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

Patron: His Excellency Paul de Jersey AC
Governor of Queensland

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

Thank you to all NCWQ members who provided me with the opportunity to hold the position of President of the National Council of Women of Queensland Inc., for the last four years. I have been honoured to fill this role.

Four years ago my goals included ensuring the Council was more representative of Queensland women today – to be inclusive of women working full time, women from diverse faiths and cultures and younger women.

I see succession planning as one of the biggest challenges our organisation faces. We have changed our Management Committee meeting times to enable women working full time to attend; we have initiated the Creators of Change; we need to step back and encourage new faces and ideas. I understand this is not easy for some members but, I believe, for the good of the organisation, we need to do so. NCWQ has been working for women for 110 years. Many changes have taken place over those years. We need to prepare for more as we face the next 110 years. To do otherwise would not do justice to those who formed our organisation and those who have contributed over the years.

One of our successes in this area is that we have five women aged under 40 years filling the roles of newsletter editor, membership secretary and web administrator and back-ups, all roles outside the Management Committee and therefore not requiring the holders to attend regular meetings.

I hope I have raised the profile of the organisation both amongst our members and the broader community. I hope not as many people now say they have never heard of the National Council of Women of Queensland.

I hope cost-saving initiatives implemented have helped keep us in a reasonable financial situation. We are a member-based organisation and most of our income is from membership fees. We do not receive any government funding. We need to be continually increasing our membership base. During the 2011/12 financial year, 45 organisations and 82 associates paid their membership subscriptions generating an income of $4,200.00; an increase of $100.00 on the previous year. In 2014/15 61 organisations and 69 associates are paid members providing the organisation with $6,055.00 in membership income.

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I have endeavoured to improve our communication with our members by various means – bi-monthly newsletters, our website and Facebook.

I believe we have hosted about 50 events over the four years including seminars, forums and workshops.

We have prepared and sent submissions and letters on issues as diverse as microplastics; the proposed Trans Pacific Partnership (Our concern was the inclusion of the Investor State Dispute Settlement clauses); domestic violence; Red Tape Reduction and Other Reform Proposals for Regulation of Liquor and Gaming focussing on trading hours and glassing; concerns on the impact of coal seam gas mining on the quality and quantity of groundwater, the environment and prime farming land; the preservation of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park; support for the incorporation of accessibility designs in all new home dwellings in Queensland; and for the equality for single people in the conditions required for the PBS Safety Net. I acknowledge the expertise of our Advisers in assisting

It has been a busy time but so very rewarding and humbling.

I am so proud of the growth of our bursary program. We have made a difference to the lives of numerous Queensland women, many of whom have faced unimaginable challenges. They have inspired us.

As I move into the role of Immediate Past President, I wish the incoming committee my best wishes and hand over to you the candle of NCWQ.

Noela O'Donnell

NCWQ President

A LANDMARK BIRTHDAY FOR A ICONIC BRISBANE LANDMARK

Brisbane's beloved Story Bridge turned 75 this year, having attained iconic status since its official opening on 6 July 1940.

The 1072 metre long, 22 storey high steel structure took five years to build and employed nearly 400 locals at its peak construction period. Originally referred to as the Brisbane River Bridge, it was renamed Jubilee Bridge in 1935 during the silver jubilee of King George V and formally named Story Bridge after veteran public servant John Douglas Story when it opened.

Today, the Story Bridge lights up Brisbane's night sky with breath taking decorative displays to support events and champion charity campaigns.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Associates

Virginia Nelson
Barbara Stone
Erin Waters
Rozelle Bothma

Organisations

Carers Queensland Inc
Children by Choice

NCWQ welcomes Queensland's first female Chief Justice, the The Honourable Catherine Holmes

NCWQ warmly welcomes Queensland's 19th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Honourable Chief Justice, Catherine Holmes.

On Friday 11 September 2015, The Honourable Justice Holmes was sworn in as Queensland's 19th Chief Justice, and the first female to take up the role in Queensland.

The appointment, announced by Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath on Monday 7 September 2015, comes as Queensland celebrates 100 years since Agnes McWhinney became the first woman admitted as a solicitor in Queensland in 1915.

Since that time, the numbers of women holding practising certificates with the Queensland Law Society has increased, with 46.7% of legal practitioners in Queensland in 2013-2014 comprising women.

The Honourable Chief Justice Holmes was born Brisbane, Queensland, the daughter of Ernest Holmes, labourer, and his wife Ellen, (née Mackinlay), bookeeper. She received her secondary education at Our Lady of Sacred Heart College, Corinda (1970-71), and Oxley State High School (1972-73). She then studied at the Australian National University, graduating Bachelor of Economics (1977) and at the University of Queensland, graduating Bachelor of Laws (1980). Justice Holmes was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland (1982).

On 19 November 1984, she was admitted as a barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland, working initially as a Commonwealth crown prosecutor (1984-86), and then commenced practice at the bar in Brisbane. She took silk on 15 December 1999. The Honourable Chief Justice Holmes served as a founding member of the Women's Legal Service (1984), a part-time member of the Anti-Discrimination Tribunal (1994–2000) and deputy president of the Queensland Community Corrections Board (1997). She obtained a Bachelor of Arts with honours (1989) and Master of Laws (Advanced) (1998) at the University of Queensland. She was counsel assisting the Forde Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Institutions (1998-99) and then served as an acting judge of the District Court of Queensland, from 12 August 1999 to 12 November 1999.

On 16 March 2000, The Honourable Chief Justice Holmes was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland. She served as the Criminal List judge (2001–04) and the presiding judge of the Queensland Mental Health Court (2005-06). On 26 May 2006, she was appointed a judge of appeal. In 2011-12, she conducted the Commission of Inquiry into the 2010–11 Queensland floods.

I was honoured to attend the swearing in ceremony, held in the Banco Court of the Supreme Court complex as a practicing legal practitioner in Queensland as a representative of NCWQ. The appointment is wonderful recognition of The Honourable Chief Justice's hard work and lofty contribution to this State's legal process and the Queensland community at large.

Caroline Snow
NCWQ Management Committee and member Women Lawyers Association of Queensland

In 1977 the WRAAF (Women's Royal Australian Air Force) was integrated into the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and women soon received equal pay and conditions to their male colleagues.

About 3,500 Australian Army Nurses served either overseas or in Australia during World War 11. Those who served close to the battlefield experienced at first hand not only the discomforts of makeshift field hospitals, including mud, dust, bad food and lack of normal amenities, but also the risks and horrors of war.

Bridge of Peace

The National Council of Women of Queensland Inc. (NCWQ) partnered with the Women's Federation for World Peace Qld (WFWP) to host a Bridge of Peace Sisterhood Ceremony and Luncheon to commemorate 70 years since the end of World War 2 and to promote peace and friendship between the women of Japan and Australia.

Nineteen women travelled from Japan to join us in a simple, moving ceremony, held at Parliament House, to join women from the two countries as 'sisters'. The ceremony witnessed by His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland and NCWQ Patron; Mrs Kaye de Jersey; Ms Tracy Davis MP, Member for Aspley; Mrs Anne Quirk, Lady Mayoress of Brisbane; Cr Vicki Howard, Central Ward Brisbane City Council; Professor Yeon Ah Moon, International President WFWP; was led by Mrs Mamiko Rattley, Vice-President WFWP Australia and President WFWP and Mrs Noela O'Donnell, NCWQ President. Participants included representatives of the Australian Red Cross; Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses; RSL – Queensland Branch; The War Widows Guild of Australia; and members of WFWP & NCWQ who formed a sister relationship with the visiting Japanese women.

In his address to the assembled guests, His Excellency warmly welcomed our guests and comforted us with his words that "the personal connection between individuals can lead to reconciliation, forgiveness and the healing of relationships between nations and cultures, however deep the wounds."

Guests were treated to a traditional Japanese dance and music.

NCWQ President Noela O'Donnell acknowledged those who paid the ultimate sacrifice as we recalled the terrible cost of war and our hope for a world free of conflict and its deadly consequences.

"We have built a bridge and crossed it together – hand in hand, as sisters.

We have pledged to strive to be a peacemaker and harmoniser in our families, community, society and between nations", she said.

The following day The Lord Mayor of Brisbane Cr Graham Quirk hosted a Civic Reception for our honoured guests from Japan. Brisbane City Councillors Vicki Howard, Central Ward and Fiona King, Marchant Ward joined with NCWQ & WFWP members in this significant event.

We hope that our Japanese sisters return home inspired by the significance of the Bridge of Peace ceremony; warmed by the special bond of sisterhood; and with fond memories of their time in Brisbane.

MEMBER ORGANISATION PROFILE
MU AUSTRALIA

MU Australia is part of the world-wide Mothers' Union which is a missionary organisation within the Anglican Church. MU is open to men and women who are baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity and who believe in the Aim and Objects of the Mothers' Union.

The whole nature and purpose of this organisation can be summed up in its Mission Statement which is, "Sharing Christ's Love by encouraging, strengthening and supporting marriage and family life". MU is found in 83 countries around the world with over 4 million members and everything that MU does is underpinned by prayer.

The organisation was founded by Mary Sumner in 1876 in England. Her vision was to form a union of mothers who would unite in prayer for themselves and for one another. From the very beginning, Mothers' Union was there to provide support and care in family situations.

Although a registered charity, MU Australia is not a fundraising organisation. We are able to support MU projects through careful management of MU funds derived from membership subscriptions, and donations from branches and members.

The first branch in Queensland was formed at Milton in 1904 by Mrs Exley. Lady Chelmsford, wife of the Governor of Queensland, was the first Diocesan President of the Brisbane Diocese in 1906.

During those early years many babies were dying within the first year of birth. Mrs Exley in cooperation with others, formed the first District Nursing Association where nurses used bicycles and moved about the city areas. The District Nursing Association became known as St Luke's Nursing Association and now Anglicare Southern Queensland. MU supports Anglicare chaplaincy ministering to homes and hospitals.

MU Australia has approximately 7000 members across 23 dioceses with almost 1200 members in the Brisbane diocese, the largest diocesan membership in Australia. Our members are very active in providing support for families with illness such as comfort teddies for children, pillows for breast cancer patients, pillowcases for oncology kids, blessing boxes for those experiencing troubled times, and fresh start baskets for those women who have been obliged to leave the family home and spend time in the women's shelter.

There are many other areas we support including bursaries for formation students at St Francis College, attendance at the Family Court, and the traditional welcome gift for the newly baptised.

To meet the challenges of changing lifestyles and standards, but in no way diluting the basic principles of our Aim and Objects, our Australian governing body has prepared a "white paper" to open discussion on how we address the way forward for the modern MU Australia. We know our members will embrace this discussion and make changes as necessary to remain relevant in the years ahead.

Our activities overseas, which are supported from Australia, largely with cash donations, include education and parenting programs in very poor countries, providing for clean drinking water, literacy programs, and empowering communities to carry out programs which will generate income.

Mothers' Union takes an active role in social issues, including having special consultative status at the United Nations and participatory roles in various governments' bodies in areas of social responsibility and justice. In Brisbane, we have a Diocesan Co-ordinator for Social Issues and Action who regularly makes contact with politicians and political organisations.

MU is represented on NCWQ by two of our members, Mrs Marjorie Voss OAM, and Mrs Mary de Vries.

The Vision of Mothers' Union is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. You can sum up what we do in the words contained in the worldwide Mothers' Union logo: "Christian care for families".

Marilyn Dunning
MU Australia

We continue to feature extracts from 'Stirrers with Style!' Presidents of the National Council of Women of Australia and its predecessors. In this edition we profile Hean Bee Wee.

Hean Bee Wee

Hean Bee Wee was president of the National Council of Women of Australia from 2006 to 2009 (the first Asian-born woman to hold the position) and a vice-president of the International Council of Women from 2012. She brought to both positions a passionate commitment to gender and ethnic equality, first learned in her birthplace, Penang, and developed through voluntary work undertaken in South Australia. Her work for NCWA and ICW also benefitted from Wee's professional expertise in business and international education.

Hean Bee Wee was born in Penang, Malaysia, on 23 March 1946, daughter of Gan Chin Huat and his wife, Khoo Hong Sean. After completing her secondary education, she came to Australia to study economics at the University of Adelaide. On graduating as a Bachelor of Economics (Honours) in 1969, she chose to become a secondary school teacher specialising in business education. She married a fellow teacher, Victor Wee, in Adelaide in 1970. In 1973, she completed a Diploma of Education at the University of Adelaide and, in 2003, and Advanced Diploma of Financial Services at the University of Technology Sydney. Within her teaching career, she developed further expertise in international education, teaching and co-ordinating International Baccalaureate programs and becoming an ambassador for South Australian schools in Southeast Asia.

Wee is passionately committed to the principle of social equality, in terms of both gender and ethnicity. Growing up in a society where girls were valued less than boys, she became aware of ender inequity at an early age. When she was 11 years old, her best friend told her that she would have to leave school because her parents could not afford to pay for her to sit the entrance examination to secondary school, preferring to save the money to pay for her younger brother's examination the following year. Hean Bee Wee was horrified, and paid the examination fees from her own savings.

In Australia, Wee carried her passion for equality into a rage of voluntary activities. In 1991, she joined the City Group of the Penguin Club of South Australia, initially to develop her skills a as a public speaker. Wishing to share these benefits, she set about recruiting other women from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds to join the club, with considerable success. The same drive for equality led her to become a delegate for the Penguin Club to the National Council of Women of South Australia. She also joined the South Australian branch of the Asian Pacific Business Council for Women, serving on the executive in 1994-1995 and 1998-1999. From 1995 to 1997, she took on the position of commissioner for the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission, and, from 1999-2003, she served as president of the Asian Women's Consultative Council of South Australia. She has also served as treasurer of the South Australian Women's Trust from 1999 to 2002. Her work on behalf of Asian and Non-English Speaking Women is ongoing.

Within the National Council of Women SA, Hean Bee Wee soon undertook executive roles. From 2002 to 2004, she was economics adviser to the South Australian Executive and, from 2004 to 2006, vice-president. IN 2006, she was elected president of the National Council of Women of Australia, representing the ACT Council and serving until 2009. Her proudest achievement as NCWA president was to obtain funding from the federal government for 2 projects, both directed to the advancement of women. The first of these worked to promote the well-being of Aboriginal women in Oodnadatta, the second to provide a culturally and linguistically appropriate leadership training course for Non-English Speaking women at TAFE: both have had successful outcomes.

Hean Bee Wee has carried these concerns for education and equity into the international arena. In 2012, she was elected a vice-president of the International Council of Women, with responsibility for supervising a project in Samoa to establish a financially viable marketing structure for handicrafts produced by local Samoan women – a project bringing together the full range of her expertise and commitment.

Hean Bee Wee is also the proud mother of Samuel and grandmother of 2, Sebastian and Annabel.

'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.

Australia women's involvement in Air Defence Services commenced in April 1939, when Mary Bell, the wife of Air Force Group Captain John Bell, established the Women's Air Training Corps (WATC) in Brisbane.

NCWQ was represented at the Australian National Flag Day ceremony held in King George Square on 3 September 2015.

Some interesting facts regarding the Australian Flag are:

- The Australian National Flag is the only flag to fly over an entire continent
- The Australian Flag was the first national flag chosen in an open public competition
- The prize for the design competition, £200, was a substantial sum of money in those days, representing nearly a year's wages for an average worker
- Given that there were 32,823 entries in the design competition, and the Australian population was estimated to be around 3.6 million in 1901; an equivalent response rate from today's population would amount to some 200,000 entries
- Arranging the 32,823 entries for display at the Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne took eight weeks, and the judges need six days to inspect them and choose the winning design
- Entrants in the flag competition gave their imagination free rein: designs submitted featured "every kind of flora and fauna identifiable with Australia – sometimes all at once" (e.g. a kangaroo with six tails to symbolise the six states; a galloping emu heading south, and native animals playing cricket with a winged cricket ball)
- The winning design was unveiled by the wife of the first Governor-General at a ceremony held at the Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne on 3 September 1901
- Two out of the five prize-winners in the 1901 flag design competition were teenagers, school boy Ivor Evans and apprentice optician Leslie Hawkins. Another was a well-known female artist, Annie Dorrington, and one William Stevens was First Officer for the merchant navy. The fifth winner was a Melbourne architect Egbert Nuttall
- The Southern Cross, formally known as "Crux Australis" is a constellation that can be seen only in the night skies of the Southern Hemisphere. The individual stars are named by the first five letters of the Greek alphabet – Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta and Epsilon
- The Southern Cross has a very significant status in Aboriginal mythology e.g. as part of the legend of Mululu of the Kanda tribe
- The Australian National Flag is raised every morning at the school in Villers-Bretonneux in France, in memory of the thousands of Australian casualties incurred in liberating their village in 1917 during the First World War

Many Army Nurses sacrificed their health and well-being in the service of Australia. Some sacrificed their lives.

In March 1991 the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF) was formed from the WATC (the Women's Air Training Corps). It was the first female non-nursing branch of the defence forces.

DOCUDRAMA — A GLIMPSE AT TRAGEDY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The National Council of Women of Queensland and the Royal Automobile Club of Queensland both endeavour to bring to light the issues that affect young people today. Below is a small glimpse at the RACQ's Docudrama talks they put on for senior school aged children.

There's a stark statistic you may not be aware of, and if you have teenagers yourself or are a grandmother, aunt or loved one to some of them, you need to know this.

In Queensland, road crashes account for about 40 percent of deaths in young people aged between 15-25 years.

It's frightening, but it's a statistic RACQ is fighting very hard to change.

Our powerful road safety program, Docudrama, is designed especially for senior school students and provides skills for some of our most vulnerable road users to take charge of their safety.

It teaches students at a critical time of their lives about the consequences of careless or irresponsible behaviour when behind the wheel, using relatable and realistic scenarios.

In the program, senior students witness a re-enactment of a car crash involving officers and staff from the Queensland Ambulance Service, Queensland Police Service and local funeral directors.

It's an affecting scene, but one which is played out in real life all too often all around our state.

Following the dramatic re-enactment, the students then attend debriefing sessions conducted by RACQ's Education Officers, examining how the tragedy could have been avoided.

Some more statistics to consider. Through the program, we survey each student to get a picture of their real life risk taking behaviours, and this is what has been revealed.

More than half of Queensland high school seniors admit to travelling in cars with drivers who they suspected had been drinking.

Alarmingly an even higher number of students, 61 percent, also say they've hopped into a car when they didn't really know the driver at all.

Think about that, and then think about the young person you know and love. These statistics are a wake-up call, and we're asking – have you spoken with your kids about their strategy for safely getting home safely?

One of the many things we go through with each class is asking them to go home and talk to their mum or dad about having a 'no-questions-asked' phone call option to ring them at any time, day or night.

You and I know that any parent would rather take a phone call in the middle of the night than receive a knock on the door from emergency services.

RACQ delivers our free Docudrama program to more than 50 schools across Queensland each year, thanks to funding from the Queensland Government through the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

If you'd like more information, take a look at our video here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKbIlgN--xY

Ian Gilliespie - RACQ CEO

[Mr Ian Gillespie is Group Chief Executive Officer of the RACQ (The Royal Automobile Club of Queensland Limited) which celebrates 110 years in 2015 and covers more than 1.2 million members.]

Flying With Two Wings - A Christian 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 this newsletter edition featuring 'A Christian Perspective'.

In Jesus' teaching and practice, all people are to be valued and treated with dignity. He singled out those most vulnerable or marginalized in the society of his day. This is demonstrated by the way he related to women, reached out to them, and allowed them to challenge him. In the story of his encounter with a woman accused of adultery who was about to be stoned to death (Gospel of John 8:3-11) he challenged violence against women in a manner that was uncompromising, yet non-judgemental and compassionate, leading perpetrators to first acknowledge and then to change their behaviour. The earliest Christian churches were very "women friendly", as reflected in texts like that in Paul's letter to the Galatians: "All of you have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female. We are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal 3: 28-29).

Sadly, the ideal set for Christians by Jesus has not always been upheld. From the earliest Christian times, the believers have struggled to be faithful to his message. History shows that, as the church expanded and became more inserted in the societies and cultures of the times, ideas and practices from these contexts that were contrary to Jesus' message relating to women, their dignity and their status, were adopted as part of Christian belief and practice. For many centuries certain text of the Bible were used to support claims that women were inferior humans and needed to be kept under the control of men. Up to this day, we know that violence against women exists in Christian homes and churches.

Throughout the ages, and continuing today, there have been Christian women who raised their voices – and suffered for it – to insist that the churches return to the vision of Jesus about attitudes to and treatment of women. In 2001 the World Council of Churches launched a "Decade to Overcome Violence". Included in this program was a special worldwide campaign called "on the Wings of a Dove", directed to overcoming violence against women and children. The program highlights a deep insight of the early Christian community: "If one part of the body suffers all other parts suffer with it. If one part is praised, all other parts share its happiness" (1 Cor 12:26).

The challenge to the churches remains: to revive the memory that Jesus' encounter with people led to the transformation of their relationships with one another. This requires that the churches address the teaching and practice within their own communities which allow violence against women to be ignored or even justified. It is their responsibility to take spiritual and practical measures to bring it to an end and offer healing to those hurt by it, and to speak out against violence perpetrated against women in the wider society. Only in this way can they be faithful to Jesus' vision of a world in which compassion and respect are at the heart of all human relationships, and a shared responsibility of women and men.

NATIONAL CARERS WEEK 11-17 OCTOBER 2015

One in eight Queenslanders is currently a carer, and most of us, at some point in our lives, will either become a carer, or be the person being cared for. Unpaid family carers provide care and support for loved ones who have a terminal illness, disability, chronic condition, mental illness or who are frail aged.

Carers come from all walks of life – they can be young or old; male or female; a parent caring for a child; or perhaps a husband caring for a wife. The caring role, just like illness or injury, doesn't discriminate. As carers of loved ones who have suffered a sudden injury, or who have a child born with a disability, can attest to, anyone can become a carer, at any time.

National Carers Week is held annually in October as an opportunity to raise community awareness among all Australians about the diversity of carers and their caring roles.

Carers make an enormous contribution to our communities as well as our national economy. Should all carers decide to stop performing their caring role, it would cost the country $60.3 billion per year to replace those supports – that's over $1 billion per week, or 3.8% of Gross Domestic Product.

National Carers Week is about recognising and celebrating the outstanding contribution unpaid carers make to our nation and will be celebrated throughout Australia from 11-17 October.

Carers Queensland will be hosting almost 50 events throughout Queensland during National Carers Week – check out what's happening in your area by visiting www.carersqld.asn.au.

About Carers Queensland:

Carers Queensland is the peak body representing the diverse needs and interests of carers. A carer provides unpaid care and support to a family member or friend who has a disability, mental illness, chronic condition, terminal illness or is frail aged.

Carers Queensland provides a wide range of services including counselling, education and training, carer support groups and information and referral. We can also assist carers with family support and advocacy, and to apply for a no-interest loan.

Founded in 1989, Carers Queensland Inc. began its life as the Queensland Council of Carers – the brainchild of a dedicated group of people engaged in various roles within the Health and Welfare System. Today, Carers Queensland delivers services via a network of over 100 staff in 13 locations throughout the State, spanning from Cairns to the Gold Coast, and as far west as Roma.

For more information, visit www.carersqld.asn.au or call our Carer Advisory Service on 1800 242 636

In 1998, the first female Royal Australian Navy (RAN) pilot, Sub Lieutenant Natalee McDougall graduated from the Australian Defence Academy's Helicopter Training Facility.

A total of one hundred and fifty-three Australian nurses served in Commonwealth Hospital Units during the Korean War.

Words To My 17 Year Old Self

As part of the celebrations to mark NCWQ's 110 years we asked you to send us 110 words or less of what you would say to your 17 year old self, to include a photo of you at 17 and if you would like, share the age you are now.
Here are some of the words of wonderful wisdom and insight.
Enjoy the journey! And please send in yours!

Dear Annette, life will change your plans everyday, though don't let it change you. Keep your courage, honour your values and stay true to yourself. We are all warriors on a journey that we have very little control over, armour up and let this world amaze you.

Annette Lourigan - NCWQ Vice-President

Be gentle on yourself…… you are not personally responsible for all the problems of the world. Remember do what you can, when you can, and keep your friends close. This picture is from my debut at my schools centenary ball. My mother and I had a terrible, silly fight about the event. I was insufferable and selfish, concerned about the feminist message of the whole debutante event, rather than my mother's real joy about something she had never had the chance to enjoy. Learn from this, and remember to cherish the love and consider the impact of your actions.
Have fun, like the ball!

Senator Claire Moore - Labor Senator for Queensland

Follow your gut.... That's what I would tell my 17-year-old self. I hear that saying all the time as a 35-year-old woman, but it wasn't till the last few years I fully understood what that meant. I would always ask myself – should I follow my heart or my head? - I didn't realize there was a third option, the option that has all the answers tailor made just for me. I would tell my 17-year-old self to take the time to learn what this means and how to listen to my inner self and *follow my gut*.

Erin Glapaik - 2015 NCWQ Bursary Recipient

Letter to my Seventeen Year Old Self
Dear Adele in your first year after school,
Always let life surprise you and always be aware of making a difference because those qualities equal satisfaction in life...a good life.
Be gracious,outward looking and sensitive to the needs of others but at the same time try not to "hide your light under a bushel" .
As your Irish father has always said"Silence is tacit agreement".
How hard it will be sometimes to speak out.You will need to learn the art of negotiating and how to
manoeuvre and yes,in some tight corners,how to compromise
if the common good requires this.
Be a starter with ideas and vision but try to be a finisher too.Surround yourself with those who have
different skills, traits and attributes from yours and you will learn the art of team building and come
to realise the truth of the African proverb"If you want to go fast go alone,if you want to go far,go together".
You won't know this now, but at the end of your seventeenth year, you will be sent to teach high school students instead of little ones.!
You will have learned early that it is good to take opportunity when it comes,however daunting,and
you will learn that responsibility always accompanies it.
You will have many opportunities as well as some disappointments in life,but retain your optimistic
enthusiasm for all of life's experiences.
Never underestimate the value of friends and family while always being there for strangers too.
Your life will be immensely enriched by these powerful threads.
Embark on life long and life wide learning ...ALWAYS ....and for goodness' sake,Adele, Learn to Type!
Adele Rice

Dear 17 year old me,

There is so much I want to tell you. Enjoy school, learning is not all about the books, remember to build friendships and have fun. Take risks and be confident. Start running NOW and don't give it up. Don't give up uni, you can do both. You won't believe this, but you will be an amazing policewoman.
Life is going to be great. Be patient and not always in a rush. You will find the most amazing man and marry him and yes he will be your best friend.
Have the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions and the compassion to listen to the needs of others.
Don't worry about what other people think. Don't listen to people who tell you, you can't – because you can.
Virginia Nelson 44 years.
Mother of 2 teenage boys, married to Tom, Inspector of Police Queensland Police Service (25 years). This letter is written to my 17 year old self, then in Year 12 at John Paul College in Brisbane.

The words of Emily Dickinson's beautiful poem, I Dwell in Possibility have given me inspiration and comfort for many years. I would ask my 17 year old self to learn the words and keep them close to her heart.

Elizabeth Mackenzie

"I dwell in Possibility –
A fairer House than Prose –
More numerous of Windows –
Superior – for Doors –

Of Chambers as the Cedars –
Impregnable of eye –
And for an everlasting Roof
The Gambrels of the Sky –

Of Visitors – the fairest –
For Occupation – This –
The spreading wide my narrow Hands
To gather Paradise –

"I dwell in Possibility –
A fairer House than Prose –
More numerous of Windows –
Superior – for Doors –

Of Chambers as the Cedars –
Impregnable of eye –
And for an everlasting Roof
The Gambrels of the Sky –

Of Visitors – the fairest –
For Occupation – This –
The spreading wide my narrow Hands
To gather Paradise –

Dance every day, if only around the kitchen.
Sometimes handing out a bandaid afterwards is more effective than wrapping someone in cotton wool before they fall.
It is OK to weed out friends, just like you weed a garden. Life is too short to be around people that bring you down and new friends will flourish in the spaces you create.
Be kinder to yourself.
Give more than you get, speak up for those who can't speak for themselves.
Bras and shoes that fit properly are worth every single cent.
Remember the destination is ultimately the same for everyone. The adventure is in the journey.
Buy yourself those diamonds.

Michelle Ehmann - Executive Assistant - Carers Queensland

I would tell my 17 year old self to be more grateful and appreciate the things you have. One thing I took for granted at 17 was the time I spent with my family, and telling my family I loved them. I want my 17 year old self to know you should do what you love, live life to the fullest and never stop learning. More than 20 years on, I've learnt not to let people tell me I can't do something I want to do. Don't be afraid to ask questions and stand up for what's important. That's what drove me to politics – a desire to make a difference.

Minister Coralee O'Rourke

Can you see what I see?

As I look at you I see a young woman standing at the edge of a cliff, with the world stretched out in front - your future. Just finished school where you were Head Prefect, and you hold your Matriculation in your hand.

I see a river with streams flowing from the mainstream enticing water to flow in different directions. I wonder how many of these enticing flows will entice you from the strong powerful main flow – to take you to achieve the strong desire you have to get to your destination – your future – your "I CAN do it" dreams. You can achieve them you know – WANT it and you will get it – it might be hard but YOU CAN!

"Where to now?" I ask myself.

Nursing, one of my priorities needed me to have what today is called a gap year (I was too young to start so I graduated through TAFE, an Advanced Secretarial Diploma which was always useful.

Law, another desire – did not put your name down for a scholarship - didn't know about them - fresh from Africa - so that had to go on the shelf.

Archaeologist? Not on the shelf! Women don't do this – digging rocks!

I started nursing - good choice - in hindsight I was ill prepared, and under versed in the why/when/ where/ what/ how and who questions. You studied hard (topped Preliminary Training School) and received accolade for your work. After 14 months you resigned (mum sick and you wanted to be with her and assist. So fell back on the Secretarial studies, and worked in a law firm. Disaster – where to now you thought.

Then I went **teaching** as my mother healed – and that has been my passion for 40 years and led me into paths about which I had never dreamed.

So as I look at me at -17, what would I say - I'd say:

"The world IS your oyster! There is nothing you can't do (don't blame circumstances - I know clearly that you are in charge of your direction and passion - and to achieve YOU MUST keep your eye on your goal.

Write your goals - no matter how many you may have. Think of where you would like to be in 5years 10-15years 25 years?

This is the MOST exciting time of your life - you stand at the crossroad of your life.

Talk with people who could assist - broaden that horizon.

Factor in the unexpected!

Be prepared to accept a change direction if this happens - BUT if you do this - OWN the change without blame.

Remember the streams from the Mainstream of the river – you may make many changes.

I am fortunate – I know where you went, and the changes that came into your life.

Live the dream – accept the clouds.

Remember the art portrait is never complete – until the paint is dry.

What will be your portrait?"

Naomi Wilson

Morning Tea & Fashion Parade

You and your friends are invited to the Annual Morning Tea and Fashion Parade of the National Council of Women of Queensland Inc.

The morning will feature members of NCWQ showing the latest Spring fashions from Cosmopolitan Boutique, 19 Samford Road Alderley; interspersed with raffles prizes and entertainment by Here and Now. Why not get a group together in tables of ten to enjoy the morning with friends?

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DATE: Thursday 22 October 2015
TIME: 9.45am for 10.00am
PLACE: Tattersall's Club
215 Queen Street Brisbane
COST: $43.00 per person

Please RSVP, with payment by cheque or money order made payable to NCWQ Inc to:
Noela O'Donnell
NCWQ
8E/182 Dornoch Tce
HIGHGATE HILL QLD 4101

Or pay by direct deposit into
Commonwealth Bank of Australia
BSB: 064 001
Account No: 0090 1888
Account name: NCWQ Inc
Payment reference: (your name) Morning Tea
Prior to 15 October 2015

Entry to Tattersall's Club is via Tattersall's Arcade, Queen or Edward Street. Take the lift to the second floor. Disabled access is via Edward Street

Tattersall's Dress Rules—
Guests wearing denim, sneakers or shorts will not be permitted access to Tattersall's Club.

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

AGM & CONFERENCE
Tuesday 29 September 2015 - 10am—2pm
Ruth Fairfax House, Gregory Terrace

BURSARIES FUNDRAISER MORNING TEA
Thursday 22 October 2015 - 9:45 for 10am
Tattersall's Club, 215 Queen Street, Brisbane.

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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 and 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.