



# 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: Caroline Snow

Treasurer: Amy Henderson

Recording Secretary: Noela O'Donnell

Secretary: Alison Muir

## A note from the NCWQ President

Dear Members and friends of NCWQ,

Welcome to the September edition of our newsletter. Thank you to all our members and affiliates who attended and participated in our conference and annual general meeting at the Queen Alexandra Community Centre - I do hope you found our speakers inspiring and informative.

It is an honour to have been elected as President of the National Council of Women of Queensland in its 112th year. In this edition of the newsletter, I'd like to touch on 3 things: the focus for NCWQ this year, the value of education in creating positive change, and a little bit about me.

Now in its 112th year NCWQ as a peak representative body is as relevant today as it was when it was founded. Although some of the issues may have changed, we still need to stand up and ensure local, state and federal leaders hear about the issues that are important to our members and the wider community.

This year NCWQ retains its focus on ensuring the voices of homeless and at risk women are heard. This means working in conjunction with our many affiliated organisations, which advocate and fundraise to improve awareness of the plight of these women and their children. While the causes of homelessness are complex, it is exacerbated by current issues such as access to services, the cost of living and the ever increasing cost of essential utilities.

I have a keen interest in improving access to education - particularly for at risk, disadvantaged and underprivileged women and children through early education and the formal education system whether this is through corporate, community or government support.

The reason I feel so strongly about this is because I believe the only way we can continue to work towards equality is to ensure girls and boys start with the same educational opportunity. I know I stand on the shoulders of many members and presidents of NCWQ and its affiliates who have worked tirelessly in this space. Our bursary program is one of the best examples of how we can lift a young woman into a better place financially and emotionally - a place that gives her the greatest opportunity of fulfilling their potential. In the words of Hellen Keller, the highest result of education is tolerance and I'm sure we all can agree that a little bit of tolerance could go a long way in the current climate - education is indeed an investment that does not depreciate.



*Caroline Snow, the NCWQ's newest President.*



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And now to why I'm standing here in front of you. You may know that I'm a corporate lawyer. Some people think that corporate lawyers are devoid of compassion. Well, I'm here to tell you there are exceptions to the rule..

You may also know that I'm a mother of two energetic boys, Nicholas 14 and James 5. I'm doing my best to raise them as young men who love and respect women.

You may not know that when I was nine years of age my father went out on a weekend fishing with his mates, never to return. He was lost at sea.

My mother raised my two brothers and I on her own. However, she was not 'alone' and with the assistance of local community groups and church organisations, my mother instilled in me the value of helping the more vulnerable in our society.

I would not be here today if it were not for the work of strong women. The selflessness of others has had a significant, positive impact on my life.

I'm called to reciprocate this community spirit and I do so through my work with NCWQ, my local parish and my sons' schools.

It is with the deepest gratitude that I thank each and every one of you for supporting me as your new President. I am honoured and I promise to do my best to continue the NCWQ's critical and progressive work on behalf of all of our members, along with our ever valuable management committee.



*Caroline with NCWQ outgoing President Lyn Buckley.*





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### 2017 NCWQ Bursary Program

Wednesday 26 July 2017 saw the culmination of this year's bursary program with the presentation function. In the presence of our Patron, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland, the recipients were presented with their bursaries by our sponsors. After addressing the audience of about 160, His Excellency presented the two NCWQ bursaries to recipients Lucy Connolly (Regional/Rural bursary) and Charlotte Wilondja (Refugee bursary).

With 31 bursaries on offer this year, the program was the largest yet, in terms of both the number of bursaries and applications. The program reaches across students from Year 12 to PhD level. It covers study areas from creative industry, nursing, journalism, special education and early childhood, the sciences and leadership; to interests and achievement in their local community to LGBTIQ; some with disabilities or mental illness.

The history of the program over previous years forewarns us that the night will be special. But we are still astounded each year as we become part of the journey of the various recipients in reaching that point. We are amazed at what 17-year olds have already achieved; we recognise the obstacles that many have faced and conquered; and we are inspired by the determination and passion that is so practically demonstrated.

Already there is talk of new bursaries for the 2018 program, so the growth of the program, from 2 bursaries in 2009, is expected to continue in what will be the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the program. My thanks to Team Bursary – we know that there is a lot of work in the program, but we also know that we receive back far more than we give.

- Kathy Cavanagh, NCWQ Bursary Coordinator



**R: 2017 Bursary Recipients**





## 2017 NCWQ Conference and Annual General Meeting

**Generational Change for Women in Leadership** was the theme of the 112<sup>th</sup> NCWQ Conference and Annual General meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Assistant Commissioner Paul Stewart APM, People Capability Command, Queensland Police Service, Daphne Pirie AO MBE and Cr Vicki Howard spoke on the progression of women to leadership roles in the Queensland Police Service, sport and politics.

The first women police officers joined the Police Service in 1931 after a campaign started by the National Council of Women of Queensland in 1911 and supported by Irene Longman MP, former NCWQ President (1920-1924) and the first woman to stand for the Queensland Parliament. Today women make up 30% of the Queensland Police Service with female officers in positions ranging from a Senior Constable in charge of a single person station in rural north Queensland, to the Assistant Commissioner of the Intelligence, Counter-Terrorism and Major Events Command.

Daphne Pirie AO MBE is one of Australia's well recognised names in sport, not only as a performer in her own right in golf and track and field and Australian representative in hockey, but also as a major contributor in sports administration. Daphne has committed her life to the promotion of women in sport. As the founding president of Womensport Queensland, the first female vice-president of the Queensland Olympic Council, a board member of the Queensland Academy of Sport and president of the Gold Coast Sporting Hall of Fame Daphne has been at the forefront of establishing pathways for women into leadership roles.

As Councillor for the Central Ward comprising the Central Business District, Fortitude Valley, New Farm, Spring Hill, Herston, Bowen Hills, Newstead and Teneriffe, Cr Howard spoke of her determination to enter local government with several attempts at nominating for the Central Ward and finally her success in being elected. Since being elected Cr Howard has taken on the roles of Deputy Chair of City Planning and Deputy Chair of Council. Cr Howard highlighted the achievements and contributions of many women from sides of politics who have contributed to all levels of government in Queensland with their leadership and determination.

The new NCWQ Management Committee was elected at the 112<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. Caroline Snow was elected President for the forthcoming year. Caroline is a corporate lawyer and partner in the law firm, Russells Law. Under Caroline's leadership the Management Committee will continue to advocate for women and continue to advocate on the critical issues of homelessness, domestic violence and gender equality. As President, Caroline also spoke on her objective to empower women to access education as a way forward for women to achieve their goals.



*We thank outgoing President Lyn Buckley for everything she has done for NCWQ.*



## 2017 NCWQ Conference and Annual General Meeting: Thank You!

At the 2017 annual general meeting, the committee farewelled long standing committee members. We publicly thank them for their tireless service over many years:

### PAULA IVANOVIC

What would we do without a Treasurer? We all agree that Paula has been the unsung hero of the management committee over the last 4 years.

Paula 'retired' from Telstra after 35 years of service in mid – 2014 and, by her own account, has busier than ever. Paula has been a member of Quota International for 27 years where she was also Treasurer a number of times. This is how she became involved with NCWQ. She was also, for a number of years, the Treasurer of the Valley Senior Citizens Club.

We wish Paula a well earned rest and look forward to catching up with her at NCWQ events.

### MARJORIE VOSS OAM

Marjorie joined NCWQ in 2004 as one of two delegates from MU Australia. In 2006 she was elected to the Management Committee and from 2008 to 2012 she held the position of Vice-President. Marjorie has been a member of Guides Queensland for over 40 years as a Brownie Leader, Trainer, Assessor and more. She has also been a member of MU Australia for over 50 years holding many positions, including Metropolitan Vice-President; Australian Promotion & Development Coordinator & Caritas Leader and as an Education Department Speaker. In 2002 she resigned after 23 years, as Assistant Teacher at St. Lucia Kindergarten and joined the Queensland Watch Committee (part of ECA QLD.) In the 2014 Queen's Birthday Honours she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for "Service to Women, and to Youth through the Guiding Movement".

Marjorie will remain in the important role of NCWQ Child & Family Adviser.



*We thank Marjorie Voss (far right) and Paula Ivanovic (far back third from right) for everything they have done for NCWQ over the years.*





## Meet the NCWQ 2017/2018 Committee Members



*(l-r: Noela O'Donnell AM, Kathy Cavanagh, Alison Muir, Margaret Vallance, Pat Burgess, Erin Cunningham, Christine Stewart, Irene Cayas, Caroline Snow, Lyn Buckley, Georgina Pickers; absent: Steph Carter, Amy Henderson, Kirsty Lewis)*

### **PRESIDENT – CAROLINE SNOW**

Caroline is a Partner at Russells and a legal practitioner specialising in mergers and acquisitions, capital markets and corporate governance. Caroline has a keen interest in improving access to education and support for at risk, disadvantaged and underprivileged women and children through the formal education system and early education. A mother to two energetic boys, Caroline understands the challenges of juggling a professional corporate career with postgraduate study, motherhood and volunteering. Caroline is also member of the Queensland Law Society, the Women Lawyers Association of Queensland and the Governance Institute of Australia.

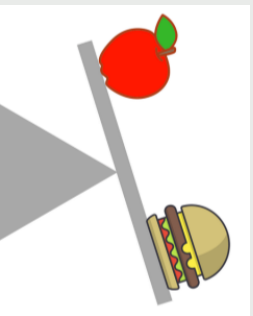
To read all Management Committee profiles, head to the NCWQ website: <http://ncwq.org.au/management-committee>



## Featured Posts

### ***Nutrition Report, September 2017***

The General Assembly decided 2016-2015 will be the Decade of Action on Nutrition, recognising the need to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition world-wide, particularly under nourishment; stunting; wasting; underweight and overweight in children under 5 years of age.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



### ***Child and Family Report, September 2017***

Domestic and Family Violence; Child Abuse and Neglect; Child Sexual Abuse; Elder Abuse; Sexual Abuse and Assault; Bullying; Homelessness; Poverty; and Suicide. I addressed these topics in my report last year, but has anything improved during the last twelve months?.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



### ***Environment Report, September 2017***

A range of environmental issues were researched and reported on during the year. Threats to Great Barrier Reef and global warming remain major issues. Advocacy was undertaken on these issues.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



### ***Consumer Affairs Report, September 2017***

The Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) is promoting a free search tool intended to re-unite \$1.1billion in unclaimed money with its owners.....to read more, [click here](#)



### ***Human Rights Report, September 2017***

In June 2016 the Queensland Government established a committee to enquire into a possible Human Rights Act for Queensland (popularly referred to as a Bill of Rights). Victoria, ACT, New Zealand and the UK have their own versions.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



## Welcome to our new members!

Welcome to NCWQ Elise Stephenson, Gayle Carrick, Jenny Strong and Nicole Penman.

Check out Elise's [blog](#) Social Good Outpost here, and watch her YouTube Alumni Profile [here](#).

## Featured Posts

### *International Relations & Peace Report, September 2017*

A tumultuous 12 months has passed since the last AGM report. As much as I would like to think there have been improvements in global affairs things could have been better.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



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

Raising spirits through writing, reading, responding, retrieving rituals, reciting, reporting, recognising, relating, researching, representing, recommending and recording is the quintessential purpose, pulse and heartbeat of the world of Arts and Letters!to read more, [click here](#)]



### *Environment Report, July 2017*

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has confirmed an estimated 29 % of shallow water corals died from bleaching in 2016, up from the 22 % estimated mid-2016.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



## Date claimer!

The 2017 NCWQ Bursaries Fundraising Morning Tea and Fashion Parade will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> October at Tattersall's Club! The event will start at 10am. Get your tickets here: <http://ncwq.org.au/ncwq-bursaries-morning-tea-fashion-parade>





## Tribute to Philomena Murdoch

Esther Philomena Murdoch passed away suddenly on 8 August 2017 aged 76, increasing our disbelief as several members had seen Philomena at a function just a few weeks earlier.

Philomena was well known to many NCWQ members. She had served as Honorary Secretary from 2008 to 2011, Resources Officer from 2012 to 2013 and continued as an active member of the Management Committee until 2016.

She had a deep appreciation and knowledge of meeting procedure and was an active participant in meetings. Her expertise was often needed.

Philomena was always willing to help and was actively involved in many NCWQ events and functions over the years. Her tasks had ranged widely. Like a terrier, she sourced the marketing materials and gifts for the Welcome Bags, which she prepared for the Parents and Children with Potential Conferences convened by NCWQ, aiming to thrill the children with the bits and pieces which were now theirs. She co-ordinated the workshops presented by Forum Communicators for our members. Her sons were there to assist with the setting up and the moving of furniture. It was Philomena who was always the first to send an email after an event. They were a joy to receive, as she sprinkled her expressive exclamation marks through her words of congratulations and thanks.

Philomena's enthusiasm was infectious and we all knew of her love of rugby, of the many years she gave to establish "Backstop House", a respite centre and her contribution over many years to Forum Communicators including her role as Dais President from 1995 to 1997. As Liaison Officer of NCWQ for Braille House, she diligently followed their progress, regularly attending functions and reporting back to the Committee.

To honour Philomena and her proud Irish heritage we ask that "until we meet again may God hold you in the hollow of His hand".

Rest in peace Philomena after a life well lived. You will be missed.





## Tribute to Daphne Buckley OBE

Daphne Buckley OBE, an Honorary Life Member of the National Council of Women of Queensland, passed away peacefully on 14 September 2017. Her funeral will be at Christ Church St Lucia at 11:00 am on 21 September.

Daphne, a delegate of the Australian Federation of University Women, was NCWQ President from 1983 – 1986. She was the second President to hold a full time job (Lecturer at the University of Queensland). Daphne authored *"The National Council of Women of Queensland - The Second Fifty Years 1955-2005"* – a most valuable resource. Daphne stepped down from the Executive/Management Committee in 2009 having held various roles including Newsletter Editor.

From 1978 Daphne was the Vice-Convenor of the International Council Standing Committee for Economics; from 1986 – 96 she was the Convenor and from 1996 – 2002 an Adviser all on the same Committee. In 2003 she was the Coordinator of the ICW Standing Committee for Sustainable Development and from 1992 – 2002 Daphne was the Convenor of the NCW Australia Standing Committee for Education. She gave many years of service to the organisation.

Daphne's son said *"She valued very highly her association with the National Council of Women, an association which so closely aligned with her values and passion."*

*Daphne, Laurel and Val – all NCWQ Honorary Life Members – taken in 2011-2012.*

