



STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT
2017-2019 Biennium

Key Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FORUM's actively running a Public Speaking Course within their Session plan• Creation of Virtual Forum Webinars with QRRRWN (Qld Remote, Regional and Rural Women's Network) and presented the concept at their Annual Conference• Creation of 3 workshops for VSA (Volunteer Services Australia)
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The POWER of Forum is in the enjoyment which we bring to our meetings. Meetings must be fun for members and visitors while challenging them to rise to greater skills to ensure speaking is lively and full of intellectual rigour. FORUM's shouldn't be afraid to revisit the structure of their meetings and skills of those leading the meetings to ensure everything leads to a great FORUM experience.• Meeting procedure is Forum's point of difference but it must be explained in relation to contemporary issues and how to run a modern meeting that makes procedure come alive!• Continue to nurture the NCWQ/NCYWQ affiliation + build similar connections.• Keep the Forum brand consistent and take care not to compromise it. We have invested a great deal in creating + branding our wonderful organisation, do NOT compromise it.
Membership	There have been many swings and roundabouts in relation to Membership over the last 2 years. Public Speaking Courses delivered 11 new members across 2 clubs but sadly, 3 FORUMs went into recess; Gympie, Clermont and St Lucia. Overall membership numbers at 84 remain a concern and FORUM must rethink the way it operates. It has a brand – some attitudes have been refreshed – it's up to the members to deliver on the promise.
Website Improvements	There have been improvements made to the FORUM website and together with Richard Hallson greater knowledge is now known in relation to search abilities!
NCWQ Forum Speaking Bursary	The Forum Bursary Giving Circle has been an ongoing success since it was introduced in 2017. It has been embraced and is well supported. To date, three outstanding young people have been supported – and the ripple effect that will flow on from these women cannot be underestimated. The Bursary has increased awareness at the very least within the NCWQ community, let alone within the families and communities of applicants – and to the much wider community that attends the annual Bursary functions.
Gratitude to the Silent Warriors	Thank you to the quiet Achievers who support their Forum through their commitment on the State Committee. These truly are <i>Forum's Silent Warriors</i> .
I miss...	<p>That some of our Forums have gone into recess this biennium hurts my heart. I miss the Gympie girls, the St Lucia ladies and the Clermont crew.</p> <p>There are many brilliant women of the past sadly missed – and I trust that some form of Satellite Forum concept will enable them once more to be at one with us.</p>
Thank you	<p>It has been an honour and a privilege to hold the position of Forum's State President. I have loved this role, and it has loved me back. I am very conscious of how much I've grown in this role. My heart-felt thanks go to Rosie, Judy, Margaret, Helen and Jannene for their support. Huge thanks too, to the marvellous specialist officers who support, work hard and have such amazing expertise. I want to specifically mention Pam Tranter. Forum's personal "Energizer Bunny" is a constant, looking after the website, enquiries + maintenance, inundated at the end of each session with the Syllabus. Particular mention to Judy Hull who has cared for me and my well-being, as well as being an astute financier. And Leanne Walker, calm thinker with beautiful ideas on Assessment – thank you to all of you.</p> <p>Immeasurable thanks go to those who've popped emails, notes and cards through to me – you may never know how much they have meant + how much encouragement and strength I drew from those messages.</p> <p>I am beyond happy to be handing the reins to Jannene as I know Forum will be in good hands. All the best to the incoming 2019-2021 team!</p> <p>Joy Martin, State President 2017-2019</p>