



The Biennium in Brief

State President Report – 2015-17

Julieann Caffery

Welcome to the Biennial Report for the 30th Forum State Conference. These two years have been exciting, stimulating and fulfilling as together we have embraced changes to Forum. Together we have created a very supportive organisation which helps each other be confident and effective communicators. Together we have come a long way.

I began this biennium by asking Forum members to ‘be the change’ which has resulted in new looks, launches, reforms, campaigns and celebrations, all of which have been a part of what can only be described as two years of strong, deliberate, planned and positive change. We welcomed a fresh and vibrant brand that said Forum Be Confident - a new look full of promise and optimism which reflects the type of organisation we want to be to ensure our future. A brand that is reflected in Forum’s aspiration: To be the best speaking organisation in Australia, inspiring members with confidence in a stimulating, informative and supportive environment.

In every successful organisation there are good people who are willing to share their good ideas. In Forum there are hardworking volunteers who are committed to support, encourage and implement these good ideas. It takes dedication, tenacity and courage to see these good ideas through to fruition.

Never be silent...the story of 76 years of speaking up, a book dedicated to recording the Forum history is a perfect example of this. My thanks go to Maureen Whitehead, author, who had a good idea and 7 years ago began sorting, ordering, researching and writing, and whose fruits of labour lead to that inspirational book launch in July this year.

There have been four other launches of Forum publications: The New Member Guide; The Forum Assessor Guide; The Forum Information Guide; and the Forum Constitution, Regulations, Bylaws and Standing Orders (April 2017). I say with pride that the Forum literature is up to date. It has taken hours and hours of writing, editing formatting and publishing. I am so grateful to all involved and especially to those eagle-eyed members who hunt down every spelling (typo) error, every misplaced piece of punctuation and grammatical mistake.

During the two years there have been many other good ideas that Forum members have said I’ll be responsible for that, and have meticulously planned and executed; and Forum members and friends have attended and enjoyed immensely. Here is the list: ‘Swiched on Convention; Gala 75 Birthday Lunch; 75years in 7days Bus Tour; Be Confident Stepping up and Stepping Higher Workshops for Assessors; Climb

Your Mountain Forum Conference: significant birthdays: Ipswich Forum 55 years; Chermside Forum 55 years; Gympie Forum 50 years; and 76 Birthday Celebrations. I offer my heartfelt thanks to all Forum members who has been involved in the organisation of these memorable events

Since September 2015 we have taken great strides forward continuing to develop strategic reforms that streamline the business of Forum, thus al-owing more time for skill development in public speaking and meeting procedure. The reforms include: A Communication Plan (January 2016) which identified areas where paper work could e reduced such as: the Half Yearly Assessment stays within the Forum; and State Committee members liaise with a selected person with the Forum thus eliminating the need for a

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NEW FACE ... SAME BIG DREAMS



BE CONFIDENT Our new fresh look was endorsed at Conference 2015; and this biennium focussed on rebranding all aspects of Forum, as well as introducing new concepts.

The achievements are significant and have given Forum a suite of tools which we are all proud to display and use.

All Forum literature was updated and is available on the Forum website. Accolades to Forums who volunteered to undertake the project:

- Gympie Forum handled the Information handbook
- Dalby Forum updated the New Members Guide
- Chermside Forum tackled the Office Bearer’s Guide which was incorporated into the Forum Information Guide
- The Chief Assessor worked with a team of assessors to update the Forum Assessors Guide.
- The Constitutional Advisor updated the changes within and it also received the new look

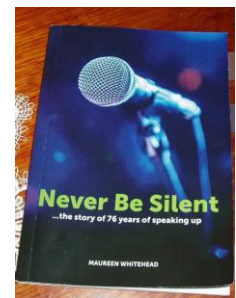
LOOK WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum Information Guide • Forum New Members Guide • Forum Assessors Guide • Forum Facebook User Guide • Communication Plan • New Website • Forum Facebook Page • Forum Brochure • Banners • Business cards • Bring a Friend to Forum Campaign • Style Guide • Templates for PowerPoint, workbooks, invitations and correspondence 	<p>14 State Committee Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 AGM • 100% attendance • 14 sets of minutes • 25,630 words of important decisions • 9 Updates
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WEBSITE STATS 60 –150 hits per week * 2 - 4 pages visited

NEVER BE SILENT ... 76 YEARS OF SPEAKING UP

CONGRATULATIONS to Maureen Whitehead, author of *Never be Silent...the story of 76 years of speaking up*. The launch of this much anticipated book occurred on July 15 as part of Forum's 76 year birthday lunch. Noela O'Donnell AM, a Past President of National Council of Women Queensland (NCWQ) and current Vice President graciously launched *Never be Silent...the story of 76 years of speaking up*.



This is the first time a history of Forum has been written. This book provides and insight into the past 76 years of our much loved organisation. It exemplifies the courage and determination of our three founders, the dedication and generosity of time of Life members and many other Forum members. There are 169 pages filled with fascinating, amazing, illuminating, enlightening, factual and quirky information and I guarantee that once you start reading it will be hard to put down.

NCWQ Bursary

Established in 1905, the NCWQ continues to represent the voice of thousands of women through its affiliated organisations and individual membership. The bursary program, since its commencement in 2009, indicates a strong commitment of NCWQ to equality of opportunity to all women, especially in offering some assistance to female students as they pursue their chosen pathway of study. The bursary programme, through NCWQ and its sponsors, offers a number of bursaries to Queensland women to assist with educational expenses.

FORUM was proud to join the ranks of sponsor and offer the inaugural Forum Communicators Bursary. Congratulations to Taylor Birtchnell who was the inaugural recipient of the Forum Communicators Bursary. Taylor is a second year Law/Commerce student at Bond University. She has had a lifelong interest in public speaking and debating, with success in many public speaking competitions and speaking at events including service club meetings and presentations.



Taylor founded the Bond University Debating and Public Speaking Club of which she is the current president. Forum is looking forward to working with Taylor, especially as she has agreed to be a keynote speaker at one of Forum's events. This will be a wonderful opportunity for Forum members to meet her.