



THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF QUEENSLAND INC.

Celebrating 110 years

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

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Governor of Queensland

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What an empowering and inspiring time for women! We have celebrated International Women's Day in many forms, acknowledging those who have gone before us and nurturing those following us. Women throughout the state were honoured for their service to their community, enabling women to succeed or excelling in their own field.



In Queensland we have seen political history made with the official opening of the 55th Queensland Parliament with women filling the roles of Premier and Deputy Premier, and the first female indigenous woman taking her place in our parliament. At the President's Dinner the Governor His Excellency Paul de Jersey AC reminded us of Ms Irene Longman, the first woman ever elected to the Queensland Parliament in 1929 and a former NCWQ President. He also acknowledged that the current Ministry is conspicuous in its formation as the first in Australia's history to include more women than men. The times they are a changing!

At the dinner I related the experience of a police sergeant friend of mine who was seconded to Yeppoon to assist with the recovery phase after Tropical Cyclone Marcia caused much devastation to the area. She walked into a room and in that one room were the Queensland Premier, the Queensland Minister for Police and the Acting Commissioner of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. This was a first time experience for her. Maybe when she becomes Police Commissioner her gender will not be mentioned.

We have had the pleasure of honouring members of NCWQ who, in 2001, were awarded Centenary Medals to acknowledge their work for the betterment of women and members of the Bursaries Selection Committees are being inspired by the women applying for the 2015 NCWQ bursaries.

We look forward to the remainder of our 110th year.

Noela O'Donnell
NCWQ President

International Women's Day

We recently celebrated International Women's Day - a day to recognise the economic, political and social achievements of women since that time in 1908 when inequality and oppression forced women to begin the campaign for equality of rights, equal pay for equal work, the vote, and recognition of the enormous contribution to be gained for all by these concessions.

In 1910 a woman named Clara Zetkin (Leader of the 'Women's Office' for the Social Democratic Party in Germany) tabled the idea of an International Women's Day. She proposed that every year in every country there should be a celebration on the same day - a Women's Day - to press for their demands, but it wasn't until 19 March 1911 that International Women's Day (IWD) was honoured for the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland.

It is a significant day for women everywhere, from all walks of life, all religions, all ages. The day is celebrated in different ways throughout the world with marches, forums, community service projects, morning teas and fundraisers to inspire women and celebrate achievements.

It is a day to acknowledge the resilience and tenacity of those women who paved the way, to celebrate their achievements in the comparative ease of the acceptance of women's roles today, and to look to the future assisting the wonderful young women of the next generation to continue to uphold these values.

The IWD colours of white, purple and green signify purity, justice and hope and new life.

I was thrilled and honoured, inspired and to attend many IWD events starting with the So-optimist International Moreton North Inc (SIMNI) Be Inspired Forum on Sunday 1 March at the Redcliffe Cultural Centre with the keynote speaker Kirsten Moriarty inspiring us all with her fight and resilience after a routine sky dive went horribly wrong and she collided with high voltage power lines. Kirsten has written a book 'From Dark Days to Blue Skies'.

The Mercy Community Services Romero Centre event at the State Library, of which NCWQ was a partner, saw members Chiou See Anderson, Yvonne Matta and Irene Cayas' daughter, Yvonne Calligeros take part in the fashion parade component by modelling traditional dress from their home country. I acknowledge member organisations and individual members who generously donated to enable women from the Romero Centre to attend this event. You made a difference!

The Women's Forum IWD Luncheon at the Hilton Hotel was a fun event with inspiring speakers again and a Carla Zampatti fashion parade. Funds raised were for the Women's Legal Service which provides free legal advice and information.

Then on Friday 6 March it was the LNP Women's IWD luncheon at Tattersall's Club with speakers Fiona Simpson MP, Christine Ferguson and Lyn Truss.

The commemorations continued with the Black Bold and Beautiful Indigenous Women's IWD Luncheon this year at City Hall. Sandra Georgiou coordinates this event this year and it a most heart-warming and fun event.

The 2015 IWD theme was 'Make a Difference' and I think this is what we strive for each day.

Noela O'Donnell - NCWQ President



IWD Message From Chris Knight - Soroptimist International Moreton North Inc

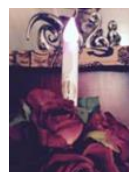
This is a tribute to those near and far who stand up for social justice, human rights and peace.
Who heed the call to reach out to help another each and every day in your own sweet wonderful way.

Reflections in the Candle Light (IWD) 2015

© Words by Willow March 2015

As I sit and watch the flickering flames
How blessed am I that this feeling remains
To have slept the night in peace and harmony
Safe from violence, hunger and poverty
As the colours burn bright
I recall another night
When I had no phone, no home,
no friends to call
Lost and alone, trying to make sense of it all
My energies spent, feeling absolute despair
Living a life that I thought was
way beyond repair
Too many times I'd heard
"I'm sorry. I promise it won't happen again"
I asked myself "would anything really ever
change, if I remain?"
Would this be the end to the violence,
the pain and screams?
As I contemplated my situation
I came to a subtle realisation
I wanted no more of the abuse
Nor would I accept another feeble excuse
Like a tiny spark from deep within
A heard a small voice that said
"It's time to begin"
"To build the life that you desire"
*"You can and will climb out of this twisted
and forsaken mire"*
If I wanted to find out what Life was all about
I had to learn to shed the shadows of
all the self doubt
Become a Warrior Princess from days long past
I found the courage and the strength
that I knew would last
Instead of hiding in fear not knowing
how to raise the alarm
I discovered resilience
and that quiet sense of calm
I wanted to sing, to dance and to shout "
I am Free and I am Special",
I wanted to let it all out
My candle now burns as bright as a strobe
As I journey around the globe
Surrounded in Solidarity with my Soroptimist
Sisters from many places

Our Lives like beacons of Light permeate the
darkest of spaces
When self doubt creeps into my mind
and I feel like retreating
I watch the flames of my candle
and feel my heart beating
For I now stand amongst them, proud and tall
Yet still quite humbled and small
For my past has made me stronger and taught
me how to care
To reach out to others who feel lonely
and despair
To have more compassion and dexterity
To live my life in gratitude, happiness and
generosity
As we celebrate this International Women's Day
These are the words that I will pray
I hear your whispers, I feel your fears
The broken promises and your tears
So until you find your own voice,
I will lend you mine
On the darkest of nights may
your inner light shine
Like the stars in the sky our lives
are intricately woven
Into this tapestry of life we have been chosen
To respect, to laugh, to love, together explore
I am a Woman and I know we
deserve so much more
As the next generation we recognise the past is
not about simply following
a specific religion or tradition
We can create a world vision, filled with integrity,
trust and a rekindled volition
So if you have taken a moment or two
To read this little poem and think that I am
sitting with you
I hope that my words linger on when we part
And leave you with peace
and happiness deep in your heart



IWD MCS Event Romero Centre



Chiou See Anderson is a Singaporean Chinese and as such, her traditional dress is a Chinese cheongsum or a Chinese long dress. However she wore an outfit that was traditionally worn by the concubines/consorts serving Emperors as early as the Qin dynasty in 221 BC. It is now rarely worn except for movies set in the olden days.

Yvonne Matta's heritage is Lebanese and the jacket she is wearing has been in the family since 1960. It has become a treasured family heirloom. It was made in Lebanon from silk/brocade using the typical gold thread and coloured silk embroidery which is characteristic of Lebanese special-occasion garments. The back is also heavily embroidered. The skills used to make this garment are still practised.



Yvonne Calligeros was born in Wollongong and is of Greek heritage. Her early childhood was spent in Wollongong and Melbourne, surrounded by a big and strong family network that encouraged her to learn about her heritage from family, church, Greek school and Greek Girl Guides.

In her early teens Yvonne's family moved to Brisbane and away from the support network of family. Upon their arrival, her family became involved in their local Greek Orthodox Church and community to build relationships with people outside the family. Yvonne was an active member of the Fellowship group, became president of the youth group for 4 years, all the while actively participating in her faith and culture. Yvonne was also a member of a Greek dance group that was invited to dance at the opening of the 1982 Commonwealth Games, performed for 3 consecutive years at the Shell National Folkloric Festival, performed regularly at Expo 88, performed and paraded for the Duchess of Kent and many other cultural festivals in and around south-east Queensland.

Yvonne went on to study at Griffith University, graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce in 1989 leading to a career as a Financial Controller in a number of industries. She is currently working in the medical industry.

Family and family commitments are her priority but she enjoys being involved in and around her children's school, mostly at the school tuckshop.

In late 2013 Yvonne was invited to represent the Brisbane Hellenic Lions in the Lions Medical Research Personality Quest raising funds for, and awareness of, the important work being conducted by local researchers to find eh cures of tomorrow. Yvonne and her support team, led by her mother, enjoyed a year of fundraising with all events supported by her husband, children, family, Greek community, local schools, fellow gym members, local businesses and work colleagues.

Yvonne successfully won both the 'Highest Fund Raiser' and the "Top Personality" titles and has spent the past 12 months being an ambassador for the Lions Medical Research Foundation representing the foundation and the researchers at various events. She has become passionate and dedicated to help raise funds to help improve the health of future generations.

Yvonne modelled a traditional Cypriot costume from rural Cyprus: pleated, baggy pants, vra'ka, caught around the ankle; a long, embroidered chemise, and an embroidered outer garment in distinctive red, gold & black, saya. There is also an embroidered apron & head scarf. To complete the costume there is a traditional flour sifter it completes the picture of a rural, Cypriot female.



EDITOR'S NOTE - YVONNE BAIN

In the January edition of the NCWQ Newsletter the extract from 'Stirrers with Style' featured Yvonne Bain, NCWA President 1991 – 1994 having served as NCWQ President from 1986 -1990. Yvonne had a strong association with the Brisbane Girls Grammar School (BGGS) and, as a result of a request to Janine Schmidt AM, President of the Brisbane Girls Grammar School Old Girls Association, we have delved into Yvonne's contribution to the school. Thank you Janine.

Celebrating Excellence in the 140th Year of Brisbane Girls Grammar School – One Woman's Story

2015 marks the celebrations of the 140th year of the establishment of the Brisbane Girls Grammar School. The festive events include the opening of the innovative Research Learning Centre; an anniversary ball at the City Hall; and Open Days at the Gregory Terrace hub of the School, the Fig Tree Pocket Sports Campus and the Marrapatta Memorial Outdoor Education Centre. Exceptional scholarship is the underlying theme of all the commemorative occasions. The NCWQ is remembering its 110th year and its January newsletter showcased Yvonne Bain as a *Stirrer with Style*. Yvonne Bain's life provides outstanding proof and evidence of BGGS values emphasising a lifewide approach to learning encompassing individual, cultural and social fulfilment through academic, music, sporting, creative and service activities, enabling young women to contribute confidently to the world with wisdom, imagination and integrity.

Yvonne Bain (West) began her studies at the Brisbane Girls Grammar School in 1942, by correspondence lessons because of threats of a Japanese invasion. She remained connected for her entire life to the School, remembering the advice of her Headmistress, Miss Kathleen Lilley, to use all one's abilities in the service of others and to try always, even if one does not succeed. After leaving School in 1945, Yvonne involved herself in the Old Girls Association and was President of the Association for three terms. In 1968, she was appointed as the first female member of the Board of Trustees of BGGS and served tirelessly on the Board until 1990, with four years as Vice-Chair. She was Convenor of the Centenary Building Fund and left her mark in a very tangible way in the improvement of the fabric of the School. From 1972-76, Yvonne Bain's daughter Diane attended BGGS and Yvonne performed stalwart service at the Tuckshop and provided additional support in Diane's final year as School Captain.

The early 1980s saw Yvonne Bain's service expanded from the School gates to the wider horizon of educational planning and development. Yvonne Bain was a member of the Schools' Commission Planning and Finance Committee and the representative of the Association of Independent Schools in Queensland. She became heavily involved in the work of the National Council of Women Queensland, serving as its President.

Yvonne Bain recognised that the School's philosophy of providing a broad liberal education for girls, espoused a century before it became general educational philosophy, engendered the desire to work for equal opportunities for women. She believed passionately in the power of education to change people's lives and quoted Diogenes *Education is a controlling grace to the young, consolation to the old, wealth to the poor, and ornament to the rich*. Yvonne Bain's focus on exceptional scholarship lives on within the School in the Bain Staff Centre.

**Janine Schmidt AM,
President, BGGS OGA Management Committee**



BRISBANE GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

To continue with our Stirrers with Style! Series, this newsletter we look at

Emily Dobson

Emily Dobson was the leading figure in the Australian National Councils of Women until 1924, having helped found four of the state councils and, through her wealth and willingness to travel, maintained continuous contact with the International Council of Women as president of the Australian delegation from 1906-21. It is unlikely that the Australian's NCWs would have flourished and maintained international links during these years without her contribution. Dobson served as vice-president of the Tasmanian NCW in 1899 and as president from 1904 until her death 30 years later; she attended the first meeting of the International Council of Women in London in 1899, and was elected an ICW vice-president from 1914 to 1924. Dobson was also sent by Prime Minister Alfred Deakin as delegate to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance Congress in Amsterdam in 1908. Married to a Tasmanian premier then senator, Henry Dobson, Emily Dobson was one of the first publicly active Tasmanian women; she was interested in some women's rights though not others such as suffrage. Described in her obituary as 'Hobart's Grand Old Lady', and epithet she deserved after her leadership role in the Tasmanian community for over 40 years, she was influential in over 20 prominent philanthropic, child welfare or women's welfare organisations. Among the causes she espoused were a co-operative settlement outside Hobart, a domestic training school for girls, a curfew for Hobart children and film censorship.



Emily Dobson was born at Port Arthur, the second youngest of 14 children, daughter of Thomas James Lempriere, artist and public servant, who died when she was 9 years old, and his wife Charlott, nee Smith. Emily had no formal schooling but was educated at home by her father, whose wide interests and social conscience influenced her strongly. On 4 February 1868, at the Bothwell Church of England, she married Hobart lawyer Henry Dobson, who shared her ideas on philanthropy and temperance, linked though they were to the cause of women. Her husband embarked on a political career in 1891 as the MHA for Brighton, serving as Tasmania's premier from 1892-94 and entering federal parliament as a senator in 1901. They had 2 sons and 3 daughters.

The 1890s depression encouraged charitable activity for middle-class women, who helped provide assistance to the poor and destitute. Emily was a notable local leader of women's organisations and prominent in such charitable endeavours from the early 1890s. Her prominence in public welfare coincided with her husband's early parliamentary career. In September 1891, she became secretary of the Women's Sanitary Association (later the Women's Health Association, of which she was vice-president), founded to combat the typhoid epidemic then raging in Hobart. Undaunted by the *Mercury's* occasional ridicule, the women regularly petitioned the local council and, with the men's Sanitary and General Improvement Association, ran candidates in the municipal election of 1892. Their efforts were largely ignored by the Hobart City Council, which saw the women as meddlesome alarmists.

From 1892 to 1895, Mrs Dobson's Relief Restaurant Committee began a soup kitchen in Hobart that supplied up to 1000 meals a day. When the unemployment crisis lessened, the committee initiated the Association for Improvement of Dwellings of the Working Classes, which in November 1893 diverted its funds and energies to the Southport Village Settlement scheme following an exposition by Henry Dobson of the scheme's advantages for assisting the poor to become independent farmers. Emily was president and managing secretary of the Village Settlement Committee until its failure in 1898.

The Dobson family's affluence underpinned Emily's participation in a vast range of charities, paying for household staff and a full-time private secretary. It also enabled her to represent Tasmanian and Australian women at national and international forums; she made 33 trips to Britain and Europe and a further 67 away from the state.

Throughout her life, Emily Dobson championed the cause of women and internationalism. In 1899, she became vice-president of the newly formed Tasmanian National Council of Women and was its president from 1904-34. Emily Dobson attended the first meeting of the International Council of Women in London in 1899 and was leader and president of the joint Australian Council of Women in London in 1899 and was leader and president of the joint Australian Councils' delegation from 1906 to 1921 after the state bodies had submitted to ICW pressure to combine for purposes of representation abroad in 1906. She attended almost every ICW executive meeting and quinquennial conference until 1932 when she made her 33rd visit overseas. She was elected a vice-president of ICW in 1914 and made an honorary life vice-president on her resignation in 1924. Between 1902 and 1905, Dobson was instrumental in the formation of the Victorian, South Australian and Queensland Councils, explaining to their constituents the objectives and methods of the work of the Council movement locally and internationally. In the ensuing decades, she attended many of their meetings and was a commanding presence at interstate conferences. Without doubt, Dobson's commitment and wealth were indispensable to both the national and the international links of the Australian Councils until the early 1920's, and she found it difficult to adjust to the challenge to her ideas and authority that occurred from the middle of that decade when the Federal Council of the National Councils of Women of Australia was formed and an Australian elected.

The Tasmanian National Council of Women commemorated her outstanding public service by the establishment in 1919 of the Emily Dobson Philanthropic Prize Competition for welfare organisations and the Federal Council appointed her its first honorary life member in 1925. She was also one of the extraordinary women to be acknowledged by the NCWA Centenary Award for women whose contribution to the work of the Council movement throughout Australia has helped shape Australia's history and future.

Emily Dobson's influence was felt well beyond her home state in spheres other than the NCW and ICW. She attended the 1899 Peace Conference at The Hague and was appointed by the Deakin ministry to represent Australia at the International Women Suffrage Alliance Congress in Amsterdam in 1908. In 1911, she established the Girl Guides Association of Tasmania, the first branch in Australia, and subsequently assumed the position of state commissioner. She was awarded a medal from the London Girl Guide headquarters in 1931. A vice-president of the Tasmanian branch of the League of Nations Union in the 1920s and the Victoria League of Tasmania, she had also been a founder in 1901 and sometime president of the Tasmanian branch of the Alliance Française. During World War I, she taught colloquial French to soldiers at Claremont camp and, in December 1930, received the insignia of the Order of Officier d'Instruction Publique from the French government.

Some of Dobson's other interests included the Tasmanian Lyceum Club (which she founded), the Women's Non-Party League of Hobart, the Free Kindergarten Association (which she established), the Brabazon Society, the Union Jack Society and many others. She was also founding president of the Ministering Children's League in 1892, the ladies' committee of the Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institution in 1898 and was for many years president of the committee of management of the Victoria Convalescent Home at Lindisfarne. An early supporter of the Amateur Nursing Band, she began with others the New Town Consumptives Sanatorium in 1905 and was later a patroness of the Tasmanian Bush Nursing Association. Like her husband, she encouraged temperance (she was a long-term vice-president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Tasmania though she did not support total abstinence) and worked for educational reform, especially domestic science training for girls.

Like so many other charitably inclined women of her time, Dobson had a particular concern for child welfare. With the Society for the Protection of Children, she secured the passage of an *Infant Life Protection Act* in 1907. The Act authorised members of the society to enter homes without notice where infants were being minded for payment. Taken at face value, the Act was a noble attempt to put an end to the practice of baby farming, but recent research suggests that it was in addition an attempt to exercise control over the poor. Dobson was also the first vice-president in 1918 of the Child Welfare Association.

Emily Dobson did not seek to reform the hierarchical social order of the day but to lessen its worst effects on those less fortunate than herself as well as to bring order and discipline to society as a whole. Respected by most, though not universally loved, she was widely referred to as 'Hobart's Grand Old Lady' when she died on 5 June 1934, aged 91. She was inducted into the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women posthumously in 2005 for service to the community.

'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.

Emily Dobson - Reflections

There is a saying that “you can choose your friends, but you can’t choose your family” – generally said when one’s family is perhaps making one feel a little embarrassed by their actions or sayings!!

Well! I can honestly say that I could not have picked a better family had I tried.

I did not know my great grandmother Emily Dobson – but I do know about her, as my mother often spoke of the “Tasmanian days when we spent the summer at Elboden Place or Nemone” – both family homes. Or she mentioned trips to The Chalet and told us tales of functions she had watched as a child – functions that had been orchestrated by my great grandmother, who was actually a cordon bleu chef. There is a tale told about her cooking days and function planning – she swept into the kitchen and had people organised with little panic. When overseas, Emily would ask for recipes from chefs at the restaurants she visited. These recipes were kept in a safe and ‘holy’ book – and she used them regularly, of course making slight changes to make them specifically HER recipes. Horror of horrors occurred when a cook she had employed (or so it is believed) took her ‘holy’ recipe book when her services were terminated. Despite Emily’s husband being a lawyer – there was no follow up – Emily simply remembered the recipes, and life went on as usual.

She was a woman of passion and commitment, a woman with immense energy who, once a task was set, rose to meet the challenge. She was however able to accept when things did not succeed, as she did with her project of trying to return people back to the land to enable them to work the land and then to live upon the produce of their own labour.

In 1899 she was helping to form the Tasmanian Branch of the Australian National Council of Women, and when volunteers were called to attend the forthcoming International Congress of Women in London, she enthusiastically obliged. She mentioned her project in her major speech at the Congress, tempering the enthusiasm of the delegates, with a few well-chosen words. She said: *“My own experience in the working of the Village Settlement Movement led me to the conclusion that co-operation in labour and agriculture is not feasible in practical life. The strong, will not work for the weak. The weak will not be content to receive less than the strong.”*

After her marriage to Henry Dobson they dominated the social scene, forming a pressure group nicknamed ‘Dobsonia’ by the socialist paper “Clipper”, which was highly critical of her upper middle class, ‘do-goodish’ approach to social problems which was out of touch with real needs.

But although she established and ran many charitable organisations, she had no radical aims or desire to change the social structure, but to relieve the worst of society’s inequalities. It is here that Emily reflected the attitude of her times: poverty was caused by individual character defects, not a flawed economic or social system. Although we know differently today – but for the commitment by people such as Emily Dobson and her co workers to make things easier for those less fortunate, life would have continued to be unbearable for hundreds of families.

Remember Port Arthur was the holding point for criminals, and the social structure was not one of self migration – the migration from London to Tasmania for many was forced.

I believe that Emily learned her compassion and zest for “doing unto others as you would have them do to you” – the motto for National Council of Women, from her father Thomas Lempriere, as we have very interesting manuscripts by him in our family archives, in which he details his compassion for some of the convicts, and his comments clearly indicate that he was displeased with the treatment of them.

The Lempriere motto is ‘Eagles do not bring forth doves’. But, quoted her granddaughter, “All who knew Granny would understand that, however she was not all eagle - she was devout, loving and compassionate. Nevertheless there was no doubt about her energy and fighting qualities. It was a family joke that she was the President of nearly everything! (Gladys Dobson).

Unfettered by domestic duties, she was able to represent Tasmanian women at home and overseas, and with her connection to the government through her husband, and his brothers three of whom were involved with politics, she was able to make representation at the highest levels.

She was presented to Queen Victoria as a young women, as young women with connections did in those days, as were her daughters.



My mother had the opportunity to also be presented, however she refused – saying that she was petrified that she would wobble and topple over when she curtsied. In later years however, my mother, reflected that it would have been “an experience” to remember.

However, my mother's life path was projected to the mission field, and she served some 20 years as a missionary in East Africa where she met my father – and that is why I am here today!!! But that is another story.

Emily apparently was a good speaker, and assisted her husband – then Senator Dobson. She was very active in separate right-wing women's political organisations, such as the Liberal League.

Was it because of Henry Dobson's position in government, and his opposition to women's suffrage that Emily did not make public comments? I believe that Henry saw politics as he is quoted “is too dirty for women”. I believe that he mellowed somewhat toward this movement as time progressed. The belief of the NCW at the time was that it was in favour of some women having the vote; however it disapproved of universal suffrage for either sex. What the discrimination was I do not know.

Both Emily and Henry Dobson were prone to media focus, either through articles or cartoons.

I want to spend time on Emily's home life and NCW interests, because those were her life.

Her grandchildren adored her – she was fun, she included them in her life when they visited Hobart for what they called their ideal summer holidays. My mother said that life was unusual – never a cross word, and yet their lives were full of meeting interesting people, inclusion in functions – the picnics at The Chalet bore fond memories to my mother and her siblings. Her brother Ron had in fact written four (for family only) books on his memories of their Tasmanian days – and what gems they are to read.

They tell of a life that has gone by – a life one reads about in novels – a life where the arts, reading, the classics, and simple things such as studying nature were all a part of their lives. *“Mark Twain (when staying at Elboden Place), wrote in Granny's autograph book after his trip to Port Arthur, something about “his lamented grandfather's leg iron”!*

Conrad Martens was so taken with Emily's art he exchanged six signed pieces of his art for six of hers! They tell of a life where those who helped in the home were treated as one of the family. My mother often said she would have loved to have been a staff member of Emily's home!! Their life was somewhat ‘Olden England’, transferred to the southern continent, where graceful living was taken for granted. The family was a spiritual family, and church was attended by all members.

Let me tell you about the fun that NCW Tasmania had in the early days - they experienced tea parties, plays, fun days, meetings to grapple with issues of the day, and work in the community.

The afternoon and international teas which the NCW held were extraordinary, and merited comment from the media.

For example: ***The French Tea** arranged by Mrs Henry Dobson and Mrs L E Hubbard at the National Council Club last Thursday was a big success. The board room has never looked lovelier. It was green carpeted, filled with many little snow covered tables and adorned with great branching sprays of crimson rambler roses, while on the large buffet, spread with parisienne dainties nodded banksia and La France Roses. On the many little tables were sweet crimson carnations, the beloved Oelliets of France. The room was filled to over- flowing and the band of smart “Femmes de Chambre” were kept very busy dispensing tea, with lemon, chocolate, black coffee and delicious “bol a fruits”. Nor were the more solid viands forgotten - though solid is the last term to apply to dainty, airy French “Rickshaws”! There were tartine sandwiches of various aspects, patisseries, baba a rum madeleines, tartelettes, aux fruits, brioches, petit pain stuffed with oysters and mushrooms, petits fours, meringues, and many other seductive French delights, formed to instruct and please! Then there were “little cabbages and cream” to translate literally - “Cabbage is a term of endearment in France” - but why laugh? A tender little cabbage is after all more yielding than “an old brick”. Its Anglo-Saxon equivalent!*

A Royal visit by Her Majesty Queen Victoria introduced “floppers” into the local photography. Mrs Dobson has a photo of herself taken in the mode and her ready wit appreciates as vividly as could any young woman of to-day the amusing aspect of the fashion. A “Flopper” so Mrs Dobson explains was a relief from the stiffly posed portrait. One dropped negligently, oh very negligently, into a half-reclining position on the floor and for support rested the arm, with hand under chin, on a chair.

At her 90th birthday, Emily received numerous accolades for her life. After flowers and speeches came the cake with 90 candles – “Mrs Dobson, assisted by Miss Dobson, Mrs Louis Dobson and Mrs Ernest Dobson, lit the 90 candles on the birthday cake sent by her two granddaughters in Africa, Miss Ruth Taylor (later Mrs Wynn Jones) - and Miss May Dobson”.

My great grandmother left a high bar for us to jump!! But what a wonderful person to have had as a family member – and a female at that!! I say that, because the early 1900's were the birthing days for women – and women in the NCW and other organisations did pave the way for women.

My mother and her two cousins sailed for East Africa as missionaries – quite a feat for ladies who had been brought up in a quite protected and privileged environment. I am sure that their willingness to go to the “dark continent” on “hearing the call” and their commitment to their faith was predominant, however it must also have been assisted by having seen Emily's ability to whole heartedly tackle situations in faith that might have made things easier for them.

At Emily Dobson's death, many obituaries were written by the various press, and also hundreds of letters of condolence from across the globe were received. She died at her residence, Elboden House, Hobart, at the age of 91 years, and the papers wrote *“the community has lost one of its most notable women”*.

Whilst I was a member of the Queensland State Parliament and therefore an honorary member of NCWQ, I recognised the need to continue with the work.

Naomi Wilson - Former President NCWQ Cairns Branch



Any time women come together with a collective intention, it's a powerful thing. Whether it's sitting down making a quilt, in a kitchen preparing a meal, in a club reading the same book, or around the table playing cards, or planning a birthday party, when women come together with a collective intention, magic happens.

Phylicia Rashad

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Christine Purvis – Associate

REMINDER

NCWQ 2015 Membership invoices were sent out in January, thank you to those that have already paid. However if you require another copy to organise payment please email president@ncwq.org.au or sms Kirsty (Membership Secretary) 0418 980 019.

Soroptimist International

Federation of the South West Pacific



Moreton North Inc.

Registered Australian Business No (ABN): 56 058 978 531
Registered incorporated Not-for-Profit Organisation in Queensland No: IA29202

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Websites:

Club: **SI Moreton North Inc.**
www.siswp.org/Moreton-North-Inc

SISWP Federation

www.siswp.org

International:

www.soroptimistinternational.org

Meetings are held at The Corso
Endeavour Blvde North Lakes and
at The Coffee Club Mango Hill.

If you would like more
information about joining
Soroptimist International and our
projects, please send us an email
simoretonnorth@siswp.org
or phone Chris on 0403177012



Congratulations
to Marney Perna
on her
installation as
SIMNI
Club President
for 2015-2016.
Our Club will
continue to
grow and
prosper under
your leadership.

IWD 2015 MAKE IT HAPPEN

Our first SIMNI major event for 2015 was our Annual IWD Be Inspired Forum. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Moreton Bay Regional Council and CEO Lynette Palman from Women's Network Australia, we had a wonderful morning at the Redcliffe Culture Centre celebrating the achievements of women within our local community.

We were captivated by the Inspiring Personal Story of Courage and Resilience of our **Special Guest Speaker Kirsten Moriarty** who survived a horrific skydiving accident when she became entangled in high voltage power lines. Kirsten shared how the love of her father and the support of her family and friends helped her to cope with the pain and recovery.

Kirsten continues to encourage women and young girls to believe in themselves to have Hope and Reach for the Sky to Achieve their Dreams.

Kirsten is a Councillor in the Somerset Region and said that she was so overwhelmed with the support she received from the local residents that she wanted to give something back to her community.

You can read about Kirsten's remarkable survival in her book **From Dark Days to Blue Skies**
<http://kirstenmoriarty.com.au/>



Thank you Kirsten. Thank you Margaret, Noela and Avril from NCWQ for your continued support for our SIMNI projects that advance the status of women!

SI Moreton North Inc. is a vibrant and dynamic club for women who have an interest in sharing their skills and expertise to support education and leadership projects that improve the lives of women and girls locally and internationally.

IWD 2015 MAKE IT HAPPEN - OUR INSPIRING RECIPIENTS



Small Business Woman of the Year Jo Connolly Dreamtime Kullilla Arts Clontarf	Estrella Herzog Woman of the Year Manager Caboolture Domestic Violence Resource Centre	Lakeisha Patterson Young Woman of the Year Olympic Swimmer and Mentor	Adele Nugara Key Note Speaker Changing Role of Women in Society with her Mentor and Guide Leader Mary Otto
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SIMNI Member Machellee Kosiak was selected as the 2015

Region Florence Drury Award Recipient for Service Excellent as a Soroptimist

Machellee is a proud Australian Wiradjuri Aboriginal Woman, a registered nurse, practising midwife, academic, educator, mentor and author. Amongst her many skills include Keynote Speaker at National and International Conferences on Indigenous Maternal Health Care - providing guided tours of the birthing centre at Caboolture Hospital with visiting Soroptimist Member Esther Ekwo from Nigeria - participating in a 24/7 Virtual Conference to celebrate International Midwives Day – Lecturing and Mentoring Young Indigenous Graduate Midwives - undertaking research, establishing maternal and infant health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and leading a delegation of graduate midwives on a study tour to Vanuatu. Machellee is a co-author of Yatdjuligin (translated - means talking in a good way) Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Nursing and Midwifery Care. This is the first book written by experienced Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners on how to overcome and understand the specific needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women and their babies. SIMNI are selling copies of the book to support Scholarships for Indigenous Graduate Midwives and to help educate the wider community and health service providers. Congratulations Machellee – we are so proud of you!



SI Moreton North Inc. is a vibrant and dynamic club for women who have an interest in sharing their skills and expertise to support education and leadership projects that improve the lives of women and girls locally and internationally.

The 2015 President's Dinner

"The world of humanity is possessed of two wings: the male and the female. So long as these two wings are not equivalent in strength, the bird will not fly. Until womankind reaches the same degree as man, until she enjoys the same arena of activity, extraordinary attainment for humanity will not be realized; humanity cannot wing its way to heights of real attainment. When the two wings . . . become equivalent in strength, enjoying the same prerogatives, the flight of man will be exceedingly lofty and extraordinary." (Baha'i Faith)

Unmistakably inspirational, and with lofty and at times extraordinary prerogatives, 102 members, affiliates and friends of NCWQ joined our esteemed President Noela O'Donnell to celebrate the President's Dinner in this, our 110th year. All in attendance were honoured to enjoy the company of our patron and Governor of Queensland His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC and Mrs Kaye de Jersey. His Excellency Mr de Jersey spoke of his pleasure of continuing NCWQ's unbroken record of vice regal patronage in its 110th year and the remarkable achievements of women in Queensland and Australia during that time. Given NCWQ's focus on education, we were delighted to hear His Excellency's personal recount of growing up as the son of parent school teachers in rural Queensland and the opportunities that had afforded him.

An enjoyable and inspired evening was had by all, with motivating speakers, pleasant entertainment from the talented quartet, Here and Now, and as always, lively conversation amongst the guests. Special mention must be made of our Vice President Annette Lourigan who expertly conducted herself as MC for the evening and kept the atmosphere light and entertaining.

Noela spoke of the developments of NCWQ in her four year tenure, and gratefully accepted the return of a NCWQ centenary medal, awarded to Mrs Joie Dwyer AM on the occasion of the Nation's centenary for safekeeping by NCWQ. Joie is in failing health; however she was a vigorous contributor to many organisations including NCWQ where she served as Vice-President during the terms of three different Presidents and was the newsletter editor and treasurer over a number of years

In 2005 Joie was awarded Honorary Life Membership of NCWQ and prior to that, in 1992 was awarded Membership in the Order of Australia – AM – in recognition of service to youth, particularly through the Girl Guides Association and the community. Joie's medal will be kept by NCWQ for all to enjoy, and we thank Joie's daughter Gil for presenting the medal at the President's Dinner.

Our Bursaries Coordinator Kathy Cavanagh spoke of the importance of the role that NCWQ has played in the development of educational opportunities in Queensland throughout our history. The bursaries program is our flagship program, which in its 6th year this year, will offer 23 financial support bursaries to Queensland women seeking to further their education and their participation in the community.

A highlight of the evening was Ms Ruha Fifita, the 2014 recipient of the Mayor Paul Pisasale bursary 2014. Ruha, from Tonga, is studying a Bachelor of Creative Industries at QUT, and contributes to the community of Goodna by accompanying and coordinating various activities for children and youth groups, ranging from camps, holiday programs – with no regard for their culture, gender or social class, fostering attitudes of respect; unity; freedom from prejudice; and service to others. It is indeed inspiring young women like Ms Fifita who drive us to our goal of betterment for women in all walks of life.

Today the NCWQ continues to work for women and families. Some of these issues continue to be the same – other challenges belong to the 21st Century.

We are now a multi-cultural, inter-generational organisation, truly reflecting Queensland women today. We are sure that all associated with NCWQ join us in thanking Noela for an outstanding tenure as our esteemed President, knowing that our achievements during this time would not have been possible without the leadership of Noela, and her dream, drive and determination to make a difference.

Caroline Snow
NCWQ Associate Member



On the 24th of March I joined my friends and peers at the Presidents dinner for the NCWQ. It was a privilege on so many levels. I sat with eight very engaging and inspirational women and three of these in particular made me proud. Proud for what they achieve both amongst the NCWQ and proud for what they achieve on a consistent basis in their life and chosen career. Being proud to some may seem cliché; however these three women are Funeral Directors and being proud is a statement they deserve. The industry experience combined for these three women exceeds 45 years and as their Manager I am in a position to be part of the achievements they have made within their career and the sense of service excellence they offer the client families we serve. As a Manager it is always a



thrill to see the contribution that my team make to their community and to see Annette Lourigan, the NCWQ Vice-President, lead a group of inspirational and talented women is a moment that I hold especially close. I have grown up in a family of three girls and I am lucky to have been the youngest of the three to be mentored by my elder siblings. When I entered the workforce, I typically chose a few roles that had me tagged as being a “female in a man’s world”. I never completely understood what this meant as for me working alongside my male peers was also a great opportunity to try and balance out skills, emotions and attitudes that would benefit one or the other. There was a very moving presentation given by the Bursary winner, Ruha Fifita, that related to my experiences with my career, about wanting the wings of a bird to meet equally in the middle. It could have not been more aptly put. Congratulations to the 110 years of the NCW in Qld. The future generation involved in this organisation will cherish the work that has been done this far and no doubt will respect the elders of the organisation and the impression left on us all.

Davina J. Bambrick
General Manager Qld Funerals |InvoCare

NCWQ 2015 Bursary Program

We are now approaching the end of the application period for this year’s bursaries, with the closing date on 8th April quickly looming after Easter. We have already received more applicants this year than for the total of 2014.

That marks the commencement of the busy period with the start of the selection process – the time when we all wish that we could donate some more bursaries for the field of such worthy contenders.

The ‘Wow’ factor of previous bursary recipients was again highlighted at the recent President’s Dinner when one of the 2014 NCWQ Mayor Paul Pisasale bursary recipient, Ruha Fifita spoke, becoming the Number 1 topic of conversation afterwards. We continue to be amazed by the calibre of these young women and can rest more easily with the future in their hands.

By the time of the next Newsletter the 2015 bursary recipients will have been advised of their success and waiting for their Presentation Evening. We would love you to join us on Wednesday 27th May 2015, 5:30pm at Brisbane Girls’ Grammar School – you will be truly inspired.

Please contact me on the bursary email – bursaries@ncwq.org.au – for any more information.

Kathy Cavanagh - Bursary Program Coordinator



Everyday Women Seminar – Tewantin

Celebrating 110 Years of being a voice for Queensland Women

All Australian women whether they are 25 or 75 need to make choices during their life about finances, lifestyle and legal matters. National Council of Women QLD Inc.'s "Everyday Women Seminar" (EWS) has been developed to ensure that Queensland Women get the facts from the people who know the real information, allowing women to make informed choices.

The first EWS for 2015 will be held at Drysdale Tewantin on Saturday April 18. Starting at 10.30 am the topics covered will include finances, health, estate planning and staying connected. The speakers include Dr Wendy Vidler GP, Michele Purvis CPA with Universal Accounting Solutions, Cheryl Evans from Australian Probate Lawyers and Michelle Boder-Gordon of Carers Queensland. All women who are more than happy to share their knowledge and debunk the myths about their areas of expertise.

Refreshments for the event are kindly sponsored by Drysdale Funerals for catering purposes an RSVP would be appreciated by April 16 to myself at

alourigan@invocare.com.au

or by calling 0409793818.

This free event is for all Women

who have Super, a Home

and a Family.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Annette Vice President National Council of Women QLD

0409793818

alourigan@invocare.com.au

www.ncwq.org.au



The National Council of Women
QLD Inc.
Invite you to our

Everyday Women Seminar

*Information for all women today,
tomorrow and always...*

Date: Saturday 18th April 2015
Where: Drysdale Funerals Chapel
Noosa Cooroy Road, Tewantin
Time: 10.30 - 1pm

Our Presenters include

- Dr Wendy Vidler - *Healthy Women. Healthy Aging*
- Michele Purvis B Bus. Grad Dip. FP, CPA - *Financial Facts and Super Safety*
- Michelle Boder-Gordon (Carers Queensland) - *Connecting Carers and Community*
- Cheryl Evans (Australian Probate Lawyers) - *Protecting families through estate planning*

Please RSVP for catering purposes by 16th April 2015
(light refreshments will be served)
to Annette Lourigan alourigan@invocare.com.au
or 0409793818

 **DRYSDALE FUNERALS**
EVERY GOODBYE IS DIFFERENT



National Council of Women QLD Inc.
*Celebrating 110 Years of Being a Voice
for Everyday QLD Women*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Everyday Women Seminar - Drysdale Funerals Noosa-Cooroy Road Tewantin
Saturday 18 April 10:30am to 1:00pm

NCWQ/BGGSOGA Young Women's Forum - Barbara Fielding Room
Brisbane Girls Grammar School Gregory Terrace
Wednesday 13 May 4:00 – 6:00pm

Creators of Change - Venue TBA
Tuesday 19 May 6:00 to 8:00pm

Bursaries Presentation Ceremony - Gehrmann Theatre
Brisbane Girls Grammar School
Wednesday 27 May 5:30pm

Affiliated Organisation Profile – Women's International League for Peace and Freedom ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF PEACEMAKING

The National Council of Women and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) are two women's organizations that have worked for over 100 years to promote an international women's movement.

This year marks the centenary of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

WILPF's illustrious history dates from the 28th April, 1915, when 1136 courageous women began a four day congress in The Hague in the Netherlands. The women came from twelve countries, including nations from both sides of the conflict then engulfing Europe.

The women meeting at The Hague were determined to find a mechanism of mediation which could put an end to the conflict. In the longer term they were determined to identify and eradicate the causes of war.

Since 1915 WILPF has brought together women from around the world who are united in working for peace by non-violent means, and promoting political, economic and social justice for all.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is the longest surviving women's peace organisation.

In parallel to the changing context of conflict, there is growing recognition of the valuable contribution women can make to conflict prevention, the building of sustainable peace, and the skills and resources they bring to these processes. For instance, United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security highlights the importance of women's participation in all levels of decision-making in the sphere of peace and security, as well as the need for an integrated gender perspective. WILPF Australia has been involved in initiating and promoting Australia's National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

There are WILPF groups in forty countries around the world. In Australia there are Branches in five states.

Special events in Canberra to celebrate the centenary of WILPF will be the Australian Peacewomen Awards, Women's Power to Stop War Conference and the Triennial Conference. Queensland Peacewomen Awards will be held in Brisbane later in the year.

More information available at www.wilpf.org.au

1915-1933 THE EARLY YEARS

During the First World War, it is very courageous for women to take a stand against militarism, conscription, and the official war propaganda, and to speak out against the notion that a woman's place is at home.

However, nothing can stop women such as Emma Miller, Felicia Hopkins and Margaret Thorp, who are among the first Queensland women to protest against the first World War.

In 1915, 1136 women, dedicated to stopping the First World War, meet for the Women's Peace Congress in The Hague. They form an organisation called International Committee of Women for Permanent Peace which they will later rename The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF).

In Australia, two women's peace organisations are founded that are affiliated with the Women's Peace Congress: The Sisterhood of International Peace and the Women's Peace Army (WPA). Both organisations originate in Melbourne. After the war, the Sisterhood becomes the Australian Section of WILPF International.

In November 1915, two representatives from the WPA, Cecilia John and Adella Pankhurst, travel to Brisbane to establish a local branch. They meet with a group of Queensland women, among them Emma Miller and Margaret Thorp, who will become key figures in the Brisbane peace movement.

Emma Miller, a Brisbane woman in her 70s who is colloquially known as 'Mother Miller', is a well-known suffragist and a dominant figure in the Queensland Labor movement. Margaret Thorp is a young migrant from England who wishes 'to make women feel their responsibilities and privileges in leading the way towards a peaceful and democratic society'.

To honour the guests from Melbourne, Emma Miller organises a cruise on the Brisbane River. Joined by 200 men and women, they sing the banned anti-war ballad 'I didn't raise my son to be a soldier', which later causes a scandal in the Queensland Parliament.

A meeting is held with the aim of forming a WPA branch in Brisbane, and at least 100 women attend. Emma Miller becomes one of the vice-presidents of the WPA, while the role of the president is later taken up by Clio Jensen, a woman who Margaret Thorp describes as 'very gentle, and of an unassuming disposition'. Margaret Thorp is the secretary and treasurer. The WPA branch organises lectures, classes, rallies and lobbies the government.

Photo above: Emma Miller. John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland, Neg:86511

Photo on the left: World War One Peace Procession. John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland, Neg: 115446



1916

In October 1916, the women have reason to celebrate as the Australian people reject the first conscription referendum. Margaret Thorp is very active in a Queensland-wide anti-conscription campaign, travels to other cities to establish new WPA branches, and educates school children about peace. Campaigning for peace is not an easy task and Margaret is frequently attacked verbally and physically during meetings. But she always remains calm and composed, which earns her the nickname 'Peace Angel'.

1917

In 1917, Margaret Thorp visits Rockhampton where she meets Felicia Hopkins, a Quaker and Pacifist like herself and a tireless worker for the community. A WPA branch is established and 25 women enrol. Felicia becomes the branch's secretary. A second conscription referendum is held at the end of the year, which is defeated by a larger margin than the previous one.

1919

At the end of 1919, the Women's Peace Army goes into recess. The Rockhampton branch becomes the first WILPF branch in Queensland, with Felicia as its secretary and E. A. Guy as its president.

1921-1933

In 1921, Margaret Thorp, who is involved in relief work in post-war Europe, represents Australia at the Third International Congress of Women in Vienna. 'I felt greatly privileged to be there', she writes in her memoirs about this WILPF conference. Meanwhile, the Queensland branch continues promoting peace and disarmament, for example through the distribution of WILPF material and media work.

In the early 1930s, initiated by WILPF International, the branch helps collect signatures for world disarmament. This eight million signature petition is presented to the World Disarmament Conference in Geneva and is the largest petition ever presented on any subject anywhere in the world at the time.

In 1933, the branch goes into recess after the death of Felicia Hopkins.

Photo above: Peace procession in Brisbane, ca. 1919. John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland, Neg: 182971

President Noela O'Donnell suggested that as this is the 110th year of NCWQ, Michelle Boder Gordon, a new member of NCW and I, as a long-time member contribute an article for the Newsletter.

An Hon Life Member Reflects



Born in Brisbane, the first born of 2 children to parents of Australian and Scots heritage, who over the years were involved in the community – Scouting, Lodge, Church activities and who believed in a good education – my future was being “mapped out”.

Having completed my primary and secondary education I proceeded to Teacher's College – Home Economics Department at Kelvin Grove on a Senior scholarship of 2 years. Due to the shortage of Home Economics teachers – in March of my second year I was appointed to Dalby State High School where I taught students from in and around the area, nurses (Invalid Cookery) and Adult Evening Classes. I completed in my own time study and external exams to complete my classification.

After several years, I moved to East Brisbane State School opening the Home Economics Department for students from schools in the catchment area. In 1956, I was appointed to Kelvin Grove Teachers' College as a Lecturer and then Senior Lecturer from 1959 -66. When I married in 1966, women teachers were required to resign on marriage – a move reversed years later.

I returned to the Education Department as a course writer, administrator at the Brisbane School of Distance Education from 1982-1992. As my children were growing up, my husband retired and was involved in local affairs and able “to do the school run”, I was able to become involved in charity work and contribute to organisations in a variety of ways.

In 1965, whilst Senior Lecturer at Kelvin Grove Home Economics Department, I received a phone call from the NCWQ president Janet Byrnes asking me to consider taking the role of Home Economics Convenor (later to be separate portfolios – Nutrition and Consumer Affairs). My background of Home Economics led to my involvement with the NCW at state, national and international levels particularly in the field of Nutrition and Consumer Affairs.

Over the years, from 1979-2008 my background led to appointments as consumer representative on various Government Boards, Working Groups, Enquires and Industry Committees. Consumer representation was important representing a cross section of the community and carrying with it the responsibility of presenting the views of consumers and ensuring they were considered in the final deliberations – too often overlooked.

It was a privilege to serve on NCWQ Committees, the Board and to prepare submissions to government on behalf of NCWQ members – garnering the knowledge and expertise of so many dedicated women across Australia, eager to improve standards and conditions for the benefit of all.

Social events, displays in our rooms at Harris Terrace and stalls in William Street during the George Street Colonial Days bonded members and brought NCW to the notice of the general public – it was fun.

The opportunity to meet members from other states, face to face at interstate Council meetings and Conferences afforded the opportunity to renew friendships and strengthen our resolve to work together for the betterment of all.

Through my association with NCW, I have been most fortunate to be associated with so many talented, dedicated women sharing their dreams, working together to advance the mission and focus on NCW. Do not let us forget those working behind the scenes making it possible for other to use their particular expertise for the benefit of all.

“If you light the lamp for somebody, it will also brighten your path”.

Val Cocksedge OAM



A New Member Continues the Work

When my friend, Annette Lourigan, first approached me to join NCWQ, I wondered what I'd have to offer such an organisation, how it could be relevant to me. She persisted, I filled in the paperwork, and found myself at my first event – the annual NCWQ Christmas Luncheon. Seated at a table that hosted a Council Life Member and an OAM, I quickly discovered I was surrounded by not just a table, but a room full of women who were passionate about social justice and the empowerment of women and I discovered why Annette was so adamant I belonged.

Born in north Queensland, I grew up a Brisbane girl, 9th in a family of 10. Our home was always open to extended family, friends, and friends of friends - anyone who needed a bed was welcomed with a hot dinner, clean sheets and open arms, country hospitality in the big city. My father was an active Rotarian and Toastmaster who volunteered working with troubled youth and with the Upper Ulam/Archer Historical Group, my mother was a "tuckshop mum", volunteer cook and driver with Meals on Wheels. A sense of community service was instilled in us from a young age and we were actively encouraged to get involved in our parents' passions.

My working life led me from finance to desktop publishing, public service to a wholesale French patisserie (I swear the croissants that appeared in my office every morning are still responsible for the size of my hips!). I had the good fortune to turn an interest in online auctions into the dream work-from-home job – full-time Moderator for a Silicon Valley based online discussion board. What could be better than being paid to read message boards and remind people to be polite and follow the rules, all while working in my pyjamas in suburban Brisbane!

Working from home afforded me the luxury of earning an income and still having time with my two children, a chance to be involved in P&C associations, school sub-committees and local community education programs. My former husband and I also formed a car club during this time and I spent almost 10yrs coordinating and running events, fundraising for charities nominated by our members.

When my son started school, my thoughts turned to my next adventure. Glancing through our local community paper, I found an advertisement for a part-time admin for a non-profit organisation located directly opposite my son's school. It seemed to fit perfectly with my desire to work in a more community based environment and bring a little more balance to our lives. Walking into Carers Queensland that first day, I knew I had found my niche.

Almost 8 years later (spending the last 7 years as Personal Assistant to the CEO) and I'm immensely proud to be an integral part of this tremendous organisation. Carers Queensland is the peak body representing the diverse needs and interests of unpaid family carers – the people who care and support a family member or friend who has a disability, mental illness, chronic condition, terminal illness or is frail aged. We employ over 100 people in 13 offices and I have never worked with a group of more passionate and dedicated staff who truly believe in the mission and values we aspire to. There is something remarkable about working in a space where you know you truly make a difference every day and I am truly fortunate to be someone who "does what I love and loves what I do".

My father raised me to understand the importance of contributing to this world, not just taking from it. To appreciate how privileged I am to live in a place and time in history where I can speak my mind, follow my passions and feed my soul, without fear or prejudice. I have raised my children with a similar ethos – give more than you get, speak up for those who can't speak for themselves.

One of my favourite quotes is from tennis great, Arthur Ashe: *"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."* I believe we have a responsibility to make every day part of a learning life and that change starts with one person's actions. It's an alignment of those beliefs that keep me at Carers Queensland and draws me to NCWQ. I look forward to taking my place among the long line of NCWQ women of action who proudly show, not just tell.

Michelle Boderio-Gordon

Young Women Speak

Erin Cunningham

As a very grateful NCWQ Bursary recipient in 2014, and Founder of both the Samford Leo Club in 2011, and Northside Leo Club in 2015, I am very appreciative to be able to be affiliated with such a prosperous organisation like NCWQ. I graduated from the Queensland Academy for Creative Industries in 2013, and I am currently in my second year of study at QUT, studying a Bachelor of Business/Law (Honours) double degree.

Paragraph 9 of the G20 Leaders Summit communiqué was “Our actions to increase investment, trade and competition will deliver quality jobs. But we must do more to address unemployment, raise participation and create quality jobs. We agree to the goal of reducing the gap in the participation rates between men and women in our countries by 25 per cent by 2025, taking into account national circumstances, to bring more than 100 million women into the labour force, significantly increase global growth and reduce poverty and inequality.”



Do you think improving the equality of participation rates between men and women is desirable? Have you experienced yourself, or know of situations where being female counted against you in obtaining a job?

I believe that the enhancement of participation rates between men and women will significantly improve gender equality in the workforce; a workplace characteristic that is becoming more apparent in today's society. Stereotypically speaking, men are known to have the high-paying jobs and more developed management positions throughout the workforce; attributes that working women are trying to overcome. Taking this into consideration, I have recently come across situations, or have known other women to come across situations, where our gender was the deciding factor to whether we were successful in a certain job.

In an Employment Relations University Assessment I undertook early last year, it was surprising (but somewhat true) to discover in my research that women are actually more anatomically vulnerable in the workplace, hence the reason why men are the preferred employees for busier, higher management positions. Usual female circumstances like pregnancy and menstruation make women susceptible to this, as these situations usually cause women to take time off work, and may cause women 'not to think straight' in important work conditions. The research within this Assessment really opened my eyes to how women are perceived in the workplace, to an extent that I had never thought about before.

Do you believe it is do-able for all countries, or that it would be more difficult in developing countries?

I know that it is do-able for all countries to adopt this action in some way. Some countries may not adhere to it as much as others, due to the Country's economy and/or rates of poverty, so it would be more difficult for developing countries to adopt this policy. Although, I believe that Countries that have high rates of poverty and under-developed economies would benefit somewhat more from this action than Countries that have better economies.

Do you think that social norms will change to allow for greater equality in participation rates?

I believe that the rules and customs in society will change in allowing for greater equality in employment participation. All women are treated differently in each Country around the world at the moment, so the implementation of this G20 policy will be sure to change society's outlook on women in the workforce. This will obviously take some time, as these changes do not happen overnight. It's all about how the participation rate change is promoted to the world, that will determine how society perceives it.

Where do you see yourself and your role in 2025? What plans can you make to bring this to reality?

In 2025 I hope to be an experienced professional in my chosen career field, and I would love to see the gender participation rates somewhat equal, or an improvement to what they are now. As well as my career, I would also like to be involved in an organisation dedicated to the health and wellbeing of women. To help bring these dreams to reality, I strive to always think positive, and always learn from my mistakes.

Sonya Sas

I am currently in my 5th and final year in a Bachelor of Law/ Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University. I actively participate within my community through various roles including volunteering for the Community Visitors Scheme (CVS) with Multilink and mentoring high school students throughout Logan schools.



Do you think improving the equality of participation rates between men and women is desirable? Have you experienced yourself, or know of situations where being female counted against you in obtaining a job?

I think it is very desirable. I believe that there is still a perception in some jobs/organisations that men can do better because of their “strength and perseverance” and because they “don’t give up without a fight”. Some women have the same characteristics; in fact I think that most women do. So why not improve equality rates? It is true that women and men are different in some aspects, which is why they work well together. Together they add value and different perspectives to an organisation.

Personally I have never experienced sexism nor do I know of anyone who has.

Do you believe it is do-able for all countries, or that it would be more difficult in developing countries?

I think that it would be difficult in developing countries where not everyone gets an education. I went on a Cruise last year, and one of the stops was Vanuatu. There kids played on the streets everywhere, and our tour guide informed us that many children did not go to school. It was normal for them not to, as only really rich children went. Girls got pregnant young, which meant they would definitely be the one to care for the baby. I believe that education is the key to everything. Going to University for example sets us up nicely for getting professional jobs, which is how most women become successful in todays society. If children are not going to school, it will be unlikely that they will be getting a professional job.

Do you think that social norms will change to allow for greater equality in participation rates?

I think social norms are heading in the right direction. We have come a long way already from the days when women would cook and clean at home while their husbands went to work. Many successful males today have a successful female by their side. So yes I think it has changed and will continue to change, until hopefully we will have a ratio of 50/50 between males and females within every workplace.

Where do you see yourself and your role in 2025? What plans can you make to bring this to reality?

In 10 years I hope to either be working for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) as a criminal lawyer or prosecutor, or be working in private practice at a Family Law firm, and making my way up to hopefully opening my own firm one day. Firstly I need to finish my degree and training so that I am able to legally practice as a lawyer, and also continue to gain experience within the legal field.

Sonya Sas was the 2014 Mayor Pam Parker Bursary recipient .

Creators of Change

The Mezzanine Level of the Commonwealth Bank Queen Street was certainly buzzing the evening of February 24 when NCWQ held it's first Creators of Change event. Over 60 women from various professions, back grounds and cultures shared their unique energy to ensure that the evening was engaging, enjoyable and linked like minded women.

The main address for the evening was given by Dr Mary Crawford. Mary reminded us of many of the rights women have since we won the right to vote, however she reminded us that our ever changing world still very much needs the voice of women to remain active and continue perusing equal rights, equal opportunity and the right to have quality of life for all people.

Emeritus Professor Dr Mary Mahoney spoke on some of the challenges faced by women who took on roles in traditionally male orientated professions and work places. All were stirred by Josephine Tucker who shared her vision of developing a network of mentors for young women who came from disadvantaged back grounds.

Our goal for Creators of Change was to link women who cared to make a difference with other women who shared their passion. We certainly achieved that; by the end of the evening contact details were exchanged, coffee dates set and ventures strengthened and started.

Our next Creators of Change date is set for May 19th, our speaker that evening is Ms Jenny Hutson. Jenny has been awarded QBR Queensland Businesswoman of the Year Award, as well as the Australian Institute of Management Brisbane Owner / Manager of the Year Award. She is the current Chairperson of G8 Education Limited, Australia's largest for profit child care provider.

Annette M Lourigan - NCWQ Vice President.



Young Women's Forum

Now an annual fixture in the NCWQ calendar, the 'Service is in our DNA' Young Women's Forum is once again coming up in mid-May this year. The annual joint NCWQ/BGGSOGA Young Women's Forum will be held from 4-6pm on Wednesday 13th May in the Barbara Fielding Room at Brisbane Girls Grammar School. As usual, women from all backgrounds and from all walks of life are warmly invited to attend.

Similar to previous years, expect to hear from four inspiring guest speakers- women who demonstrate a commitment to service in both their professional and personal lives. There will also be a featured NGO on the night, giving a call to action and offering opportunities for audience members to get involved and give back. Following official guest speaker speeches, there will be time for refreshments and networking. More event details, including guest speaker biographies, will be released in the coming weeks. To RSVP, email Steph Carter at stephjcarter@gmail.com, or call on 0410 157 477. We look forward to seeing you on 13th May!





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When a woman has an income of her own, she has the economic and financial security to help herself, her family and her community. As a passionate feminist and social justice advocate for women's empowerment for over 30 years, I am delighted to offer NCWQ Members, Affiliates and Newsletter Readers three amazing opportunities to help me continue with this work.

My first offer as a Licensed Springboard Trainer in Australia for the internationally recognised **Springboard Women's Development Programme** <http://www.springboardconsultancy.com/> is a special discount to attend one of the upcoming courses commencing in April. Each course consists of four x one day facilitated workshops, a guided workbook and an opportunity to meet some amazing mentors and guest speakers. I am also seeking sponsors to support women who have survived domestic violence / been incarcerated to attend these workshops to help them **Springboard** their lives into a brighter future. Workshops can also be facilitated in-house for businesses/community groups.

My second offer as an Independent Distributor for the Australian Family Owned Company Pro-Ma Systems / Grace Cosmetics is to introduce you to the benefits of our amazing Aloe Health and Beauty Products. For all purchases in the month of April/May 2015 from my on-line store, I will donate 10% to the NCWQ Bursaries that extend educational opportunities to young women throughout Queensland. Please visit my online store for more information and if you place an order please include NCWQ after your last name: <http://chrisknight.pro-masystems.com.au>

My third offer is a Free Sample of the OPTIW8 Cleanse & Revive Organic Herbal Tea Bag. They say that the first cup of tea, we share as strangers, the second cup of tea, we share as friends, the third cup of tea, we celebrate each other's good health, prosperity and company as part of our extended family. This refreshing tea supports healthy digestion. It contains: Peppermint which has a calming and relaxing action on the digestive tract. Dandelion which naturally contains Inulin and is an invaluable Prebiotic to feed healthy digestive bacteria and Chicory that has been used for centuries to aid indigestion. It's a great pick-me-up - organic blend - no caffeine. Enjoy it hot or cold. Retails for \$14.95 for 50 tea bags. To claim the free sample, please **Call Chris on 0403177012** or send me an email grachris@iprimus.com.au with your name and postal address. I shall also be providing two packs for the NCWQ Office so if you are popping in for a chat/meeting you can enjoy a cuppa there too. If you need some help with your fundraising /events - I'd be glad to offer my services! Namaste
Chris Knight Director, Inspirational Connections Queensland www.inspirationalconnections.com.au



Proud Member of NCWQ
Sorbitist International
and Womens Network
Australia (WNA)



If you are on Facebook don't forget to like us at
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NCWQ wish to thank
Ms Grace Grace MP,
Brisbane Central,
for the printing of this newsletter
from her office as a service to a local
community organisation.



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Membership Secretary, Kirsty Levis, is currently taking
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Affiliated organisations and small businesses are invited to place advertisements with logo in the NCWQ Newsletter issued bi-monthly.

- ◇ Business card size including logo **\$50 per advertisement per edition.**
To secure an advertisement in each of 6 editions per year a discount of \$20 applies.
- ◇ Quarter page including logo **\$70 per advertisement per edition**
To secure an advertisement in each of 6 editions per year a discount of \$20 applies.
- ◇ Half page including logo and 500 word editorial provided by the organisation and relating to women **\$150 in one edition only.**

The newsletter is sent to 240 individuals and over 50 organisations
with their own members and networks.

Contact the editor at ncwqnewsletter@gmail.com for further information.