The conference was opened by His Excellency the Governor General, His Excellency Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), who spoke on the importance of recognising women’s contributions to all levels of community, business and government and encouraged everyone to nominate more women for the Australian Honours and Awards.

The key presentations on older women and homelessness, economic security for older women, gender equality and domestic violence, provided opportunities for attendees to hear from national experts on the topics of women’s economic empowerment, leadership, and women’s safety. The strategic objective of the 2017 NCWA Mid Term conference, held in Canberra in June, was to create the opportunity for all people of all ages to come together and hear from national experts on the topics of women’s economic empowerment, leadership, and women’s safety.
During the Mid Term Conference in June, the National Council of Young Women of Australia was launched at Parliament House by Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, Minister for Women. The NCYWA is a new initiative of NCWA to provide opportunities for young women to have a voice on issues of concern for young women. The NCYWA is a new initiative of NCWA to provide opportunities for young women to have a voice on issues of concern for young women.

Members of the National Council of Young Women of Australia with Michelle Landry MP, Senator Michaelia Cash, Senator Linda Reynolds (WA) and Barbara Baikie, President of NCWA.

President: Lyn Buckley
Vice President: Caroline Snow
Treasurer: Paula Ivanovic
Recording Secretary: Noela O’Donnell
State Coordinator: Marilyn Quilks
Governor of Queensland: His Excellency Paul de Jersey AC
Patron: His Excellency Paul de Jersey AC
Applications for the 2017 bursary program closed on 5 June, so it is now in the midst of a busy time with the selection process, with a record 615 applications across the 31 bursaries on offer thanks to our generous sponsors. The recipients will be determined in early July. With a coordinator and two others on each selection panel, there is a lot of work involved, but we are impressed by the journeys we read about... 

The Bursary Presentation is being held on Wednesday 26 July, with full details available on the NCWQ website. It is always a special event, and we are fortunate to share it this year with NCWQ Patron, His Excellency, the Governor of Queensland, Paul de Jersey AC. We would be delighted to share it with you.

Please contact me for any further details.

- Kathy Cavanagh
bursaries@ncwq.org.au
Bursary Program Coordinator.

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PROMOTING INCLUSION OF MYANMAR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

2017 NCWQ Bursary Program

Celebrating 111 years
Affiliated with the National Council of Women of Australia Inc. Ltd and the International Council of Women
Patron: His Excellency Paul de Jersey AC
Governor of Queensland
President: Lyn Buckley
Vice President: Caroline Snow
Treasurer: Paula Ivanovic
Recording Secretary: Noela O'Donnell
State Coordinator: Marilyn Oulds

EMPOWER      CONNECT      ADVOCATE

On Saturday, 27 May 2017, NCWQ was represented at the March and Service to honour the 70th anniversary of the establishment of United Nations Peacekeepers. Noela O'Donnell, Georgina Pickers and Yvonne Matta attended.

The UN Peacekeepers are readily identified by their blue berets wherever they serve, and their clearly marked vehicles are welcomed in the areas where their mission serves in its military capacity and as peace makers helping the communities where they are assigned.

The Brisbane City Council, supporting the Peacekeepers as well as members of the Australian armed services, and members of parliament and parliamentarians of the Australian Parliament and the UN Security Council, as well as the UN Peacekeeping Force itself, were present at the March and Service.

There are 120 countries contributing troops, police and civilian personnel and there are 16 missions across four continents. The keynote speaker was Luisa Ryan, a civilian member of the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo.

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Please contact me for any further details.

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bursaries@ncwq.org.au
Bursary Program Coordinator.

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NCWQ at the 70th Anniversary UN Peacekeepers March and Service

- By Yvonne Matta

NCWQ members Noela O'Donnell, Georgina Pickers and Yvonne Matta attended, carrying the NCWQ Banner. The service was held in Anzac Square and attended by representatives of countries supporting the Peacekeepers as well as members of the Australian armed services, and members of parliament and parliamentarians of the Australian Parliament and the UN Security Council, as well as the UN Peacekeeping Force itself, were present at the March and Service.

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There are 120 countries contributing troops, police and civilian personnel and there are 16 missions across four continents. The keynote speaker was Luisa Ryan, a civilian member of the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo, currently one of the most difficult regions in today's world.
PROMOTING INCLUSION OF MYANMAR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

Congratulations, Noela O’Donnell AM!

Former NCWQ President Noela O’Donnell was awarded a Member (AM) in the General division of the Order of Australia awards, announced in the June Queen’s Birthday Honours list, with the citation “For significant service to women in rural and regional areas of Queensland, to medical research fundraising, and to the community.”

In 2001, Noela joined the Queensland Rural Women’s Network whilst in Cairns, as she was asked to help organise their conference to be held there in 2000. This was to form the connection with NCWQ, with Noela becoming the delegate of the subsequently named Queensland’s Rural, Regional and Remote Women’s Network, to NCWQ.

Noela was involved with various activities and roles, President from 2011-2015. NCWQ’s legacy is the bursary program. Commencing with a small group in 2009, two bursaries, Noela has been involved with various activities and roles, President from 2011-2015. Noela’s work was recognised by her award of the Cairns International Women’s Day Woman of the Year Award.

We too are familiar with Noela’s networking skills, which in Cairns were put to good use with Lifeline, where partnerships were established with hotels and businesses to donate goods, on a monthly basis for Lifeline whilst in Cairns. In 2001, Noela was the Deputy Chair of the International Year of the Volunteer in Cairns, and a member of the National Reference Group for the IYV, organising and promoting events and a Service of Recognition.

Noela’s work was recognised by her award of the Cairns International Woman’s Day Woman of the Year Award. Her history with NCWQ. Her history with NCWQ.

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Noela’s work was recognised by her award of the Cairns International Woman’s Day Woman of the Year Award. Her history with NCWQ. Her history with NCWQ.
The most vulnerable women and children that we work with, she said, "are service deliverers that we offer and the programs that we implement in the community. It will go a long way in helping them fulfill their roles." The changes that I make in the company and the tools that I bring with me will have a great impact on the type of Voice Inc. stronger and empowered her to make a real difference in her local community.

Jean Jano will be going home a changed woman. As the Program Manager of a local NGO in Papua New Guinea, she has just spent the last six weeks in Australia as part of the Diploma of Leadership and Management studies delivered by TAFE Queensland in partnership with the Australia Awards Program.

"The changes that I make in the company and the tools that I bring with me will have a great impact on the type of work that I do," said Jean. "As a Program Manager, I have been able to strengthen my skills and knowledge, which will help me make a difference in my local community."
July 2016 saw the start of a new adventure for this little Queenslander, to the land of all things deep fried, Chevy trucks and small towns. Friday nights. All in the name of study though I might add. I was accepted into an exchange program with the University of Wyoming, USA.

Don't worry if you've never heard of it, a lot of American's haven't either. Wyoming lies in the north west of the US and is regarded by many as the last frontier of the Wild West. It is the least populated state in the US and is home to some of the best people I have ever met.

Wyoming: And so for the finale, well the world truly is my oyster. But I have any say! I hope you enjoy this Semester Abroad blog. Before I move on to my home away from home: the beautiful state of Wyoming. Any ideas where the world truly is my oyster, but I have any say! I hope you enjoy this Semester Abroad blog. Before I move on to my home away from home: the beautiful state of Wyoming.
The Board, Management and staff of DVAC are proud and excited to inform our fellow stakeholders and supporters that we will now be providing a full suite of Domestic & Family Violence support services to the Toowoomba and Darling Downs region as well as the Ipswich Region. This distinct program of DVAC, the Service Against Sexual Violence (SASV) Toowoomba and Darling Downs, provides individual counselling and support services for adults over 18 (men and women), provides sexual violence support services to those who have experienced recent/historical sexual violence in the Toowoomba and Darling Downs. DVACT will also provide sexual violence support services to those who have experienced recent/historical sexual violence in the Ipswich Region and Darling Downs. The Domestic Violence Action Centre (DVAC) is a non-profit organisation located in Ipswich servicing the local government areas of Ipswich City Council, Somerset Regional Council (excluding Kilcoy), Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Scenic Rim Regional Council, Laidley Shire Council, and the City of Toowoomba. The Domestic Violence Action Centre Toowoomba (DVACT) will be supporting women, young people and children who are experiencing or who have experienced domestic violence, men who actively commit to behaviour change as well as providing information and education to the community at large.

DVACT will provide a range of services that include:

- Telephone information, referral, advocacy and support services to women and children;
- Court support for domestic violence matters; and support services to women and children in Toowoomba and Darling Downs;
- Mobile outreach to women and their children in models or other temporary accommodation in Toowoomba and Darling Downs;
- Mobile outreach to women and their children in motels or other temporary accommodation in Toowoomba awaiting refuge;
- Therapeutic services and group work for women and children and young people who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence;
- Women’s recovery services, including facilitated access to education, employment and increased social and community connection;
- Women’s individual counselling and support services to women and children;
- Court support for domestic violence matters; and;
- Mobile outreach to women and their children in models or other temporary accommodation in Toowoomba and Darling Downs.

DVACT will also provide sexual violence support services to those who have experienced recent/historical sexual violence in the Toowoomba and Darling Downs. This distinct program of DVACT, the Service Against Sexual Violence Toowoomba, provides individual counselling and support services for adults over 18 (men and women), provides sexual violence support services to those who have experienced recent/historical sexual violence in the Ipswich Region and Darling Downs. The Domestic Violence Action Centre Toowoomba (DVACT) will be supporting women, young people and children who are experiencing or who have experienced domestic violence, men who actively commit to behaviour change as well as providing information and education to the community at large.

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- Mobile outreach to women and their children in models or other temporary accommodation in Toowoomba and Darling Downs.

DVACT will also provide sexual violence support services to those who have experienced recent/historical sexual violence in the Toowoomba and Darling Downs.
A recent forum organised and sponsored by the Queensland Justices Association and Logan City Council was held in Logan city, one of the most ethnically diverse communities in Australia with over 54 nationalities and over 1 million residents. 

PROMOTING INCLUSION OF MYANMAR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

The Queensland Government is planning to introduce digital metering across Queensland on 01 December 2017. The technology will eventually replace the old 'disk type' meters that have been in use since the 1930s.

Consumer and Industry Reference Group Meeting

On Thursday 6th April I attended on behalf of NCWQ the CIRG’s (Consumer and Industry Reference Group’s) first meeting for the year. The meeting was well attended by consumer advocates, including QCOSS, COTA and National Seniors.

Environmental Report, April 2017

The debate on climate change has continued but unfortunately appears to have become more ideological than scientific, perhaps fuelled by American and Australian politicians or aspiring politicians. The Queensland Government is planning to introduce digital metering across Queensland on 01 December 2017.

Arts and Letters Report, May 2017

A space and sanctuary of great beauty, which has been a radio and television star and which can also be viewed online, revealing the age-old talents of a celebrated Craftswoman.

Thick, genuine tiles are made the way the masters crafted them, using techniques that have been passed down through the ages.