NCWQ NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF QUEENSLAND

NCWQ 2020 Bursary Recipients **E-Yearbook**

Foreword

Welcome to our inaugural year book, celebrating the recipients of the 2020 bursary awards of the National Council of Women of Queensland.

2020 has been a different year for us all in so many ways. With adaptability the key aim, the NCWQ Bursaries Team adopted technology in ways previously unheralded. The key element missing was the presentation evening which allows our Bursary Recipients to receive due recognition for their passion and inspiration. And so the year book was born – a way to bring together the cohort of 2020 recipients.

Each NCWQ Bursary Recipient demonstrates qualities of leadership; community service, perseverance and determination, often despite life's obstacles, to follow their personal and professional passions. The young women profiled in our year book are the future of Queensland and NCWQ – leaders in their fields; inspiring community participants and dedicated volunteers. We are delighted that they join the cohort of the more than 200 bursary recipients in NCWQ's bursary program, which has been running since 2009

Each year our bursary team is overwhelmed with applications for each bursary, proudly sponsored by NCWQ's bursary partners. The quality of the applicants and their contributions to their community, family and studies are to be commended. We are sure you will be as inspired as we are of their amazing talent and commitment and we know we are well placed with our future in the hands of these women.

Planning is underway for our 2021 bursary program. If you are inspired by these women and would like to participate, please don't hesitate to make contact with our NCWQ Bursaries Team.

I leave you with a quote from the indomitable Nelson Mandela - *education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.*

Thank you for your continued support.

Chiou See Anderson
NCWQ President

Claire Moore Bursary

This bursary for a student of special education, reflects the view of Retired Senator Claire Moore that education provides the best opportunities for us all.

Victoria (Vicky) Johns

Vicky is a 37-year-old mother. Starting her studies later in life, after raising her 2 children, Vicky is following her Dad as a special education teacher, having gained an interest and admiration for the work he did.

On completion of her Bachelor of Primary Education (Special Education) at the end of this year, Vicky will be able to build on her experience of working as a teacher's aide for the last five years, as she becomes a teacher. She knows the value in building relationships with the students, seeing them flourish into beautiful young adults.

Vicky is passionate about working in a special school, believing that every student has the right to an education in a safe and supportive environment which supports their learning needs and abilities.

In her spare time, Vicky enjoys family activities, playing games, having meals together, and shopping for a bargain with her Mum.

Cr Vicki Howard Bursary

For a female student living in Brisbane City Council area, this bursary provides assistance through the monetary value and mentoring to a recipient who identifies with the LGBTIQ community.

Georgia (Gidget) Smith

Gidget plans to commence her Bachelor of Psychological Science in 2021, on completion of Year 12 this year. She sees that these skills will further allow her to follow her passion of helping others. Already volunteering in various ways with LGBTQIA+ community, Gidget would love to incorporate music, appreciating its power to change someone's world, or at least their view of the world.

Gidget has worked with social media platforms, setting up support and chat groups, and arranging monthly online events. She is actively involved with the Wear it Purple Youth Action Council, speaking at some of their functions.

In her school role of Music and Creative Arts Captain, Gidget has been able to use her love of music to help others have a voice.

Hon David Littleproud MP Bursary

Recognising the difficulties for country students wishing to pursue their education, this bursary is for a female resident of the Maranoa Federal electorate commencing first year of tertiary studies.

Georgia Wylie

Georgia is attending the University of Southern Queensland to complete a Bachelor of Education (Primary). Home is the family cattle property at Dulacca. As a hearing-impaired rural woman, she wants to be a role model to young people, demonstrating, regardless of your disability, you can achieve your goals with hard work and commitment.

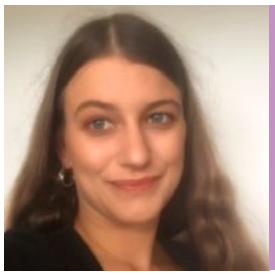
Georgia wants to teach in a rural school with a long-term goal to be an Advisory teacher for Hearing Impaired students in rural communities.

Georgia has been involved in an extensive list of community and sporting activities, including Darling Downs Women in Business – Empowering Young Women Winner; National Deafness Foundation Education Award; GC Commonwealth Games Queen's Relay Baton bearer; Australian Record Holder for Women's 16/18/20 Years Discus & Shot put (Hearing Impaired); 2019 Prix d'Honneur Award and Ray Hollard Memorial Award. Volunteering includes Anzac Day Parades, Winter Athletics Carnival and assisting with catering at The Variety Bash.

When able to return to university from home-based, online learning, Georgia hopes to be an active member of McGregor College, USQ, Toowoomba.

DiH Health and Wellbeing Bursary

As a health professional, sponsor Diane Hickey recognises the difficulties those with a mental illness face as they work towards their study goals.



Savannah Love

Savannah Love, 26, is finishing her final year as an undergraduate in psychology at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

Growing up on the Coast, Savannah has a lived experience in mental health and aspires to pursue an academic career in research and/or teaching.

After graduation, Savannah intends to move into honours level with her bachelor's degree.

Her research will be to examine the psychological mechanisms behind political extremism on social media and how this impacts on public trust in institutions such as the police.

Savannah is currently interning with the Adolescent Risk Research Unit at the Thompson Institute, led by Dr Bridie Scott-Parker. ARRU's research aims to understand adolescent risk behaviour, and to improve the health and wellbeing of adolescents.

Savannah feels privileged to undertake an education in psychology and has a keen interest in understanding human behaviour and making a psychological contribution to the community.

Elements Living Bursary

Sponsored by Chiou See Anderson, Owner/Managing Director of Elements Third Age Living, this bursary reflects her passion for improving the care and lifestyle for seniors.

Eliza Bookall

Eliza is a 20-year-old 2nd year medical student at James Cook University in Townsville. Now living at Annandale, Eliza spent much of her younger years on the Atherton Tablelands.

With both parents working as rural nurses, Eliza always aspired to become a Doctor. An OP2 gave her this chance.

Eliza decided on a gap year and spent the year completing a Certificate II in Aged Care and worked with residents with cognitive impairment. She also completed a trainee-certificate on board the tall ship Leeuwin II which was aimed at improving teamwork and leadership.

Eliza said "After the sudden death of my Mother 12 years ago I decided I would not give up her faith in me and have striven to accomplish high grades. Modern medicine and healthcare is a right to every Australian. I plan to share my skills with the rural community I grew up in. My years' experience working in the rural medical field at Malanda Aged Care Facility specialising in dementia has only increased my determination for the medical industry as well as my love for the local senior and surrounding communities."

Elsie Byth Bursary

Sponsored by Dr Susan Byth, this bursary recognises the work of her grandmother, Elsie Byth OBE, (1890–1988) in the National Council of Women. Having served as State President Mrs Byth was the first Queenslander to be National President, where she led the re-formation of the International Council for Women after the end of WWII.

Sophia Baines

Sophia is a Year 12 student at Cairns State High School, completing her International Baccalaureate. She plans to become a primary school teacher and since she also speaks Italian, she would like to be qualified to teach that language. The eldest of three sisters, she lives with her single mother, who is also a primary school teacher.

Committed to being a high achieving student, Sophia still finds time to volunteer at a retirement home, do babysitting, be an English tutor for International students, and volunteering as a teacher's assistant at a local primary school, helping disadvantaged Year One children – already acquiring skills for her future career.

She also organised Jeans for Genes Day at her school to raise money for children with rare genetic diseases and played the lead role in Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream.

ESA International Bursary

ESA International is a women's service organisation for Education, Service and Association. With a long history of supporting cancer research and support services, this bursary reflects this focus by assisting a female student whose family is affected by cancer.

Madelyn (Maddy) Sparrow

From the regional town of Alpha, Maddy commenced her studies at QUT this year, undertaking a dual degree in Bachelor of Business and Bachelor of Creative Industries. Her plan is to major in marketing and communication.

Growing up with her twin brother on a cattle property, Maddy leaves her secondary education at Rockhampton Grammar School with a wide range of experiences – Art Club Captain, Equestrian Captain, including representation at State inter-school championships, boarding senior, Chair of the Formal And Cancer Awareness Committees, and the signing choir. And she did well in her studies.

Community activities included Pony Club, Alpha Show, volunteer marketing and social media work.

Maddy's Dad has been undergoing treatment for the last couple of years for a brain tumour, and now Stage 4 Metastatic Melanoma.

Maddy's passion is focussed on rural communities and sees opportunities for her acquired marketing skills to support and grow local businesses. She would use the bursary to strengthen her university experience through the QUT internship program.

Forum Communicators Bursary

Initially established to assist women to improve their public-speaking skills, Forum, with open membership, offers advice in conducting meetings and organisational procedures. This bursary reflects Forum's passion for communication.

Chloe Ainscow

Chloe is a second-year student of a dual Bachelors' degree (Business/Arts) at the University of Queensland.

With high success, Chloe has competed in debates and public speaking competitions, also coaching younger students and adjudicating debates. She has studied tertiary units in the Communication field.

Demonstrating her commitment to leadership in the community, Chloe undertakes volunteering work with the Institute of Continuing & TESOL Education; the Smith Family; and Girl Guides and holding executive positions with on-campus societies.

Chloe aspires to obtain a graduate position in either a consultancy firm or financial institution, before becoming a policy advisor or economist in a government institution/department such as the Treasury, the Reserve Bank of Australia or the Productivity Commission. The bursary will allow her to attend more networking events at university and undertake further internships.

Helen Ovens Memorial Bursary

Helen was well-aware of how easy it is for mothers, especially of young children, to lose their sense of identity. This bursary reflects the importance she gave to maintaining those interests which nourished her as an individual.

Roslyn (Ros) Vandenberg

Ros had grown up with the idea of being a farmer, but her Dad sold the family farm. Plan B. Ros realised she had a passion for conservation and ecology and needed further study to gain employment in this field, but, as a mother with young children, plans to pursue a passion were put on hold to raise and support the family. This "identity shift" is something Ros became familiar with as the journey down Plan B took some unexpected twists and turns, requiring her to continue on down the alphabet.

But, in 2020 she found herself beginning her Bachelor of Science in Environment and Sustainability at USQ. Ros delighted in her new identity as a mature-age student while her children were at school and Daycare... until Week 2 of Uni, when COVID-19 meant everyone was home again, and she needed to juggle the compounding clashing of identities - the student, the teacher and the mother.

With Semester 1 completed - her study load dropped by a subject, and some other adjustments at home – Ros continues following her passion. Bursary funds will assist to buy her own copies of textbooks, along with other resources recommended to her by professionals in her field of study. Ros believes these texts will help her to become a resilient scientist, and a resilient Mum.

Lady Justice Bursary

Sponsored by Senior Sergeant Anna Dwyer and Joanna Robinson, this bursary acknowledges the value of law and justice, wishing to support a Queensland woman to achieve her goal studying within this area.

Laura Devine

Laura, a recent graduate with a Bachelor of Laws with Distinction from the University of Southern Queensland, is continuing her studies by completing an Honours program in Law.

With an unconventional start to her tertiary education, where she was not fortunate enough to complete her secondary schooling, this background has formed Laura's strong belief in the legal profession affording access to justice for all. Unsurprisingly, she is already involved in this space by frequently volunteering her time at local Community Legal Centres.

Laura has secured a Judge's Associateship in the Supreme Court of Queensland for 2021, and has previously worked with the Queensland Law Society, and within the Class Actions specialist team at Shine Lawyers. She hopes to apply to undertake further research through a Master of Laws internationally, and eventually hopes to be called to the Bar. Laura is the well-deserving recipient of the Lady Justice Bursary in 2020 and hopes to use the Bursary to open up more opportunities for her whilst she completes her Honours program.

Lavis/Wilson Qld Child Watch Committee Bursary

After 30 years of advocating for quality early childhood education, this Committee continues its legacy by the ongoing sponsorship of a bursary for a student in this field, with a commitment and passion for the education of the 'whole' child.

In addition to current studies in a Bachelor of Education: Early Childhood (Birth to 8 Years Old), this recipient has already studied a Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care.

As a mother, having raised three children she has an understanding of children, understanding that positive, rich interactions, stimulating environments, respectful, reciprocal and nurturing relationships, are important for a child to grow to their full potential and to flourish.

Does a child feel respected, acknowledged, valued, and safe? Is the child emotionally supported to feel safe to step outside his/her comfort zone to engage, speak up, have a go, ask questions, to take risks? These all impact on whether a child will be a confident learner, or not.

Children should be given unhurried time to play, explore, experiment, predict and judge, making decisions and problem-solving. Teachers play an important role in scaffolding children's learning and modelling positive attitudes towards challenges.

The recipient desires to build on the children's prior experiences, strengths, interests and to cater to all children's learning styles, working closely with their families and communities.

Logan City Council Bursary

As a long-term sponsor, Logan City Council sponsors a bursary for a female resident of the Council area, who is a full-time tertiary student with a track record of community involvement.

Isobel Ryan

Isobel is a second-year university student at the University of Queensland, studying a Bachelor of Advanced Science. She has a passion for biology, specifically marine science, where during secondary schooling she met an extraordinary teacher who has influenced her to commence study in this field. From this, Isobel hopes to secure a job within the marine science research field focussing on coral reef ecology.

Isobel is heavily involved in her local community. For the past 10 years, she has been a part of a dance performance team at local studio SJJ Creative. Isobel also provides assistance to people living with a disability in her local community.

Outside of her study and dance time, Isobel holds a local part time job which has introduced her to involvement and engagement within her local and wider community. Isobel enjoys watercolour painting and spending time with friends and family in her down time.

Being awarded the Logan City Council Bursary, Isobel hopes to focus more on her studies and take more opportunities available in her local community.

Moreton Bay Regional Council Bursary

This bursary is to assist a female tertiary student from the council region, with her studies. She will have also contributed to the local community.

Rebecca Patterson

Rebecca is a proud resident of the Moreton Bay Regional Council Area, a single Mum of three who has fostered 2 other children.

She has recently undertaken a Bachelor of Social Work degree at the newly established Moreton Bay Campus in Petrie after an extensive career as a regional sales manager.

Rebecca is the first person in her family to undertake University studies.

Some of Rebecca's achievements in the community over the past few years include Caboolture Little Athletics Executive Committee (7 years), Caboolture Snakes JRL and Sunshine Coast JRL referee clubs, Wheels for Belinda in support of a local Mum who suffered a spinal stroke leaving her wheelchair bound, and recently 14 months as Secretary of the Moodlu Districts Men's Shed which she has just handed over.

Now taking time to follow her passion for youth support, she is currently seeking local employment and volunteer experience in her area of study.

Narelle Townsend Bursary

This inaugural bursary in urban design celebrates the career of sponsor, Narelle Townsend, first female student of architecture, and international career including many years at UN.

Synthia Rduch

Synthia commenced full-time studies this year for her PhD in urban design and planning. As the inaugural recipient of the Narelle Townsend Urban Design bursary, Synthia shares Narelle's mantra of "Press on Regardless".

Working as a graphic designer for an urban development magazine, Synthia, along with her 6-month old baby, changed her career, went back to university, graduating with honours in a Bachelor of Urban Development. Other awards followed, including being admitted to the Dean's List of Students with Excellent Academic Performance; and the Queensland Award for Planning Excellence 2018 (Outstanding Student Project) by the Planning Institute of Australia.

Attributing her creative eye and passion for design to her artistic mother, Synthia is exploring the relationship of art and science to how neuroscience and urban design can work together in a neighbourhood context for people with dementia.

Although perhaps a "Quiet Achiever" Synthia hopes to achieve great things in the field of urban design.

National Council of Jewish Women, Brisbane Section Bursary

This inaugural bursary reflects the sponsor's interest in the education and advancement of women for a student studying in the field of education.

Kathryn (Katie) Brown

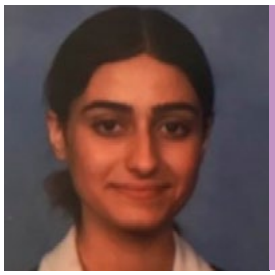
Katie is a University of Southern Queensland student, enrolled in her Master of Teaching and Learning online degree, graduating at the end of this year. Despite the general comment of her being a 'little nutty' to take this on as a full-time student when she was working four days a week as a teacher's aide, raising three children, and coaching and running a netball club in her spare time, Katie pursued her dream. She knows that building relationships with her students encourages them to reach their goals.

Recognising the benefits in playing sports for young girls, Katie turned her experience from coaching netball when she was a teenager, to starting a netball club when her daughter wanted to play. Over the last four years, that first club has grown to ten teams – the Algester Guardians.

Katie loves the practical component of her studies, but that means that she loses her income over that time. The bursary will assist her with those expenses. Katie is thrilled to be the recipient of the inaugural National Council of Jewish Women, Brisbane Section, Bursary.

National Council of Women of Queensland, Student from a Refugee Background Bursary

An original bursary sponsored from 2009 by NCWQ, this bursary assists a student currently at high school, to further her educational outcomes.



Romina Ramak

Romina is a Kurdish Christian born in Iran. She came to Australia by boat with her family in 2013 and spent several years in Immigration Detention.

They have been declared genuine refugees but their Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) means she must pay International Student fees to study at university where she is determined to reach her goal to study nursing. This bursary will help to pay for technology, transport and textbooks to continue her studies after year 12.

Romina enjoys expressing herself and her journey by being creative through art and design. She attends the Brigidine College where she is also a UQ Science Ambassador, mentoring younger students, engaging them in creative and interesting experiments. Romina works with children at her church's Youth Group organising activities and personal reflection for spiritual growth. Romina wishes to study nursing to help others and give back to society.

National Council of Women of Queensland Regional/Rural Bursaries

Sponsored by NCWQ since the establishment of the bursary program in 2009, the bursary focus is to assist young women living in regional/rural Queensland relocate for their studies. Two bursaries were offered in 2020.

Emilia Mugford

From her hometown of Middle Ridge, Emilia attended St. Ursula's College, Toowoomba. She is currently enrolled at Griffith University, Gold Coast, studying Bachelor of Dental Technology/ Bachelor of Prosthetics.

Originally planning to study biomedicine, after the experience of her mother's medical treatment, a gap year working at an orthodontist resulted in a change of study plans.

Emilia aspires to undertake post graduate studies in a Masters in Maxillofacial and Craniofacial Technology at Kings College in London.

Her main interest outside of studies includes family and travel.

Since commencing university she has been appointed to the Griffith University Dental Students' Association Committee.

The bursary will enable Emilia to focus on obtaining the laboratory and clinical requirements of her course through the purchase of dental technology instruments.

Bridie Shooter

Bridie's hometown is Allora, a small rural town in Queensland. Attending Scots Presbyterian Girls' College, Warwick, she was Dux of the college and gained an OP1. In her role on the Student's Representative Council and Social Justice Prefect, she organised fund-raising for Buy-a-Bale and Jeans for Genes Foundation.

Bridie is currently studying in her first year of Law at the University of Queensland.

In 2018 she was selected to travel to the Solomon Islands on a humanitarian mission, where she helped to teach students. Her eyes were opened to the sheer differences in our two worlds. The devastating stories she heard from locals furthered her desire to study Law.

Her interest to learn more about this country led her back in 2019 where she undertook a radio interview with the Australian High Commissioner in Honiara, which broadened her knowledge of the island and the Australian influence in the country.

Bridie intends to involve herself in the University Law Society when university resumes to on-campus operations.

Office for Women (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Bursaries

The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women through their Office for Women, has been a supporter of the NCWQ Bursary Program for a number of years. This year, two bursaries are focussed on assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female students studying a tertiary course.

Kulkarawa Kukoyi

Kulkarawa Kukoyi is studying a Bachelor of Business Management at the University of Queensland. She has interned during semester breaks in the Indigenous Sector Practice at Ernst & Young (EY) where she hopes to secure a graduate position following the completion of her degree.

Kulkarawa intends to utilise her knowledge and skills in Aboriginal communities where there is an acute shortage of people with business qualifications. She was named after her ancestor "Kulkarawa", one of earliest recorded women of the Turrbal people, the original inhabitants of the Brisbane area.

Kulkarawa served as one of the UQ Union Vice Presidents. Her portfolio was the Women's Department where she supported and advocated for women at UQ. Kulkarawa was the first Indigenous student to hold the position.

In 2018, Kulkarawa was elected Treasurer of UATSIS (Union of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students), the peak representative body for Indigenous undergraduate students in Australia.

Phoebe Walmsley

Phoebe is in her first year of dual Bachelor of Social Work/ Bachelor of Criminology and Justice degrees at the University of Southern Queensland.

Phoebe's goals are preventing high-risk young people from being incarcerated and rehabilitating those who have been in custody.

Phoebe grew up in a disadvantaged single parent family in Moranbah, where drug and alcohol abuse were prevalent. There she witnessed the damage caused to young people first-hand.

At the age of fifteen she showed maturity far beyond her years to organise a memorial for a close friend who had hanged himself. Following this, she found a suicide note on another friend's phone and witnessed him being taken away by ambulance with a police escort.

Phoebe has shown great resilience and strength of character to relocate on her own to the Sunshine Coast to study.

Her lived experience will make her an understanding, effective practitioner on graduation.

Office for Women (Leadership) Bursaries

The criteria for these bursaries reflect one of the priorities of the Queensland Women's Strategy. In recognition of the under-representation of women in the higher levels of management and as board members, the focus of these two bursaries is to assist females to increase the development of their leadership skills through working with a mentor, and undertaking planned professional development activities.

Annette Box

Annette is the Head of Faculty - Arts and Design at St Margaret's Anglican Girls School and a recent past President of Drama Queensland. She is one of five Co-Directors of Brisbane theatre collective MYTHS MADE HERE whose award-winning debut production Cinderella played at QPAC in 2019 to sold-out audiences.

Annette's advocacy for arts education has led to appointments with Queensland Theatre, La Boite, Brisbane and Sydney Festival, Dead Puppet Society, The Good Room, Queensland Ballet, Playlab, QCAA and ACU and she has presented at Drama Education conferences both nationally and internationally.

Currently studying a Master of Education at QUT, Annette expects to complete her major in Leadership and Management in 2022.

Working alongside her mentor Dr Kate McLay (Lecturer, School of Education, UQ), Annette intends to pursue a program of in-school shadowing through which she will observe outstanding education leaders across the state and country to advance her development as a leader in her field.

Julia Dixon

Julia is a communications professional who is a Senior Consultant with BBS Communications Group in Brisbane. Julia has more than ten years' experience in media relations, campaign management, government relations and stakeholder engagement. She is currently completing a Master of Business at QUT, majoring in Public Relations to be completed this year.

Whilst building a successful corporate career, Julia wishes to serve the community in the future by contributing her skills to philanthropic and not-for-profit organisations.

Working with her mentor, Julia seeks to improve her management and leadership capabilities through discussion of his real-life experiences in the commercial world.

She will use her bursary funds to undertake a Company Directors Course through the Australian Institute of Company Directors to assist in her professional development. This course will give her the technical skills and knowledge to be an effective board director for opportunities that present themselves in the future.

Office for Women (Return to Work) Bursaries

Two bursaries are on offer for females who are now studying at tertiary level, such as university or TAFE, to enable return to employment after a break from the workforce.

Mishell Johns

Mishell is a former dental assistant from Maryborough with four young daughters. She ceased paid work after the birth of her second child. Mishell is currently juggling family life and motherhood while completing a Bachelor of Nursing Science at the Sunshine Coast University, Fraser Coast Campus. She expects to graduate in 2022.

Mishell has managed to stay actively involved in her children's lives, volunteering as a teacher's aide in their classrooms and serving three years as President of the Community Kindergarten.

She was inspired to study nursing after seeing how much comfort nurses gave to her beloved grandmother in the final stages of her life.

Although enjoying her time raising her young family, Mishell is looking forward to her career as a nurse. Her goal is to provide such care and comfort to others in need by working in palliative care, but if not possible, in emergency or theatre. She will use her bursary to cover some of the hospital placement costs required to complete her degree.

Kathryn Scuderi

Kathryn Scuderi graduated from the University of Queensland with a degree in Chemical Engineering in 2004.

Through circumstances beyond her control, she now finds herself a single mother of two young boys living in a Far North Queensland rural town. She is not in a position to apply for engineering positions, as this would require her to be part of a fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) workforce which is not feasible.

She is currently living off her dwindling savings, and though she has tried repeatedly to find work locally, she is considered over-qualified for the jobs that are available.

Kathryn is now studying to be a Maths/Science High School teacher, a career that will allow her to care for her children while earning a living. It is expected that she will complete her online master's degree in 2022.

Chemical Engineering is a challenging degree requiring high levels of mathematics, physics and chemistry which will make Kathryn an inspirational STEM teacher on her return to work.

Office for Women (STEM) Bursaries

The criteria for these two bursaries reflect one of the priorities of the Queensland Women's Strategy – to increase the number of female students in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) fields of study. The bursaries are for a student in their first year of a STEM-related degree.

Thea Dudgeon

Thea Dudgeon is enrolled in her first year of a Science degree at the University of Southern Queensland majoring in Food Science.

During her final year at High School in Dalby, where she excelled in chemistry and biology, Thea was chosen to attend the Griffith University Integrity 20 Summit in Brisbane, where some of the greatest minds in both Australia and overseas examined and discussed some of the great social, moral and political challenges currently facing the world, including food security.

On completion of her studies, Thea intends to become a researcher in the fields of food science, environment and sustainability to contribute to one of mankind's biggest challenges, i.e. the development of sustainable food growth without irreparably damaging the integrity of the biosphere.

Recognising their advantages in working life, Thea is also improving her networking and public speaking skills.

Thea intends to use her bursary for memberships of the Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology and the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand.

Mikaela Millerd

Mikaela is currently enrolled at the University of Queensland in dual Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) and Bachelor of Mathematics degrees, majoring in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.

Though opportunities in the STEM field are few and far between on the Atherton Tablelands in rural Far North Queensland, where Mikaela completed her secondary schooling, she still managed to achieve an OP1 in Grade 12, was runner-up Dux and received a QTAC academic commendation.

The space industry, to which her passion for mathematics and physics is extremely well suited, is of particular interest to her.

Mikaela is a very well-rounded young woman. During her senior year she completed a broad range of subjects, demonstrated by the fact that she attained 38 credits points on her QCE. She also competed in state cross-country, district school athletics and multiple dance eisteddfods as well as teaching dance classes in her "spare" time.

PhD Student Bursary

This anonymously sponsored bursary is for a female PhD candidate, whose research focus will be of benefit to women and their families.

Salma Bhyan

Salma Begum Bhyan is a final year PhD student at University of the Sunshine Coast. She completed her Bachelor in Agriculture and Master of Science in Agriculture Chemistry through Bangladesh Agricultural University.

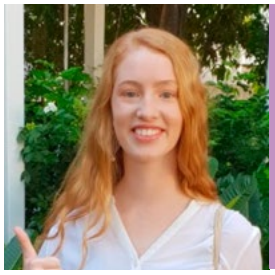
In 2008, Salma received a MEXT scholarship to conduct research on Plant Molecular Physiology at Saitama University and was awarded her PhD in 2011. In 2012, Salma moved to Australia to stay with her family and took the responsibility of motherhood to take care of her three children.

In 2016, Salma decided to build up her career in bioinformatics and started working as voluntary research assistant with Dr Min Zhao. In February 2018, she started her second PhD in Cancer genomics and working on "Women specific cancers and infertility diseases using genomics and bioinformatics".

Salma published twelve scientific articles in peer reviewed journals, presented in three national and international conferences. In future, Salma wants to use her knowledge, skills and experience to fight women's diseases, particularly for the underprivileged world.

Science Bursary

Sponsored by June McNicol OAM, her experience as a metallurgist, gives her understanding of the difficulties for women working in the physical sciences field. This bursary reflects her desire to assist female students following in her footsteps.



Emerald Gaydon

Emerald is a 2nd year Science student at the University of Queensland with an outstanding academic record both at school (OP1) and University (GPA 6.5 in first year), with a 7 in physics, her major. While at Moreton Bay College where she was College Dux and College Academic Captain, she took advantage of opportunities not only to expand her scientific knowledge e.g. with the National Youth Science Forum, but also to develop her leadership potential e.g. the QUT Leadership, Development and Innovation Program. Continuing these interests at UQ, Emerald has been accepted into their Science Leaders Academy.

While undertaking astrophysics work experience at the Australian National University's Mount Stromlo Observatory at age 15, she made a scientific discovery, calculating the previously unknown distance to a galaxy. Emerald aspires to become a researcher in theoretical physics and mathematics, exploring the underlying mathematical patterns in data that appear constantly in unrelated fields.

Qld Medical Women's Society Bursary

From its strong focus on supporting professional development including participation in international conferences and networking, the sponsorship of a bursary by QMWS assists female medical students to take advantage of these opportunities.

Alvina Rathod

Passionate about Women's Health and the unique challenges faced by women in our medicine, Alvina has co-authored a policy on gender equality in medical education.

Alvina is a member of UQ's Supporting Women in Medicine Society, enjoying working with other incredible women to make a difference in this field.

The most challenging med school venture to date, however, has been being UQ Medical Society's 2020 Vice President. Overseeing the 80-odd annual events has been an interesting experience in the age of COVID-19!

In the field of women's health, Alvina has worked to develop a sexual health workshop as part of the PNG Health Project, with the aim of improving health literacy among PNG school students during a future volunteer trip. Incredible speakers at various medical conferences have also helped shape her interest in women's health, and Alvina hopes that this bursary will support her future involvement in these ventures.

AMAQ (QMWS) Professor Tess Cramond Memorial Bursary

Former President of AMAQ, Professor Cramond's career ranged across her role in anaesthetics, CPR for Surf Life Savers, and establishing multidisciplinary pain clinics. The purpose of this bursary is to assist the recipient to attend a Medical Women's event or AMA Conference that will foster commitment, involvement and leadership in issues relevant to medical women.

Julia Chequer de Souza

Julia is a medical student at James Cook University, drawn to this field of study through her interest in anatomy and physiology, along with her passion for social justice and volunteering. Julia is motivated to explore her career interests in surgery and research. Rural placements have also sparked an interest in providing medical care to vulnerable and rural communities.

Despite the many adversities that have arisen since the COVID-19 pandemic, Julia recognises that such crises challenge the medical community to develop innovative methods of engaging with the community which it serves. Julia hopes to embody the generous spirit of Prof Tess Cramond in her medical studies; a mentor who encouraged the evolution of health advocacy in the face of adversity.

The support of a strong female supervisor on her medical placements has been invaluable to Julia. The bursary will assist Julia to network and meet with potential mentors to help in her pursuit of these aspirations.

Soroptimist International Bursary

With the theme "Soroptimists – Lead to Educate, Empower, Enable" this bursary for an Indigenous woman studying in the areas of Medicine, Health or Education, reflects this ideal.

Jodie Mottram

Jodie is a proud indigenous woman, a single mother of four children, a mentor, an advocate and an agent of change.

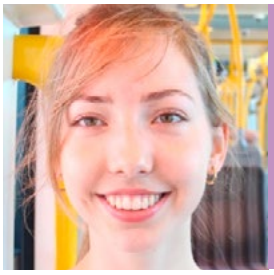
A student at James Cook University, Jodie is studying a Bachelor of Psychology (Honours), and a BA double majoring in Criminology and Indigenous Studies. She is an active participant in university life and a contributor to the university magazine Bullsheet, writing on mental health. This bursary will relieve some of her financial hardship.

Jodie is keen to improve the lives of her people and society as a whole, and has struggled alongside neighbours through cyclones and floods. She wants to change the over representation of Indigenous Youth in the Justice System and knows how hard it is to stand tall against the whips of racism.

She believes that positive change is achievable, and her goal is to bring people together and operate from a strengths-based approach that can go beyond 'closing the gap.'

Soroptimist international Moreton North Inc Bursary

This bursary focuses on the creative industries. Recognising the expenses associated with assessment projects, the bursary is to assist final-year students.



Nadya de Vos

Nadya, a third-year student at Griffith University studying a Bachelor of Film and Screen Media Production, says that the bursary will help tremendously with the end of year production Beacon – a post-apocalyptic short drama.

Nadya notes that the film, directed by a female and encompassing a large female team, combats the severe lack of strong female role models in the film industry and imagines a brighter future in screen inclusivity.

In years 11-12 she topped her Film and TV class, receiving the school's Senior Arts Ambassador Award, continuing her record for Grades 8 -10. She achieved an OP2, and her GPA of 6.75 granted her entry into the Golden Key Association.

During 2019 Nadya created promotional videos for the Endeavour Foundation and the Vietnamese social enterprise Hope Box. She hopes to extend this after graduation through a production house to help local arts and tech-oriented businesses and social enterprises recover from COVID-19 through fun, educational and inspiring documentary shorts.

South Burnett Bursary

Sponsored by the South Burnett Regional Council, this bursary is for a female student from the region, who has contributed to the local community. The bursary recognises the additional difficulties for regional students.

Breanna Taylor

Breanna who has always wanted to be a teacher, is currently studying at the University of Southern Queensland towards a Bachelor of Education (Primary), graduating in 2021.

Breanna has lived in Kingaroy for her entire life. She has volunteered at Kingaroy State School as a PLaN (partners in Literacy and Numeracy) student through a program organised by the University of Southern Queensland.

Prior to being involved in this program she was heavily involved in the Special Education Unit at the school.

She attended community events when possible and played her saxophone on Anzac Day 'Light Up The Dawn' 2020.

After graduating Breanna wants to continue working in the South Burnett.

Breanna's main interest is to become an effective teacher.

In her words "being a teacher is a way that I feel I can give back to the South Burnett for all the opportunities they provide for students in schools and other educational facilities".

Hajera Bibi Seedat Bursary for an Emerging Female Leader

Sponsored by Saalihah Seedat in memory of her mother-in-law, this bursary focuses on the merit of an emerging female leader, encouraging her to grow, lead and inspire.

Sabrina Chakori

After completing a Bachelor of Science majoring in Biology and a Master of Science majoring in Environmental Economics, Sabrina started a PhD at the University of Queensland, researching zero-packaging food systems in a new degrowth economy. Sabrina is a passionate researcher and advocate for a new economic system that could lead to a more socially just and ecologically sustainable society.

In 2017, Sabrina founded Brisbane Tool Library, a social enterprise based on a circular economy that aims to reduce household consumption. This "library of things" is based at the State Library of Queensland. By borrowing, people reduce their ecological footprint, save money and space.

Sabrina has worked for sustainable societies in different countries, including Kenya, Mexico, Ecuador, and across Europe. More recently, Sabrina started and led numerous collaborations, including an initiative with Queensland's Environment Minister to introduce the law banning single-use plastic bags. Sabrina is invested in creating systemic change in the environment and looks forward to the mentoring which is part of this bursary.

The Boyce Bursaries for Students with a Disability

As a long-term advocate for those with a disability, Sue Boyce has been an NCWQ bursary sponsor for a number of years, sponsoring two bursaries.

Lakeisha (Lucky) Patterson OAM

Lucky has many facets to her resume. She is a world Paralympic swimming champion, having represented Australia for the past 7 years. These experiences have provided Lucky with a platform to be a voice for others.

News of the delayed Olympics in Tokyo in 2021 is keenly awaited.

A fulltime student, Lucky commenced her Bachelor of Communication degree this year, after several previous years of studying architecture.

Lucky is a member of Soroptimist International, becoming their 2015 Young Woman of the Year, following in 2017 with the Moreton Bay Regional Council Young Citizen award. Lucky uses her position to be a voice for others.

Dealing with Cerebral Palsy and Epilepsy, Lucky also has Micrographia – which means that her writing is minute. Therefore, technology is her constant companion. The bursary will assist her to gain vital additional tools to provide assistance to herself for added independence, whilst also enhancing her platform to share her voice and inspire as well as support others.

Krystal Reynolds

Krystal commenced her studies for a Bachelor of Clinical Exercise Physiology at the University of the Sunshine Coast this year, already achieving HDs in most of her subjects.

Having experienced two strokes while a teenager, she knows only too well the effort rehabilitation takes and the success that exercise programs can bring. Her determination and support of others has enabled her to "get out of the wheelchair".

This is the passion which drives her to assist others. Through her work as a motivational speaker and membership of the Stroke Recovery Trial Fund, Krystal volunteers in their fund-raising efforts.

A student member of ESSA, she is keen to engage in personal and professional development courses. Through the knowledge and skills she is acquiring through her degree, her aim is to live life to the fullest. And to use her training to inspire others to do the same.

Transport and Main Roads Women in Engineering Bursaries

The TMR Women in Engineering Bursaries form part of TMR's ongoing commitment to increase the number of women in the traditionally male dominated engineering profession. These bursaries aim to promote continued female engagement with engineering courses, ensuring a strong pipeline of qualified female engineers for today's contemporary workforce.

TMR Regional Bursary

Dima Jadan

Dima is in her third year studying Bachelor of Civil Engineering (Honours) degree at the University of Southern Queensland.

Known for taking calculated risks to achieve her dreams, studying Engineering was her latest bold step, despite all the voices saying that it is impossible to achieve. A few years ago, studying Engineering was just a dream – Dima was already successful in her career in education. Today she is only 1.5 years away from achieving this dream.

Fascinated by Physics, Dima sees the application of Newton's Laws in structural engineering, her preferred subject to date.

Dima is a member of Engineers Without Borders. She aspires to be an excellent Engineer and hopes one day to use her knowledge and experience in helping disadvantaged communities by building schools, houses, and hospitals for them.

Her favourite quote is one by Ralph Emerson: "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

TMR SEQ Bursary

Adele van der Winden

Adele van der Winden who is in her fourth year of a Civil Engineering Honours degree at the Queensland University of Technology has an excellent academic record. She is passionate about the application of mathematics and physics to engineering e.g. complex computation of intersection signal timings, or calculation of failure criterion of a soil foundation.

She has put her leadership skills to good use through her position on the executive committee of the QUT Engineers Without Borders Chapter, liaising with community partners and organising fundraising activities, and as a volunteer with Engineers Without Borders in Cambodia.

Adele is passionate about Humanitarian Engineering and aspires to a career in this sector. She has studied humanitarian engineering through an exchange at the Australian National University in Canberra and participated in the Humanitarian Innovation Awards. She will use the bursary for further leadership and personal development opportunities in Humanitarian Engineering.

Val French AM Memorial Bursary

This bursary, sponsored by Older People Speak Out, an organisation founded by Val French with the goal of accepting positive ageing, and to give older people a voice. For a student in journalism, the bursary honours Val's career in journalism.

Rosie Bensley

Rosie Bensley is in her penultimate year of a double degree in Journalism and Arts at the University of Queensland. With a passion for travel and the rich stories that it often unearths, Rosie has a love for hearing and telling stories. A visit to Auschwitz in Poland emphasised the immense importance of telling people's stories.

A UQ Dean's Scholar in 2018 and 2019, Rosie has also been awarded a Dean's Commendation for academic excellence in both years. She undertook an exchange semester, unfortunately COVID-shortened, in 2020 at Trinity College in Dublin, studying Irish literature. The recipient of the Lucy Morris Stevens Scholarship for Literature study in 2019, Rosie volunteered at the Brisbane Writer's Festival in 2018 and 2019, drawing inspiration from the works of writers and journalists. Volunteering opportunities include content creation for the Emmanuel Residential College Scholarship Appeal and working at the Mudgeeraba Special School.

As a future journalist, Rosie aspires to help people share their voices and to be a conduit to stories that need to be told. Hoping to work on feature stories, Rosie hopes to give a voice to people who struggle.

Young Women Thinking Globally Bursary

Sponsored by NCWQ member Steph Carter, this bursary shares her passion for young people to work and volunteer in organisations to assist in international development.

Matisse Reed

Matisse is a third-year student of Law, International Relations and French at UQ. Matisse also volunteers for the UQ Pro-Bono Centre believing volunteering is so important, allowing students to apply their education for those who need it most.

Passionate about public speaking, this culminated in 2017, when Matisse was awarded the National Winner of Lions Youth. Over the ensuing 12 months, she had the opportunity to use public speaking and advocacy skills as a youth ambassador for Lions.

Matisse aspires to a career in international advocacy and human rights law, with the ultimate goal of working with the United Nations. After Year 12, she received the Queensland Studitalia scholarship, allowing study at an Italian boarding school for 6 weeks. Whilst in Italy, she represented Australia at an International Model UN conference, which inspired the dream of working for the UN.

As Elie Wiesel said, 'the opposite of love is not hate, but indifference.' Matisse aims to live by these words, showing love for others through the gifts of education and her voice so fortunately received – to advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves.

In Conclusion

2020 has been a different year for us all in so many ways. With adaptability to the fore, this year's bursary program continued in some ways to appear the same. Thanks to the efforts of Team Bursary, the behind-the scenes work all happened as usual, we just utilised various technologies to do so.

However, the big disappointment was the inability to hold the major bursary presentation, where we have the opportunity to meet most of the recipients, sharing their stories. The word "Inspiring" is the common theme. This function has been sorely missed.

Zoom meetings have meant that many sponsors and recipients could meet, with a greater opportunity to share more time together.

And so the E-Yearbook was born – a way to bring together the cohort of 2020 recipients. Please enjoy – and I am sure that we can still be inspired.

Congratulations to the 40 recipients in this year's bursary program. Journalist Sydney J. Harris said: *"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows."* I wish you well on this journey.

Kathy Cavanagh
Bursary Program Coordinator

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BURSARY COORDINATORS

Fran Cahill

Erin Cunningham

Kathy Cavanagh

Avril Kent

Gloria Kirkness

Yvonne Matta

Ronda Nix

Noela O'Donnell

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