

## President's Report Dr Sarah Coll



I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Dr Jeannette Young** for speaking to us in May. We are a very privileged organisation to hear from such an esteemed speaker. **Minister Di Farmer** attended and is keen to get involved with QMWS in her role as Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.

QMWS Immediate Past President and AFMW Vice President **Dr Lydia Pitcher** has been instrumental in establishing a collaborative project between AFMW, Aboriginal artist **Louise Numina Napananka** and renowned Brisbane fashion designer **Pia du Pradal** to celebrate the MWIA centennial anniversary. Thanks to QMWS member **Dr Mary-Rita See** for her role in the preliminary stages of this project. The AFMW was pleased to contribute a fabric square to the **International Collage** for the **Centennial of the Medical Women's International Association**, which was celebrated in **New York in July 2019**. The **AFMW Fabric Square** submitted is entitled "**Purple Bush Medicine Leaves**", and has been painted by emerging indigenous artist, **Louise Numina Napananka**. **Pia du Pradal** was instrumental in connecting us with Louise.

**In collaboration with Louise Numina Napananka and Pia du Pradal, scarves made from fabric with the Purple Bush Medicine Leaves pattern are available for purchase. In addition, we encourage you to use this opportunity to contribute to the AFMW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women and Medicine Project.**



Dr Lydia Pitcher and Dr Ira van der Steenstraten at the MWIA Centennial Congress Gala Dinner in New York City.

Meeting kindly sponsored by



### 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 Rathod (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, August 6 <sup>th</sup><br>6:30 for 7pm start | <b>QMWS Dinner Meeting, United Services Club</b><br>Theme: Rural Medicine<br>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 28-29 <sup>th</sup><br>2019                 | <b>QMWS Far North Queensland Retreat</b>  | <b>Sanctuary,<br/>Mission Beach</b> |
| October 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2019<br>9:45 for 10 am     | NCWQ Annual Bursaries Fundraising Morning Tea and Fashion Parade<br>Celebrating Women in Medicine and the 90 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of QMWS<br>Tattersall's Club, \$48 pp  | Brisbane                            |
| October 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2019                       | Australian Medical Association Queensland (AMAQ)<br>Women in Medicine Breakfast   | Brisbane                            |
| November 2019<br>Date/ Time TBA                       | <b>QMWS Visioning Meeting</b>   | <b>Brisbane</b>                     |
| November 2019<br>Date TBA                             | <b>QMWS Dinner Meeting, United Services Club</b><br>Topic: Medicine and Music   | <b>Brisbane</b>                     |
| November 2019<br>Date/ Time TBA                       | Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW) Face-2-Face Meeting   | Location TBA                        |
| November 2019<br>Date/ Time TBA                       | <b>QMWS Medical History Event</b>   | <b>Brisbane</b>                     |
| November 2019<br>Date/ Time TBA                       | Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW) Presidential Visit  | Brisbane                            |
| December 5 <sup>th</sup> 2019<br>Time TBA             | <b>QMWS Christmas Party</b>   | <b>Brisbane</b>                     |

## Meet the Committee

### *Dr Rachael Weir, Treasurer*

Hi my name is Rachael Weir and I am the QWMS Treasurer.

I attended my first QMWS meeting with my mother (Dr. Maree Patane) and was so inspired by the supportive environment and powerful discussion of the issues facing medical women that I encountered there, I endeavoured to join the QMWS committee at the next meeting in February 2019.

I am currently working as a registrar in Intensive Care Medicine at Ipswich Hospital and have an interest in critical care medicine in particular in anaesthesia. I hope to use my critical care skills in the future to contribute to humanitarian efforts overseas. I obtained my medical degree from the University of Queensland in 2015 and have recently completed my masters in Critical Care Medicine from the University of Sydney.

I grew up in Brisbane and enjoy baking (my back-up career), yoga and hiking. I look forward to meeting the QMWS community and am honoured to work with such a diverse, capable and passionate group of medical women.





## *Claudia Ho, QMWS Student Representative*

My name is Claudia Ho and I am a third year medical student from Bond University. For the past 2 years, I've thoroughly enjoyed being part of a few student societies and organising fun, inspirational events for the medical cohort. This led me to apply to be a student representative on QMWS; allowing me to see the supportive network QMWS provides and opportunities of leadership work after medical school.

## *Dr Helena Franco, Sponsorship Officer*

I'm very excited to be joining the Queensland Medical Women's Society committee, as the Sponsorship Officer this year.

My name is Helena Franco, and I graduated from Bond University in 2017. I am working at the Mater Hospital, in Brisbane, as a Junior House Officer. During medical school, I developed a keen pre-vocational interest in surgery, specifically Ear, Nose and Throat surgery and Orthopaedics.

Outside of medicine and work, I enjoy swimming, travelling, friends and family.



# QUEENSLAND MEDICAL WOMEN'S SOCIETY

## 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

## Inaugural NCWQ QMWS Bursary 2019

By Marissa Daniels

Naseera Naeem, SWIM President, QMWS member and former QMWS UQ Rep, is the inaugural recipient of the NCWQ QMWS Bursary.

This bursary was established to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of QMWS. It provides \$1000 to assist female medical students to advance their education through attendance at an international or other conference related to the activities of QMWS, AFMW or MWIA. It was presented to Naseera at the NCWQ Bursary Event on July 23.

The bursary enabled Naseera to attend the Centennial Congress of MWIA. At the Congress she was a highly valued and active member of the Australian contingent. Keep an eye out for the next QMWS newsletter for Naseera's report on her experiences.

Congratulations Naseera!

Photos below, NCWQ bursary recipients, and left, Naseera Naeem with Dr Glenda Powell.



The 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) World Health Assembly was held from 20-28 May 2019, in the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland. The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organisation, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies and review and approve the proposed programme budget. The theme of general discussion for the discussion was "Universal health coverage: leaving no-one behind".

Thanks to Lydia and Marissa, I was privileged to attend the World Health Assembly, as part of the Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) delegation. The Assembly was an incredible experience of meeting inspirational women who are pioneering advocacy about areas of interest to medical women.

I attended many interesting side events scheduled during the Assembly, including "Achieving women's and girls' health and human rights", organised by the International Women's Health Coalition. Furthering my interest in Global Surgery, I had the opportunity to attend the "WHO Emergency and Essential Surgical Care Programme Technical Meeting" with fellow medical students and junior doctors involved in advocacy within this important area.

Thank you again to Lydia and Marissa for kindly arranging my attendance with the Medical Women's international Association. It was an incredibly inspiring experience!

Dr Helena Franco





72nd World Health Assembly



Photo Right:  
Flags of nations  
represented at  
MWIA



Photo above: Dr Louise Stone and A/Prof Deb Colville (AFMW President) presenting their poster at the MWIA Centennial Congress.



# Centennial Congress of MWIA

A brief report by Marissa Daniels

## Introduction

This year marks 100 years since the first meeting of the Medical Women's International Association. The Centennial Congress of the MWIA was held in New York from July 25-28. Among the registrants were 41 Australians including 17 Queenslanders. The theme for the 2016-2019 triennium was Medical Women – Ambassadors of Change. The keynote speaker for the Congress was Gloria Steinem – writer, lecturer, political activist and feminist organiser.



Keynote speaker Gloria Steinem at the centennial congress of the MWIA.

## Congress program included sessions on

- Global, women's and maternal health
- Sex and gender specific medicine
- Gender equity in medicine including progress and impediments towards equitable professional opportunities and patient outcomes disaggregated by physician gender
- Leadership and professional development including the value of diversity among medical leaders
- Violence against women and girls
- Harassment and bullying in the workplace including sexual harassment
- Maintaining wellbeing while fulfilling numerous obligations as medical women
- Technological innovations and their role achieving MWIA aims
- Women as ambassadors of change
- Meeting of the MWIA General Assembly – the decision making body of MWIA. Dr Desiree Yap (VMWS) was elected Vice President of the Western Pacific region. A number of new resolutions were ratified.
- United Nations Event – Women's Health: Building Blocks for Sustainable Development Goals
- Announcement of our theme 2019-2022 triennium "Young women, young doctors: Our inspiration, our future"

## Background:

MWIA is the oldest professional international body. QMWS is affiliated with both AFMW (the Australian Federation of Medical Women) and MWIA (the Medical Women's International Association). All QMWS members are automatically also AFMW and MWIA members.

## Purpose of MWIA:

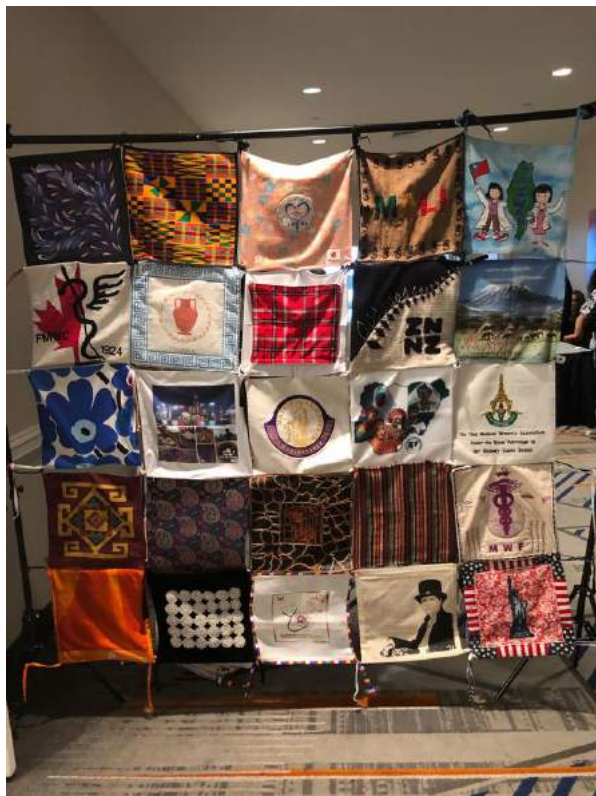
- Identify issues of importance to health and wellbeing especially of women and children, promote advocacy and action to achieve equitable health outcomes for all
- Have a voice and influence on issues of importance to medical women such as work-life balance, maternity leave, equitable opportunity for career progression
- Initiate and support projects related to health and wellbeing
- Develop training modules on topics including gender mainstreaming, violence against women and girls, adolescent sexuality



Dr Anita Sharma delivering her oral presentation.

## Purple Bush Medicine Leaves

Dr Lydia Pitcher, AFMW Vice President and QMWS Immediate Past President, facilitated creation of a fabric square representing Australia for inclusion in the MWIA Centennial Quilt. Aboriginal Artist Lousie Numina Napanangka painted Purple Bush Medicine Leaves especially for the occasion. This design has been the inspiration for a collection of scarves, twillies and neckerchiefs created by renowned Brisbane fashion designer Pia du Pradal. This project is collecting donations for the AFMW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women in Medicine project. More information is available on the QMWS website ([qld.home.afmw.org.au](http://qld.home.afmw.org.au)).



Picture right: Dr Magda Simonis presenting her poster on “Introduction of a Hospital Doctor Strengths-based Mentoring Programme”

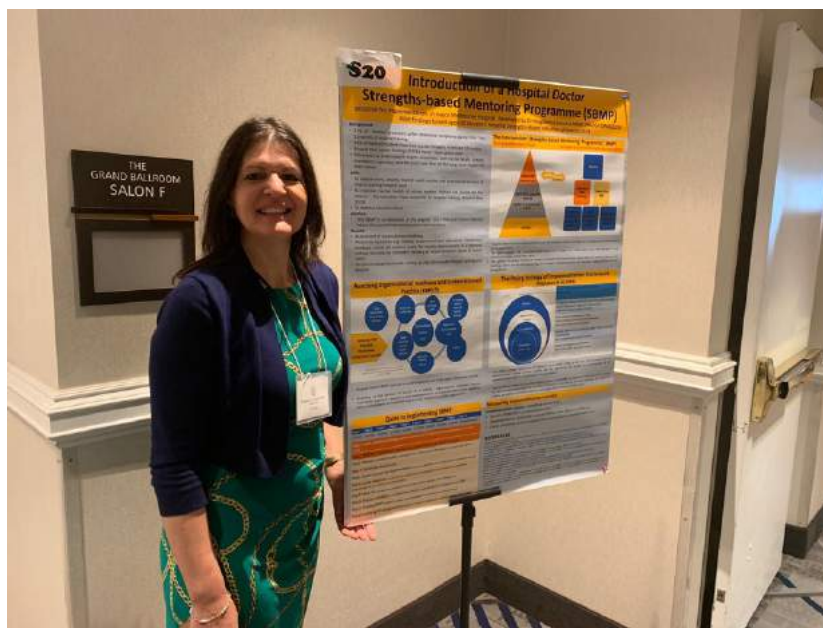


Photo above: Drs Lydia Pitcher and Ira van der Steenstraten presenting at the MWIA Centennial Congress.



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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