



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: His Excellency Paul de Jersey AC
Governor of Queensland

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September 2014
Newsletter 225

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

At the recent Annual General Meeting I was honoured to again be appointed President of this organisation. Our last year (2013 – 2014) was a busy one as we continued to work for the Council. My report, as presented in our Annual Report, is also on the NCWQ website – www.ncwq.org.au

Three members of the previous Management Committee have stepped down from their roles. I acknowledge the contribution made by Chiou See Anderson (Vice-President), Beryl Spencer (State Coordinator) and committee member Ally Fletcher. All said it wasn't an easy decision but business, health and family were factors in their decisions. I extend my thanks and best wishes to them.

Lisa Hooper has taken on the role of State Coordinator and Lyn Buckley, a member of ESA and of the NCWQ Bursaries Selection Committee, has joined us on the committee. I welcome them to their new roles and look forward to working with them.

Annette Lourigan has stepped up to the role of Vice-President. Annette brings enthusiasm for the future and respect for our past to the position.

Avril Kent, Kathy Cavanagh and Paula Ivanovic are continuing in their roles. A special thank you to Avril Kent for previously holding the dual roles of Vice-President and Secretary.

The office bearers and members of the NCWQ 2014-2015 Management Committee are:

President: Noela O'Donnell

Vice-President: Annette Lourigan

Secretary: Avril Kent

Treasurer: Paula Ivanovic

Recording Secretary: Kathy Cavanagh

State Coordinator: Lisa Hooper

Management Committee members: Lyn Buckley, Pat Burgess, Irene Cayas, Kirsty Levis, Yvonne Matta, Philomena Murdoch, Georgina Pickers, Christine Stewart, Margaret Vallance and Marjorie Voss OAM.

A team of Advisers, a Newsletter Editor, a Membership Secretary and a Communications and Communications Support Officer also supports the Council. All these contribute much to the organisation.

As next year, NCWQ will be celebrating 110 years, we, as the Management Committee, are honoured to be serving NCWQ in such a significant year. By accepting nomination for the positions we now hold, we are giving you a commitment we will strive to reach the NCWQ goals: we will give of our time and expertise to sustain and grow NCWQ and will plan for tomorrow.

The new year is starting with the two-day Parents' and Children with Potential Conference at The Lakes College, North Lakes followed by United Gathering of Women in Prayer for Peace and Candle Lighting Ceremony of Hope and the annual bursaries fund-raising Morning Tea and Fashion Parade. Details can be found on the NCWQ website.

We welcome you at all these events and appreciate your support.

Noela O'Donnell
NCWQ President



NCWQ ANNUAL CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 2ND 2014

The annual NCWQ Conference was held as a component of the Annual General Meeting, held at Ruth Fairfax House in September.

The 2014 theme was *"Put a spring in your step through Education and Knowledge: Yesterday's lessons, Today's actions, Tomorrow's opportunities."*

Kathy Cavanagh, NCWQ Recording Secretary, having spent much of her working life in education was the ideal person to remind us of the history of Queensland's education system and of NCWQ's contribution.

The Century of Minutes project, undertaken by the late Helen Ovens, produced a wonderful digital resource of the history of NCWQ since its inception in 1905. In these early years, there were no State secondary schools (the first opening in 1912), although private colleges had opened some 50 years earlier, with Ipswich Grammar School being the first in 1863. Primary education – up to the age of 15 was the norm. Or none at all.

There was an early recognition of issues for the education of country children. In 1907, concerns were raised about the quality of housing provided for provisional schools. It was thought that books could be collected for distribution through the itinerant teachers.

There were 17 itinerant teachers employed in 1915. Their life was difficult, their classrooms extending to areas often only travelled by police seeking 'cattle duffers or new chums who are lost'. They had to be self-sufficient and cope with whatever conditions they encountered. Generally provided with horses and a buggy, efficient, motorised transport which could cope with the terrain and climate were eagerly awaited.

It was acknowledged that this education would not lead these children to an academic future but at least they could be taught the basics.

Saturday schools were offered to small groups of children who could gather together. Camp schools moved along with the railway construction camps.

As early as 1913, it was recognised that a residential collage was required for female students at the fledgling University of Queensland. NCWQ quickly came on board, with a fund-raising event raising £207. (Equivalent to \$23,096 in today's terms.) With the opening of nine rooms and a common room, a brass tablet, remaining today, acknowledged this contribution from NCWQ.

Always conscious of the needs of the disadvantaged, NCWQ took action over concerns for children with a disability, the "blind, deaf, mute and mentally deficient". These concerns were taken to the relevant Minister on a regular basis. It was noted in 1925 that lessons and manual training had been set up for 'backward' boys, but nothing for girls.

During the World War 1 years, there was much discussion about the changing roles of women, and their new skills in assuming employment roles previously considered the domain of men.

The special challenges of Queensland's demographics and distances impacted on Yesterday's Lessons, just as they continue to do so today. NCWQ's job continues.

Our next speaker, QRRRWN President, Georgie Somerset shared with us the reality of education for children outside the south-east corner of Queensland. Georgie told us of her own experiences with the School of Distance Education and of the sacrifices made by her family to ensure their three children received the best education available. Georgie spoke of occasions missed with her children because of the tyranny of distance but she also shared with us special time together whilst the children were at boarding school.

Lucille Danks, the 2014 recipient of the NCWQ Young Woman Thinking Globally bursary spoke on the Future of Education as she saw it. Her messages included cohorts are powerful; entrepreneurship is imperative – examples the School of the Air, Teach for Australia, Swish Start. Lucille said education is different in every context. We need to create unique solutions to every problem. . It was interesting that all three speakers had mentioned the School of the Air – truly an Australian innovation which still transforms educational opportunity

To sum up the three speakers, maybe what we learnt was that education in Australia is very young; school of the air actually taught people to communicate not just face to face – maybe this was the original social media and from Lucille everything we need to provide education is already here, we just need to use it.



You are invited to join the
***United Gathering of Women in Prayer for Peace
and Candle Lighting Ceremony of Hope***

for all people across the world suffering from the injustices of war and persecution.

**Thursday 2 October 2014 commencing at 7:00 pm
St John's Anglican Cathedral, 373 Ann Street, Brisbane**

This event is an initiative of the National Council of Women of Queensland Inc. with the gracious assistance of St John's Anglican Cathedral and the support of NCWQ's Affiliated Organisations.

For more information please contact Annette Lourigan on 0409 793 818 or alourigan@invocare.com.au

If you would like to join us for a cup of tea after the service, please RSVP by 27 September 2014 for catering purposes.

*All Welcome... People who would like to support the Pray for Peace and can't attend the night are invited to
light a candle for hope in their home on the evening of October 2.*

The International Council of Women in their statement for The International Day of Peace for September 2014 quotes UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon "I urge every peace-loving person to engage with their friends and neighbours, their community organisations and governments. Together, let us demand the right of people to peace". The National Council of Queensland Inc. joins the UN's plea for peace for all people through holding a prayer night for peace and hope on Thursday October 2 at St John's Anglican Cathedral, Ann Street Brisbane.

Starting at 7pm NCWQ's United Gathering of Women in Prayer for Peace engages the friends and organisations of NCWQ, as well as community and government organisations to pray for all the people who are being persecuted and displaced through the militant actions of bullies across the whole world. Jewish, Islamic, Hindu, Christian and women who represent Orthodox and Spiritualist Churches will gather in faith to pray for world peace. Included in the night will be a prayer for healing for all those people who suffer from the poverty and poor health caused by civil unrest as well as a prayer for hope for the young people who will inherit the world we leave behind.

We welcome you to join us on the night, to bring your family and friends to help us light up the skies with flickering flames of peace and let people from across the world know that the people of Brisbane care about them. If you cannot attend on the evening you might want to light a candle of peace and place in at your front window helping us engage our communities to demand peace for the rest of the world. Together on October 2 the day of Mahatma Gandhi's birthday we can start a peace movement in Brisbane just like Suffragette Vida Goldstein started in Victoria 100 years ago.

For more information please see the invite included with our newsletter, if you would like us to forward the artwork for the posters and invites for you to distribute through your community please email Annette Lourigan at alourigan@invocare.com.au

NCWQ would like to thank The Very Reverend Peter Catt and the team of St John's Anglican Cathedral for the use of the Cathedral to hold the night of prayer. We would also like to acknowledge Simplicity Funerals who have provided the artwork and printing of the invitations. Most importantly we thank our Sisters who are leading the prayer on the night; it is the friendships that we make through NCWQ that allow us to unite with women from many different faiths, cultures and traditions, it is these very friendships that break down the barriers that militant bullies try to create.

Annette Lourigan
NCWQ Vice-President

THE HUMAN FACE OF TRAFFICKING

Friday 25 July was designated as the first ever UN World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. This represents a significant opportunity to raise awareness of the global efforts to eliminate this horrendous human rights violation that affects more than 2.5 million people predominately women and children around the world. It also highlights the collaborative work that individuals, community organisations, governments and the United Nations are doing to bring perpetrators to justice.

In a recent media release, John Ashe, President of the UN General Assembly reported that "human trafficking is a lucrative business estimated to be worth over \$36 billion and ranks third in the world as one of the most "profitable" businesses behind illicit drugs and arms trafficking." <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48271#U88Z-9IKCUk>

Closer to home, I was very saddened to receive news in May 2014 that young Jetsadophorn Chaladone, Nikkie or "Ning" as she was affectionately known by those that worked closely with her had passed away after a long illness. Some NCWQ readers may be familiar with Ning's story through the screening and distribution of the two-part documentary Trafficked (Slave Girl) and Trafficked-The Reckoning made by former Federal Police Officer and Investigator Chris Payne and Fair Trade Film Directors Luigi Acquistro and Stella Zammataro from Fair Trade Films. www.fairtradefilms.com.au

Ning was just 13 years old when she was trafficked into Australia in 1995 from her small village in NE Thailand and sold to a Sydney brothel owner as a sex slave. Thanks to the relentless pursuit for natural justice in bringing Ning's case before the High Court's by Chris Payne and two Australian QC's, Ning received compensation in 2007 of \$50,000 by the NSW Attorney General's Department in recognition of the multiple child rapes committed against her in 1995. This decision set an important precedence to advocate on behalf of the millions of sex slaves globally. Despite the best efforts of Investigator Chris Payne who uncovered the whereabouts and name of the owner of the brothel no convictions have been made and the perpetrator has since disappeared.



For me personally and many of my Soroptimist Members around the world, Ning become a Human Face of Survivors of Human Trafficking in understanding the plight of how a beautiful young girl whose life path was changed significantly and how through the dedication and commitment of one man, Chris Payne and his determination to make a difference to expose the levels of corruption and deceit in the sex trade industry in Australia and Thailand. Ning's life and her story will continue to have meaning to work to support projects that Educate, Empower and Enable women and girls to live without poverty and violence. Soroptimist International members strive to prevent more young girls becoming victims of human trafficking through our awareness, advocacy and actions including our SI Position Statements on Where We Stand on Women and Human Trafficking and our projects to provide practical support and empower local communities and survivors of human trafficking. <http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/resources/where-we-stand>

NAMASTE NING
"YOUR LIFE HAS NOT DIMINISHED BUT TRANSCENDS
THE ARCH OF TIME.
IN OUR HEARTS YOU WILL ALWAYS ABIDE"

Chris Knight
Soroptimist International Moreton North Inc.
Email: simoretonnorth@siswp.org, Mobile: 0403 177 012



"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

- Helen Keller

Did You Know?



Elsie Byth

Elsie Byth was president of the National Council of Women of Australia from 1945 to 1948 and the National Council of Women of Queensland (1940–1945, 1948–1952). As national president, the first Queenslander to hold the position, she saw the NCWA through the final stages of the Second World War, the beginnings of postwar reconstruction and the re-establishment of international links via the International Council of Women. Active in the Australian National Committee of the UN (ANCUN), she was Australia's second delegate to the Status of Women Commission in 1949. She maintained her commitment to international cooperation for the remainder of her life through the United Nations Association of Australia and also through the Pan Pacific and South East Asian Women's Association. She was responsible for the NCWA's first major engagement in the Asia-Pacific region when she organised a 'Pacific Assembly' in Brisbane in September 1948.

Elsie Frances Byth was the daughter of John Gasteen of Brisbane. She was born in Brisbane on 14 September 1890 and educated at Brisbane Girls' Grammar School and the University of Sydney. On 10 August 1917, Elsie married George L. Byth and they had 3 sons and 1 daughter.

Elsie Byth performed a wide variety of roles in the National Council of Women, state and federal. She was president of the National Council of Women of Queensland from 1940 to 1945 and, again, 1948–1952. In between these terms of office in her home state, she was president of the Australian Council (1945–1948)—a critical period that included the end of the war and postwar reconstruction. During her presidency, the 1946 conference agree to a Launceston delegate's request to allow branches that had 'attained a sufficiently large affiliation as almost to equal in importance the parent Council in the capital city' to communicate directly with the Australian secretary and international secretary, a step that was to create difficulties with regard to Tasmanian representation for the next 60 years. After her term had finished, Byth became a state delegate (1951, 1954) to the NCWA, an NCWA representative at the Pan Pacific Women's Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand (1952), and Australian convenor for Radio and Television (1954).

Elsie Byth was especially active in the international outreach of the Council movement, leading the NCWA during the period of reengagement with the re-formed ICW after the war. Under her presidency, the NCWA telegraphed a resolution to the secretary of the United Nations conference in San Francisco in April 1945 to 'request in all future planning no discrimination against women on account sex and principle equality of status and opportunity be established for all citizens'. During 1946 and 1947, her board undertook the successful reestablishment of the Australian Liaison Committee of international women's organisations on the lines of the Liaison Committee operating in London, as well as participating in the rival Australian National Committee of the UN (ANCUN) established in 1947 with government support to promote UN ideals and provide names of suitable persons as representatives of Australia on international bodies. Byth was also responsible for inaugurating a regional focus among the Australian Councils with the sponsoring of a 'Pacific Assembly' in Brisbane in September 1948 for the purpose of increasing knowledge and understanding as well as promoting 'tolerance' an appreciation of 'interdependence' and the 'desire to be "a good neighbour"'. Opened by Senator Annabelle Rankin and addressed by such luminaries as Professor G.S. Browne, as well as representatives of embassies of countries in the Pacific region, the conference received wide press coverage, its final session resolving to recommend compulsory study of international affairs in Australian schools and universities. The event marked the beginning of the NCWA's identity as part of a regional network beyond the European and American spheres.

Elsie Byth was a member of the United Nations Association of Australia for 30 years serving in a variety of roles, including as president of the Queensland division 1945–59. In 1949, the Australian government chose Mrs Byth as its representative to attend the third session of the Status of Women Commission (CSW) in Beirut, Lebanon, from 21 March to 4 April, following Jessie Street (1947–48). She was selected from a 'panel of names' submitted by ANCUN. At the CSW meeting, the USSR representative, referring to the significant number of women in paid employment in her country, informed delegates that Australian women received only 50 per cent of men's wages. As the official Australian spokesperson at the Commission, Elsie Byth attempted to divert criticism of Australian government policy by stressing that the differences between men's and women's wages in Australia had declined during the past ten years. She advised delegates that an appropriately assessed 'family wage' would prevent the need for married women to search for work in order to 'supplement the family income'. Nevertheless, the majority of CSW delegates agreed to a resolution supporting equal pay. Following instructions, Byth abstained from voting, despite her personal commitment, and that of NCWA, to the principle.

The position Byth was obliged to take was consistent with the Labor government's view that the ILO was the appropriate body to discuss 'rates of pay, hours and conditions of work for both sexes'. Byth's confidential report to the Australian government after her attendance at the CSW sessions explains this further, indicating that she followed the Department of External Affairs' instructions to counter communist accusations directed towards Australia's industrial relations system and that of other British Commonwealth countries. It seems highly probable that Byth's advisor, Eileen Powell, as a former employee of the Department of Labour and National Service, was entrusted with the task of ensuring that Byth supported the Australian government's position. This government attitude to the question of equal pay continued to be a problem faced by Australian women delegates to CSW during the 1950s and 60s. Within Australia, Byth and her successors continued to agitate for remuneration without discrimination based on sex.

Elsie Byth was also involved in a great many other community organisations in a voluntary role, for example, UNICEF, Brisbane Women's Club (president 1933–1936), the Queensland division of the Australian Comforts Fund (vice-president 1940–1945), the wartime state Women's Voluntary National Register (vice-president), the Management Committee of the Queensland Patriotic Club, and the War Savings Committee. She also held a number of government appointments for which she was nominated by the NCWA, for example, on the federal consultative committee on Imports Licensing Control, the Commonwealth Council of Medical Benefits Fund, and the ABC. She was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1953.

Extract from '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.

Editor's Note: Elsie Byth's granddaughter Dr Susan Byth is a current member of NCWQ and sponsors a bursary, to assist with the educational expenses for a young Queensland woman, in honour of Elsie.

NCWQ Patron

The National Council of Women of Queensland Inc (NCWQ) is honoured His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC Governor of Queensland is Patron of our organisation for the duration of his term as Governor of Queensland.





Days for Girls



It's hard for us in Australia to imagine not having sanitary products to manage our period. However, this is the harsh reality for millions of girls and women in the developing world.

Without access to safe and hygienic feminine hygiene products girls use whatever they can find- corn husks, newspaper, leaf litter-which are not only largely ineffective, but also can cause serious infections and adhesions.

Without the security they need, women and girls usually miss school, work and social activities. They are seen as unclean and often forbidden from staying in their home. In 2009, Celeste Mergens, founder of Days for Girls, decided that something had to be done about this.

Days for Girls International was born. It is a global, grassroots non-profit organisation which came to Australia in 2011. Since its inception Days for Girls has provided over 100,000 girls and women with reusable sanitary kits in over 75 countries on six continents. Australia now has teams in every state and territory.

Australian's army of volunteers produce reusable sanitary kits which are sent or taken overseas with people travelling for business, pleasure or humanitarian work. They are delivered to schools, children's homes, primary health care and birthing clinics, prisons or anywhere there is a need. Along with kits girls and women are given health and sex education.

However, this is not a huge sewing group with an extensive distribution program. The aim of Days for Girls is to support girls and women in-country to make their own kits. This is done through schools, training or micro finance projects and women's cooperatives.

Every girl in the world deserves education, safety, and dignity. When a kit is given directly into the hands of a girl, she is given three years of freedom. She is given back up to two months of school every year. She is less likely to drop out of school, and for every extra year of education, her estimated adult income is boosted by up to 15-20 per cent.

Days for Girls kits have become an instrument for social change as girls stay in school, and women stay in work, thereby gaining better educational and life outcomes for themselves and their families. Days for Girls kits provide dignity and help address the social stigma that is associated with menstruation in the developing world. Through education girls and women discover their potential and self-value, and are given opportunities to thrive, grow and contribute to their community's betterment.

Days for Girls is delighted to partner with the National Council for Women Queensland. If you would like to be a part of helping girls and women in the developing world reach their potential visit: www.daysforgirls.org and/or email brisbaneaustralia@daysforgirls.org.

For a Days for Girls sewing team near you visit www.daysforgirls.org/#!australia/c22pk

Days for Girls Feminine Hygiene Program Every Girl. Everywhere. Period.

Lynne Sutherland

Queensland Coordinator of Days for Girls



Clinic for Expecting and New Mothers

It's sometimes hard to work out what is a normal level of anxiety, stress and depression, especially when expecting a child or once the baby has arrived, extending sometimes until school age.

It is difficult to take the first step but early support is critical for the prevention of pre and post natal depression.

This clinic is suitable for expecting and new mothers that may be experiencing any of the following for more than two weeks:

- lack of support
- loss of energy, tiredness and fatigue
- sadness
- feeling overwhelmed
- anxiety
- history of pre or post natal depression
- low levels of social support or loneliness
- traumatic event during pregnancy or in first months.

This **free of charge program** will consist of appointments with a multidisciplinary team made up of a psychologist, exercise physiologist, nurse, social worker and dietitian. A collaborative consultation and treatment plan will be provided to the patient and progress will be monitored by all health practitioners with follow up appointments.

The program may assist participants to:

- cope with stress of changes to their lives
- understand nutrition needs during this time
- create a more active life
- deal with potential issues related to motherhood, isolation, social support and financial support
- enhance well-being and mood.

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FREE PROGRAM

Commencing July 2014

QUT Health Clinics
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Kelvin Grove QLD 4059

FREE PARKING

For more information please call:
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healthclinics.qut.edu.au
whitecloudfoundation.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 23 & Wednesday 24 September 2014

Children with Potential Conference
The Lakes College, North Lakes

Thursday 2 October 2014 – 7:00pm

United Gathering of Women in Prayer for Peace and Candle Lighting Ceremony of Hope
St John's Anglican Cathedral, 373 Ann Street Brisbane

Wednesday 22 October 2014 – 9:45am

Bursaries Fund-raising Morning Tea and Fashion Parade
Tattersall's Club, 215 Queen Street, Brisbane

Thursday 4 December 2014 - Noon

NCWQ Christmas Luncheon
The Women's College, University of Queensland, St Lucia
Supporting the Lady Musgrave Trust

Wanwod Association of Queensland Inc



As President of Wanwod Association of Queensland Inc. I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to the members of the National Council of Women Queensland (NCWQ) to our Annual fundraising dinner on Saturday 25th October 2014 at the Springwood Bowls Club to support our International Project at the **Kingharman Road Government Hospital in Freetown Sierra Leone**. The cost of the dinner is \$50.

During the past year, we have been collecting medical equipment and hygiene supplies to send to the medical staff at the hospital and we still need more to fill the container that will be shipped before Christmas.

During my recent visit to Sierra Leone to attend the funeral of my mother, I was able to visit the hospital again and to speak with the local doctors and nurses. They are really desperate for our help and these much needed medical supplies.

The recent Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone and neighbouring countries has caused further strain on the limited medical assistance that is available to our local families back home and it is even more distressing when we hear that some of the nurses that have been helping patients with this deadly disease have also died after contracting it.

Our local Sierra Leone community in Brisbane is doing all we can to support our families back home and we have greatly appreciated the care and concern expressed by NCWQ members and other affiliate organisations.

This new medical crisis places even more urgency on our need to send these medical supplies as soon as possible to support young mothers and their babies. With your support and assistance we know that our contributions will be greatly received.

I look forward to seeing you at the dinner and/or receiving a donation or gifts in kind to help with this project.

Kindest regards

Sallymatu Kuyateh

President

Wanwod Association Qld. Inc.

48 Buckley Drive

Drewvale QLD 4116

AUSTRALIA

Mobile : (61) 413462934

Website: www.wanwod.org.au



Hygiene in our Hospital
The President and Members of
Wanwod Association of Queensland Inc.
Invite you to join us for our
Fund Raising Dinner on Saturday 25th October 2014



**Maternity Ward at the
Kingharman Road
Government Hospital
Freetown
Sierra Leone**

Venue: Springwood Bowls Club, 4 Pauline Avenue, Springwood
(off Cinderella Drive)

Date : Saturday 25th October 2014 at 6pm for 6:30pm start

Cost: \$50 per person includes Main Course, Celebration Cake, soft drinks, tea and coffee

Funds raised at this event will provide hygiene items for the Maternity Ward at the Kingharman Road Hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Donations of the following items will be greatly appreciated by us, patients, doctors and nurses at the hospital: examination gloves, needle holders, face masks, disinfectants, surgical spirit, dettol hand wash, cotton wool, insecticides, gauze, surgical blades, delivery set, disposable surgical gowns, antiseptic cream, insect repellent etc. over the counter drugs like panadol, neurofen.

RSVP & Payment by:

Tuesday, 15th October 2014

Postal Address: 48 Buckley Drive
Drewvale QLD 4116

Enquiries and rsvp to Sally Kuyateh

0413462934 or skuyateh@hotmail.com

Wanwod Account for EFT

BSB Number: 064-112

Account Number : 10215954

Ref: Dinner <insert your name>

FORUM COMMUNICATORS FOUNDERS HONOURED

Through YWCA Queensland's project "125 Leading Women of Queensland" to celebrate 125 years of working with and for women and girls throughout Queensland, recognition was given to the three founders of Forum, Lady Groom OBE, Mrs W J Puregger and Miss Ruth Don OAM. A Civic Reception, given by the Lord Mayor Councillor Graham Quirk at the City Hall to honour the founders, was attended by their descendants and Forum members. Also in attendance was another recipient of the YWCA's recognition, President of National Council of Women of Queensland Inc (NCWQ), Noela O'Donnell.

Forum Communicators President Margaret Townsley welcomed all and invited the Lord Mayor to present framed certificates and badges to the families of the founders.

"The YWCA's list of 125 women personifies what genuine leadership means to the people of Queensland," said Kate Tully, CEO OF YWCA Queensland. "It's a tribute to all those included, but also the community that nominated them. It's never simply about who has the highest profile or who is the most successful; the list we now have truly represents women's leadership in all its many facets."

Miss Ruth Don OAM was the first Senior Mistress appointed to a Queensland high school, and then the first female Principal of both the Domestic Science High School and Office Training College (later TAFE) in Brisbane. She was the first female President of Queensland Teachers Union in 1951.

She devoted her life to education, especially of women and girls, campaigning vigorously for equal pay conditions within the teaching profession. She was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in recognition for her service to the Association of Women's Forum Clubs (now Forum Communicators).

Marjorie Puregger (nee Bulcock) graduated from Queensland University with an Honours Degree in English Language and Literature in the 1920s and became well known as a journalist for the Sunday Mail. She later moved to the Brisbane Truth as Women's Editor.

Marjorie served as Vice-President of the NCWQ. She was a foundation member and first Vice-President of the Kindercraft Association and Honorary Secretary of the Refugee Emergency Council.

Marjorie's great legacy was 'The Australian Guide to Chairing Meetings', a book she wrote as a reference for correct meeting procedure, instruction for office-bearers, ceremonial procedures and chairing all types of meetings from committee meetings to board and shareholder meetings.

Lady Jessie Groom (nee Butcher) OBE was a leader in the struggle for a sporting field especially for women. In conjunction with representatives from women's sporting bodies, she was successful in obtaining Downey Park for their use. Jessie was also responsible for setting up Kindercraft, the kindergarten at City Hall and crèche on the roof of Brisbane City Hall which existed from 1942 until recently and the Rest Room for women. "Christmas in Storyland", the annual children's event at City Hall was another of her ideas in which Kindergarten Teachers' College students participated.



Her husband, Reginald Groom, became Lord Mayor of Brisbane in 1955 (to 1961) and she successfully carried out her duties as Lady Mayoress for which she was awarded The Order of the British Empire (Civil) – OBE.

The three women met as fellow students at the University of Queensland and together founded the Forum movement in 1941. This was formed to give women the opportunity to play a more significant role in business, professional life, community and of course, family life. These three well-educated ladies saw women needed the confidence and training to compete with their male counterparts if they were to succeed in a new post-war Australia.

At the inaugural meeting in 1941, Ruth Don became the first President; Jessie took on the role of Secretary/Treasurer and later held the top position of President of the Association of Women's Forum Clubs from 1963 – 1965.

Forum's President Margaret Townsley said

"From its first beginnings in 1941 Forum was seen to be an intellectual oasis in a wilderness of the stresses and restrictions of a world at war seeking to prepare women to play a vigorous role in public life.

To form Forum in the Brisbane of 1941 was seen as a courageous, ambitious act on the part of our Founders. For their efforts they suffered many unkind remarks mainly from men who were astounded by their tenacity. They were women before their time, advocates for women taking their rightful place in society.

In 2014, 73 years later, Forum is now open to both men and women with the focus remaining on training and developing confidence through public speaking. Good communication skills are important and relevant in today's society.

We, the current members of Forum, recognise the foresight of these three women who made a difference in the lives of so many people and we are thankful."

CHILDREN WITH POTENTIAL CONFERENCE

Have you registered yet for this two day conference being convened by The Lakes College and supported by the National Council of Women of Queensland Inc (NCWQ)?

Workshops for the children include Fun First Aid for Kids; Drama; Languages - Chinese; Light, Heat, Sound and Electrical Energy and Cartoonify Yourself. From past experience we know how much the children enjoy them.

There are also seminars for the parents.

Please pass this on to your networks. All who have attended previously have enjoyed a very positive experience.



**Children with Potential
National Council of Women of Queensland Inc
Parents' and Children's Conference 2014**

Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 September 2014

***For Children Who Love to Learn, and
Parents who want to Know Why, and
How and What To Do***



A Conference for enthusiastic students and their parents convened by The National Council of Women of Queensland Inc. at The Lakes College on 23 / 24 September 2014. This two-day conference features speakers for children and their parents followed by exciting children's workshops and seminars for parents.

From Astronomy to Zoology, all workshops offered involve challenging activities pitched at abilities rather than age. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to meet other children of like mind and to establish new friendships.

This conference is more than an excellent selection of holiday workshops; it seeks to give the children and their parents, insights and self knowledge of lasting value. Further information and registration is available on the NCWQ website.

<http://ncwq.org.au/children-potential-conference-september-2014>

Soroptimist International South West Pacific (SISWP) 2-4 May 2014 Biennial Conference Kuching Malaysia



One of the many benefits of attending conferences around the world is to visit places of interest. This year I indulged in a pre-conference tour to **Sabah** known as the “**Land below the Wind**” for the Anzac Day Memorial Dawn Service in Sandakan. This had a rather special significance for me and Leigh Ellwood Brown (SI Brisbane Inc.). Leigh’s father had served in Borneo during the WWII and my father was stationed in Sandakan with the Australian Army Supply Unit during the Malay Campaign in 1966. I knew very little about the Death March and the loss of lives during WWII and was very moved by the dedication of families that return to honour those that lost their lives during this campaign. These sites honour our war heroes and are a timely reminder of the sacrifice of those that died and those that survived. <http://www.diggerhistory.info/pages-battles/ww2/sandakan.htm>

The tour also included three days and two nights spent along the banks of the Kinabatangan River to see the wildlife and enjoy some of the most peaceful and tranquil moments of the trip and do some tree planting with the local villagers and an extended stay Kota Kinabalu before flying to Kuching “The City of Cats” to attend the 19th SISWP Conference of Clubs in May 2014.

360 Soroptimist Members from over 20 countries and 129 Clubs were inspired by the outstanding keynote speakers and social justice advocates from the Asia-Pacific Region who focused on **Women’s Leadership and Empowerment**. This theme chosen by outgoing **SISWP President Puan Sri Siew Yong Gnanalingam** embraced the challenges and achievements of SISWP Members in our 13 countries and their dedication to changing the lives and opportunities for women and girls.

Without exception, the critical success factors to empowering women and girls was access to education, mentoring, enabling opportunities to become economically independent, developing networks and to participate in decision-making processes both locally and globally. Business sessions deliberated on some very topical issues regarding Membership, Constitutions, Projects and Advocacy.

It is difficult to select just a few of the special highlights of the Conference as there were many however the increase in the number of delegates from countries like Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Mongolia and Papua New Guinea was fantastic. Many stayed at the Telang Usana Hotel with me and enabled some wonderful discussions and friendships over breakfast and dinner. I also have to shamelessly confess that I was amongst the many SI members who had their iPhones and iPads working overtime posting messages and pictures of the conference on to our Facebook pages. This provided a very special opportunity for those Soroptimist members who could not attend the conference to experience “virtual” live 24/7 updates on what was happening as it was happening.

The emergence of our young and inspiring Soroptimist members including **Philomena Piamari (SI Port Moresby Club)** and **Meredith Tutamang (SI Lae Club)** from **Papua New Guinea** reflected the importance of involving local women at the grass roots level in developing projects that are sustainable and culturally appropriate. They also benefitted from the significant mentoring by their older Soroptimist Sisters to attend the Conference to see for themselves what an amazing international organisation that they belong to and how our collective contributions are making a difference for women and girls.

The days at the Conference were long and filled with a unique experience to embrace the warmth and hospitality extended to us by our Malaysian Soroptimist Members.

Our next gathering will be the Soroptimist International Convention in Istanbul Turkey in July 2015 and our next South West Pacific Conference in Sydney in 2016.

Our new SISWP President Carolyn Hudson has an ambitious agenda to increase our membership and projects and she has encouraged us during this next biennium 2014-2016 to “Challenge the Future”.

Chris Knight

Soroptimist International Moreton North Inc.
SISWP Friendship Link Coordinator 2012-16



SURVEY – AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

Thanks to the organisations which responded to our request earlier this year to complete the survey of how NCWQ currently rated, and expectations to help us with future planning.

NCWQ's current role was broken down into the following components:

- ∞ Advocacy
- ∞ Education
- ∞ Umbrella organisation
- ∞ Information sharing
- ∞ Bursary program



Whilst the responses showed that all of these were significant, the role of NCWQ as an umbrella organisation, advocacy and the bursary program were the highlights.

These components were considered by a respondents to continue being relevant in the coming 5-year planning time period. Advocacy was expected to increase in relevance, as was NCWQ's role as an umbrella organisation. Some saw that the bursary program would become more relevant as financial pressures on students increased.

It was recognised that information sharing and communications in general would rely more on social media and other electronic means over these next few years.

The response rate for the survey was over 30%, which statistically is valid and higher than generally expected. Generally comments were very positive, confirming that NCWQ is on track. Thanks to those organisations who took the time to reply. Feedback on how NCWQ can better meet the needs of our affiliated organisations and associate members is always appreciated.

Kathy Cavanagh

Morning Tea & Fashion Parade

You and your friends are invited to the Annual Morning Tea and Fashion Parade of the National Council of Women of Queensland Inc.

The morning will feature members of NCWQ showing the latest Spring fashions from Cosmopolitan Boutique, 19 Samford Road Alderley; interspersed with raffles prizes and entertainment.

Please RSVP, with payment by cheque or money order made payable to NCWQ Inc
To Noela O'Donnell
NCWQ
8E/182 Dornoch Tce
HIGHGATE HILL QLD 4101

Or pay by direct deposit into Commonwealth Bank of Australia
BSB: 064 001 ACCOUNT No: 0090 1888 ACCOUNT NAME: NCWQ Inc
PAYMENT REFERENCE: (your name) Morning Tea
Prior to 12 October 2014

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

Women's College,
Michelle Boder-Gordon, Mary O'Gorman,
Caroline Snow & Jacqueline Witham

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
klevis24@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.