



## President's Report Dr Sarah Coll



Welcome to the Queensland Medical Women's Society newsletter. This is my first newsletter as President, and I am grateful to out-going president Dr Lydia Pitcher whose tireless energy has re-invigorated the QMWS. While a medical women's society is inherently sexist there is an underlying intention to create safe spaces for people to come together and support each other. This is a universal need and a medical women's society is a place to start.

May I invite members and guests to approach me with any suggestions they have for the Society, and any speakers they would like to hear from. If this newsletter lands in the hands of anyone who would like to speak to the QMWS, then please get in touch - we are a gentle audience and are keen to learn. Likewise, if you would like to attend, you are welcome to do so without joining.

Our next speaker is Dr Jeannette Young. Dr Young has been the Chief Health Officer of Queensland for 14 years. She will have a unique perspective on how doctors can interact with Queensland Health. She shoulders enormous responsibility for the health of Queenslanders and is responsible for far-reaching decisions every day.

I am looking forward to an exciting 2019 as we will have 2 more events this year, the next in the first week of August, focusing on Rural Medicine and another in November. I hope you can attend so I can take the opportunity to meet with you. We will also have a Christmas event, so we can celebrate together.

President's Reports continued on page 6.



Picture to left: Expert panellists Dr Catherine Yelland, Dr Jacinta Powell, Professor Kirsty Forrest and speaker, Dr Sarah Coll, at the 1<sup>st</sup> dinner meeting and AGM, 21 February 2019.

### QMWS Committee Members 2019

**President:**

Dr Sarah Coll

**Immediate Past-President:**

Dr Lydia Pitcher

**Vice President:**

Dr Ira van der Steenstraten

**Secretary:** Dr Susan Foley

**Shadow Secretary:** Dr Nancy Huang

**Treasurer:** Dr Rachel Weir

**Shadow Treasurer:** Dr Emily Shao

**General Committee Members:**

Dr Antonia Laino (Newsletter Coordinator)

Dr Anita Sharma (AFMW Representative – Greater Brisbane)

Dr Marissa Daniels (QMWS Social Media Lead)

Dr Jacqueline Deen (Facebook Coordinator)

Dr Dana Phang (Website Coordinator)

Dr Helena Franco (Sponsorship Convenor)

Dr Kathryn Mainstone (Shadow Sponsorship Convenor)

Dr Alison Bullen (Events Coordinator)

**Far North Queensland:**

Dr Anusha Lazzari (President North QLD Lady Doctors' Association)

Dr Alice Chang (Far North QLD Representative)

Dr Lynne Reid (AFMW Rural Representative)

**Student Committee Members**

**University of Queensland:**

Naseera Naeem (SWIM President)

Hannah Laycock (SWIM Past-President)

Alvina Alrod (SWIM Advocacy and Liaison Officer)

**Bond University:**

Frank Yu (President MSSBU)

Claudia Ho (QMWS Student Representative)

Donya Sabet (QMWS Student Representative)

**Griffith University:**

Tess Hutchinson (Women's Officer 2018)

Grace Hocking (Gender Equity Officer)

**James Cook University:**

James Coventon (President JCUMSA)

Tara Salvador (QMWS Student Representative)

# Events Calendar

Date	Event	Location
Tuesday, May 7 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 for 7pm start	<b>QMWS Dinner Meeting, United Services Club</b> Theme: What Does Our Future Hold? Latest insights from Queensland's Chief Health Officer Speaker: Dr Jeannette Young	Brisbane
July 25-28, 2019	Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) Centennial Congress	New York, USA
Tuesday, August 6 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 for 7pm start	<b>QMWS Dinner Meeting, United Services Club</b> Theme: Rural Medicine Speakers: Annabelle Brayley, Bush Doctors, and Dr Laura Frederiksen, speaking of her experiences as a recipient of a Rural Scholarship	Brisbane
August 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Women & Medicine Symposium, Greenslopes Hospital	Brisbane
September 27-28th 2019	<b>QMWS Far North Queensland Retreat</b>	Sanctuary, Mission Beach
October 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 9:45 for 10 am	NCWQ Annual Bursaries Fundraising Morning Tea and Fashion Parade Celebrating Women in Medicine and the 90 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of QMWS Tattersall's Club, \$48 pp	Brisbane
October 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Australian Medical Association Queensland (AMAQ) Women in Medicine Breakfast	Brisbane
November 2019 Date/ Time TBA	<b>QMWS Visioning Meeting</b>	Brisbane
November 2019 Date TBA	<b>QMWS Dinner Meeting, United Services Club</b> Topic: Medicine and Music	Brisbane
November 2019 Date/ Time TBA	Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW) Face-2-Face Meeting	Location TBA
November 2019 Date/ Time TBA	<b>QMWS Medical History Event</b>	Brisbane
November 2019 Date/ Time TBA	Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW) Presidential Visit	Brisbane
December 2019 Date/ Time TBA	<b>QMWS Christmas Party</b>	Brisbane

## Meet the Committee



Thank you for your warm welcome into the Queensland Medical Women's community. My name is Ali Bullen and it is a pleasure to join the QMWS committee as the events coordinator.

I grew up in Toowoomba, Queensland, and graduated from the University of Melbourne as a rural clinical student. I spent my junior years at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and subsequently spent a year in general surgery in Toowoomba. More recently I have developed a keen interest in dermatology and am working in this field in both clinical and research roles at the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Cooking, red wine, family and my two furbabies are a few of my favourite things.



Originally from Mossman FNQ, Susan and her family made the pilgrimage to the Big City – Brisbane aged 11. In 1995, Susan obtained her MBBS at the University of Queensland when it was still the undergraduate course. Her medical interests include both Surgery and Dermatology as well as a passion for teaching medical students. She has worked locally in Brisbane and the Gold Coast Hospitals and overseas in England.

Currently, she is working as a Paediatric Surgical Assistant and University of Queensland Faculty of Medicine as a Tutor to both First and Second Year medical students. She is also a student completing a Masters Degree in Health Administration through Monash University. Recreationally, Susan enjoys both walking and gardening and looking after her kittens Sophie and Snowy as well as regularly volunteering for the RSPCA.



## 2019 NCWQ Bursary Program

By Kathy Cavanagh

Applications for the 2019 NCWQ Bursary Program opened on Monday 25 March, and the countdown is now in full swing.

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

### Mark Your Calendar!

#### 2019 NCWQ Bursary Program

**Monday 25 March** – bursary applications opened

**Monday 20 May** – bursary applications close

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

### Support of Affiliated Organisations

#### Previous Sponsors

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

have been joined this year by

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

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

## Vice President's Report on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63) in New York, March 2019

It has been a privilege to travel with an Australian delegation of 44 remarkable Medical Women and Students led by **Professor Gabrielle Casper**, to attend the **United Nations 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63)**, New York in March 2019.

The Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW) and QMWS were well represented with our group including A/Prof Deb Colville (President AFMW), Dr Lydia Pitcher (Vice-President AFMW and Immediate past President QMWS), Dr Naseera Naeem (President, Supporting Women in Medicine or SWIM, UQ), 10 senior representatives from other NGOs, the legal fraternity and Liz Broderick's Male Champions of Change, and 25 students from The University of Notre Dame, Sydney. Unlike most of the group, Deb, Naseera and Lydia were afforded the special privilege of access to events within the inner sanctum of the United Nations, through our AFMW NGO Ground Passes.

The knowledge and experience of Professor Casper, as **Past President of the Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) and AFMW**, who has attended CSW for almost two decades, ensured a packed program that made the very most of our time. She had organised events and introductions to key stakeholders for Women's issues in Australia as well as within the international community of Medical Women. Highlights included the orientation with the **NGO CSW/NY Consultation Day**, the reception at the **Australian Consulate-General, New York**, with **Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP**, a private 2-hour session with personal insights from **UNICEF** staff, listening to the submissions of nations in the **General Assembly Hall** (whilst learning a lot of geography), meetings with MWIA representatives (including Secretary, Dr Shelley Ross, President-elects MWIA Dr Clarissa Fabre and Dr Eleanor Nwadinobi), meeting with Dr Jillann Farmer, Medical Director of the UN, and attending a multitude of Parallel sessions and Side Events from the NGOs. By the end of the week, we had mastered at least some of the important acronyms (including ECOSOC, BPfA, SDGs, GRs, CEDAW, and UNDOF/GC)!

Our vision is that this event will become relevant to all our members, and an important feature of the AFMW Calendar. We hope to build on our experience to bring more Medical Women to this important annual international Women's forum and **realize the full value of AFMW's NGO status**.

Our priority is now to organise our very own **inaugural AFMW Parallel Event at CSW in future**. Next year the CSW64 will recognise the **25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA, 1995)**. It would be a great year for AFMW to realise this aspiration! And we already have excellent representation at the **MWIA Centennial in July**, to facilitate this ideal. Please join us in 2020!

For more information see the AFMW April Newsletter <https://www.home.afmw.org.au/news-and-activities/event-reports/vice-presidents-report-63rd-commission-on-the-status-of-women/>

Dr Lydia Pitcher,  
Vice President AFMW (2018-19),  
Immediate Past President QMWS (2016-19)



Picture above left: Chairperson, H.E. Ms. Geraldine Byrne Nason, presides over the General Assembly presentations at CSW63 where each member nation presented their score card regarding the Status of Women in their country. Picture above right, General Assembly.



QMWS Representatives Dr Lydia Pitcher, Dr Ira van der Steenstraten, and Dr Susan Foley with Dr Alexandra Miller, co-recipient of the Lillian Cooper Prize.



Dr Ira van der Steenstraten, representing QMWS as a donor for the UQ Prizes and Scholarships Awards evening, with Professor Geoff McColl



Group photo at the UQ Prizes and Scholarships Awards Evening, 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2019



Group photo at the NMWQ/ QWHA event that was attended by a number of QMWS members.



QMWS Committee Member and Treasurer 2018 Dr Emily Shao with Speaker, Dr Mary-Rita McGann at the 1<sup>st</sup> dinner meeting and AGM, 21 February 2019.



Photo to left: United Nations New York, where the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63) was held March 2019.



Photo to left: Presidents-elect Dr Eleanor Nwadinobi and Dr Clarissa Fabre with Dr Lydia Pitcher and Naseera Naeem at the CSW Dinner, Tudor House, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

## President's Report continued from page 1:

Lydia will be facilitating our next meeting and I am very grateful to her support during this transition period. We have new committee members - Dr Susan Foley (secretary), Dr Rachel Weir (treasurer), Dr Dana Phang (website coordinator), Dr Helena Franco (Sponsorship Convenor), and Dr Alison Bullen (Events Coordinator). Please be patient with us as we learn our new roles and provide feedback if we have missed anything.

Thank you again for your participation in this Society - your membership and attendance keeps these groups alive and able to give back.

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On 21 March 2019 the National Forum of Doctors' Wellness, organised by The Australasian Doctors' Health Programme (ADHN) was attended by a wide variety of doctors discussing pathways towards enabling wellness within the profession. Speakers highlighted key messages and practical suggestions how to create a healthy environment to support Doctors' Wellness. There was a strong drive to collaborate towards creating a National Centre of Excellence in Physician Health.

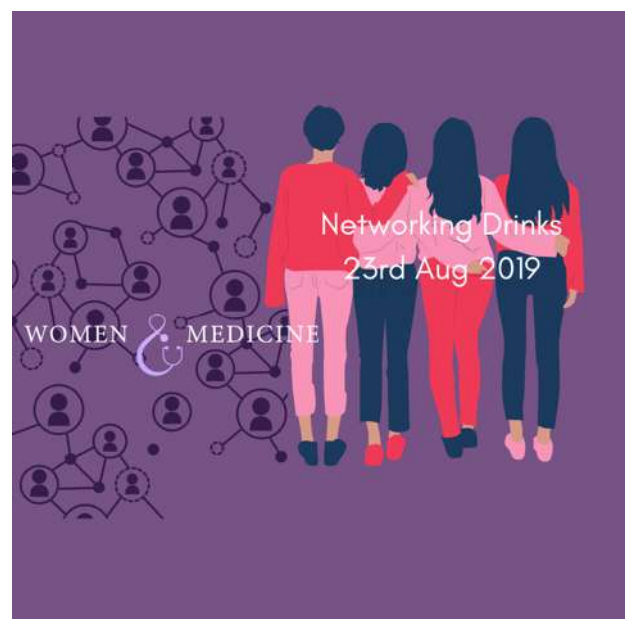
The DRAFT version of the Everymind report: *"Tackling mental ill-health in doctors and medical students. A National Framework for Action"* was discussed. The development of this report is funded by the Australian Government and feedback is currently sought from the medical profession.

If you are interested in providing your comments and views, please contact our secretary ([secretary.qmws@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.qmws@gmail.com)) for the DRAFT version of the full report.

The 2019 Australasian Doctors Health Conference (ADHC) with the theme "Creating a Healthy Workplace" will be held in Perth on 22 and 23 November.

Dr Ira van der Steenstraten  
Vice-president QMWS

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# QUEENSLAND MEDICAL WOMEN'S SOCIETY



QMWS

## Membership 2019

### ABOUT US

The QMWS is the peak representative body for women in medicine with goals to further the professional development of medical women through promoting education, research and professional opportunities. Furthermore, the QMWS promotes health and welfare of all Australians, particularly women and children. Part of your membership fee goes towards the Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW). To find out more about QMWS please visit us on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/qmws1929>

Also visit the AFMW website:

[www.home.afmw.org.au](http://www.home.afmw.org.au)

### HOW TO JOIN

Go to AFMW website Queensland page at <https://qld.home.afmw.org.au> and click on “membership” tab

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## Attend the Centennial Congress of the MWIA in New York City with QMWS!

Multiple QMWS members have already signed up to attend the Centennial Congress of the Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) in New York City, July 25-28, 2019.



This Centennial Congress will provide an unprecedented opportunity for networking among medical women from all over the world.

For further details, see the Medical Women's International Association website.



QUEENSLAND MEDICAL  
WOMEN'S SOCIETY PRESENTS

# ANNABELLE BRAYLEY

Author of *Bush Doctors*, Community  
Director ACRRM & proud rural storyteller



*“Rural medical women in Queensland”*



Special guest speaker:  
Laura Fredericksen,  
winner of the UQ Rural  
Doctors Association of  
Queensland Prize

**6:30pm for 7pm Tuesday 6th August |**  
**United Services Club |**  
**\$45 members | \$25 students |**  
**\$65 non-members |**

**RSVP: [secretary.qmws@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.qmws@gmail.com) |**  
**<http://qld.home.afmw.org.au/>**

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