



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

I was heartened by the 2015 Commemorations for ANZAC Day. So many people attended so many services in diverse areas to acknowledge the sacrifices made to ensure we live in a peaceful and safe country.

500 people attended the Dawn Service in Longreach. I was one of them. I certainly didn't expect such a large crowd to be there. Breakfast was provided at the Longreach RSL and over 220 people gathered there. The sense of community was palpable. A bit later in the morning the annual ANZAC Day parade took place in the streets of the town. Returned service personnel, local schools and kindergartens, the Longreach

Pastoral College students on horseback, sporting groups and service clubs, local bands all marched to ANZAC Memorial Park and the cenotaph for the service. The singing from the local choir; beautiful words from school children; the stirring words from an Afghanistan veteran; the laying of over 60 wreaths, some from local groups and schools and others from families of those lost all made for a most moving service for the 800 attendees. The community spirit continued with morning tea provided by the RSL and each child receiving an ANZAC activity bag.

Similar events were held throughout the state. I've heard of roads being blocked with cars of people trying to get to a dawn service; I heard of a family with three young male adults sitting on the sand at Woorim for the service and of the young men being moved to tears; I've heard of young children who are challenged by getting out of bed in time to get ready to school being ready in the dark, in school uniform, ready and waiting to go to the Dawn Service; I've heard of art installations being prepared by school children and many other heart-warming stories.

One digger I know couldn't make it to his usual march and service as he had been admitted to a nursing home just a couple of days prior. But the staff had him dressed, complete with medals, for his son and grand-son to take him across the road to his local Service Club to have a beer with his mates when they returned from the service. He has now passed away but was determined not to miss ANZAC Day and honouring his mates who didn't make it home.

In this the centenary year of Gallipoli and the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. I pay my respects to all those who have served our country. There are snippets through this newsletter featuring Women of the War.

NCWQ in partnership with the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) are hosting a Bridge of Peace ceremony and luncheon, with women travelling from Japan to join us, on 16 September to promote healing and reconciliation of a painful past.

Lest we forget.

Noela O'Donnell - NCWQ President



"Convoy arrived, about 400 - no equipment whatever - just laid the men on the ground and gave them a drink. They are shattered and (we) have nothing to give them - no comfort whatever. All we can do is feed them and dress their wounds."

Matron Grace Wilson

Continuing featuring extracts from 'Stirrers with Style' we focus on Adelaide Miethke

Adelaide Miethke

Adelaide Miethke was the second president of the National Council of Women of Australia and remained in office from 1936 to 1942, a period extended beyond the normal 5-year term owing to the wartime disruption of meeting and conference schedules. Before the war, Miethke-renowned for her organisational skills and clarity of vision and the first national or federal president from outside the dominant states of NSW and Victoria-worked hard to establish more systematic communication between the state Councils and to provide financial assistance to delegates travelling to NCWA conferences from the most distant states. Miethke was a South Australian schoolteacher and inspector, and her role in union affairs resulted in significant gains for the state's women teachers and for girls' domestic science and commercial education. It was her role in the union that led to her association with the NCW. As well as serving as NCWA president from 1936 to 1942, she was NCWSA president from 1934 to 1940.



Like her immediate predecessors as federal/national president (Mildred Muscio and May Moss), Miethke chaired her state's Women's Centenary Council (1936) and was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire on 1 February 1937 for this work. Unlike all of her predecessors and many of her successors at the helm of NCWA, Miethke was in fulltime paid work for most of her period as president. On resigning from the South Australian Education Department in 1941, she assumed direction of the SA Schools Patriotic Fund and from 1941 to 1946 edited the magazine, *Children's Hour*, distributed monthly to South Australian schoolchildren. Part of the funds raised for the centenary in 1937 and for the wartime School Patriotic Fund went to establishing the Royal Flying Doctor Service of which Miethke was state president. She also went on to establish the School of the Air for outback children in 1950.

Adelaide Laetitia Miethke was born on 8 June 1881 at Manoora, South Australia, sixth daughter among 10 children of Rudolph Alexander Miethke, a Prussian-born schoolmaster, and his wife Emma Caroline, nee Schultze.

Educated at country schools and Woodville Public School, in 1899 she became a pupil-teacher and between 1903 and 1904 attended the University Training College; she soon became active in women teachers' and union affairs. In 1915, Miethke was founding president of the Women Teachers' Progressive League. The following year, she became the first woman vice-president of the South Australian Public School Teachers' Union. From her first appointment to the Le Fevre Peninsula Primary School, she rose steadily through the ranks in the Education Department, while also helping to open career opportunities for women and wider educational choices for girls through her leadership in teachers' unions and her speeches and articles.

In 1915, Adelaide Miethke addressed SA's Women's Non-Party Political Association, supporting the view that 'technically gifted girls should have a chance of developing their bent' to the same extent as boys. Like many teachers of her generation, she studied part time and, in 1924, she gained both her BA and her position as the first female inspector of high schools (girls' departments). In 1925, Miethke initiated technical schools for girls (central schools), which focussed on domestic science and commercial education, training girls for careers in office work, millinery and dressmaking as well as for home life. By the late 1930s, she was on the executive of the New Education Fellowship, which explored progressive methods. She also took up the cause of the Girl Guides Association, becoming commissioner of the schools division from 1925 to 1939.

In 1920, Miethke joined the newly re-formed NCWSA as a delegate from the Women Teachers' Progressive League and was elected president of the state Council from 1934 to 1940. In 1936, this led to her being one of 2 women appointed to the State Centenary Executive Committee and president of the Women's Centenary Council of South Australia, which, as a memorial to pioneer women, raised £5000 to establish the Alice Springs base of the Australian Aerial Medical Service (later the Royal Flying Doctor Service). It also built the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden in Adelaide and produced *A Book of South Australia: Women in the First Hundred Years*. On 27-28 November 1936, Miethke produced a grand 'Pageant of Empire', her stentorian voice being suited to rallying 14,000 costumed schoolchildren on the Adelaide oval. She was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire on 1 February 1937 for her centenary work.



'Noela O'Donnell, Marjorie Voss & Kathy Cavanagh at the Alice Spring Royal Flying Doctor Service last year

Adelaide Miethke became president of the National Council of Women of Australia in 1936 and served in this role until 1942. The first NCWA or federal president from outside the dominant states of NSW and Victoria, she worked hard in the early years of her office to establish more systematic communication between the state Councils through the launching and distribution of a typescript 'Quarterly Bulletin' and to provide financial assistance to delegates travelling to national conferences from the most distant states. Issues she fostered in addition to the ongoing ones of equal pay and uniform marriage laws included a national policy for Aborigines and equality of provision for married women in the projected national insurance legislation. During the first part of her presidency, it was also anticipated that the International Council of Women conference scheduled for 1942 would be held in Australia (along with the conferences of the Country Women's Associations of the World and the International Federation of University Women) but the outbreak of World War II in 1939 stymied these plans, and the ICW suffered serious disruption in the ensuing years.

When the scheduled national conference took place in January 1941, Miethke was elected for another term of office in the context of the wartime need for stability but subsequent restrictions on travel in Australia, especially to and from the smaller states, limited communication between the Councils and, in July, Miethke and her board suggested they should hand over to a Sydney-based board. It was another 16 months before this occurred. A conference planned for Easter 1942 in Sydney had to be abandoned and the new board was not elected until a meeting could be held in Melbourne in November. The broad prewar concerns had dissipated in these early wartime conferences as the state Councils all turned their attention to local war work and policy issues related to the war effort.

After completing her terms as state and national NCW president, Miethke continued to work for the Australian and SA Councils from 1943 to 1948 as convenor of the national and state education standing committees. In 1944, she was made an honorary life member of NCWA and honorary life vice-president of NCWSA.

In 1941, Miethke retired from her position as an inspector in the South Australian Education Department to general praise. She had been both respected and feared by teachers. Some associates found her abrasive and excessively managerial. An ex-pupil recalled: 'You couldn't get away with much with Miss Miethke. They had authority in those days'. Although she was a stickler for formality, her outspoken methods helped to improve teachers' industrial conditions and to raise the status of women in the Education Department.

From 1941 to 1946, in the wake of her retirement, she directed the Schools Patriotic Fund, just as she had during the Great War. Part of the £402,133 raised went to establishing Adelaide Miethke House, a city hostel administered by the YWCA for country girl students, and part to the Royal Flying Doctor Service of which she was state president. She also served on the Women's War Service Council and edited both the magazine, *Children's Hour*, distributed monthly to South Australian schoolchildren, and the newsletter of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, *Air Doctor*.

In her role as president of the Flying Doctor Service, Miethke observed outback children's shyness, and, in order to 'bridg(e) the lonely distance', she inaugurated the world's first school of the air. It began operating as a branch of the Flying Doctor Service from the Alice Springs Higher Primary School in 1950, using individual pedal-wireless sets on remote homesteads to link the children.

In 1942, she was founding president of the Woodville District Child Welfare Association, which established 4 pre-schools. The Adelaide Miethke Kindergarten (opened 1953) still flourishes. 1949 saw her last organising feat-the United Nations Appeal for Children. Miethke once admitted, 'I fear work has become almost a disease with me!' She maintained unabated her appetite for clubs and committee work, and was active in the Royal Commonwealth Society, the Adelaide Women's Club and the Catherine Helen Spence Scholarship Committee. She was also the first honorary life member of the Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society in 1941. Miethke continued her involvement in most of these organisations until her death on 4 February 1962 at her home in Woodville.

'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.

Government House Reception

NCWQ President Noela O'Donnell and Vice-President Annette Lourigan were honoured to attend a Reception at Government House for organisations with vice-regal patronage and we were thrilled when His Excellency the Governor actually mentioned NCWQ in his words. It was in the context of functions he had attended the previous week – "I must gratefully acknowledge how interesting is the varied and inspiring tableau you present. As Patron last week, for example, interspersed among certain 'largish' parliamentary duties, we attended the 50th Red Shield Appeal Launch; the National Council of Women of Queensland President's Dinner – in its 110th year;and we both yesterday at Maroochydore visited the Surf Life Saving Queensland 2015 State Championships. On all occasions, Kaye and I meet many wonderful Queenslanders from all walks of life, and of all ages. Their optimism and zest for life is infectious!"



NCWQ has been honoured to enjoy Vice-Regal patronage for the duration of our 110 years. An extract from '*The First Fifty Years in the history of the National Council of Women in Queensland*' the section allocated to the years

1926-1930 states

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

Many organisations enjoy the patronage of His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland.

Young Women Inspire.

On Wednesday 13th May, the annual NCWQ/BGGSOGA Young Women's Forum took place, with the theme this year again being 'Service is in our DNA'. The late afternoon forum was another wonderful event, bringing together about 60 women of all ages and backgrounds to network and hear from the featured speakers. Similar to last year's event, an NGO was featured at the forum. This year, Dressed for Success was invited to present and to distribute information and brochures on ways to become involved- the NGO operates out of a premises in Fortitude Valley and helps empower women by dressing and training them for success, including at upcoming job interviews.

The four young women invited to speak at this year's YWF were all alumni of BGGS, and included Rachel McClean, Chloe Yap, Ali Philips and Steph Carter. Rachel, founder and CEO of small business McClean Social Media, spoke with passion about her company and the work she does with fellow small business clients in Brisbane, helping them raise their profile and advertise using the power of social and digital media. Also a proud single Mum to Emily, Rachel inspired all with her personal story.

As more recent graduates from BGGS, Chloe and Ali spoke about their achievements to date, in very different areas. Chloe spoke with enthusiasm about her studies in medicine and passion for science and genetics, while Ali talked about Bust a Move Dance, a social enterprise she has set up to teach young people with special needs how to dance in a disciplined environment. Audience members were impressed to hear that Ali was taking her dance troupe to LA later in the year, to dance at the Special Olympics.

Final speaker Steph Carter, also a member of NCWQ, spoke about her role with DFAT funded aid program 'Australia Awards in Africa', including her recent posting to South Africa where she worked with the Alumni and Communications Teams to promote the awards and their impact across the continent, and to support awardees and alumni with their reintegration planning and professional development.

Overall, the forum was another inspiring event for those women attending- we look forward to



At first the situation on the island seemed hopeless. What could be achieved under such dire circumstances?

Sister Rachael Pratt - Lemnos



Reflections of a Life- Alison Armstrong

Some of us remember Alison Armstrong as the NCWQ Treasurer and member of the Executive Committee; others will instantly think of the War Widows Association and her contribution to that organisation. In this the Centenary year of the landing at Gallipoli and seventy years since the end of World War 11, I thought it appropriate to honour Alison and her service to our country. - Noela O'Donnell

Alison Armstrong was born Alison Laura Francis in Mudgee, New South Wales in 1921. Her parents were Egbert Dunkerton and Laura Louise Francis. She was the only child of older parents, and spent most of her early childhood in Fiji where her father was manager of a CSR sugar estate. Thanks to an Indian amah, she had an early fluency in both English and Hindi. On occasions this quiet little child playing in her father's office cutting out doll's dresses – which always fitted – would later tell her father exactly what the Indian speakers were saying to each other, thus giving him the upper hand in negotiations.

She was sent to boarding school – her first experience of school - in Leura at the age of 8, where she was called Pip/Pippa/Pipppy, being short for pipsqueak, as she was the youngest and smallest of the boarders. This was followed by 3 years at Kambala School. Sadly, her mother died suddenly when she was 12, however she spent much time with a cousin, whose Mum virtually adopted her.

She completed her secondary schooling at Abbotsleigh, and achieved an excellent matriculation result. She excelled in maths and music. Alison's daughter, Sue, was told many years later by one of her cousins that their maths teacher had commented that Alison was probably the most able maths student that she had ever had the pleasure of teaching. Unfortunately she was actively discouraged by her school in following a maths/science curriculum as such was not considered suitable for girls. Alison has told me how much she loved maths.

In 1939 Florence Violet McKenzie established and directed the Women's Emergency Signalling Corps (WESC) which was a civilian voluntary organisation which offered free training in telegraphic and visual signaling to recruits wishing to enter the defence forces and the Merchant Navy. The trainers were fully trained female telegraphists. The first fourteen women in the Women's Royal Australia Naval Service (WRANS) came from the ranks of the WESC. Florence Violet McKenzie was affectionately referred to as "Mrs Mac" and she is often referred to as the "Mother of the WRANS". These women were recruited for wireless telegraphy work at the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) wireless/transmitting station in Canberra, as part of a trial to free up men for service aboard ships. Although the RAN and the Australian government were initially reluctant to support the idea, the demand for seagoing personnel imposed by the Pacific War saw the WRANS formally established as a women's auxiliary service in 1942. Over the course of World War II over 3,000 women served in the WRANS. Women recruited into the WRANS were not permitted to serve at sea, but were able to fill most shore-based positions.

About the time of the start of World War II, Alison joined Mrs Mac's Signalling Corp, and became proficient with Morse code. This was also the time when her interest started in community service, as she was a volunteer at the Sydney Children's Hospital. One of tasks there was to carefully remove all the fish bones (she worked there on Fridays) from the meals, then assist children unable to feed themselves. On 29 December 1942 Alison enlisted in the WRANS, the women's branch of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). Her role in the WRANS was a telegraphist and she was initially based at HMAS Harman. Just after arriving in Harman Alison was invited to go to the sick bay, lie in a bed with blankets pulled right up around her and photographs were taken. She was unsure of what this was all about but a photograph appeared in PIX magazine. Her next posting was to Townsville. Here she was in a team receiving Morse code messages from Japanese ships. Her work hours were from midday to 4:00pm; then a change of watch from 4 to 8:00pm or 4 to 6:00 or 6 to 8:00; then from 8:00pm to 2:00am. This was the heavy week. The light week entailed only 2 x 24 hours with 12 hour watch. Three girls worked every watch plus a tele-printer operator. There was an armed guard outside their door. Radio mechanics also worked in this area as they serviced the ships when they came into port.

Whilst on leave in Townsville Alison and a couple of others were invited onto a decrepit looking 'fishing' boat. Alison said there was no refrigeration and they were served gin with orange juice with ants floating on the top in a vegemite glass. When the 'captain' returned they were speedily told they were not wanted on board. The boat was the *Krait*.

Alison met her husband Stuart Elliott Armstrong when based at Townsville. After a brief courtship they married and honeymooned on Daydream Island. As a married woman she could no longer serve. She returned to Sydney and worked in her uncle's solicitor's office. Stuart flew a Mustang to Manila, then onto Okinawa and then onto Japan with extra fuel under the wings. Following the three day flight he was a part of the occupational force in Japan.

She "retired" to Brisbane about 20 years ago, although her continued rural interest saw her for some time a member of the Cannon Hill Abattoir Board. She also worked as a volunteer for the Cancer Fund, where she used to meet and greet country people arriving by plane or train in Brisbane for Cancer treatment, then drive them to their appointments as well as doing office work and speaking to children in schools – spreading the SunSmart Message.

Alison became an active member of the War Widows Guild as well as the Retired Naval Officers Association. Her daughter Sue said *"I like to think it was a comment of mine that sparked her interest in the Guild as I said to her when she was worrying about retiring 'You know Mum, the War Widows could do with someone with your ability and expertise being involved in their organisation'."*

After Stuart's return and demobilization in the late 1940's they bought a mixed farm "Burbank" at Kooralgin near Cooyar, in southeast Queensland together with Stuart's brother Euan. After a couple of disastrous drought seasons and the death of both his father and father in law, Euan left, as the farm was not supporting the three adults plus a growing number of ankle biters (Alison & Stuart's children John and Sue). The drought must have been a shock to someone who had never lived out of sight of the sea, or experienced the suffering involved with starving stock.

It was at this stage her interest was entrenched in community service, becoming involved in the CWA at Cooyar where she filled the roles of secretary and treasurer. Alison was also involved with the local RSL again as secretary/treasurer.

Once her first two children, John and Sue, were at boarding school and the second two, Ian and Peter, were attending Yarraman Primary School, she found herself with some time on her hands and enrolled in a correspondence course in accountancy, which she completed in a little over 7 years – it would have been in record time except for requiring some time off after surgery.

During the later years of this course, she commenced working in Dalby with the accounting firm Stevenson and Gadalloff. Stuart was concerned about her traveling the lonely country roads so persuaded her to enroll in the local pistol club and purchase a pistol. Sue recalls she had a pistol-packing Momma! True to form, in next to no time she was involved in the running of the club and became treasurer.

After qualifying as a Public Accountant in the early 1970's, Alison commenced her own accountancy practice when Mr Stevenson left for Brisbane, continuing to practice in Dalby, but also doing a lot of taxation work for the local farmers around Kooralgin and district on the weekends. She also qualified as an auditor and became an honorary Justice of the Peace. She was the honorary auditor for a large number of organizations including the War Widows Guild, Naval Association Australia, National Party, Ashgrove Historical Association and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

Her interest in the welfare of "the man on the land" and the small country townsfolk who depended on the farming community continued to be a great concern for her, leading her to become heavily involved with at first the Country Party, and later the National Party. She was at times on the Central Council, Divisional President of the South West Region, President of Cunningham branch and a member/ president of the Women's Electoral Lobby. She was made a Life Member of the Young Nationals in appreciation of her long hours auditing, as well as the involvement in key positions within the senior party.

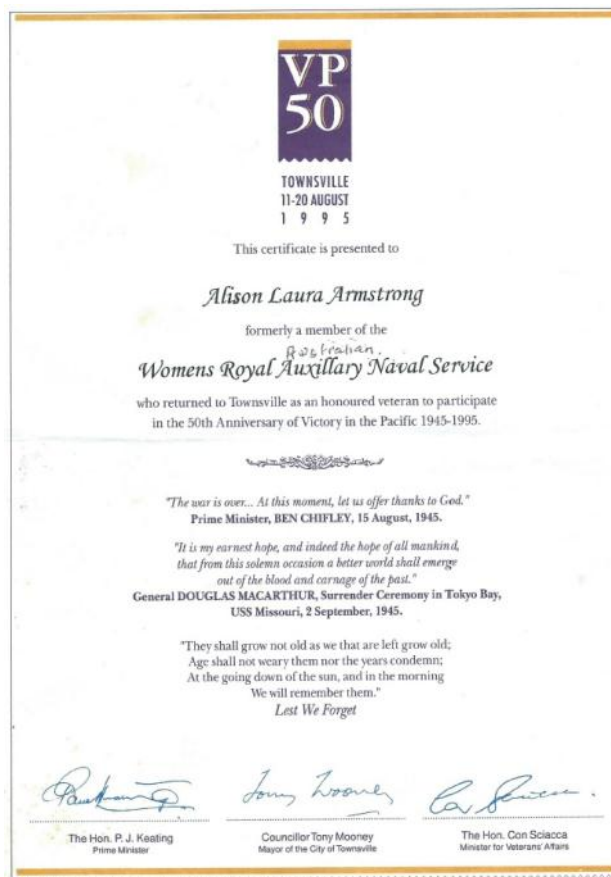
At this time she also developed a desire to improve her ability at public speaking and joined the Toastmistresses organisation, quickly becoming an executive member, but this time she was the president. She continued to maintain links with the CWA and RSL.

In 1980 her dearly beloved husband and best friend Stuart died an untimely death from lung cancer. She subsequently devoted herself to her very large accountancy practice, which at one stage was considered by the tax office to have the largest number of taxation returns for a single practitioner in Queensland. It was as a delegate of the War Widow's Guild that Alison became involved in the National Council of Women of Queensland serving as the treasurer, a role from which she resigned for health reasons. Alison was in Hawaii and was about to board a submarine when she suffered a ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm, which has a survival rate of approximately 1%.

Alison's work has been acknowledged over the years including being granted a Centenary Medal on 1 January 2001 for service to Queensland veterans, especially war widows. In 2003, on her retirement as State President, she was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in grateful recognition of loyal and dedicated service to the War Widow's Guild. In that same year she received an award for 25 years of distinguished service as Justice of the Peace (Qual) for the State of Queensland. In 2004 Alison received a Certificate of Appreciation for services as Director of the Returned Services League (Qld) War Veterans Homes Ltd and in 2006 received the Premiers Award for Queensland Seniors for volunteering in local communities. And in June 2007 Alison received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for services to the community, particularly through organisations supporting war widows, veterans and their families.

Today Alison lives a much quieter life at an AVEO Village. She has 4 children, 13 grandchildren, and an ever increasing crew of great-grandchildren. During her life time she has seen and experienced much including seeing Anna Pavlova dance in Sydney (one of Alison's cousins was in the Corp de Ballet); she saw Don Bradman bat in the infamous bodyline series when an uncle took her to the test and she saw the cutting of the ribbon by the interloper Francis de Groot at the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Alison we acknowledge your many contributions to your community and wish to say 'Thank you' for your service to our country.



WOMEN'S ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVAL SERVICE
MEMBER'S RECORD OF HONOURABLE SERVICE

Name: **Alison Laura Armstrong**
Rank: **Private**
Service Number: **VR 808**
Date of Birth: **27 Dec 1914**
Date of Entry: **29 Dec 1942**
Date of Discharge: **29 Dec 1945**

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At the outbreak of World War 1 fewer women than men participated in work, and these tended to be in lower-paid occupations. Women's main role was seen to be in the home. The withdrawal of about half a million men, most of whom had been in the work force did not, however, result in their direct replacement by women.

Women's contribution in the workforce rose from 24 per cent of the total in 1914 to 37 per cent in 1918, but the increase tended to be in what were already the traditional area of women's work – in the clothing and footwear, food and printing sectors. There was some increase also in the clerical, shop assistant and teaching areas. Unions were unwilling to let women join the workforce in greater numbers in the tradition male areas as they feared that this would lower wages.

(The Australian Home Front)

Celebrate Cultural Collaboration

The National Council of Women of Australia Ltd (NCWA) will host its Triennial Conference in Melbourne from Sunday 11 to Tuesday 13 October 2015. Included in the Conference program is the launch of 'Respectable Radicals' a history of NCWA, an afternoon cultural visit, resolutions, panel sessions and the conference dinner.

Details can be found on both the NCWA and the NCWQ websites.

All welcome.

BIG WIN FOR CONSUMERS: DO NOT CALL REGISTRATIONS NOW INDEFINITE

The Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) of which the National Council of Women of Australia (NCWA) is a member recently congratulated the Federal Government on its move to make registrations on the Do Not Call Register indefinite.

This is a great win for consumers who won't have to re-register to remain on the Do Not Call Register.

We encourage all consumers to sign up so they can avoid annoying telemarketing calls. ACCAN is the peak communications consumer organisation. For more information or to register go to <http://www.donotcall.gov.au>

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Associates

Jessica Dominko, Chelsea Wallis, Dr Mary Mahoney AO and Naomi Wilson

Organisation

Footprints in Brisbane

UN Women Progress of the World's Women 2015 – 2016

Transforming economics, realizing rights

The recently launched report from the UN Women Progress of the World's Women sets out 10 priorities for public action:

- Create more and better jobs for women
 - Reduce occupational segregation and gender pay gaps
 - Strengthen women's income security throughout the lifecycle
 - Recognise, reduce and redistribute unpaid care/domestic work
 - Invest in gender responsive social services
 - Maximise resources for the achievement of substantive equality
 - Support women's organisations to claim rights and shape policy agendas at all levels
 - Create an enabling global environment for the realisation of women's rights
 - Use human rights standards to shape policies and catalyse change
 - Generate evidence to assess progress on women's economic and social rights
- The full report can be found at <http://progress.unwomen.org/en/2015/>

25-4-15 Red Letter Day. Gaba Tepe...The wounded think the old ship is heaven after the Peninsula. There are 557 patients on board and only 7 nurses.

Sister Ella Tucker



Flying With Two Wings - A Baha'i Perspective

Believing Women for a Culture of Peace have produced a booklet 'Flying with two wings' – a multi-faith toolkit addressing violence against women. Women of faith, mainly members and contacts of their local interfaith association with a diversity of professional and academic expertise, were asked to contribute to the toolkit, drawing on insights and experiences from within their respective faith traditions and the actual practice in their faith communities.

With thanks to Believing Women for a Culture of Peace these contributions will be reproduced in editions of the NCWQ Newsletter with the first being A Baha'i Perspective.

“One of the main beliefs of the Baha’i Faith is the principle of **the Equality of Men and Women** which is elevated to a spiritual level. Baha’is are challenged first to apply this spiritual principle to their own lives, and then to demonstrate their understanding of its importance through the example of the Baha’i community.

How do we put this belief into practice? What moral compass and framework is used to establish this sense of equity and justice within the family unit and the wider community?

Baha’is turn to the Writings for this guidance. Our foundation as stated by Bahau’llah is that “Women and men have been and will always be equal in the sight of God. Verily God created men for women and women for men;” and “The world of humanity has two wings – one is women and the other men. Not until both wings are equally developed can the bird fly” (Selections from the Writings of Abdu’l-Baha, 227, page 302).

Through consultation, devotion and service to others, the Baha’i community offers the opportunity to all peoples of the world to struggle against the inherited prejudices and to build new patterns of living based on the awareness that men and women are equal in the sight of God.

Education is a vital key to reaching equality and it starts within the family and with the mother. “For mothers are the first educators, the first mentors and truly it is the mothers who determine the happiness, the future greatness, the courteous ways and learning and judgement, the understanding and the Faith of their little ones” (Selections from the Writings of Abdu’l-Baha, 96, page 126). It is also vital to educate boys that violence is not a solution that boys and girls are the same in the eyes of God and their parents and that physical and emotional violence is not acceptable.

The imbalance between the sexes, which has been allowed to dominate our society for generations, has now come to the forefront in modern times – in the environment, economy, education, war and violence, and the cure of it requires the participation of all men, and women from the youngest children to our most senior citizens, For “When perfect equality shall be established between men and women, peace may be realised “(Abdu’l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace).

In terms of violence in families we must obey the law of the country we are living in dealing with such matters is the first step is to reduce future physical harm and remove potential risk. The matter is then referred to our local Spiritual body (Local Spiritual Assembly) who invites the two parties to undertake consultation via mediation with absolute love and impartiality to bring and strengthen the family together again. They equip them with the apparatus of virtues like forgiveness, tolerance, patience, kindness, love and looking to the future to plant the seed for a balanced and healthy relationship where the right of both parties are respected.”

CENTENARY MEDAL

At the recent NCWQ President's Dinner, Joie Dwyer AM, Honorary Life Member of NCWQ, was represented by her daughter Gil Dwyer. Gil had travelled from Melbourne to give a medal presented to her mother to the NCWQ for safekeeping.

As part of the celebrations in 2001 of the Centenary of Federation, a Centenary Medal was created by the Perth Mint and was presented to 100 members of NCW throughout Australia. Joie joined other Queensland recipients of the Centenary Medal Pat Avery, Norma Alcorn, Yvonne Bain, Daphne Buckley OBE, Val Cocksedge OAM, Joyce Fullager, Yvonne Herbert CBE, Mollie-Jean Hunt, Joan Lynch, Dr Laurel Macintosh OBE, Georgina Pickers, Ailsa Scurr, Bev Siller and Zita Sidaway.

An article in the September 2001 edition of the NCWQ Newsletter informs us that Mrs Barbara Arnison, NCWQ Patron & Mrs Judith Parker, NCWA President, presented the medals to some of the recipients at the July Affair.

The article continues "Mollie Jean-Hunt was one of those workers who are the backbone of an Association. She convened hospitality for meetings and functions for approximately 13 years and served on Executive for 13 years. She was the delegate for the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship Synod Committee.

"Ailsa is one of those long serving member of NCW who work quietly in the background. She served for 10 years on the Executive and currently attends all our functions. She is a delegate from the Liberal Party of Australia Qld."

Serving on the Council as a delegate from the Forum Club, Joie filled many roles on the Executive Committee, as it was in those days. She was Vice-President during the terms of three different Presidents; she was the newsletter editor and treasurer over a number of years – always contributing. Joie was also the auditor for NCW Australia in the early 1990's.

In 2005 Joie was awarded Honorary Life Membership of NCWQ. She had previously been awarded Membership in the Order of Australia (AM) in 1992, in recognition of service to youth, particularly through the Girl Guides Association, and to the community.

Gil told us her Mum had trained and worked as a teacher, a job she loved, but was forced to give up when she married. Moving to a country property without electricity or a telephone, and with boundless energy, she and Gil's father set up the Fassifern Grazing Company, and Joie became the business manager. She had five children and during her motherhood years, she also undertook three degrees by correspondence – accountancy, commerce and arts.

"While Mum worked for many community organisations and causes in earlier years, after my father's sudden death in 1980 the community became the focus of her life and I will not attempt to cover the list of organisations and causes she served. But I will mention three enduring commitments, the first to her local community, which she served as Councillor and Deputy Mayor and in countless other ways over many years. The second was to the Girl Guides, and her involvement was life-long, starting at about the age of 5, and including a period as State Commissioner, and on national and international governance bodies.

Service to women and the advancement of women's interests was the third major theme in Joie's life. She was deeply engaged in many women's organisations, including Zonta, and UNIFEM, now UN Women.

She was clearly 'a pillar of the community'. She was also very clear about her feminism. She spoke up for the rights of women wherever she saw the need. A reporter once put it to her that she was 'an ardent feminist'. This is her reply "It upsets me when women say 'feminist' as if it is a dirty word. As it is defined in the dictionary it means believing in the abilities of women. I believe every woman, whether she denies it or not, really is a feminist. How could they not be? When I was first elected to the council in our small town I was delighted that it was the women much older than myself who stopped me in the street and congratulated me. They were my best moments – that those older ladies appreciated the abilities of women."

Perhaps Joie took after her Auntie Nell - Nell Malone – whose story along with that of her lifelong friends Miles Franklin and Kath Ussher is outlined in the recent book *Three Brilliant Careers*."

Centenary Medal recipients attending the 2015 President's Dinner were Val Cocksedge OAM, Georgina Pickers, Ailsa Scurr and Zita Sidaway OAM.

What a wonderful legacy from these inspiring women!



From Red Capes to Camouflage Uniforms

"Things here are just too awful for words ... we found only a bare piece of ground with wounded men in pain, still in filthy, bloodstained clothes, lying amid stones and thistles. As we lacked tents, beds or medicines, we could do little for most of our patients". Matron Grace Wilson - August 1915
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-19/anzac-girls-profile-piece-hold/5574326>

On Anzac Eve with other members of NCWQ I had the privilege of attending the Nurses Memorial Candlelight Vigil at Anzac Square. Hosted by the Centaur Memorial Nurses Fund, the Australian Catholic University and Defence Service Nurses RSL, Sub Branch QLD the service was to acknowledge the nurses who served on the Hospital Ships of Gallipoli and who built the hospital at Lemnos in WW1.

Sitting in Anzac Square on the eve of our 100th year of the Landing at Gallipoli it was impossible to not think about the young women who waited in the Hospital Ships, who heard the gun fire from what we now call Anzac Cove and watched as young man after young man was brought aboard the ship with their horrendous wounds of war. Like our Anzac Soldiers, these young nurses were a long way from home, in a foreign country keeping hope alive in the madness of war.

Sitting to the side of the lectern I could see the Shrine for the WW1 Nurses, it is a statue of a wounded soldier in the lap of a young nurse; his hand is held in her hand. It was the nurses' young and tiny hands who offered hope and friendship to the soldiers as they were taken from their mates in the trenches; it was hard not to cry.

During the night we heard from speakers Colonel Julie Finucane, Mrs Mary Purser, Group Captain Geoff Robinson and Captain Lee-Ann Pine, all Military Nurses who took us from the shores of Gallipoli, into the jungles of Korea and Vietnam and to the deserts of Afghanistan. From Red Capes to Soldiers Uniforms the stories of women and men who have so fearlessly served our soldiers and our nation as they faithfully cared and continue to care to the wounded of war.

Brisbane Girls Grammar School Choir "Encore" added to the atmosphere with hymns that our soldiers would have sung. It was the lone female bugler, Corporal Tara Nielsen who filled Anzac Square with the haunting sounds of The Last Post and The Rouse that made it impossible not to cry as I took my thoughts to the trenches that became the home of our Anzac's. In that minutes silence no matter what we think of war and peace, it is hard not to remember that they were sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, mums and dads who defended our lifestyle and served our country.

The Spirit of Anzac grows more and more as the dawn of that April day in 1915 becomes more distant. There were women who formed the early days of NCWQ and NCWA who were advocating for peace and for our soldiers. 110 years on we are still advocating for peace and for our Defence Forces. God thank the brave men and women who defend our home girt by sea, may we never let the sun set on their sacrifice and bravery- Lest We Forget.

Annette Lourigan
Vice-President



LONE PINE -Our Legacy. © Helen Loris Burke 2003

A Seed - a Cone - a Nation grew,
in far off distant land.
Australian troops left home that year
to make our country's stand.
They crossed the seas; they climbed the hills
with backpacks and with gun.
They fought in trenches - bled - in tears.
Our soldiers did not run.
The bullets ripped, their bodies blown.
The gas was all around
It crept on in and laid them low.
A thief, without a sound.
Pine branches hid their bloody deaths,
but nothing stopped their cries.
The place was fought for rocks and mud.
A wasteland all despised.

Our Nation grew there, at that place.
Lone Pine – they called it 'Hell.'
Yet from that cone, brought bravely home,
Four Pine trees grew – not fell.
So like our children, standing here,
a Legacy – hard won.
'Neath clear blue skies - no need to fear,
in this Australian sun.
“LEST WE FORGET” the toll it took,
our soldiers of that War –
with Mates, they fought and died for us.
Honour – Evermore.



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“On the event of the Centenary of the World War I Gallipoli peninsula campaign and Lone Pine. Our grandson, Corben Stubberfield in attendance.

In memory of my Father, Alan Esmond Burke (Bushy Burke) QX739- Lieutenant-2/4th Tank Field Regiment. World War II.”

Helen Loris Burke

Women drivers take the ambulances into the firing line, women stretcher-bearers lift the wounded and place them in the ambulances, woman doctors await them in the hospital. It is women who perform the operations, remaining at work in the theatres...sometimes thirty-six and fifty hours at a stretch. Women nurses and orderlies attend the patients in the wards, women cook the entire food required by the hospital, and women bury amputated limbs and carry on disinfecting and other sanitary work.

Mrs Eva Shaw McLaren, 1919 - *A History of the Scottish Women's Hospitals*

HARRIS TERRACE

The office of The National Council of Women of Queensland Inc is located at 'Harris Terrace' 46 George Street Brisbane.

In '*The National Council of Women of Queensland – The Second Fifty Years 1955-2005*' Daphne Buckley OBE, Honorary Life Member of NCWQ shares the history of how this came to be. Mrs Daphne Buckley B.Sc.,B.Ed.Admin.,B.A.FAIM was NCWQ President from 1983 to 1986.

"A Permanent Home at last!

After many years of operating in rented rooms, often in less than comfortable conditions, the Council was offered the free use of a meeting and work room in the Valley, complete with excellent office furnishings, by Brisbane business man, Sir Robert Mathers, until the Council could find a permanent home for both business and general meetings. The search for this was carried on, from the representations made by former Presidents Mrs Jon Wilson who was granted the first ongoing Government subsidy of \$500, and more latterly by Mrs Siller in requests for accommodation in a government building. Mrs Buckley continued with these representations with the Works Department and Lady Bjelke-Petersen, wife of the Premier, at first unsuccessfully as to the building, but Lady Bjelke-Petersen arranged an upgrade of the grant to \$10,000 per year to cover the lease of suitable accommodation. With this the Council entered into a three year lease of rooms in Adelaide St, furnished the rooms and felt happily set for at least the term of the lease. But not so! Less than a year later the Government granted the Council's original petition for rooms in a heritage building in Brisbane, and the National Council of Queensland moved into a permanent home, fully furnished, in the prestigious 'Harris Terrace' at the Colonial End of George Street.

The opening of the rooms was performed by the wife of the Premier, Senator Lady Bjelke-Petersen, on 28th August 1986, and from then on the Council had both office and meeting rooms as well as storage space in a venue of status."

The plaque affixed to the front of the building reads:

HARRIS TERRACE

This terrace of six houses was built in 1867 as an investment for parliamentarians and businessman George Harris, to a design by the prominent Brisbane architect James Cowlshaw.

The houses were initially popular with parliamentarians and doctors, but were later used as boarding houses or shops.

By 1947 the terrace had been purchased by the State to consolidate a government office precinct between George, Queens, William and Alice Streets. In 1985, the terrace was renovated as part of the 80 George Street government office development and the interiors were converted for commercial use."

NCWQ's home continues to be Harris Terrace.





WOW (Women of the World) Brisbane is a three day festival from 19-21 June 2015 hosted by QUT at Gardens Point Campus, Brisbane. WOW was created by Southbank Centre London, and now an annual flagship event WOW is a **global force supporting women, action and change** WOW **celebrates women's achievements** and takes a frank look at the lives of women and girls and the **obstacles** that prevent them from reaching their full potential WOW looks for **solutions, inspires insight, energy and laughter**, and builds new **networks and communities of strong women. WOW is...**

- A **global festival** of keynotes, talks, debates, performances, workshops, speed-mentoring, a marketplace, exhibitions and community-building
- A **catalyst for real change** for many areas of women's lives –politics, relationships, safety, economic participation, the arts, fashion, health, science, business and education
- An **opportunity** to engage with international and national leaders and everyday heroes
- A program focussed on **local needs and priorities** – local women have selected the themes, projects and speakers for this event

In 2015, WOW will be held in 15 centres in the UK, and 9 globally, in Africa, Europe, Australia and elsewhere.

WOW Brisbane will attract over 700 people each day to the festival. On Friday 19th June, over 200 students from Brisbane high schools will be in attendance.

For more details go to the website <http://wowaustralia.com.au/wow-brisbane-2015/program/>

Australian women have received formal recognition in their own right, for example 388 of the 2,562 women who served as AANS (Australian Army Nursing Service) nurses in World War One were awarded medals.

More than 3,000 Australian Civilian Nurses volunteered for active service during the First World War.

During World War One, some women contributed actively to the war effort through military service. But it was not until 1942 that war services other than nursing were opened up for women.

“It is all too dreadful and every day we hear of someone we knew being killed or wounded.”

Sister Alice Kitchen
Egypt

BURSARIES BY THE NUMBERS

Number of bursaries: **23**

Number of Applications: **564**

Most Applications: (Helen Ovens Bursary) **127**

Number Selection Panellists: **20**

Number of assessments: **1692**

Coordinator consumption of chocolate:

- A. 40 gms per hour
- B. 40 gms per 2-hour assessment session
- C. 140 gms per day
- D. All of the above

Date not to be missed:

Wednesday 27 May 5:30pm in The Barbara Fielding
Room, Brisbane Girls Grammar School.

Miss/Mrs/Ms

40 years ago the Queensland Parliament introduced legislation abolishing the legal requirements for women to declare their marital status or occupation The Description of Women's Marital Status Bill was a result of a finding made by a Commission of Inquiry into the Status of Women. This meant when we filled out a form etc we didn't have to specify Mrs. or Miss. Ms came into common usage.

The National Council of Women of Queensland
and Forum Communicators Association



WELCOME YOU TO A PUBLIC SPEAKING AND MEETING SKILLS WORKSHOP



Learn the Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Public Speaking and how a horse became a camel and more...



WHERE & WHEN

Saturday 20 June 2015
at the Queen Alexandra Community
Centre 347 Old Cleveland Road
Coorparoo
from 10:30am to 2:00pm.

Registrations are
required for this
workshop

Contact:
Philomena Murdoch
E: estherm@bigpond.com
P: 3349 7383
M: 0448 997 265

A light lunch will
be served

Cost will be
\$10.00
per person for
take home notes -
payable at the
door

The public speaking section will focus on

- ★ structuring a captivating presentation,
- ★ using power words,
- ★ calming the nerves,
- ★ And other tips.
- ★ You'll improve your communication and presentation skills and gain strategies to 'think on your feet'.



If you are on Facebook don't forget to like us at
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/National-Council-of-Women-of-Queensland-NCWQ/214692805227841>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bursaries Presentation Ceremony - The Barbara Fielding Room
Brisbane Girls Grammar School
Wednesday 27 May 5:30pm

Public Speaking and Meeting Skills Workshop - Forum Communicators
Queen Alexandra Community Centre
347 Old Cleveland Road Coorparoo
Saturday 20 June

THIS NEWSLETTER IS
PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



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.

Advertising in the NCWQ Newsletter

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.