



# EMPOWER    CONNECT    ADVOCATE

*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

## NCWQ Mid Term Conference 2017: Future Directions, Our Council Our Voice — Driving Cultural Change

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, women's leadership, and women's safety.

The key presentations on older women and homelessness, economic security for older women, gender equality and domestic violence provided opportunities for attendees to take part in panel discussions and workshop to find solutions. The speakers spoke on matters that are impacting our communities. Maree Crabbe, co-founder of Reality & Risk, a community-based project that supports young people, parents, schools, government and the community sector spoke on understanding and addressing the influence of pornography. Maree stated: "Professionals who work with young people are increasingly aware of – and concerned about – the extent to which young people access porn, including extreme and violent porn, and the influence this is having on their lives".

Penny Leemhuis, social activist and housing affordability advocate and representative of Older Women Lost (OWLS) spoke of her personal experience in being homeless. A true insight into the pathway to homelessness and the difficulties in finding safe and secure affordable housing.

Anusha Goonetilleke who is the Supervising Solicitor of Street Law, an outreach legal service in Canberra which helps people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including people escaping domestic/family violence. Anusha highlighted the need to help disadvantaged people to have access to justice, to know their legal rights and to have representation when faced with matters that bring before the courts and tribunals.

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

[Click here to read the full article!](#)



The Governor General, His Excellency the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Noela O'Donnell, Alison Muir and Lyn Buckley



The Queensland delegation to the NCWA Conference. Alison Muir and Marjorie Voss (seated) and Noela O'Donnell, Pat Pepper, Georgina Pickers and Lyn Buckley (standing left to right)





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### Launch of National Council of Young Women of Australia

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. National Council of Young Women will be established by each State Council to provide greater representation for young women to address gender equality and practical solutions within our communities.



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



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# 2017 NCWQ Bursary Program

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 always impressed by the journeys we read about in so many applications.

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 also share it with you.

Please contact me for any further details.

- Kathy Cavanagh [bursaries@ncwq.org.au](mailto:bursaries@ncwq.org.au) - Bursary Program Coordinator.

# NCWQ at the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary UN Peacekeepers March and Service

On Saturday, 27 May 2017, NCWQ was represented at the March and Service to honour the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of United Nations Peacekeepers. Noelia 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 the Brisbane City Council.

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.

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.

- By Yvonne Matta



NCWQ members Noela O'Donnell Georgina Pickers  
and Yvonne Matta



## 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.*"

Whilst we may all be more familiar with Noela's role in Brisbane with NCWQ, her history of more extensive involvement in volunteering occurred in Cairns over her residence there from 1998 – 2002. Noela was involved with the Queensland Cancer Fund (in the CEO's words, a god-send to the organisation); instigating the inaugural Relay for Life in Cairns, continuing in Cairns to the present, and across Queensland.

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 stores. 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 IVV, 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 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, on her return to Brisbane in 2002.

From then, Noela has been involved with various activities and roles, President from 2011- 2015. Noela's NCWQ legacy is the bursary program. Commencing with a small group in 2009 with two bursaries, Noela has been the driving force through to the current situation in 2017, where 31 recipients will receive their bursaries on 26<sup>th</sup> July.







## We Need You!

Have you thought about nominating for the NCWQ Management Committee. We have a number of vacancies to fill and this is your opportunity to be involved in speaking up for matters that are of concern to women.

Our goal of **Empower, Connect and Advocate for all women** sets out our strategic pathway and purpose.

Nominations forms will be sent out shortly, so please consider bringing your knowledge and skills to the NCWQ by nominating to be on the Management Committee.

For more information please contact Lyn Buckley, President on 0409195163 or email [president@ncwq.org.au](mailto:president@ncwq.org.au)

## Empowering Women in Papua New Guinea

*Many Australia Award scholars from the Papua New Guinea Program attended the NCWQ Creators of Change event in May 2017. We are pleased to read about the achievements of these impressive women!*

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 her Diploma of Leadership and Management studies delivered by TAFE Queensland in partnership with the Australia Awards program.

As Program Manager at the Eastern Highlands Family Voice Inc. in Goroka, Papua New Guinea, Jean leads the charge on addressing gender based violence and family sexual violence, especially focusing on violence perpetrated against women and girls. Jean said the program has equipped her with the skills to help her make Eastern Highlands Family Voice Inc. stronger and empowered her to make areal difference in her local community.

“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 service delivery that we offer and the programs that we implement in the community. It will go a long way in helping the most vulnerable women and children that we work with,” she said.

[Click here to read the full article.](#)

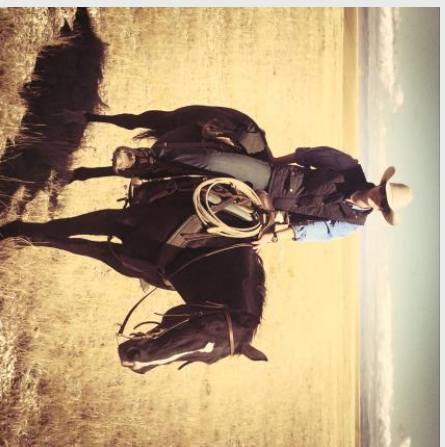




## Where are they now? Rebecca Clapperton, 2016 South Burnett Bursary Recipient



*Rebecca on her student exchange to the USA in 2016.*



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 town Friday nights. All in the name 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 likes of Yellowstone National Park, Buffalo Bill, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance kid, a lot of cowboys and some of the best people I have ever met.

During my time I had many great times and experiences and to give you a just a glimpse, I had nights of big macs, beers and roping steers. Of rodeos and country music concerts. I survived Halloween and I swear I gained five pounds after all the wonderful food I ate at Thanksgiving. We had numerous 'Tailgating' experiences followed by freezing nights at the college football games supporting the mighty Wyoming Cowboys. I went antelope hunting and rode a mustang across the big sky country. And then there was snow! Snow angels, snow ball fights, snowmen and snowboarding. Now while it all sounds lovely, I have to mention at twenty-five below, yeah not so lovely. I can officially say you have not been cold until the substance inside your nose actually freezes, and yes this did happen, more than once. But I did study as well I promise, and managed to complete a semester of uni. I thoroughly enjoyed their education system and had some wonderful teachers. I became quite close with a beautiful family who owned a ranch, and one day was asked if I wanted to go up into the mountains to help get a few cows out. We arrived at the bottom of the mountain and unloaded the horses, I then watched as Brent strapped on his chaps, and at first to both my surprise and amusement he added a holster and then a pistol. To which he added caually, the bears usually stay away from all the noise, but not so long ago one of my buddies was up in these parts and a mountain lion jumped out and tried to attack his horse. All the while I'm thinking that people say Australia has dangerous animals, huh yeah right. But better to have it and not need it he reckoned! I could not agree more. Needless to say we got the cows back without a hitch.

Whilst everyone no doubt has their own opinions of Americans, for me personally they were the most welcoming, polite and outgoing people. The amount of people I met that took me into their homes and allowed me see America through their eyes was just mind blowing. But as the snow kept falling and cold kept coming, I was ready to head back down under.

Since returning home, we have been fortunate to receive some muchly appreciated rain and a good season is shaping up. I am in my final year of study which I am completing externally from home, allowing me to continue to work, ride my horses and help out on my parents property. However, never one to sit still for too long, I am not far away from jumping back on another aeroplane. In June I am headed back to the USA with my Australian University UNE, to attend and compete at the International Food and Agribusiness Management Association conference in Miami. But not without a stop in first at my home away from home; the beautiful state of Wyoming. And as for the future, well the world truly is my oyster. But if I have any say, I dare say it will involve cattle, horses and the wide open spaces!

Rebecca was recently part of a student team who won their division in an international agribusiness competition in Miami. [Full story here.](#)



## **An Important Message from Domestic Violence Action Centre – Toowoomba and Ipswich**

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. The Domestic Violence Action Centre (DVAC) is a not-for-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 (excluding Beaudesert).



- The Domestic Violence Action Centre Toowoomba (DVACT) will be supporting women, young people and children who are experiencing or who have experienced domestic and family violence, supporting men who are actively committed 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 call over in the 8 regional courts (Toowoomba, Warwick, Dalby, Chinchilla, Pittsworth, Oakey, Stanthorpe and Goondiwindi);
  - Place-based and electronic outreach to key satellites (Warwick, Stanthorpe, Dalby, Chinchilla, Goondiwindi, Oakey, Pittsworth) in the catchment;
  - 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 experience domestic violence;
  - Women's recovery services, including facilitating access to education, employment and increased social and community connectedness;
  - Group work and family support for young men (and their mothers) who are using violence against their mother and/or siblings
  - Behaviour change programs for men who are using violence in their intimate partner or family relationships;
  - Safety upgrades for women and children wanting to stay safe in their homes, and;
  - Providing professional training and resources to other service providers and stakeholders.

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 14 (men and women).

We are now in the process of recruiting for our new service, initially for the following positions. We also have two positions advertised for our DVAC Ipswich service. All positions will be advertised on our website <https://www.dvac.org.au/> under News & Events – Positions Vacant. Please make sure you keep an eye on our website for many other opportunities over the coming weeks. All positions will also advertised on QCOSS, Seek and Ethical Jobs.





## Featured Posts

### ***Cultural Diversity: Meeting the Challenges Forum***

A recent forum organised and sponsored by the Queensland Justices Association and the Logan City Council was held in Logan city, one of the most ethnically diverse communities in Australia with over 54 nationalities and over .....[to read more, [click here](#)]



### ***Electricity Digital Meter Conversion***

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 1930's.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



### ***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 QCOS, COTA and National Seniors.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



### ***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.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



### ***Arts and Letters Report, May 2017***

A space and sanctuary of great beauty, which has, in fact, been featured on Australian television 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, eons ago..... [to read more, [click here](#)]



## Welcome to our new members!

We're pleased to welcome our two new members this month:

- The Developing Foundation
- Quota International of South Brisbane Inc

## Date claimer! NCWQ Conference and AGM

NCWQ CONFERENCE AND AGM will be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 at Queen Alexandra Home, Coorparoo. Invitations and AGM notices will be sent out shortly.