



THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF QUEENSLAND INC.

Affiliated with the National Council of Women of Australia Inc. Ltd
And The International Council of Women

Patron: Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland
Ms Penelope Wensley AC

Postal Address: The Honorary Secretary, NCWQ,
Harris Terrace, 46 George St. Brisbane, Qld 4000.

January 2014
Newsletter 222

President

Noela O'Donnell
jodnod@bigpond.com

Vice-Presidents

Avril Kent
Chiou See Anderson

Secretary

Avril Kent

Treasurer

Paula Riordan

Recording Secretary

Kathy Cavanagh

State Coordinator

Beryl Spencer

Membership Secretary

Kirsty Levis

Newsletter Editor

Lisa Pring
newsletter@ncwq.org.au

Website

www.ncwq.org.au



Telephone

(07) 3846 4418

Email

president@ncwq.org.au

ABN 43 025 349 777

Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily coincide with those of the NCWQ.

Welcome to the first NCWQ newsletter of 2014. I hope you enjoyed the break and are refreshed and ready to start a new, busy year.

We are planning our workshops, seminars and forums focussing on education. Some are set in stone and other still being finalised.

Our first workshop for the year, presented by Forum Communicators, and focussing on 'Meeting Procedure and Public Speaking' will be held on Saturday 1 March.

Our Everyday Women Seminars (EWS) will continue with one being held on 21 June in Logan and another in Toowoomba on 30th August. Feedback from previous EWS has been very positive. You and your friends would be most welcome to attend.

The Parents and Children with Potential Conference will again be held at The Lakes College; the bursary program is continuing; Noela L'Estrange, CEO of the Queensland Law Society will be the guest speaker at the President's Dinner on 18th March and the bursaries fund-raising morning tea will be held on 22nd October.

In the wider world, the United Nations have declared 2014 as the Year of Small Island Developing States, the Year of Crystallography and the Year of the Family Farmers (IYFF) (<http://www.familyfarmingcampaign.net/>). Georgie Somerset, the Queensland Rural Regional and Remote Women's Network (QRRRW) President said,

"Family farming is the backbone of Australian agriculture as well as across the world."

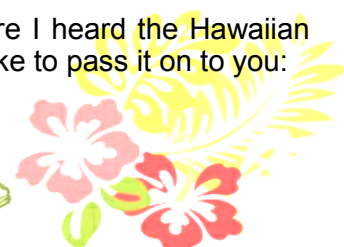
"Many families are multi generational (including our business) and use strong business principles while caring for the natural resources, the livestock and their families all in one place!"

"This year is a chance to reflect on the role families play in farming - it does require commitment (like any successful career) and usually the whole family is involved from a young age as life revolves around seasons, the weather and the ebb and flow of nature."

Over the break I spent some time in Hawaii, where I heard the Hawaiian Blessing, which is similar to the Irish Blessing. I'd like to pass it on to you:

*"May there always be
Tradewinds behind you
Rainbows above you and
Aloha all around you."*

Noela O'Donnell
NCWQ President



Chiou See Anderson, Vice President of NCWQ, wins the Gold Coast Women in Business Innovation Award 2013



Chiou See is seen here in the photo with her residents from Elements Retirement Living @ Springwood, whom she credits for turning a dream into an innovation. Sponsored by The James Frizelle (motor vehicle) Group, eligible entrants have to be Gold Coast residents. The Innovation Award recognises the achievements of female entrepreneurs developing innovation in their chosen field or organisation. The winner must demonstrate high potential and be making a distinctive, unusual, innovative contribution and show how this innovation, products or services developed, have created a "competitive edge" or "new space" in the market place.

Congratulations Chiou See

MESSAGE FROM THE ICW-CIF APRC PRESIDENT

New Year Greetings, and May the Year 2014 be of Peace and Goodwill to all!

One of the most memorable times of the past year was the passing of the legendary leader – President Nelson Mandela of South Africa. The world mourned his passing and at the same time celebrated his great achievements not only for his country but for the cause of freedom worldwide. While fighting for total freedom he always thought of women issues and defended human rights for women. I was very fortunate to have an audience with him when I visited Johannesburg in 2009 in my capacity as Regional Councilor for South and Southeast Asia for IUCN. On behalf of APRC, we join the world in celebrating the great achievements of President Mandela.

We enter the New Year confident that it would turn out to be better than the past in terms of fulfilling our mission towards gender equality for women in all spheres of human endeavour.

While we aspire to achieve this ambition, we also realize that there are many challenges ahead. These challenges can only be overcome if we work in solidarity and cooperate as much as we can despite our own individual works. This year during the month of November at UNESCAP, Bangkok, we are organizing the APRC Regional Conference on 'Assuring Sustainable Development Goals:

Transforming Challenges to Achievements for Women and Girls in Asia Pacific' in conjunction with the UNESCAP Conference on Beijing+20 – known as the 'Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in Asia and the Pacific: 20 Year Review'. The Beijing Platform for Action constitutes a global framework for realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. It calls upon governments, the international community and civil society, including the private sector, to empower women and girls by taking action in critical areas including poverty, education and training, health, violence, armed conflict, the economy, power and decision-making, institutional mechanism for the advancement of women, human rights, the media, the environment and the girl child.

Dr Monthip Sriratana Tabucanon





BRAILLE HOUSE CELEBRATES ITS DIAMOND JUBILEE

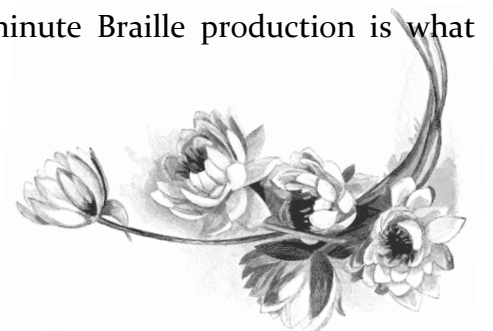
AT 507 Ipswich Road, Annerley.

On the 17th June 1954 Braille House was officially opened in a ceremony performed by Lady Lavarack, wife of His Excellency the then Governor of Queensland. The name of Mr R F Tunley is inextricably linked with Braille House. Mr Tunley, well known to blind and vision impaired children and adults of the time as Grandfather Tunley voiced the thought that Queensland Braille Writing Association really needed a permanent home for its ever-growing library of braille books. Even more, it needed a place for meetings, classes and many other activities of this totally voluntary and busy organisation. Fundraising began in 1952 with the South Brisbane Rotary club making it their project for the year. An Entertainment Committee was formed within the Association and the concerts, bridge parties and fetes began.

On the 21st June 2014 Braille House will celebrate its Diamond Jubilee with a Garden Party in the grounds of Braille House. At the Garden Party QBWA will launch a book of stories of Braille House. In its 60 years at 507 Ipswich Road, Annerley, Braille House has seen many people come and go. Many have stayed to become students, service users, and volunteers became tutors, braille writers, proof-readers, book-binders and also filled every possible role from the highly skilled braille producers and teachers to the every-day skills of administration, and tasks such as packaging library books, arranging mailing and catering.

Each one of these people has a story of their time at Braille House. It is the stories of these individuals that give texture and life to Braille House. If you have a story of involvement in Braille House, or if your Mum or your Auntie or your Gran has a story that you know about – please send it in the Sue at Braille House (PO Box 610, Annerley, Qld 4103), or to email address: suewagner@qbwa.org.au. You can choose your format: print, email, braille, even dictated onto recording media such as mp3 or CD. If you or they are too shy to write it down please contact Sue (0412 145 644) and she will arrange for one of our volunteer scribes to come to you and assist in getting your story written.

The blend of history and heritage together with up-to-the-minute Braille production is what makes Braille House and its work unique in a modern society.



LET'S MEET.....

Our New Education Adviser



NCWQ has a group of Advisers covering many fields including Communication, General Well-being, Social Issues, Status of Women and Sustainable Development. Under the Communications umbrella sits Education. We are pleased to welcome Helen McAllister to the role.

I have asked Helen to tell us about her and her thoughts on Education. Here is her response.

"I have been an Associate member of NCWQ for two years, and before that, was an delegate from the LNP Women, of which I was President of the Women's section from 2010-2011. This time was a very busy time for us as it was during my term that the Queensland floods of 2011 occurred, causing such deep hardship to so many families. I was able to ensure that our women assisted through a statewide flood appeal and LNPW provided much needed help to many women throughout the state.

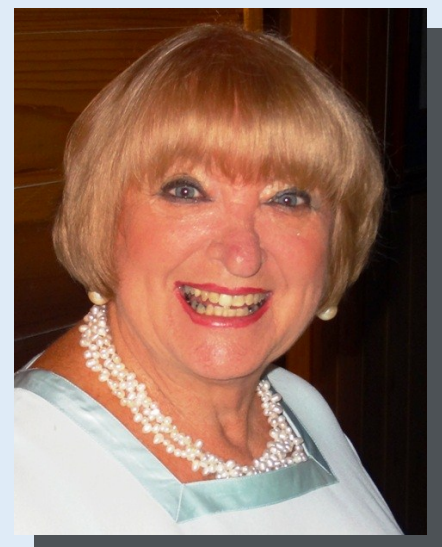
I continue to develop policy as the LNP policy chair of Families, Communities and Disability Services, with many committee members. I am on the Child Safety and Education policy committees, and I have current knowledge of what changes are occurring in these areas.

Early childhood has been my interest over the past thirty years and my academic studies have covered these areas at QUT. I started Child care as a working mother, studying at night (sometimes with children in the corner at BKTC) and then gained a B.Teaching (ECE), Graduate Diploma of Health Science (Health Promotion), then a Master of Education all from QUT. I also gained a Cert IV in Training and Assessment from Ipswich TAFE, with an earlier one in 1981. In fact, I was on the AECA (now ECA) committee with Jennette Lavis for some years in the 80's.

I lectured in child care to field work students from many universities and TAFE colleges, about my work with Save the Children Fund and later (1986) for the Australian Red Cross Society developing play therapy programs with children, in hospitals all over Queensland, originating at the Mater Children's in 1981, then Cairns (1982), RCH (1983), and 12 other regional and rural hospital. I also developed the original Save the Children Caravan park play programs and also at the then only migrant hostel in Brisbane. My other areas of study have included the humanities, where I gained a Master of Arts (Honours), (Research), 2005 from Griffith University. My topic was 'Carers as Decision-Makers for People with Dementia' a topic very important to me personally after caring for my aged aunt until her death, and now with the ageing population worldwide. I am a life-long learner, loving to find out what I can, and after retiring from teaching in 2006, I have undertaken educational Doctoral studies at Griffith, and am about to take sit my Confirmation seminar, then go out into the field to do my research for a year in early childhood with teachers and children and play.

I was also privileged to receive the LNP's prestigious award recognizing me in 2012 for Outstanding Service for my policy work and role as LNP Women's President, and for my role as a leader in the Qld LNPW's flood appeal. Recently, I shared the honour with many other Queensland women, including our President, Noela, to be chosen in the YMCA 125 Leading Women of Queensland.

My husband of 47 years, Maurice, a retired detective policeman, and I have two married adult children and five grandchildren, aged 20 to 3. We like boating and fishing. As an old girl of BGGS, I am thrilled to see how enthusiastic the younger students are. I think the bursaries that NCWQ award give wonderful recognition to the younger generation and their skills, abilities and courage. Our future is in good hands, I believe."



EDUCATION: NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE, AUSTRALIAN~WIDE.

Helen L McAllister.

EdD Cand;M.Arts(Res.)(Hons.); M.Ed; Grad. Dip. Hlth Sci.;B.Teach;A.D.C.C; Cert IV (T&A).

In Queensland, education has been “devalued”, some say, “dumbed down” for many decades, through changes that have been used to broaden the number of students who can remain at school. Social and intellectual goals have undergone changes to accommodate these past numbers, starting from the early years of education, where the number of trained teachers graduating appeared to be minimal, with young children’s numbers high and supervision somewhat stretched. This is not to say that the quality of training for teachers was not of a high standard. As one who worked through the required courses, practicum placements and academic years of study, teaching qualifications did not come easily. For women, who since before the 1970’s could not be married and working as a teacher, it would appear that progress was made. How unsatisfactory to think in those terms now, of men or women teachers as not being equal. And yet, there still appears to be a large gap in the upper echelons of education and academia with men holding the greater percentage of positions of Principals and in Management. History from BKTC records are found online. Assessments were long and arduous. Courses were packed full of details and knowledge was needed for 0-8 for early childhood that would require such an amount of time to complete and pass that with a family and balancing work life, only the truly determined finished, usually through part time education and night classes. Perhaps the greatest achievement of education is that one can mentor and assist others to enter, continue and pass through courses successfully. Training and practical learning are of immense value for those wanting to become teachers of any subject or ages. Learning how to learn and communicate and listen and reflect and assess needs are all part of being a student in the field. Online study is changing the way we learn, and indeed the internet and ability to share and discuss findings provides very strong support and resources for today’s students. International students also provide a dimension that tertiary students can benefit from by learning first hand of other cultures and from the students sharing doctoral and PHD studies.

The educational domain in Queensland can learn from both Victoria and New South Wales, where examples of a successful combination of internal and external assessment for Year 12 results are provided. NSW states very clearly that its assessment practice is based on the dimensions of Intellectual Quality, Quality Learning Environment and Significance, with NSW assessment principles clearly outlined in two pages. Assessment should be relevant, appropriate, fair, accurate, provide useful information, integrated within teaching and learning, draw on evidence and be manageable. Assessment is a combination of school-based assessment and the Higher School Certificate examination, an externally administered examination, with 50% weighting for each. In Victoria, there is a similar approach, with each subject area being assessed using both methods. For example, English is 50%/50%, Science subjects are 40%/60%, Mathematics 34%/66%. The Queensland assessment system must be simplified, streamlined and be more rigorous to ensure fairness to all students and encourage the development of higher standards. Integrity in the system must be guaranteed and be accessible to all. With the involvement of teachers and schools, it appears there is a gap in what is actual practice and what is theory, or indeed, fiction, in all facets of curriculum development, moderation and assessment and independent objectivity.

Australia has the talents available of so many educators and students, past, present and into the future. We must ensure that the challenges are available and that the goals that these students coming forward are aiming for, can be realized and they can accomplish their goals and proudly display them in this country. Australians must be able to appreciate, recognizes and promotes education for all, from early childhood education and care, kindergarten and prep, through school and onto to post-graduate further education at university, TAFE, that includes trades, apprenticeships, arts, as well as challenging yet achievable goals for people with disabilities.

In our Australian democracy, our people, women and men, are able to join as one in education, without barriers or boundaries, whether they are indigenous people, or from our European or Asian heritage, or from whichever country they have come from to our land. It is never too early or too late to start or continue an education. The main thing for us all to think about, is that we have that right to an education, here in our country, through the freedom hard-fought for in Australia’s past.

NCWQ Associate Member and Webmaster, Steph Carter, is known to many. We first met Steph when she was a speaker at the NCWQ/BGGSOGA Forum in 2010, when she spoke about her time as the 2007 Service Captain at Brisbane Girls Grammar School . Steph now coordinates these forums. Steph also spoke at the NCWA Mid-Term Conference held in Brisbane in May 2011. She inspired us with her passion and her commitment to service.

We thought it timely to see where Steph is on her journey through life. Here is her update.

Noela O'Donnell

2013 has been an extremely busy year for me, both with my job at GRM International and with the start of my postgraduate studies at QUT. This year as a Project Coordinator at GRM International (a global management contractor for government aid donors such as AusAID and the European Commission), my job took me to Canberra, Papua New Guinea and to South Africa in both April and September. I have worked on some incredibly exciting projects, such as the Australian aid funded Australia Awards in Africa, and the Education Capacity Development Facility in Papua New Guinea. Australia Awards in Africa was recently extended until June 2015, and I spent 3 weeks in September assisting the project team in Pretoria, South Africa and Kenya, Nairobi, with extension activities. As a 23 year old starting out in her career, this was a brilliant opportunity! The political climate and change in government during 2013 also made life at GRM interesting, with some budget cuts across our programs.

After a busy year at GRM, I have been selected for a new role in 2014 on my African program, as a Senior Project Officer in Scholarships and Communications. While I will be based in the Brisbane office, I will be traveling around Australia during the year to major universities and capital cities, to help with the reintegration planning for our African scholarship holders. I will also be a primary point of contact for awardees as they head back to their respective countries, and take up jobs in the public service, universities and ministries; hopefully making an impact on a local and national level!

This new role aligns nicely with my postgraduate studies at QUT, where I am studying a Masters of Integrated Marketing Communications. With 18 months left of my degree (part time), I have discovered a research group on campus called the 'Creative Communications for Development Team', who work on communication research and consultancy assignments in the Asia and Pacific region, within the aid and development sector. I am excited to be more involved with them in 2014; given that my passion is the communications for development sector.

And of course, I look forward to another great year with the NCWQ, helping out with the website!

Steph Carter



NCWQ 2014 Bursary Program

Planning is well underway for the 2014 Bursary program. The important dates to note are:

Monday 17th February – applications open

Friday 4th April – applications close

Wednesday 21st May – Bursary Presentation Night, 5:30 pm, Brisbane Girls' Grammar School

The majority of the available bursaries are now confirmed. Many of the previous bursaries are continuing, including those sponsored by:

- * *Mayor Paul Pisasale (Ipswich)*
- * *Mayor Pam Parker (Logan)*
- * *DiH Health and Wellbeing*
- * *Elements Living*
- * *Dr Sue Byth, honouring her grandmother Elsie Byth*
- * *ESA International*
- * *Senator Sue Boyce.*



NCWQ is sponsoring one bursary for a regional student and one for a refugee minor. (Thank You to the supporters of the Morning Tea and Fashion Parade each October.) This year will see the second and final bursary for a Cairns resident, from the funds of the Cairns branch of NCWQ which wound up in 2012.

New bursaries for 2014 include:

- * *A bursary donated by Management Committee member Ally Fletcher, in memory of her brother Nigel*
- * *Helen Ovens bursary, sponsored by a group of friends*
- * *Soroptimist International*
- * *Lavis/Wilson Queensland Child Watch Committee Bursary*
- * *Moreton Bay Regional Council*
- * *Young Women Thinking Globally, sponsored by Steph Carter.*

We are thrilled that in 2014 there are even more opportunities for Queensland's female students to receive a bursary. Given the expansion of the program, Yvonne Matta has agreed to join the bursaries coordinator team of Avril Kent, Kathy Cavanagh and Gloria Kirkness. We have also recruited some additional Selection Panel members.

The success of the program relies on its communication to a wide pool of applicants. Promotional emails are sent to each and every tertiary institute, TAFE and other colleges, and all secondary schools in the State, Catholic and Independent sectors.

We encourage all our affiliated organisations and associate members to spread the news of the bursary program. Each bursary has its own criteria. The NCWQ website www.ncwq.org.au will contain all the details just prior to the opening of applications on 17th February. Please help us – share your knowledge of these bursary opportunities.

Kathy Cavanagh

Wanwod Association Qld Inc. (WAQ)

Project: Improving Infant and Maternal Health Care

Kingharman Road Government Hospital, Freetown, Sierra Leone

My name is Sallymatu Kuyateh and I am the President of Wanwod Association of Queensland Inc. (WAQ). We are all refugee Women from Sierra Leone who migrated to Brisbane, Australia. I am also a member of Soroptimist International Logan Inc. Both organisations strive to improve the lives of women and girls locally and internationally.

Background

Sierra Leone is located on the West Coast of Africa and was once known as the Anthems of Africa. It has relied on mining, especially diamonds, for its economic base. Despite the wealth of its natural resources that are exported overseas, 70% of its people live in poverty. During the decade of civil war that ended in 2002, over 500,000 people were killed, raped, or injured and over half the population was made homeless and thousands of children were orphaned or separated from their families. Our WAQ members took refuge in neighbouring countries of Guinea and Ghana and our migration to Australia commenced in 2004. We are very grateful for the support and opportunity given to us to live a decent life and to give back to the Australian community.

In 2013, I went to Sierra Leone to see my family after a 15 year absence. I visited the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and had discussion with the Director who is one of only two paediatricians in Sierra Leone. He told me that the current government has done a lot to help the poor by dispensing free medication to try to encourage sick people to go to hospital. Unfortunately the government will not fund the cost of a full dose of medication and the poor people cannot afford to pay for their medication at the pharmacy. The Director said he was aware of this situation but said that *“the government cannot afford to provide free medical service and at the same time equip the hospitals and health care centres and that they needed help from Sierra Leonean people leaving in exile and other kind hearted people”*. He also mentioned that the Government was looking for trained and experienced volunteer nurses and doctors to visit Sierra Leone and work in the hospitals to help train their staff.

The poverty and lack of infrastructure at the hospital has hardened my resolve to help improve the infant and maternal health in Sierra Leone. Instead of hearing the agony in the voices of women going through the pain of labour and or possible death due to lack of proper hygiene and medical care, I want to let us hear the joyful voices of women welcoming a new born into the world and to see this child grow up to be useful to their community.

Our Project

The Kingharman Road Government Hospital in Freetown Sierra Leone started operating in 1990 to care for war victims. The facilities in the hospital are still temporary and hygiene is very poor. Life expectancy for women in Sierra Leone is around 42 years, nearly a third of all children die before their fifth birthday and 1 out of 8 women die at child birth. Improving hygiene facilities and improving resources in the hospital will minimise the risk of infection and improve the health of mothers and their babies.

The hospital provided us with a list of items they need to help them do their job properly and our challenge is to source these items and ship them to Freetown Sierra Leone where they will be put to very good use. The cost of purchasing and shipping the container of resources is \$10,000 and so far we have raised \$3,000. \$2,000 donated by members of WAQ and \$1,000 profit from a fund raising dinner held at the Runcorn Tavern on the 19 October 2013.

We are also working closely with the Soroptimist Club in Freetown who will assist us with the distribution of items once they arrive in Freetown. The 2007-2011 Quadrennial Project for Soroptimist International was Project Sierra. Over \$2million US was raised to provide education and training for single mothers, relocating orphans into a family home and supporting families at risk. Chris Knight was the SISWP International Liaison for this project and travelled to Sierra Leone in 2010 to see first-hand how the support they provided through their partner organisations Hope and Homes for Children and HANCI (Help a Needy Child) were distributed. This is what Chris Knight had to say about the people of Sierra Leone

“Having been to Sierra Leone myself, I can assure you that the people of Sierra Leone are proud and resilient and are really trying hard to rebuild their lives. They are very grateful for any assistance they receive” October 2013.



So how can you help WAQ?

- ◇ organise a fundraising event to support our project
- ◇ invite me to speak at a members meeting or forum
- ◇ donate hospital equipment and resources
- ◇ encourage doctors and nurses to volunteer their time to work at the hospital
- ◇ donate money for shipment and/or to purchase the hospital equipment and resources needed.

Receipts and a letter of acknowledgement will be issued for all donations / sponsorship received.

EFT Donations

Wanwod Account for EFT

BSB Number: 064-112

Account Number: 10215954

Ref: Donation <insert your name>

***Please remember to send an email so we can acknowledge your donation.**

Postal Address

(Cheques made payable to *Wanwod Association Qld Inc.*)

C/- 48 Buckley Drive Drewvale QLD 4116

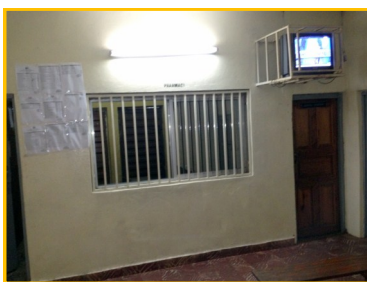
All enquiries to Sallymatu Kuyateh 0413 462934

skuyateh@hotmail.com

Sallymatu Kuyateh

President, Wanwod Association, Qld.

February 2014



Noela O'Donnell, our NCWQ president, recently meet with NCW Vice-President Elizabeth Palme, executive Director of the Jiwaka Women's Microfinance Institution. Below is some information on the work she does within the Jiwaka providence in Papua New Guinea.



JIWAKA WOMEN'S MICROFINANCE INSTITUTION (JWMI)

Supporting women in the rural areas towards eliminating all forms of violence against women through economic empowerment.

MISSION STATEMENT:

To be of service and be a channel for integral human development in the Jiwaka Province now and tomorrow.

VISION:

Zero poverty and Economic prosperity for all WOMEN.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The JWMI is a community initiative of the women of the new Jiwaka province of Papua New Guinea to better their lot in life. This initiative promotes priorities of the new province as well as that of the national government for greater role of women in socio, political and economic affairs of the country. The JWMI through its affiliate groups has been providing training in business, through partnership with the following organizations: SBDC, Nationwide Micro Bank, Interim Jiwaka Provincial Administration, other private and corporate support. Today JWMI has 200 registered members and all have their own small business projects. Half of them already have personal accounts with nationwide micro bank.

The JWMI is a registered public company that was registered with the Registrar of Companies, Registration No: 1-67919 on the 27 May 2009. All the affairs of the JWMI is governed by its constitution.

OBJECTIVES

1. Empower village women to run own locally viable business
2. Provide readily accessible credit to deserving women focusing on the underprivileged women population.
3. To promote gender equity
4. Economic empowerment of women for reduction in Poverty, Ignorance and Disease (PID)
5. Arrange training in project relevant business skills and job & income oriented skills
6. To enforce wise financial management ethics in saving, investment and planning.
7. Engage in activities that enable women to prosper and live fulfilling life
8. To form mutual partnership through networking and cooperation with stakeholders in achieving it's objectives and long term vision.

Projected FUND targets as planned for JWMI over a 5 year period:

Initial Seed Capital K 200,000 – K5000,000 (2010)

Grown Fund by 5th Year K2,000,000 (2015)

MANAGEMENT

The management of the JWMI is run by the board of directors comprised of knowledgeable members of the community, presidents of affiliated women's groups, professional advisors in finance and law and other stakeholders. This board is the ultimate decision making body and custodian of JMI Assets and responsible for the reporting requirements.

The board/JWMI greatly benefits from the vast experience and contacts of the executive director Mrs Elizabeth Palme.

JWMI also has a fully equipped functional office with qualified administrative staff at Kikpa (near Minj) that runs its operational affairs.

To effectively carry out its core functions, the JWMI has established an understanding with the Nationwide Micro Bank Mt Hagen branch to provide on-going supervision in technical matters related to the microfinance industry and banking services to its members.

YOU CAN SUPPORT THE CAUSE

The JWMI is a new creative concept of helping poor women right in their dead end existence in rural communities and you can assist as follows:

1. Contribute towards seed capital
2. Provide professional help as needed

PLEASE MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

Account: Jiwaka Women's Microfinance Institution

#13371346 ANZBANK, Mt Hagan Branch.

Phone: (675) 5465515

Fax: (657) 5465586

Mobile: 0011675 72270479 or 0011675 71428983

Email Address: liz.palme@gmail.com

**Postal Address: PO Box 1311, Mt Hagan, 281 Western Highlands Province,
Papua New Guinea**



NCWQ CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



The 2013 NCWQ Christmas Luncheon was held on 5 December at the Women's College, University of Queensland. It followed the tradition, introduced a few years ago by Noela O'Donnell, of supporting one of our member organisations or member. This year it was Mark McDonnell, the first male member of NCWQ, Adviser for Habitat and founder of Community Friends who was the guest speaker and whose organisation was the recipient of gifts donated by attendees.

Mark told us something of the work done by Community Friends, an organisation he founded in 2011 after sharing his house with a number of homeless people. Community Friends focuses on assisting people doing it a bit tough by very practical means – providing food, clothing, assisting with accommodation, offering an ear to listen with some timely advice and direction.

Last year, 2013 Community Friends provided over 50,000 meals, many tonnes of clothes, shoes and blankets. In 2013, Community Friends set up a weekly support group for women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.



Mark told us of real people today – One women who has had no electricity since August. She couldn't afford to pay the electricity bill. This means no hot showers, no electric light, no television, no fridge, no cooking. Another women who became homeless with her 2 children under 6 after a disagreement with her Mother, who she was staying with. Another woman hasn't had hot water in her house for over 10 years. There was the story of a woman who escaped a domestic violence

situation with only the clothes she was wearing. She was on the streets with no shoes, no blankets and 3 months pregnant.

Mark organised a Christmas lunch on Christmas Day for those who have nowhere else to go. Although the lunch didn't start till 11am, people started arriving at 9am. By 10am 100 people had turned up. People came and went during the morning and early afternoon but there was about 100 in attendance.

At a recent Women's Group, one of the regulars (Mark has called her Jacqui) told him how important it is to have somewhere to go on Christmas Day.

Jacqui said she never had anywhere to go on Christmas Day and never receives any gifts. This was their last Women's Group meeting for the year and they gave out gifts. Jacqui was so moved she ended up in tears!



She said a lot of suicides happen around this time of year, because this is when people who are doing it tough, feel their most removed from the rest of society.

Jacqui said while many organisations hold Christmas dinners around Christmas, very few have it on the day. That she said, is the critical day. Nothing is worse than waking up on Christmas Day with no family, no friends, no presents and nowhere to go.

Jacqui attended the Community Friends Christmas lunch. Mark said ‘We have a big circle of regular clients who come to our giveaway most weeks. We are like family and friends to them. They tell us what is happening in their lives, their troubles and their triumphs.’ Mark thanked everyone who donated to their Christmas lunch this year - their generosity made a lot of difference to a lot of people. Mark thanked the National Council of Women of Queensland who donated many gifts to share. Those attending the NCWQ Christmas Luncheon were asked to bring gifts for the women that Mark cares for. Most were very generous and we now know what a difference our gifts made to other women.

But that was Christmas, what about the rest of the year. Every week, Community Friends gives away 1000 meals of food. Their core activities are the weekly Wednesday food giveaway, The weekly Thursday Women’s Group and the weekly Tuesday Men’s Group. There is a 6 weekly book club! In 2014, Mark hopes to establish a weekly free sausage sizzle for the local homeless people.





TELSTRA SLUGGED FOR LANDLINE DELAYS

A message from the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network

Telstra has been fined over half a million dollars for failing to connect new landline phones in a timely manner, yet ACCAN is concerned that affected consumers are unaware of their right to compensation.

Telstra has been fined \$510,000 by the ACMA for delays in connecting new landline phones in urban areas during the financial year 2012-13. ACCAN welcomes this enforcement action, as penalties and a regulator prepared to take action if required are an essential part of making consumer protections effective.

The delays affected around 4000 consumers in urban areas, who had to wait longer than they should have to get an active landline. The Customer Service Guarantee (CSG) allows a maximum time for new landline connections and repairs. Telstra was also formally warned for missing its CSG benchmark for new connections in remote areas and for breaching its regulatory requirements regarding payphone removals.

ACCAN's concerns:

We are concerned at the number of people who experienced delays in getting a landline phone connected over the last financial year and we expect a better performance from Telstra from now on. ACCAN understands Telstra is already taking steps to ensure these frustrating delays aren't repeated in 2014, but we expect the ACMA to continue actively monitoring the situation.

Landline phones are still an essential service for many Australians – particularly older people – and of critical importance to small businesses.

Your right to compensation:

We are also concerned that Telstra may not be informing consumers that they are entitled to compensation payments when there are delays in connections and repairs. ACCAN has been contacted by consumers who only heard about their right to compensation payments by chance through media reports. In at least one case, an older consumer only received compensation for a delayed connection after speaking with ACCAN and then asking Telstra about it. This is not good enough – most consumers are not aware of their entitlement to compensation and Telstra is required to inform consumers about the customer service guarantee.

ACCAN is also encouraged by the ACMA's action on payphones. Payphones are important for vulnerable consumers and it is essential that Telstra fully consults with communities when considering payphone removals.

Baked Relief - Love to the West Project

"Sending Baked Relief love to our farmers this Valentine's Day"



The 3rd anniversary of the 2011 Queensland floods was marked in a subdued mood, amidst stories of the heartache caused by the current drought conditions. With nearly 65% of the state now drought-declared, our farmers are slipping further and further into debt providing supplementary feed for their stock. Properties that have been farmed across several generations are falling into financial collapse. For some farmers, the stress of rising bills and stock deaths have taken them to breaking point and suicide rates are on the rise.

During the floods, ordinary Queenslanders gathered in their kitchens to provide Baked Relief – donations of home made goods that said "we are thinking of you, we care." We think it's time to show our farmers once again that they are not alone.

This Valentine's Day, Baked Relief is encouraging people to bake either a fruit cake or ANZAC biscuits (items which travel well and have a long shelf life) and include a personal note to a farming family. These can be dropped off to selected locations on Monday 17 February 2014 and will be distributed amongst the farming community via the Queensland Rural, Regional & Remote Womens Network.

This is no substitute for financial help or desperately needed rain. It won't pay the bills, grow the hay or feed the cows. But it might nourish a farmer just for a minute, because they are important and they are hurting.

For more information on how you can get involved, visit www.bakedrelief.org and join the

Date Claimers

Public Speaking and Meeting Skills Workshop with Forum Communicators

Saturday 1 March 2014 - 10:00am to 3:00pm
Conference Room St Thomas's Anglican Centre
67 High Street Toowong

NCWQ President's Dinner

Tuesday 18 March 2014 - 6:30pm for 7:00pm Start
Tattersall's Club
Guest speaker Noela L'Estrange CEO Queensland Law Society

Do you Ummm and Ahhh when making a speech?

Do you need more confidence to fulfil your speaking role in a work, community or family situation?

Forum Communicators not only provides you with the opportunity to practise and perfect your speaking and presentations, but also with invaluable leadership and meeting skills.

Day and night Forums available.

Ph: Pam 3206 0757 / 0408 550 435 or

Email: forum@forumcommunicators.asn.au.

For more information visit www.forumcommunicators.asn.au



"It is literally true that you can succeed best and quickest by helping others to succeed."

Napoleon Hill

NAME BADGES

Would you like an NCWQ Name Badge?

Membership Secretary, Kirsty Levis, is currently taking orders.

The cost per badge is \$12.50.

To order one, please contact Kirsty at klevis24@bigpond.net.au

NCWQ wish to thank Mr Robert Cavallucci MP, Brisbane Central,
for the printing of this newsletter from his office as a service to a
local community organisation.

Advertising in the NCWQ Newsletter

Affiliated organisations and small businesses are invited to place advertisements with logo into the NCWQ Newsletter issues bi-monthly from end of January.

- ♦ **Business card size** including logo per advertisement per edition **\$50**
- ♦ To secure an advertisement in each of 6 editions per year a discount of \$20 applies **\$280**
- ♦ **Quarter page** including logo per advertisement per edition **\$70**
- ♦ To secure an advertisement in each of 6 editions per year a discount of \$20 applies **\$400**
- ♦ **Half page** including logo per advertisement per edition **\$150**

This Newsletter is sent to 127 Associates and 53 Affiliated Organisations with their own members and networks.

Contact the editor at newsletter@ncwq.org.au for further information.