



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.

July 2014
Newsletter 224

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.

Since the publication of our last newsletter National Council of Women of Queensland Inc (NCWQ) members and women associated with the Council have been recipients of awards, honours; have been elevated to international positions; and have completed terms of office. I wish to acknowledge them.

NCWQ Management Committee member, Marjorie Voss, OAM and ICW Vice President Hean Bee Wee AM were among those on the Queen's Birthday honours list.

NCWQ Management Committee member, Annette Lourigan, was named as the Quota International Woman of the Year. Her achievements will impress you. Details of their contributions are featured separately in this Newsletter.

Others with an NCWQ connection receiving high honours include Mrs Rhonda White, a former Associate member of NCWQ, who was made an Officer (AO) in the General Division. Her award is for distinguished service to the pharmacy profession, particularly through her contribution to education and retail management practices, and as a role model for women in business.

Professor Hurriyet Babacan is now a Member (AM) in the General Division for significant service to the multicultural community, to education as an academic and author, and as an advocate for social policy development. Hurriyet has been a guest speaker for NCWQ.

A Medal (OAM) in the General Division was awarded to both Ms Judy Magub, Vice-President Lady Musgrave Trust, for service to the community of Brisbane and to Mrs Marian Mudra, past president QCWA, for service to the community, particularly through CWA.

Former NCWQ Vice-President Alison Lingard has taken on the role of Director of Quota International Region 13, which consists of 16 clubs in southeast Queensland, one on Norfolk Island, one in Fiji and six in New Zealand.

Yvonne Calligeros, daughter of NCWQ Management Committee member Irene Cayas, and participant in the annual Bursaries Fund-raising Morning Tea and Fashion Parade has taken the titles of The Lions Medical Research Personality Quest Winner (as determined by four independent judges), and The Lions Medical Research Foundation Charity Winner for raising the highest amount of funds for 2013 – 2014.

Completing terms of office are Her Excellency, Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland and NCWQ Patron and Senator Sue Boyce completed seven years of representing us in Canberra. We have welcomed her bursary sponsorship over many of these years.

In Canberra the Governor General His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC and Foreign Minister the Honourable Julie Bishop MP announced the recipients of the New Colombo Plan scholarships for study in Asia. Heading to Hong Kong next year to complete her honours research in women in leadership and interning at a women's empowerment NGO at the same time will be NCWQ Communications Support Officer, Elise Stephenson.

Elise, a Griffith University student, has been back and forth between Australia and Asia over the past four years of her study.

"Asia has and always will be my area of interest," Elise said. She is interested in "women in leadership in Asia – what their experiences are in leadership and power."

We acknowledge the work and the achievements of these Queensland women. All are deserving of the accolades and awards. Those to whom I have spoken have all been humble and appreciative of the support they receive. We know much is also done by other quiet achievers. To all these women we say congratulations, well deserved, thank you, bravo, félicitations, ben cottoa, Συγχαρητήρια, tino pai, bien joué!

Having met and heard from the 2014 NCWQ bursary recipients, I am confident there will be more awards presented to Queensland women in the future.



Noela O'Donnell—NCWQ President

Everyday Women Seminar Logan

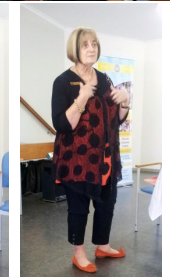
It was great to be involved with NCWQ's 5th Everyday Women Seminar at Logan on June 21st. On this occasion we partnered with Soroptimist International of Logan Inc. Women aged from 25-75 got correct and current information on issues that will affect most of us at some stage during our lives- family, finances and keeping our brain active. Our three speakers for this event had diverse backgrounds - Rob Wintour shared with us several of the many facts that we need to consider about our Compulsory Superannuation. He spoke about how the year we were born has a big influence on, if, and when we can access our super before we retire.

Dianne Fensom challenged us to challenge our brain and our coordination skills whilst exercising our laughter buttons all in the name of ensuring that the grey matter between our ears ages with us and not before us.

Maree Lubach again reached into my soul as she spoke about the many grandparents who have to cope with the sad facts of modern families.

Our next EWS will be in Toowoomba on August 30th. The information is worth the trip and you can get an early peek at the spring colours of Toowoomba.

Annette Lourigan



Soroptimist International Brisbane South Fund-raiser

Soroptimist International Brisbane South held another of their charity fashion parades at the Blue Illusion Boutique, Westfield Shopping Centre, Carindale on Saturday 21 June. Models paraded the latest in fashions, while the guests were treated to delicious nibbles and drinks. The club was very fortunate to have the daughter-in-law of a member as one of the models, and she looked just gorgeous in her selected clothes ... the two more mature models looked very professional!

The Blue Illusion staff were busy with the many sales after the parade, and because of the generosity of the store, the club should be able to direct a sizeable donation to a local women's refuge.



For information on membership of SI Brisbane South, contact Pam, or email sibrisbanesouth@siswp.org



***Soroptimist International
Brisbane South Club
invite you to our
"Charity Fashion Parade"***



Where: Souths Sports Club, Brandon Park Reserve, Mortimer Road, Acacia Ridge
When: Saturday 30th August, 2014. 11.30am to 3.00pm
Cost: \$45 per person (this includes a light luncheon and a glass of wine or fruit juice)
RSVP: 24th August to Pam on 3343 7335 — the recipient of the funds raised will be *Aussie Helpers*, an organisation providing much needed assistance to farmers in the drought affected areas

INSPIRING WOMEN

NCWQ Management Committee member and Past Vice-President **Marjorie Voss OAM** was recognised in this year's Queens Birthday Honours List. Marjorie received a Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division. The award was for service to women, and to youth through the Guiding movement. Marjorie has been a member of Girl Guides Queensland for more than 40 years.

Her involvement in Guiding has included being a Brownie Leader (in 1973) until today to being a member of the Pumicestone Trefoil Guild.

A former early childhood teacher who has always enjoyed working with small children, Marjorie has loved challenging the young ones to achieve.

Marjorie is the current secretary and treasurer of the Child Watch Committee and is the President of the Bribie Island Parish.



Sixty-two countries, including Australia, form the International Council of Women (ICW). ICW Vice-President and Past President of the National Council of Women of Australia (NCWA) **Hean Bee Wee's** work over many years was also acknowledged in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Her commitment to helping others started at a young age. In her final year of primary school in Penang Hean Bee paid for a fellow student to sit an entrance exam for high school. "Her parents wouldn't pay for her fee to sit for the exam," she said.

"I said that I would pay with money I had saved and she ended up completing high school and becoming a teacher."

Hean Bee was appointed a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia.

Whilst she has contributed much to NCW in the state, national and international arenas, Hean Bee has also been a delegate to the Food Standards ANZ Consumer Liaison Council, Delegate to the South Australia Consumer Group, is current Treasurer of UN Women in South Australia, a role she has had since 2005, she is also the current treasurer of the Asian Women's Consultative Council of South Australia. She was the Commissioner for the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission, on the Management Board of the Migrant Resource Centre and much more.

"I have always believed that to be a good woman you have to stand up for issues that are human rights issues and not just sit back and make excuses". Hean Bee said.

"I have developed the courage to stand up and speak up when something is wrong".

Congratulations to NCWQ Management Committee member **Annette Lourigan** who was recently recognised by Quota International (QI) Brisbane City for her commitment to the disadvantaged in the Brisbane community.

When presenting the Woman of the Year Award, QI Brisbane City club President Caroline Cox stated that Annette was a worthy recipient and a dedicated volunteer who played a significant role in raising the awareness of so many worthy causes, such as her past work with Diabetes Queensland, the Queensland Cancer Council and the homeless youth and women in Brisbane.

Annette has been instrumental in raising over \$200,000.00 for south-east Queensland charities and organisations with the support of her employer and a band of friends who valued her ideas of helping out and making a difference where possible.

Funds raised have been used to support children gaining cochlear implants and furnishing a special needs school, including computers. Other projects included \$20,000.00 to support Anglicare and the Lord Mayor's Community Trust homeless women projects, \$15,000.00 to the Cancer Council through various 'Family Fun Days' held at funeral homes and \$18,000.00 for Diabetes Queensland which provided a weekend away for seventy children with Type 1 diabetes to learn how to live with this condition. Annette also organised for a group of children with Asperger's Syndrome to visit a Brisbane Lions training session.

She steered the Logan Local Ambulance Committee to raise enough money to get four defibrillators into ambulances in the Logan area in 2009 and was very excited to hear that the first night they were in the vehicles one was used to save the life of a 56 year old father. Always focused on raising community awareness as well as funds, Annette's lunches and Black Tie Balls have had Queensland families who live with the effects of the cause for the fund raising, speak at the events ensuring guests knew exactly how they were making a difference to the life of another.

Her work in the community went to the very core of Quota's aim to serve the community and raise awareness for the disadvantaged.

Annette said what she does best is link people with the people who can help them. "I have an amazing network of people who care about others and they will always help a person who needs a hand."

At the presentation ceremony, Marilyn Oulds, a member of Quota Brisbane City; Avril Kent representing NCWQ President Noela O'Donnell; Davina Bambrick, General Manager of Invocare and Sally Gardner from Meals on Wheels acknowledged Annette and her work for the community.

All reinforced how Annette had changed lives. Annette was able to share the day with her daughter Hayley, her mother and her sister



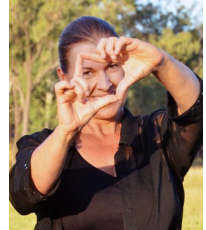
WELL DONE MARJORIE, HEAN BEE AND ANNETTE



We recognize another farming family to acknowledge the UN declared 2014 International Year of Family Farming and to remind us of how much we need our farmers.
Thank you Amanda for sharing your story with us. Ed

NAME: Amanda Salisbury

LOCATION: Eidsvold, North Burnett, Queensland



Amanda lives and works with her husband Mark and two adorable children on their picturesque beef cattle property about 50km from the small rural centres of Eidsvold and Monto.

While Amanda grew up here, she spent a couple of decades as a 'city chick', pursuing a career in media. As a news photographer, journalist and (later on) a government media adviser, Amanda enjoyed her roles in regional New South Wales (Griffith) and Queensland (the Sunshine Coast) as well as Brisbane.

With two young children to bring up, the family was offered the chance to move back to the bush and made the decision to relocate in 2006. It is a decision not without its challenges, but one which has seen the family flourish.

The Salisburys run stud and commercial Brangus cattle on rolling granite hills and finish them on bottle tree scrub. They have taken on management of 'Bimbadeen' which is Australia's longest serving Brangus stud, founded by Amanda's father Bruce Burnham. It is a responsibility the entire family are loving - with the children heavily involved in mustering and working the cattle, and invaluable as 'quieteners' during the weaning process.

Bimbadeen Brangus offers red and black Brangus stud stock to producers throughout Australia - from the coast through to the desert. Amanda is passionate about these polled, smooth-coated, adaptable beef cattle and was involved in organising and promoting the World Brangus Congress in Rockhampton in 2012.

Amanda's media background continues to play a role in her everyday life, with a strong online presence with business website (www.bimbadeenbrangus.com) and social media profiles, as well as a 'bush advocacy' blog with the somewhat unusual title 'Bush Babe of Oz' (www.bushbabeofoz.com). Started in 2008, Amanda had no idea about anything internet-ish (hence the 'babe in the woods' reference in the blog title) and even less idea that it would end up being read in many corners of the world, listed at the National Library of Australia's Pandora archive, and build a strong and loyal readership at the blog proper and on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

She adores her part of the world, and document major events there - from campdrafts to floods and heatwaves. She often taking her Nikon with her during mustering and yard duties, and shares it through these outlets - after all she has to do SOMETHING with all those photos!

"I get urban, suburban and rural 'virtual visitors' from Australia, North and South America, Africa and Europe - I think it's wonderful to celebrate the similarities and differences in our lives. And I really love getting questions on BB of Oz to help bridge that gap in understanding."

Recently, Amanda also joined with some other bush photographers and writers to form 'Outback Paparazzi' - a group with a popular Facebook page (and Twitter profile) showcasing the incredible landscapes, people and attitudes of rural Australia from coast-to-coast.

And while she sometimes struggles juggling the roles of mother, wife, beef producer, promoter and 'agvocate' entails - an activity she knows the majority of woman have to handle regardless of their location - Amanda wouldn't change it for the world.

"I feel like this is what I was meant to do - both in producing top quality food for families in Australia and overseas, and in helping building unbreakable connections between the city and the bush. And of course, providing the best possible start in life for our kids."





Saigon! Ho Chi Minh City....2014!

Amazingly congested streets!SO many Tuk-Tuk drivers to harass one – chaos! Randomness! Stunning filth, including every manner of human excrement; chicken animal and fish guts; broken kerbing, uneven paving – rubbish, hunger, poverty – ‘broken-ness’ – resonant of Egypt’s large, sad, broken, suppressed cities!

...in the midst of which one is blessed by lots of SMILES!!

Three young girls and one young man laugh, as they see my Vietnamese dictionary!! - I learn to say cam on = thank you! nuoe = water....du dO = paw-paw...

In this semi-literate to illiterate conglomerate of twelve million people, where some might live to the ages of 50-59 years, there are, minimally estimated 4 million ‘resident’ motor scooters on most days, plus a very conservative estimated two million from the provinces!

In the city, provincial dwellers are told, they have ‘the Happy Land’ – where a bike can be purchased for only USD \$1,000! Because of the prohibitive and outrageous 300% tax on motor cars, where a very humble, basic Toyota Camry can cost upwards of USD \$75,000.00, no entity could feel surprised about either the propaganda offered or the choices made – could one?

My experience on this adventure was that the reputed architectural and visual French influences were hugely romanticised; yet congruent socio-political histories woven around the 1954 Geneva Agreement; the departure of France, from the country; the relatively untold histories of Russia and China, in the North and the ‘divide’ at the 17th parallel, were also ‘woven’ into a new National symbol – the changed Flag, in 1975 – the year my second son, Adam was born!

*The new weave?
Red – for the Blood of the People
Yellow – for the Skin Colour of the People
The Star – To symbolise the Leader who ‘shows the way’*



In this complex, congested, crude, contradictory land, in a variegated civilisation which has survived five wars, including the vicious vampirism of China, particularly via the suffering from the bombastic and brutal Lei Dynasty; the United States and Vietnamese Liberation; involvement with Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge.....people yearn for and pray for and hope for Peace and Freedom!

Included in that Freedom – not so uncommon in poorer, developing countries, is the heart-tugging, gut-wrenching rudimentary desire to LEARN – to have some rudimentary form of what many consider ‘education’, as a means of taking more control of their lives; integrating with different cultures, pop-cultures, ideologies, social mores and as a means of “...being better than before...”!

Many beautiful, busy, hardworking, harassed, congested, compromised, human beings, who live with myriad restrictions, regulations, riotous and robust rigours, STILL, entertain Hope, Belief, Love, Generosity, Endless Compassion and Forgiveness.

They all want to speak like the English or the Americans! – yet again, the spirals, the weave, the tendrils, return to a centrifugal point of Language learning! The question is also part of the weave.... “Will they be allowed to learn?”

How? When? Where? Why not?

Jennifer Ann DAVIES





NCWA Conference

Noela O'Donnell, Kathy Cavanagh and Marjorie Voss were the Queensland delegates attending the National Council of Women of Australia (NCWA) Mid-Term Conference held at the Chifley Alice Springs Resort from 27 to 29 May 2014. The theme for the conference was 'Caring for women is caring for the world'.



NCWA President Julie Morris welcomed delegates from throughout Australia and all got straight down to business.

Dr Patricia Miller AO, Deputy Administrator of the Northern Territory, officiated at the Welcome Reception, held at the National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame. The launch of 'Stirrers with Style' an electronic exhibition of past NCWA Presidents was launched by the author Leonie Christopherson AM. The exhibition can be viewed on the NCWA website.



A forum 'The Women Central – Healthy Women=Healthy Lives', held at the Alice Springs Convention Centre, was a partnership between the Jean Hailes Foundation and NCWA. Over 200 women attended this forum.

Day 2 commenced with a Working Breakfast. During this time the Vales, Honours and Awards were tabled. Reports were accepted and two NCWA Honorary Life-Vice Presidents were inducted – Joan Elliston AM from New South Wales and Judith Parker AM from Western Australia.

The business of the conference included the tabling of resolutions relating to Sports Betting, Gambling, Forced Marriage in Australia, Renewable Energy, Water Mapping and Agribank; and the strategic plan of the organisation.

Apart from NCW business the delegates undertook various activities including a visit to the Alice Springs School of the Air, a Bush Balm Workshop, a visit to the Tjanpi Desert Weavers Gallery and a self-guided walk.

The Honourable Bess Nungarrayi Price MLA NT Minister for Women's Policy, Community Services, Statehood and Parks and Wildlife, officially opened the Conference. Bess left us with these words "A world of healthier strong women is a place where I want to live" and encouraged us not to wait, but to start now.

Other speakers included Sarah Brown of the Western Desert Nganampa Walytia Palyantjadu Tjutaku (WDNWPT) who told us of the work done at the Purple House which provides dialysis for local people. Their mission is to keep making all families well and their work is supported by an enterprise where bush balms are made and sold.

Associate Professor Dea Delaney-Thiele the CEO of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Women's Alliance (NATSIWA), who with two of her colleagues attended the entire conference, emphasised "Nothing about us, without us" and said it applied to both Aboriginal people and to women. Dea quoted the words of Justice Kirby in 2004 when he said "If we work together we can create a fairer and stronger Australia."

Trish Crossin now of Cross Innovate Consulting, spoke of maintaining the rage, having role models, surrounding yourself with experts, being ready for when you are tested, backing your judgment, picking your enemies; thinking about the forum and focus on one or two issues and maintaining the highest standards.



Jeanette Pastor a Research Assistant from Charles Darwin University spoke of 'Perspectives of Aboriginal Child Development'.



Pat Turner AM turned our attention to the RECOGNISE Project – the Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.



The Conference Dinner was held at the National Road Transport Hall of Fame with entertainment provided by Rhubee Neale, a singer and songwriter. The guest speaker Liz Martin OAM spoke of the 'Women at the Wheel'. In 1992 Liz was a member of the steering committee formed to develop a truck museum in Alice Springs. She served thirteen years as President of the Road Transport Historical Society and its museum, The National Road Transport Hall of Fame. In 2005 Liz stepped down as President to become the Society's inaugural Chief Executive Officer. Liz spoke of women's vital role in road transport including one of Australia's most famous pioneering women, Carolyn Chisolm, who used a bullock dray for her work as she picked up many young female immigrants abandoned at the wharves to help them gain employment as domestic help, cooks and governesses in rural areas.



A highlight of the conference was Senator the Honorary Michaelia Cash, representing the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. Tony Abbott MP. Senator Cash is the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women and the Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection. Senator Cash read a message from the Prime Minister.



The Senator thanked the women present for paving the way for women like her. She highlighted the synergies between the Government's four key strategic areas – safety for women, women's economic empowerment, leadership and international engagement and the work of NCWA.

"The NCWA is excellent at working across all of these areas, and with all sectors of the women's movement – communities, government and the international sector," Minister Cash said.

"We know that women's choices can be constrained by institutional and cultural factors, and we know that this must change."

A challenge for us all!

Noela O'Donnell - NCWQ President



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 30 July 2014 - 10:30 to noon

Visit to Access Community Services Inc

Harmony on Carmody Café, Unit 1, 2 Carmody Street, Logan Central

Access Community Services Inc provide support, training and education to migrants and refugees. We will hear learn of the work they do and have a tour of their facilities You and your friends are welcome.

Saturday 30 August 2014 - 10:00am to 1:00pm

Everyday Women Seminar

In partnership with Zonta Club of Toowoomba Garden City

The Glennie School, Herries Street Toowoomba

Tuesday 2 September 2014 - 5:30pm – 8:30pm

NCWQ AGM & Conference

Ruth Fairfax House, Gregory Terrace Brisbane

OUR THANKS TO HER EXCELLENCY

The National Council of Women of Queensland Inc (NCWQ) is one of the 206 organisations that are honoured to have the Governor of Queensland Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC as our patron.

We are indebted to Her Excellency for her interest, her challenges, her encouragement and inspiration over the term of her office.

We have been honoured Ms Wensley has attended, and spoken at, some of our functions and events. We have been privileged to receive a message from Her Excellency for our Annual Report and are always amazed at her knowledge of what we do and us. Her words always encouraged us to keep going.

In the 'The First Fifty Years' in the history of the National Council of Women in Queensland it is recorded

"Vice-Regal patronage throughout the history of the National Council of Women of Queensland has been more than a mere matter of courtesy. In its first fifty years from Lady Chelmsford in 1905 to Lady Lavarack in 1955, much constructive advice was received, and assistance given to open the way to progressive action; the National Council expresses its gratitude to these State Governors' wives of the past – to Sir Matthew Nathan who took an active personal interest in the work – and in the Federal sphere to Lady Forster, Lady Gowrie, Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson, whose guidance deriving largely from previous experience of National Council work overseas, helped the Queensland Council to solve some of the many problems with which it was confronted."

We welcome the change from those times to today when a woman is now appointed as Governor. Ms Wensley's patronage has been more 'than a mere matter of courtesy' and for that we thank her.

We wish Her Excellency well as this chapter of her life closes, and that she enjoys a different fulfilment in the new chapters that she will write.

With our heartfelt thanks

Noela O'Donnell - President

On behalf of the members, affiliates and supporter of NCWQ



MEMBER'S PROFILE

University of Queensland Women's Club

Musica Macademia Singing and Recorder Group is an offshoot of the original club begun as the University of Queensland Staff Wives' Club in 1938. Initially formed for social interaction it was involved in fund-raising for building Women's College and International House, and in 1949 became affiliated with the National Council of Women. Membership expanded over the years, the club's name was appropriately changed to the above title, and a number of interest sub-groups evolved. Our group, along with the English Conversation Group, survive today as the nucleus of the Women's Club, promoting friendship, cultural interests, and community service.

The Women's Club groups meet at Alumni House, 50 Walcott St, St Lucia. The house, originally called Cairngorm, built in 1902 by the Scottish immigrant Mitchell family, was taken over by the university and renamed Alumni House in 1991. Musica Macademia meets Thursday mornings, followed by morning tea. Club meetings are held usually the first Thursday of the month and often with a guest speaker. This year the choir celebrates 30 years under the guidance of Kathy Teakle, our conductor and inspiration. Music is wide ranging, performed in a variety of languages, and always unaccompanied. The English Conversation Group meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Partners of international students participate to practise and improve spoken English.

Musica Macademia performs at various nursing homes and retirement villages, most recently at Iona, Kenmore and soon at the Indooroopilly Uniting Church meeting place, a performance co-ordinated by Pat Burgess who is the NCWQ liaison for our club. Towards the end of the year the conversation group gets together with the music group for cultural exchange and musical entertainment.

Part of our brief consists of collecting baskets of groceries for charity and we regularly give a donation to an Indian school for charitable and educational purposes.

The UQ Women's Club is a vibrant organisation which promotes not only enjoyment and interaction for its members but provides a vehicle for a wider interchange with the community at large.

Madeleine Denning - President - UQ Women's Club



AGITATORS, EDUCATORS, CONNECTORS AND MENTORS NCWQ'S WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

I was a bit excited when Noela sent an email with the title 'Stirrers with Style'. My head went off in several directions as I thought "there must be a spoon exhibition on, I might need some spoons to go with my teacup collection". I even pondered if she had sent me an email on cocktail stirrers and spent a little time reminiscing over Fluffy Ducks and Blue Lagoons. On opening the email I found out that I was wrong on both counts- that the Stirrers were the Presidents of NCWA since 1906 and that this incredible group of women had four Queenslanders amongst the regal stirrers of change: Elsie Byth, Anne Hamilton, Dr Laurel Macintosh and Yvonne Bain.

Having met Elsie's grand-daughter Dr Susan Byth I wanted to know what was it that made a lady at the end of WW2 become the first Queensland woman to accept the role of National President of NCWA. I discovered that Elsie was perfect for this role as she had fortitude and a sound understanding of politics.

Born in 1890 Elsie was educated at Brisbane Girls Grammar and the University of Sydney. In 1917 she married and had four children with her husband George L Byth. From what I have read about Mrs Byth she became involved with community organisations in the 1930's when she was a volunteer for UNICEF, Brisbane Women's Club (of which she was President from 1933-1936) and a list a mile long of various organisations that covered Import Licensing, Medical Benefits and the Queensland Patriotic Club. She became the Queensland President for NCWQ in 1940 and left that to become the Australian President in 1945. It is interesting reading about Elsie. It's like following the path of an out of control yoyo - you try to work out how she balanced so many committees, roles on committees and family during her term as National President. She was very driven to rebuild and re-engage ICW, NCWA and NCWQ after WW2. What I respect about Elsie was that she firmly stood by the Australian Government (a bit like Julie Bishop) of the time and stayed focused on stabilising family and community.

I may have read too much between the lines with Elsie. I feel that she had to rise to many challenges during her term and it is more than evident that her passion for women's rights and community stayed with her during her whole adult life. She definitely deserved her OBE that she got in 1953. Apparently her hobbies were music, flowers and fine needle- if she managed to fit them in between family and the million committees she was on I just may need to pull out my crochet hook again.

Anne Hamilton is our next Queensland to grace the hallowed committee halls of NCW as the National President in 1964. There is a very good chance that if Anne and I sat down over a couple of glasses of Pimms that we would be painting placards and demonstrating before the day was through. As much as Elsie was a builder of relationships, Anne was an agitator. She liked to lobby, she lobbied for the rights of married women to return to work, she was part of the group that finally got the face of a woman on our Australian currency (Carolyn Chisholm). During her time as National President she encouraged the states to include the welfare of Aboriginal people in their planning. We can also hold her responsible for the deadlines of our Newsletter as she also instigated that.

Anne was born in 1910 and was the daughter of an hotelier. It may have been the conversations that she heard as a child growing up around the politics that gets discussed in pubs that stirred her soul and I adore the fact that she is quoted for summarising her role as National President in these words – "Trying to stir NCW women to logical, informed mental processes and consequent action towards community welfare", and "to attract women of spirit and intelligence to work with an organization of some significance ... by persuading them that what they did had some real effect". Somewhere in the middle of a wonderful career of agitating and advocacy she managed to propagate plants. I can only imagine that such a dynamic woman would find the intricate work of propagation a great escape from the reality of a world that still considered women as second class citizens. I imagine that as a Mum to her two children and the wife of the Deputy City Architect of Brisbane City Council that she would have not only hosted brilliant garden parties to visiting overseas delegates, she would have also known how to generate spirited conversation. Anne died in 2002 at Jindalee; her eulogy would have been fascinating, the lady is an inspiration.

Our next Queensland President is our very own Life Member Dr Laurel Macintosh. I was very humbled to read Dr Macintosh's achievements in life and several times nodded my head in gratitude as I read her story. Somehow in the middle of a career as an ophthalmic surgeon (and those who know me well will know what place in my heart that touched) she managed to be a member of state, national and international committees all at the same time.

In 1977 Dr Macintosh became the National President of NCW, the year that I was in Grade 7. In 1978 she was instrumental in the beginning of late night shopping in Brisbane and Ipswich. I wonder that as an advocate for women's rights if she knew that the extension of shopping hours would help mothers balance work, children's sport on a Saturday and the household chores. I do know that Dr Macintosh's fight for extended trade ensured that as a teenage girl I had work, thank you. Reading about Dr Macintosh touched my heart as she is one of the reasons that I value being a member of NCWQ; being able to sit at a table with passionate women who have created positive change for their community and have asked for no accolades. I am not going to write much more for you about Dr Macintosh, because she and I have a date for an interview and I will submit that interview into our newsletter.

Dr Macintosh congratulated me on a recent achievement, the lady has many lessons for all of us and one is to always encourage the youth who come behind you. No more about Laurel cause I will get teary.

Yvonne Bain is our next and last Queenslander to be President of NCWA. Her term ran from 1990-1994 and as you read about Yvonne it is easy to imagine that she would have wondered what all the fuss was about when she received her O.A.M. in 1990. During her presidency one of the many things that she was involved with was to persuade the Australian Bureau of Statistics to include home duties and volunteer work in the national census. This incredible achievement finally allowed us to document the tireless efforts of people who do it for love and not for money.

Yvonne was born in 1929, her high school years were spent at Brisbane Girls Grammar. Her Mum convinced her to leave school before she completed her final year and work at the PMG. Yvonne must have had a real hunger for education and the right to be exactly who you could be as she enrolled at the Central Technical College and gained a Diploma in Civil Engineering and was the only woman in her class!

Yvonne like the other Presidents actually has had an influence on my life; she is responsible for Gowrie House which is great Brisbane icon of education for children. When my daughter was born I headed into Gowrie House to research the best models for educating kindergarten aged children. When you read about Yvonne you can feel her passion for education and for people. It is hard not to be in awe of her tireless commitment to NCWQ and NCWA whilst raising her children, educating herself and ensuring that various educational establishments provided the very best to their students. Yvonne died in 2004 and it is sad as she never got to celebrate and commemorate NCWQ 100 years in 2005. I think if I ever had the opportunity to sit next to Yvonne that I would have sat in silence and listened, for her story reads of a person dedicated to her beliefs and motivated to create change. To those of you who knew her, I think you are blessed.

As a member of NCWQ for just over 10 years I found reading the history of our National Presidents to be an emotional read. It is hard not to get caught up in their activism, their strength and their passion. In reading their stories I am reminded of why I am so proud to be a member of NCWQ and so very humbled to be surrounded by so many wonderful women.

During my time with NCWQ I have witnessed the passion of women create much needed change for our community. I have seen the birth of ideas and watched them blossom into reality. I have witnessed young women's faces glow as they receive bursaries and sat with my own nephew as he enjoyed the Gifted Children's Program. I have managed to read some of our many submissions put into Parliament and know that dedicated women have created change, and even had the laws changed. I know from the submissions that I have been involved with that I have been part of a voice heard in Queensland Parliament and that we have created change. I am proud to say that I nominated the first man on to NCWQ and that all my mentors who share the committee meeting table with me welcomed his nomination and encourage his passion as equally as they encourage the passion of the women whom they represent.

So are you all Stirrers with Style, you bet your life you are. All of you have confronted the thoughts of others, you have all stood up for what you believe in and you have made the world a better place for a stranger. If we were a collection of spoons some of us would be silver, some tarnished, some plastic and there are a couple of cocktail swivel sticks mixed up in the bunch- what I do know about all of you is that when you are all placed in the spoon draw together you are a wonderful collection of spoons committed to the wellbeing of all people.

Annette Lourigan

'Stirrers with Style' Copyright National Council of Women of Australia 2013 published by the Australian Women's Archive Project. Work on this project was generously funded by an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant LP088371 in collaboration with the University of Melbourne. It uses the Online Resource Manager, a tool developed by the eScholarship Research Centre, part of the University of Melbourne Library.



Seroptimist International is a vibrant, dynamic organisation for women, committed to a world where women and girls together achieve their individual and collective potential, realise aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide.



By becoming a member of a Seroptimist club, women can enjoy service, friendship and fun with like-minded women in your area, while undertaking local, national and international projects to benefit women and girls.

Brisbane South club meets at night on the second Tuesday of each month.

For more information, contact Pam on 3343 7335, or email sibrisbanesouth@siswp.org

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.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Beth Stansfield and The Relief Society (LDS Church)

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



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 klevi24@bigpond.net.au

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.