

Celebrating 111 years

Affiliated with the National Council of Women of Australia Inc. Ltd and the International Council of Women
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Meeting With Women's Federation of Shenzhen

Recently members of the National Council of Women Management Committee met with members of the Women's Federation of Shenzhen, China. The meeting was hosted by the Lord Mayor's office. The Federation is responsible for women's participation in the national and social affairs, participate in the formulation of relevant laws, regulations and rules of women and children, safeguard the legitimate rights of women and children.

The meeting was an opportunity to discuss how Australia and China address domestic and family violence. The representatives gave us a greater understanding of the Federation's policies established about reporting violence, the support provided to women and families and the involvement of the police.



Above: NCWQ members with Women's Federation of Shenzhen, China.

UNAA QLD Community Awards

NCWQ members [Elise Stephenson](#) Gail Ker OAM (Access Services) & [Salimatu Kuyateh](#) (Wanwod Association) were recipients of United Nations Association of Australia, Queensland Community Awards presented today at Parliament House. Our award receivers are inspirational women: **Gail Ker** was the founder and driving force behind Access Community Services (ACS) since 1992. Access Community Services has focussed on providing specialised settlement support services to newly arrived migrants and refugees.

Sallymatu Kuyateh is founder and president of the Wanwod Association Queensland (WAQ) for refugee women in Brisbane, to support women and families in their home country – Sierra Leone – and to provide support for each other in their new home.

Elise Stephenson raises awareness of domestic violence and is a participant in Model UN Student Club conferences including the International Network of Universities Conference in Hiroshima. Elise led a university team to Cambodia to teach school children English and to build two houses in Cambodia.



Below: NCWQ member recipients of the UNAA QLD Awards

National Council of Women of Queensland, ABN 43 025 349 777
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NCWQ Newsletter, September 2016

NCWQ 2017 Bursary Program

Planning is well underway for the 2017 bursary program. Due to the difficulties of some recipients attending a May/June Presentation Function, we are trialling a timeline shift of about 6 weeks. The significant dates are:

Monday 3 April – Applications open

Monday 5 June – Applications close

Saturday 1 July – Moderation Selection Panels

Wednesday 26 July – Presentation Function – to be confirmed.

Sponsorships are being confirmed and the various administration processes reviewed for improvement. We have welcomed a couple of Selection Panel members stepping up to a coordinator role, helping with the workload as we envisage increased bursaries being on offer in 2017. Importantly, the Fund-raising Morning Tea and Fashion Parade, held on 12 October, was a great success. The enjoyable event of high tea and fashion parade raised the required funds to enable NCWQ to sponsor its two bursaries again in 2017.

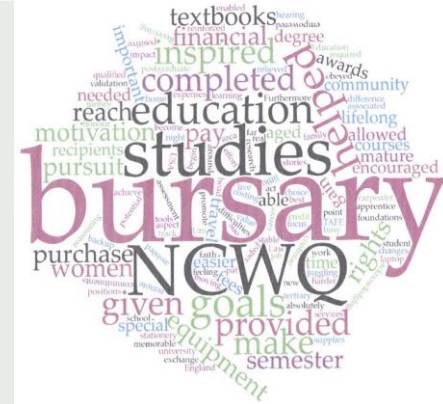
The ongoing topic of conversation, however, didn't centre on the great clothes from Upper Mt Gravatt's soubret pink, or the beautiful high tea, although both were true. Recipient Lisa Daly, of the inaugural Tracy Davis MP bursary, captured the audience as she told of her background, her PhD studies in a research project which will allow regional and rural mothers to better monitor their pregnancies, and reduce the rate of still-births.

By way of speaking on behalf of the recipient cohort, Lisa had asked them to give three words which described how they felt in being awarded the bursary, and how the bursary impacted on their educational goals or attainment. She showed us this wordcloud produced by the respondents' feedback.

Overwhelmingly, the impact of the bursary was twofold. Of financial benefit, the additional funds relieved some of the pressure in obtaining textbooks, moving away from home, etc. Words like validation of the decision to study; reinforcement of being on the right track to meet my goals; a reassuring pat on the back; and given me more motivation to continue to achieve my best all represented the second prong of the impact of being a bursary recipient.

Thank you, Lisa – you gave the WOW factor, and epitomised the reason why supporting the morning tea allows NCWQ to sponsor bursaries.

I am sure that many of us were fascinated to hear the background story of the newly appointed Chief Justice of the High Court, Justice Susan Kiefel. Leaving school at Grade 10, undertaking secretarial studies at Kangaroo Point Tech, after a few jobs, working in a legal firm, then setting her sights to a legal career. I hope that – just maybe – the bursary program may contribute to such stepping stones. We may never know of a high profile story like this, but we can hope that the program continues to allow many to make small steps along the way.



**From Kathy Cavanagh,
NCWQ Bursary Program
Coordinator**

Remembering Zita Sidaway OAM

Zita was born on the 2nd July 1924 as Zita Wilton Beck in the town of Fleetwood, Lancashire in England. Zita was the middle sibling of the family with a much loved older sister called Alma and a younger admired brother called John.

Zita often reflected on her early years growing up in a simple but hard working family. Zita's father, James Beck, was a tailor and gentlemen's outfitter who was respected by his peers and with her mother, Helen Beck, a lady of old fashioned values, formed a close and loving family. It was Zita's mother Helen who taught her to love baking and cooking and this passion was to follow Zita through her life especially with baking to raise funds for all of her favourite charities. Zita recalled that during her early years, her mother Helen would wash clothes and do ironing and mending for other people to earn a little extra to feed the family. Sometimes it was for poor fishermen who paid for this service with fish as they had no money either. In the summer time Zita was busy helping her mother as they used a spare room for guests to holiday to earn those few extra pennies to make ends meet. A simple life filled with happiness and hard work and being surrounded by less fortunate families developed Zita for later in life with a strong desire to help others and give back to the community.

Zita achieved many wonderful things in her lifetime. Her involvement in NCWQ was highly valued. Zita was voted the Scope delegate to National Council of Women (NCWQ) in June 1982. Zita was then appointed to the executive of the National Council of Women of Queensland in November 1982, and between 1986 and 1990 she held the position of Treasurer with the President being Yvonne Bain. Zita was then honoured, to be invited as Treasurer of the National Council of Women of Australia (NCWA) Board, a position that she held from 1991 to 1994 with Yvonne Bain as President.

In 2014, Zita achieved the pinnacle of recognition for her commitment to volunteering in the community and her determination to make a difference in the lives of others. Zita was awarded the Order of Australia Medal which was presented by the Governor of Queensland on the 8th May 2014.

More recently, Zita has been active in Mantle (the Queensland initiative to provide supported accommodation for the mentally ill). Zita first became aware of welfare problems for the mentally ill while working in the War Pensions Department in England and predicts that we will have many more cases as more young men return from serving in areas of conflict such as Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq.

On Sunday 2nd October 2016, Zita had a stroke whilst visiting her son Tony and his wife Eta, and she was admitted to the Logan City Hospital. After 6 weeks in hospital, Zita Wilton Sidaway passed away at 10:25am on Sunday 13th November 2016. Zita is survived by her only child, Anthony John Sidaway.

May Zita rest eternally at peace and although her time of volunteering is now at a close, may she be an inspiration of courage and determination to serve and guide others. **To read Zita's full eulogy, click [here](#).**



**Zita Sidaway OAM,
1924 - 2016**

Arts and Letters Report, November 2016

Miranda HINE won the inaugural Society of Fine Arts Association Museum Emerging Arts Writers' Award, with her essay, "Self-Portrait- as Steve Hart: ADDING NEW VOICES TO OLD LEGENDS! We congratulate Miranda and the UQ Art Museum.....to read more, [click here](#)]



NCWQ Environment Adviser's Report, November 2016

Update on Great Barrier Reef (GBR): In their response to the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce (GBREST) the Queensland Government (QG) has agreed or agreed in principle in August to all recommendations and allocated an additional \$90 million over.....to read more, [click here](#)]



Reflections from Lisa Daly: 2016 Bursary Recipient

'I had the honour to receive this year's bursary sponsored by Member of Parliament, Tracy Davis. This bursary is awarded to a woman studying at PhD level whose research will likely impact women's health and whose research interests have been shaped by.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



Arts and Letters Report, October 2016

Hauntingly beautiful music and elegant movement enchanted large, varied audiences in Regional Queensland, when the Queensland Ballet travelled 'Tutus on Tour', ..from late September through early October!.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



Christmas Luncheon 2016

The annual NCWQ Christmas Lunch was held at the Women's College, UQ. Tameika Trebilco from Anglicare's Toowong services gave guests a thought provoking outline of the Anglicare's services for homeless women and children. It was heart warming to see so many donations of gifts for the women and children.

Right: the NCWQ Christmas Luncheon was enjoyed by all!



International Relations and Peace Report, November 2016

An associate of NCWQ drew my attention to the on-going legal 'firestorm' which started in 2013. It was created by students attending the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) commenting on social media about their denied access to an exclusive learning area for indigenous students.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



Mums at Work Program

Women's Health Queensland Wide is excited to launch 'Mums at Work' – a new program designed to support busy, professional women in planning for their pregnancies, birth and return to work. The program offers individual, personalised guidance with the same midwife at a time convenient for each woman.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



Gender Equality Scorecard

NCWQ is proud to support the Workplace Gender Equality Agency in Australia. The Agency is an Australian Government statutory agency charged with promoting and improving gender equality in Australian workplaces in accordance with the Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012 (the Act). The Agency's vision.....[to read more, [click here](#)]



International Day of Peace 2016

Is there any need to remind us – members of the International Council of Women – that The International Day of Peace is dedicated to the absence of war and violence? Surely not! Since 1982, in fact, this Day is observed by all UN Member States..... to read more, [click here](#)]



Inclusion of older people

From residential and community aged care providers to sporting and cultural bodies, all community organisations need a charter for supporting our older citizens. Recently the sector saw the release of the first National Guidelines for Spiritual Care in Aged Care..... to read more, [click here](#)]



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at NCWQ! Best wishes for the holiday season.



Merry Christmas