film Festival and part of the 2018 Cairns' Children's Festival – entries by May 16th 2018.

J.Aird@cairns.qld.gov.au

IN ADDITION TO THE PLEASURE, NEWNESS, JOY, BEAUTY, EXCITEMENT, ENGAGEMENT, ADVENTURE, LEARNINGS AND IDEAS brought to the world by Arts & Letters, each arena, each genre, each performance, each sketch may often bring us TRUTH.

‘Like a wild animal, the truth is too powerful to remain caged.’

Veronica Roth.

INSURGENT by Veronica ROTH, author of ‘Divurgent’, now a major motion picture, brings us a heroine fighting for survival in a shattered world. In this fight for survival, the TRUTH is her only hope!

“Taut and shiveringly exciting.....an unflinching and fierce heroine.” Melissa Marr

Harper Collins Children’s Books, London, 2012. www.harpercollins.co.uk

CONTINUING IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SALUT! from Brussels, Belgium. This segment continues to give you a little information about some of the contacts, publications and projects derived from my meetings at Amazone House, where many of our contemporaries work to continue the global work to promote the status of women.

Information for Conseil des Femmes francophones de Belgique – www.cffb.be

One of the publications the women were enthusiastic about sharing:

PETIT GUIDE ILLUSTRÉ DU RESPECT DANS LA RUE

(A small illustrated guide about RESPECT in the street!)

This is a small, 40 page handbook illustrated with cartoon figures and casting the ‘predators’ as crocodile/alligator-like critters!

Harrassment, insults, unwanted physical contact or sexual contact and self-exhibition are all included as elements for which Belgium has punishable laws, which include prison and fines.

Predominantly, the publication is intended to identify what is NOT acceptable, particularly in public places, where many forms of harassment occur regularly. It then provides advice, strategies and responses for Women to implement, to avoid many of these forms of abuse.

It is important to note that Belgium, as only one of many countries in Europe, has a continuing flood of refugees, both genuine and economic. All peoples do not necessarily have the same values, nor the same socio-cultural mores. Additionally, when many are not literate in their first language, beginning to address the problems becomes more complex and more costly.

The Conseil des Femmes has a membership list which may be of interest to some. I have elected not to print this in the report, but members and interested parties are welcome to ask for these – alternatively they may be found on the website. National President at the time of publication of the brochure explaining the Conseil des Femmes: Viviane TEITELBAUM contact on v.teitelbaum@cffb.be

DES FEMMES A LA RENCONTRE DES FEMMES

This publication is a large, illustrated, 68 page book, for the empowerment of Women in the workforce. Foreword in this important publication is by Magda De Meyer, who kindly organised a number of meetings with the women in Amazone House, in Brussels. Magda wrote this preface as President of Vrouwenraad, and she invites readers to view a huge range of elements in their lives, which have changed over time. The elements and the changes are visually illustrated and defined on page 11, using the outline of a simple tree, with Branches = Les Pratiques (Practices); Trunk = Institutions; Roots = Norms and values. Very loosely, this work begins with an exploration of origins of interests, roles, education, access to information, access to land, housing, income; participation in decision making at all levels, representation in the community, representation in administrative domains, mobility, violence and abusive conditions, religion, organisations, schools, norms, stereotypes, ideas, perceptions, prejudices, attitudes, self-image, taboos. I apologise that I have not had the time to translate a great deal of this publication, but had promised to send it to our Management Committee members, in Brisbane, Queensland, which I will do.

Magda, Gart Goorden and others work tirelessly to aid refugees in Belgium. This task has become more complex as many of the people needing aid are not literate in their first language, and this reality adds to the heavy burden, with any initial language/literacy teaching and learning becoming difficult, expensive yet vital to the survival of people needing to survive in a completely different culture and place. Housing, schooling, visa application, health needs, job searching and daily communicating are basic needs which demand that people can speak the tongue of the host country. Belgium speakers are often multi-lingual, with Dutch and French dominant. Many speak well in language English, but few are able to converse fluently with those from Syria, some African countries, Arabic communities and a varied range of others.

Gart would welcome any communication from members in Australia in relation to the immigration/refugee problem/s. The women who work at Amazone House, are both paid and unpaid workers, as I understand it, and collaboratively, they have to compile significant 'project' details in order to access funding for a project. Workers there monitor a variety of committees and arms of the United Nations and also what is being presented, represented and relevant at the European Parliament. Because this is so, they have a different relationship with these entities than we, in Australia; yet because there does not appear to be significant communication between all of us, I discovered that members across the globe are eager to learn of the similarities and differences; strategies, funding models, projects and relevant publications to continue advocacy, active works and change, in our communities and countries.

Gart Goorden nvr.ggoorden@amazone.be

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT – History, information and group reservations –

historia@ep.europa.eu PRACTICAL INFORMATION – ID always required

European Parliament – Place du Luxembourg/Luxemburgplein 100

1050 Bruxelles/Brussel BELGIUM visit@europarl.europa.eu

DERRIERE L'ECRAN – Ou sont les femmes? (Behind the screen – where are the Women?) I still have more films listed directed/made by the women behind the screen! I have remained in touch with Nele Pigeon and contemporaries, and apologise, Nele, for my computer's absence of the 'acute' on your name!

Elles Tournent/Dames Draaien Festival is wonderful! Film food for thought – another avenue or platform from which to raise voices for very real causes, issues, debates and change! Contact email: info@ellestournent.be

One last matter of Importance – In the world of letters, in which literature, books and written works are valued for their form, style and content, a marvellously entertaining text appeared!

PIGLETTES!

PUSHKIN PRESS

London, 2017

'A true joy!' Le Monde

Clementine BEAUVAIS is the author of this hilarious book. Beauvais writes in both French and English and now lectures at the University of York, in the United Kingdom.

'Piglettes' won many awards including the grand Prix Sorcieres and film and stage versions are in production. It was first published as "Les Petites Reines" by Editions Sarbacane, Paris, 2014.

The text presents a new perspective on bullying, both online and in everyday life, which is topical in many countries and communities, but which is often dealt with only AFTER the event, via counselling, chat sessions and other methods which do not particularly encourage the bullied to develop self-belief; to stand tall and truly BE who they are; to withstand the bullying and insults; and certainly not to laugh at themselves! 'Piglettes' provides a healthy, zany viewpoint on this global problem.

Bullied online and in the schoolyard, introverted, non-confident, the main characters are determined NOT to let the bullying beat them. "...Then...we burst out laughing – a laughter that rises from the depths of our podgy bellies, shakes our being, forces us to lean against the taps – a gigantic laughter of freedom and ecstasy, brand new, magnificent..." p.135. This book is truly an explosion of joy, humour and life! Another female author, Jennifer Mathieu wrote, after her first reading of 'Piglettes' – "Made me want to pull my bike out of the garage and ride through the streets yelling about lady power." Respectable Radicals of the future?

Arts and Letters Report, April 2018

By Jennifer Ann Davies, NCWQ Arts and Letters Adviser

History opens up like a landscape for us to see through forgotten windows.

Musee des Beaux-Arts de Dijon, France

Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy, welcomes visitors to what was once his palace constructed around 1450, in the capital of his duchy. Renovations on fifteen of the rooms began in 2013 and feature art from the Middle-Ages and Renaissance. Works date from the 5th to the 16th century and are displayed in rooms in which the original architecture marries well with the contemporary.

Varied and beautiful, many art works hide the secrets of their time with codes and symbols of power still being researched, recorded and debated. The Musee and works are of immense interest, with a huge tapestry, dedicated to Our Lady of Hope in 1513, of singular stature and an astounding work which is still being researched. The tapestry is hung facing Notre Dame de Dijon, which is depicted accurately in the painstaking threads woven centuries ago.

MUSEE DES BEAUX-ARTS Palais des Ducs et des Etats de Bourgogne (Free entry)
www.musees-dijon.fr

In Europe the word RINASCIMENTO appears in 1568 to express a phenomenon born in Italy in the previous century.

With the renovation of arts under the influence of the rediscovery of Antiquity, this period flourished from the 14th to the 16th century and both thinkers from Antiquity and Renaissance thinkers gave a more important place to man; exalted the beauty of material form and offered a new outlook on the surrounding nature.

Western exploration, commerce, territorial expansion funded by the powerful, innovations in science and philosophy all enthral artists and thinkers. In turn, new looks at Mythology reflect a more humanist conception of the human figure, now spatially set with the use of perspective. The 'renovation' spread via kings' courts, conflicts, trade and travelling artists. Musees et patrimoine de Dijon.

Dijon was called Divio at the beginning. It was a fortified town where the Gallic cavalry and Caesar's legionaries fought beneath its walls and let the Burgundians pass. However, these walls still helped to defeat King Gondebaud in 501, and he was taken prisoner by the Franks of Clovis.

The fortified town became a Ducal capital in the days of the Capetians. After the fire of 1137, new walls with eighteen towers, eleven doors and new archways were erected. The town that was built inside the walls hardly changed until the middle of the nineteenth century! Building, change, conflicts, epidemics and even beheadings occurred in the years of the development of Dijon, but eventually, in 1646, the town became a real provincial capital, with a magnificent palace boasting a courtyard and royal square, beautiful mansions, private residences, and all went well until the revolutionary period, which, it is recorded "...was less bloody than elsewhere...", despite some disappearances and seizures of aristocrats' properties.

Canals and later the railways enabled Dijon to strengthen ties with the Paris basin, Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean world. In Dijon, it is said, you can see that living with one's time means nothing! People of different ages live side by side. Even visitors end up envying people from Dijon, it is claimed, for they are seen as lucky, especially when we see what is happening elsewhere!

Le DUKE Dijon City Guide: Bourgogne: printed in French with rare copies in English!

A Guidebook made with love by Dijon People + Beaune: 2017-2018.

"Le Duke is a guidebook for the visitor who wants to pretend to be FROM DIJON!"

Editor in Chief email: richard@bing-bang-mag.com

UNSEEN, OIL SPILL POSES THREAT TO ASIA'S FISHERIES – The New York Times International Weekly – Tuesday, February 27, 2018.

Effects from this spill will almost be 'old-hat' by the time this segment is read – however, ongoing effects are expected, thusly I include this. A gentleman handed me this 'English' insert, from his French newspaper, on the train from Paris to Dijon. The article, written by Steven Lee MYERS and Javier C. Hernandez, is detailed, lengthy and originated in Zhoushan, China, citing a fiery collision that had sunk an Iranian tanker in the East China Sea over a month before publication, has resulted in an environmental threat experts say is unlike any before.

"An almost invisible type of petroleum has begun to contaminate some of the most important fishing grounds in Asia, from China to Japan and beyond."p.111. The article is of significance to Australian Fishermen, Fisheries and consumers. Inquiries: nytweekly@nytimes.com

IN A UNITED GERMANY, NEW BARRIERS HAVE ARISEN. Katrin BENNHOLD

Early this month, the wall that once divided Berlin, Germany and the world passed an equinox of German unity. The wall was gone for as long as it stood: 28 years, 2 months and 26 days. One generation has lived with the wall and one generation has now lived without it!

For the past 12 years the country has been run by Angela Merkel, who grew up in East Germany.....but walls remain in people's heads.

A former East Berlin mayor, Thomas Kruger, states that "German unity is still a work in progress." Now head of the Federal Agency for Civic Education, Mr Kruger runs an institution which endeavours to "...educate the German people about democratic principles and prevent any moves to re-establish a totalitarian regime." p.1

Worries exist about the sheer volume of immigrants; political shifts to extremes; the lack of integration and equalities between East and West; and whether or not the people want democracy or prosperity and authority."p.2

Christopher F. Schuetze contributed reporting.

LA JOURNEE INTERNATIONALE DES DROITS DES FEMMES, JEUDI 8 MARS, 2018. Today is Thursday, 8th March, 2018, International Women's Day!

I was given a rose for this special day, walking the cobbles of the old part of Lyon! – A free magazine, promoting urban Lyon to the public and visitors, laments what has not changed – with a noted example being the fact that only 2% of the street names are named for women; and that one of the few places where a woman is even mentioned, is the Amphitheatre des Trois Gaules, where the martyr, Saint Blandine is named. (162-177)!

LE PETIT MUSEE DE GUIGNOL

This small museum is unusual, and one in which are puppets collected from all over the world! The experience includes the history of the creation of Guignol, a beloved puppet of whom the Lyonnaise are very proud. Guignol fights off the bullies!! Imagine how loved and effective he could be in our communities and in our schools! Watching the puppets move is an extraordinary experience! Listening to them is an added experience, which explains the value of this art and its place in a community.

Images and stories of Guignol abound in the old city, and the owner of the small museum also carves puppets and is happy to explain how and why puppetry engages young and old in the performances that still entertain many audiences in Lyon, weekly. He claims that audience members can ask questions of the puppets, which is not possible in a movie theatre, for example – everyone would say 'shhhh'! He continues telling me, this form of art and entertainment is an important one for the population of all communities, even though the style of puppets or marionettes differs from country to country. Once, as we all know, towns, cities and villages had puppet shows, street theatre, festivals and celebrations, such as bonfires and Guy Fawkes, through which ordinary citizens could posit their fears, anger, questions and many expressions and feelings; and the interaction promoted existing values, and social mores and sentiments of importance to each community. Thusly, these forms of entertainment allowed psychological benefits and connections that many communities, today, could well use.

www.musee-de-guignol.fr

BOOKS

“The Child”

Fiona Barton

....engrossing – irresistible...

Barton treats her broken characters with such compassion that you just want to reach into the pages and hug them! Penguin Random House UK 2017

‘FIND ME’

Before They Do

J.S. Monroe

Gripping and sinister, this novel still generates an endearing balance.

J.S.Monroe @JS Thrillers Facebook.come/FindMeBook

Head of Zeus Ltd. UK 2017

“Intricately woven and heart-stoppingly believable, this has bestseller written all over it.” Clare MacKintosh.

Lyon – Marseilles – Nice. Despite cold, wet weather for much of the time, visitors to the area of Provence-Alpes-Cote-d’Azur still visited the Musee which recounted the history of the restoration of Trophée d’Auguste a la Turbie at the Centre des Monuments Nationaux. The ‘Trophée d’Auguste’ is a commemorative monument also known as the ‘Trophée des Alpes’. Erected in the year 6BC to the glory of the Roman emperor Augustus, conqueror of the peoples of the Alps, it is one of the two remaining structures of this type still in existence. From the top of the old Via Julia Augusta, it dominates the entire French Riviera from the Esterel to the Italian coast.

IL PORTO ANTICO DI GENOVA – 30 ‘panels’ (sketches) – Genoa, Italy.

HISTORY -Genoa was a new and interesting experience for me and continues to attract many visitors. Today the Old Port of Genoa is an extensive waterfront area offering a broad range of leisure, culture and entertainment facilities and services. The re-development project was designed by architect Renzo Piano for the Columbus Celebrations in 1992, but more recent work continues.

As the name reveals, this is the oldest part of the Port of Genoa and the outcome of a process of stratification that began more than a thousand years ago! For centuries this was where Genoese ships set sail to conquer the world, and also where Christopher Columbus began his career as a navigator. There exists an itinerary of the descriptive panels which offer a brief summary of the history of the port, reminding us that while the sea separates continents geographically, it is also historically what has reunited them. Bruno GIONTONI: Porto Antico di Genova S.p.A. (I have a numbered list of the panels mentioned, which you are welcome to view, but had not accessed online contacts at time of departure from Genoa. jenunicorn75@hotmail.com)

ART –The entire city of Genoa is ancient, interesting and beautiful. However, there are also many stimulating exhibitions, performances and fantastic libraries on offer. Of particular interest, currently, is PICASSO. Brilliant, rebellious, passionate, playful, ironic – Pablo Picasso was all of these things and much more. He was the artist who left the deepest mark on twentieth-century art, revolutionising its methods and aesthetic canons.

It is claimed that in his long and tireless artistic quest he left mere virtuosity behind, seeking instead to create art that was direct, energetic and dynamic. The Genoa exhibition presents a selection of works from Paris’s Musee Picasso that have been divided into thematic sections, thus allowing the visitor to retrace the artist’s extraordinary artistic and human adventure.

Capolavori dal Museo Picasso, PARIGI/Genova Palazzo Ducale Fondazione per la Cultura – prenotazioniscuole@palazzoducale.genova.it 2018.

FIRENZE – FLORENCE, ITALY – I met an opera singer on the train to Florence, who brought this to my attention. There is a photographic exhibition of the first edition of the New Generation Festival, held inside the enchanting Giardino Corsini, devoted to the most illustrious young international OPERA talents. Information and some photographs, Guy Bell, Firenze/made in Tuscany. 2018. p.69.

DISCOVERY – La Scoperta – A legacy from Cosimo de Medici! Crossing over the threshold is like stepping into another dimension, where space and time once again have value and contribute to creating an idea of beauty that must be adhered to. The Museum of San Marco is a concrete testament to a clear and bright renaissance.

Museum Director, Marilena Tomassia, is proud of the beauty, 'place' and prestige of this harmonious former cloister, renovated, for Cosimo, by the Medici's favoured architect, Michelozzo. The words 'authentic' and 'fascinating' are applied to the works on display in this museum, by myriad visitors. p.75.

Eileen GUGGENHEIM is photographed and interviewed by Firenze/made in Tuscany. She is in Pietrasanta for an exhibition at Accesso Galleria with Warhol's 'pupils'. p.30.

THEATRE AND CULTURE – 'My Gift for Florence', written by Teresa FAVI, who writes "...Thanks to Franco Zeffirelli, a cultural centre for performing arts and cinematography has been created in Florence." p.135. The centre has a hall dedicated to Maria Callas; a portrait of Pippo Zeffirelli and a staggering treat for the senses, 'The Inferno Hall'. p.136.

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THE FLORENTINE – The English-speaking magazine in Florence – Year XIV March 2018 – 243 –
www.theflorentine.net

I mentioned this magazine in 2017. Distribution is considerable and done by bike! The content is also considerable and varied, with a range of socio-political and socio-economic issues of high interest. Helen Farrell is editor-in-chief.

The current edition of the magazine looks at food issues – bread of significance; "Invisible Women' news; changes, renovations and upgrades in areas from art museums to having tickets checked at the station Santa Maria Novella! There is often an article addressing FOOD WASTE – and this month's is about 'Fighting Food Waste in Dicomano', which incorporates interesting statistics to ensure that addressing this problem CAN be a reality and not simply rhetoric. p.6.

Michele Capecchi writes with empathy, directness and simple clarity, to encourage women to come forward for help. Michele opens her invitation: "Far too often during my career, I have met female clients seeking legal separation and protection from their husbands. Even after many years of practice, I am still shocked at the level of violence and the abuse of power that occurs in the family home." The article is worth reading and both affirms and challenges the values that shape the social mores, not only of this beautiful part of our world, but in most of our societies! p.14.