



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

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National Council of Women Queensland Inc. March 2019 Newsletter

Acting President's Report

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**Acknowledgement to
Hon Jackie Trad South
Brisbane Electorate for
the kind provision of
printing services**

- Erin Cunningham

International Women's Day - *Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change*

It was fantastic to see so many of our members and affiliated organisations attending events, or hosting one themselves, across Queensland Women's Week from 2-10 March.

This year's International Women's Day theme resonated with me because I believe it encapsulates the ambiance of all of the recent media attention surrounding gender inequality and women across the world breaking the 'glass ceiling'. International Women's Day and Queensland Women's Week is an important time to recognise and celebrate the wonderful achievements by women and girls not only across Queensland, but throughout the world. Encouraging the wider community to embrace gender equality, and promote and protect the rights, interests and wellbeing of women and girls is a satisfying way to ensure that today's society are investing in the women of the future.

On Sunday 10 March I represented NCWQ and NCYWQ at a Creators of Change Brunch at Newstead Studios, hosted by the University of Queensland (UQ) Muslimah Society and the UQ Arab Students Association. The Creators of Change Panel, comprised of young Brisbane ladies Lujayn Hawari, Beengul Ali, Nadia Saeed and Rose Richani, was very inspiring to watch and it was uplifting to hear the stories of how each of these ladies have overcome so much. Most of the ladies had fled from their home countries at a young age, yet have still been able to reach outstanding successes in their careers and extra-curricular passions.

Bursary Program

I draw attention to the bursary program opening on Monday 25 March. The website showcasing some of the 2018 bursary recipients during International Women's Week reinforced just how significant the bursaries are. I am looking forward to meeting the 2019 recipients and hearing their stories at the Presentation evening on 23 July 2019.

Annual Dinner

We invite all to our Annual Dinner, to be held at the United Service Club, on 30 April. Please contact info@ncwq.org.au for more information.

2019 NCWQ Bursary Program

- By Kathy Cavanagh

With applications for the 2019 NCWQ Bursary Program opening on Monday 25 March, the countdown is now in full swing.

Currently there are 34 confirmed bursaries on offer in the 2019 program – an increase of one from last year. This actually masks the reality of five new bursaries, with four bursaries from a local government authority not continued this year.



2019 NCWQ Bursary Program

Monday 25 March – bursary applications open

Monday 20 May – bursary applications close

Tuesday 23 July – bursary presentation function, 5:30pm, BGGs

Support of Affiliated Organisations

Previous sponsors

- ESA International
- Soroptimist International
- Forum Communicators
- Soroptimist International Moreton North Inc (SIMNI)

have been joined this year by

- Quota International sponsoring two bursaries to mark its centenary, one for audiology, the other for speech pathology
- Queensland Medical Women's Society, with a bursary for a medical student

Another new sponsor is Saalihah Seedat, sponsoring a bursary for a female from a CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) background. NCWQ is sponsoring two bursaries in its regional/rural category, the added bursary in recognition of the current hardships in our regional and rural areas.



International
Women's Day

Check out the NCWQ website for responses from some of our 2018 Bursary recipients, about the benefit of the bursary to their studies and the important women in their lives. www.ncwq.org.au

There remain a couple of other possibilities for inclusion in the 2019 program.

As sponsors, members of organisations or associates, we seek the support of you all in disseminating information about the bursary program. Whilst we send out hundreds and hundreds of emails to educational institutions, government agencies etc, it is often the personal word of mouth that attracts applicants. Full details will be on our website www.ncwq.org.au/bursaries and Facebook, managed by bursary recipients Taylor and Madison Birtchnell.

Team Bursary is prepared for a busy few months, until the presentation of bursaries on 23 July.

For more information contact Kathy Cavanagh, Bursary Program Coordinator at bursaries@ncwq.org.au or phone 0407 117 378.

Acknowledging the contribution of Senator Claire Moore

- By Noela O'Donnell

Members of 29 different organisations, associations or societies supported by Senator Claire Moore during her time as a Queensland Senator, together with family and work colleagues, gathered at historic *Miegunyah*, the home of the Queensland Women's Historical Association (QWHA) to hear of Senator Claire's time in the Australian Senate and of her engagement with community groups, many of whom are volunteers.

Claire took up her role as a Senator for Queensland on July 1, 2002. She is not standing for 2019 re-election and will be looking for new challenges and opportunities.



Guests on the steps of Miegunyah

Speakers included Adele Rice AM (FHeal), Beata Ostapiej-Pieakowski from the Romero Centre, Karyn Walsh AM of Micah Projects, the CEO of Comlink Feda Adra and the 2018 NCWQ Senator Claire Moore bursary recipient Farhana Sharmin. Each had a story to tell of support they had received from Senator Claire. Their words spelt out clearly how important the impact of women's groups is to individuals, the community and the political process. Claire has certainly facilitated that with her work and readiness to open doors!



Senator Claire Moore with Farhana Sharmin

Farhana acknowledged that the receipt of the NCWQ Senator Claire Moore bursary not only gave her financial support but also provided her a great networking opportunity and allowed her to become more confident, increasing her self-esteem as she continued her journey. Her goal is to finish her education degree this year and return to the workplace after a long break. Farhana, who already has a PhD in Microbiology, would like to use this background to work collaboratively to make a connection between science and education for her students - our future generations.

There was a wonderful feel of energy of all the women in the room. A guest said "The event was undeniably very special in reflecting respectful, supportive, warm, caring and intimate inclusiveness of Queensland women".

We all join in thanking Senator Claire Moore for all you have done; we extend to you our best wishes as you seek your next challenge or opportunity and we thank you for sharing your wealth of knowledge and experience with us.



Sue Boyce with Virginia Clarke



Beata Ostapiej-Pieakowski, Janey Kyle Scott
and Sandra Hyde-Page

A walk back memory lane!



Peace procession in Wickham Street, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane, after World War I in July 1919

NCWQ MEMBERS CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2019!



Soroptimist International Bayside President Sue Myers, Guest speaker Sarah Corbett Brisbane Branch Coordinator Rosies – Friends on the Street & St South Queensland President Gayle Carrick at the IWD Breakfast at Redlands Sporting Club



Students from across Redland City with Guest Speaker Sarah Corbett who spoke about the importance of volunteering and caring for others in the Community.



Kageni, Noela O'Donnell & Saba Abraham 'Breaking Bread' at Mu'ooz, a social enterprise and restaurant supporting the women from Eritrea



Saba Abraham with Senator Claire Moore at Mu'ooz



Noela O'Donnell, NCWQ Bursary Recipient and Guest Speaker Taylor Birtchnell and Bert van Manen MP at the Soroptimist International Beenleigh IWD Breakfast



NCWQ Member Elizabeth Mackenzie addressing QCWA Samford members. Elizabeth's address wove her own life experiences around the threads of the International "Think equal. Build Smart and Innovate change" and the Australian theme "More powerful together".

Read it at www.ncwq.org.au



Sergeant Sharon Morgan, OIC Gin Gin; NCWQ Bursary Sponsor Senior Sergeant Anna Dwyer and Sergeant Mandy Watane, Scientific Section at the Public Safety IWD Event



Soroptimist International Moreton North Inc. (SIMNI) IPP Frances Cahill, Sharon Armstrong and President Janey Kyle Scott



Recipients of the SIMNI "Be Inspired" IWD Awards Sharon Armstrong, Wendy Wood and Dr Donnell Davis



Soroptimist Sisters from New Zealand, Australia and Canada celebrate together.

Janey Kyle-Scott, Chris Knight and Marijo Watt



Guest Panel at the SIMNI Be Inspired 7th Annual IWD and Awards



Redcliffe Coast Guard Members with Kerri-Anne Dooley at the QI Redcliffe Breakfast



A group of some of the 190 guests at the QI Redcliffe Breakfast



Guest Speaker Judy Menary M.Ed first female Executive Principal of the Queensland School of Distance Education with Quotarians at the Quota International Redcliffe's 24th Annual IWD Breakfast



Left: Hercules Road Students and Teachers at the QI Redcliffe Breakfast

Right: Clontarf Beach State School Students





Access Community Services Ltd. Treated newly arrived female clients to a Pamper Day on IWD



Guests enjoying having their nails painted



Access clients were able to have their eyebrows threaded, make their own hand lotion, create jewellery and choose clothes from the Access Boutique



Hon Scott Bucholz MP & partner Christine with Co-ordinator Ali Lingard at the Quota International Jimboomba IWD Event



QI Jimboomba President Julie Sansom, Co-ordinator Ali Lingard, Guest Speaker Artist Carla Benzi and Jimboomba Quota Vice-President Julie Newman.

Carla's painting 'Bessie and Dane' depicts ADF Member Dane with his Bomb Detecting Dog Bessie.



UQ Muslimah Society in Collaboration with the UQ Student Associated hosted over 100 guests at their IWD event, featuring the Creators of Change Panel



UQ Muslimah Executive Committee



UQ Muslimah President Ammarah Seedat cutting the IWD Celebratory Cake

Christmas gift thanks

- By Noela O'Donnell

It has become a tradition that guests attending the NCWQ Christmas Luncheon bring gifts to be passed on to another agency. Past recipients include NCWQ member organisations Access Community Services, the Lady Musgrave Trust, Community Friends, Save the Children and the Salvation Army. In 2018 the Catholic Women's League State President, Sandy O'Donohue, was the guest speaker and the gifts were distributed to residents of an aged care facility.

Sandy has sent the following message to NCWQ members.

"First let me say a big thank you to all the ladies who bought the gifts for the people in Aged Care facilities. It was a wonderful response.



Noela O'Donnell and Sandy O'Donohue

We had several people deliver these presents to different aged care homes. I just wish that you could have seen their smiles and the way their eyes just lit up. Some of them have out lived their families so it was a wonderful day for them to have someone think of them. Some of them said that they could not believe that people would be so kind as to do something like this.

It made a big difference in their lives to think that people cared enough for this to happen. I think that it made their Christmas all the better knowing that someone cared.

I would like to say on behalf of Catholic Women's League a very big thank you to you for asking me to be the Guest speaker, I cannot tell you how honoured I was. It is people like you that make a big difference in this world. The joy that you bring to other people is just fantastic."

Elaine Dare, a volunteer at a nursing home in Redcliffe, asked that I share this with you.

"I also visit housebound people in the area. I am writing to thank you and the members of NCWQ who collected the items for the gift packages presented to Sandy O'Donohue last December for distribution in Redcliffe.

The gifts were really appreciated by the residents, for some it was their only Christmas gift. It was a delight to watch the pure joy as they delved into their bags and produced items to be admired by the group. For others (especially the men) the fragrance of the after shaves brought back memories ('my wife really liked this' etc) which they shared with us. All in all, a wonderful experience for residents and volunteers alike.

Thank you once again and best wishes for 2019."

Strengthening reading in Indonesia

NCWQ Adviser for Arts/Letters/Music, Jennifer Ann Davies, last year attended the ICE-CIF General Assembly in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. During the Assembly Jennifer Ann was appointed the International Council of Women (ICW) Arts and Letters Advisor.

Naya Fauzia – one of a team of young women and men who have a strong belief in the power of literacy to influence socio-cultural change and stability and to give people opportunities to make choices in life. Naya was one of a team of young women who manned the desk, for us, at The 35th ICW-CIF General Assembly in Yogyakarta in 2018. Their job included registration, information, directions and organisation. Naya has a strong command of language English, so was particularly helpful to those of us who have only a little Indonesian or Javanese! We chatted lots!

The conference was busy, and so was the city, and one evening, after having worked later than planned, we were all loaded onto buses, bound for our evening meal, temple and entertainment, and the roads were so tightly congested, a huge sigh went up, followed by significant gesturing, shouted orders in both Indonesian and Javanese – et voila! WE HAD A POLICE ESCORT!

Some were shocked – others thought this hilarious. The journey was long and slow and we had lots of time to chat, laugh and discover each other enroute, through a dusky, interesting, much-noticed cavalcade, with flashing lights, sirens, motor vehicles and motor bikes forging the way through waving citizens! Sitting in the back of the bus, laughing heartily, the wonderful Daphne Hansen, Naya and I were able to learn a little more of each other; our countries and our lives – thusly, we spoke of the project involving language and literacy for Project Child Indonesia Sekolah Sungai (River School). “We teach children who live in the communities by the riverbanks...” said Naya.

The young women and men volunteer each afternoon to teach language/literacy to the children from kinde through to junior high school, in the riverbank villages, in Yogyakarta, Central Java, Indonesia. At times they join community meetings so that all the villagers are familiar with their work and every few months they have bazaars to showcase the villagers' wares; and at other times they have free medical check-ups. Respect is a hallmark of these people and informing all the villagers of WHAT they are doing has been important for maintaining strong connections.

Naya is excited that the children will have some new books as they love to learn about other places, people and new things! www.projectchild/ourprogram/sekolah-sungai

Since her return home, Jennifer Ann, has been sending books for the children. If you, too, would like to support Naya in the work she is doing with Project Child Indonesia Sekolah Sungai (River School), pop some books in the mail to Naya who lives in her father's house.

Miss Naya Fauzia
C/- Abdul Ghoffar
Jl. Kaliurang Km,
12, 5, Candikarang. RT4/RT9,
Sardonoharjo, Ngaglik, Sleman
Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Postal Code: 55581

Stretching and sketching from past to present

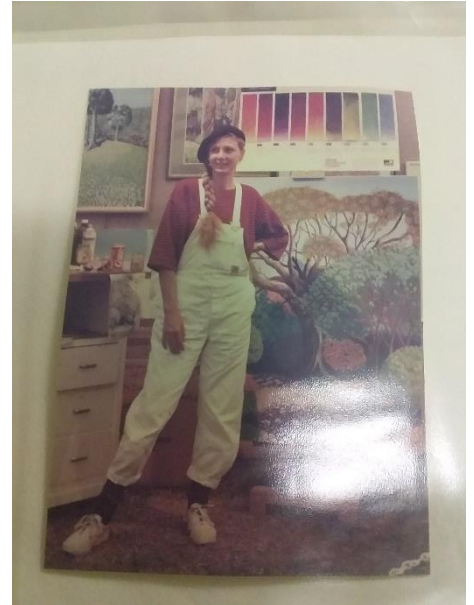
- By Jennifer Ann Davies

In 1990, Queensland's Convenor for Arts/Letters/Music, Mrs Shirley Murphy, compiled a collection of interviews, photographs and the philosophies of a group of outstanding Australian Women Artists.

In 1991, Ms Barbara Firth, NCWA Convenor for Arts/Letters/Music and ICW Consultant for the Asia/Pacific Region, endorsed this collection, which, in 2019, has been retrieved from obscurity by Mrs Noela O'Donnell. Thusly we can honour these wonderful women, who paved the way for future artists to be taken seriously!

This month we re-introduce the saucy, succinct **LYNDA SAMPSON SEARLE**, dedicated 'to paint'. She said to Shirley in 1990 "I love the discovery process – joy – fresh every time – a brightly lit Australian landscape - my first love is the colours that surround me."

"I think," Searle continued, "that in Australia the distinctions of gender which plagued the visual arts in the past, have lessened considerably. I think women now have the space to express their intrinsic femininity and be accepted as being serious."



For Searle, although the process is solitary, personal and enjoyable, she simply wants to allow the viewer a glimpse of the world from an altered perspective.

"To change perspectives," she had stated to Mrs. Shirley Murphy, "to look again with different eyes, brings back the joy of discovery, unlocks the mystery of life; returns peace to the heart."

They sketched, scribbled, shaped, sanded, sewed, shaved, shared

Sculpted, stabilised semi-fluid; suffered, saved, sighted, spaced

Structured, surfaced, studied, showed, silenced, stated, sang

Symbolised, stained, scored, seared, silvered, sourced, surreal

Scraps, saws, steel, static, spirited, signed, succinct, suggesting

Superb shades, shapes, sculpting - Searle seriously successful!

Jennifer Ann Davies 2019

What are NCWQ advisers doing?

- By Dr Pat Pepper, State Coordinator, NCWQ

Firstly congratulations to Dr Donnell Davis, NCWQ Habitat Adviser who was awarded an International Women's Day Award from Soroptimist International South-West Pacific.

The NCWQ Advisers' February/March Reports are briefly summarised below. The full reports are available on the NCWQ website.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & PEACE:

Georgina Pickers NCWQ Human Rights and International Relations & Peace Adviser reported on

- Heroes of Sustainability Development Goals 2018
- Plight of individuals whose human rights are stifled by bureaucracy and politics

[Adviser Report NCWQ Human Rights & International Relations and Peace February 2019](#)

NUTRITION:

Val Cocksedge OAM, NCWQ Nutrition Adviser's Report covered

- recommendations from a five year review to bring the Health Star Rating system into line with the current dietary guidelines aiming to have Australians make better food choices
- relationship between irresponsible marketing, junk food and obesity
- poor eating habits of Australians and some advice for reform

[NCWQ Nutrition Adviser's Report, February 2019](#)

HABITAT:

Dr Donnell Davis, NCWQ Habitat Adviser reported on the 63rd UN session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63) which has as its primary theme 'Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls'. She advocated concentrated input by women so that policies, processes and community practices could lead to more inclusive community benefit, regional resilience and national security.

She highlighted a report 'Preventing Femicide through Urban Design (Multiple Scale toolkits)' in which a wide range of measures are proposed to improve family safety. Donnell noted that even though more women are graduating as qualified professionals in the urban design disciplines less are actively working and getting paid for contributions in this space. [190309 ncwq - CSW 63 .pdf](#)

ENVIRONMENT:

Dr Pat Pepper, NCWQ Environment Adviser reported that while extinctions are not unprecedented anthropogenic impacts such as habitat loss and modification, the spread of invasive species and climate change could well be precipitating another mass extinction. She painted a rather grim picture of the level of animal and plant species extinction and the rate of biodiversity deterioration in Australia, and advocated

- national monitoring and reporting programmes which run over a species' distributional and environmental range and for time periods long enough to detect trends.
- sufficient sampling to give confidence in the results which need to be available in a timely manner for effective recovery plans to be implemented.

[NCWQ Environment Adviser's Reports, March 2019](#)

CHILD, YOUTH and FAMILY:

Leanne Francia, Child, Youth and Family Adviser, stressed the impact of family violence and poverty on individuals and society, in particular

- family violence and suicide experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children,
- family violence experienced by separated mothers and children, and
- youth's experiences of poverty.

[Child, Youth and Family Adviser's Report, March 2019](#)

CONSUMER AFFAIRS:

Val Cocksedge OAM, NCWQ Consumer Affairs Adviser warned about a number of issues-

- scams (she also provided some useful advice on how to combat some scams);
- product safety recalls;
- danger of diethyl phthalate;
- danger of plastic particles to marine life and
- lack of progress in protection of subcontractors and home owners when building companies collapse.

She also reported positive news about

- legislation to assist cane growers in their business
- export opportunity for edible oils and honey in Asia;
- success of camel farm at Harrisville;

[NCWQ Consumer Affairs Adviser's Report, February 2019](#)

ARTS & LETTERS:

Jennifer Ann Davies, NCWQ Arts & Letters Adviser

- paid tribute to Judith Rodriguez, distinguished Australian Poet and Human Rights Advocate;
- highlighted coming events at the new Cairns Performing Arts Centre and at QPAC in Brisbane.
- critiqued two disturbing publications which cannot fail to stir alarm and compassion, "Grave Secrets" by Kathy Reichs and "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood;
- reported on a recent solo exhibition of Mona Ryder, one of Australia's most recognisable and evocative artists and
- promoted a film "**On the Basis of Sex**" which is based the life and early cases of U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

[NCWQ Adviser's Report for Arts & Letters, March 2019](#)

MUSIC:

Jennifer Ann Davies, NCWQ Music Adviser, highlighted musical offerings throughout the State, Music by the Sea, Sandgate; St Jerome's Laneway Festival, Brisbane; Brisbane City Sounds' education programme and Opera Queensland 2019 programme. She also introduced us to Israeli singer, Yasmin Levy, 'Marilya', a group of young indigenous singers based in Cairns and James Newton Howard's composition, the Nutcracker and the Four Realms.

[NCWQ Adviser's Report for Music, February/March 2019](#)

Welcome to our new members!

Vicky Cartwright

Saalihah Seedat



Annual Dinner

Tuesday 30 April 2019 – Annual Dinner at the United Service Club Queensland, 183 Wickham Terrace, Brisbane in the presence of His Excellency, the Governor of Queensland and Mrs Kaye de Jersey

2019 Bursary Program

Monday 25 March 2019 – Bursary applications open

Monday 20 May 2019 – Bursary applications close

Tuesday 23 July 2019 – Bursaries Presentation in the Barbara Fielding Room, Brisbane Girls Grammar School

Details: Kathy Cavanagh E: bursaries@ncwq.org.au M: 0407 117 378

Thursday 10 October 2019 – Bursaries fund-raising Morning Tea and Fashion Parade

The NCWQ acknowledges the elders and traditional custodians, past and present, of the land on which we live. We recognise, respect and value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' role in and contribution to Australian life and culture.

NCYWQ NEWS

- Erin Cunningham, Coordinator of the National Council of Young Women of Queensland



Pictured from left: NCYWQ members, Kirsty Miron, Supre Paleyanda Ponnappa, Vicky Cartwright and Erin Cunningham, Coordinator of the National Council of Young Women of Queensland, with Senator Claire Moore.

Upcoming Events

High Tea

NCYWQ are gearing up for a busy year, with a dedicated committee busy preparing for a High Tea, planned for mid-2019. Those of you who attended last year's event will understand how popular it was! Stay tuned for more information on the NCWQ [Facebook page](#).

Next Meeting

We are currently undertaking a review of our meeting options, with a view to conducting Skype meeting or teleconferences in the future, in order for us to reach the largest number of NCYWQ members as possible. Our next meeting details will be published on the NCWQ Facebook page in due course.

We also have some seminars and networking opportunities planned – but we will leave the details of these for another issue of the NCWQ Newsletter!

Join us!

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in joining our 18 to 35 year old group of proactive ladies looking to make a difference, please contact Acting President Erin on president@ncwq.org.au.