

# FORUM LIFE

April 2024

## President's Pen



Successful people understand the value of never saying never. They know it's positive and a tool for success, strengthening their ability to handle future challenges.

Forum has a passionate membership, of brilliantly skilled people modernising how to boost your self-confidence in public speaking. How to recharge confidence to speak with confidence in different situations. Our FORUMs are ready to offer coaching and support in all aspects of public speaking and communication with confidence.

In our landscape innovative leadership is present, building and extending our foundations in digital capabilities. The excellence in business and speaking with confidence is focused on supporting and coaching individuals to use their physiology, voice, visual aids to design and deliver confidently. Connecting to the spirit of FORUM whilst we change into the Future.

The Spirit of Forum is unique to FORUM and Jan Scott from Cleveland Forum, brilliantly describes the 'Spirit of Forum'.

*'As I drove home yesterday I had an overwhelming feeling of gratitude. Grateful that I had joined Forum twelve years ago when we arrived in the Redlands; grateful that Pam Tranter is so everlastingly optimistic; grateful that our club has so many talented, creative, and energetic members; grateful that we can be welcoming new members like Manon Wathier and Cathie Pidoto and yet also be farewelling members like Helen Hinwood and Helen Kallio, with grace, acceptance, and thanks. I had a super time at our party yesterday and thank you all for the hard work.'*

Our membership is the life blood of FORUM, and our membership makes everything happen. Hence, our Convention 'Journey to Success' in September 2024 focuses on bringing the community and FORUM membership together. Our aim as networking leaders, is to continue strengthening our community as we strengthen FORUMs growth.

The State Committee has been workshopping Forum Future Directions and it was agreed that FORUM will focus on projects working together, strengthening FORUM, taking FORUM into Future through community. If you are interested in working on the 'Digital Transformation Project' or the 'Convention Project' or 'Building Community Connection Project' contact any member of the State Committee.

# FORUM Bursary 2024

FORUM sponsors a bursary through the National Council of Women Queensland (NCWQ). Each year we offer financial support to a young woman who excels in leadership and speaking in public.

Information on the 2024 Bursary program can be found at the National Council of Women of Queensland (NCWQ) website (<http://ncwq.org.au>) in early 2024.

Please encourage young women in your community to investigate and apply for the 2024 Bursaries.

## The 2024 Bursary Program Timeline

Monday 17 April 2024 – Applications open.

Monday 3 June 2024 – Applications close.

Applications submitted or post-marked after the application close date will not be considered.

**Please encourage young women in your community to review the eligibility and respond to the Selection Criteria.**

## 2024 FORUM Convention

### Save the date

*We will be celebrating at the FORUM Convention on  
7 – 8 September 2024*

The weekend will include:

- Guest speakers
- Tutorials
- Workshops



The Convention is an opportunity to connect with your fellow Forum members and have your voices heard!

***Will you join us for some FORUM Fun!***

***Would you like to assist with the organisation and delivery of the convention?***

## VALE Maureen Whitehead

In 2010 Maureen Whitehead (Chermside) was chosen as one of the 20 winners to have her story published in "*One Book, Many Brisbane's*". The award also included a 3 day master-class with industry experts.

As Forum's Historian, Maureen was instrumental in pulling together documentation of the organisation's past to provide a manageable and more succinct history. Over the years she read all Dais Minutes up to year 2000. She sorted information from various sources about seminars, workshops, luncheons, dinners, conventions, conferences and more. She frequently visited the John Oxley State Library where past Dais Minutes had been secured, and where she was able to read them wearing white gloves, but not able to take them away. Further Minutes have now also been placed there. The next step was to publish a book telling the Forum story which was published during the 75th year in the year 2016, called "**Never Be Silent**".



## Our Forum clubs have been busy! Ashgrove Forum

Ashgrove Forum is trialling a major change to their meeting format this year. Numerous visitors have attended in the past 12 months as a result of an invitation in "The Western Echo" articles which says that "visitors are welcome to attend and observe without obligation to speak, though they may do so if they wish".

Visitors enjoy the tutorials and the speaking segments, but they do not enjoy sitting through the business section of the meetings as they have no interest in it.

Consequently, the business is now being dealt with at a Zoom meeting on Monday night and the speaking section is in person at the Ashgrove Library on Wednesday night as usual.

A new member (Fiona Day on the left in the photo with President Carmel Towler on the right) was recently inducted. She advised the Committee that the changed meeting format played a large part in her decision to join.



**Our congratulations to Ashgrove for continuing to embrace change by being innovative and progressive.**

## Bayside Forum

### **A Valentine's Day Wedding - May I introduce .... Mr and Mrs Bayside.**

Bayside Forum met on Valentine's Day this year, a wonderful opportunity for a mock wedding which created a fun back drop for learning about toasting and practicing in a real situation. As with all weddings, there was much preparation with roles decided, toasts carefully prepared as well as decorations, food and drink for the "breakfast". All was in readiness and everyone dressed in their finest outfits suited to their role(s) at the wedding. Anna and Elaine (known as Lane) were the bride and groom. What a handsome couple. Paul was the Best Man and Nora, Matron of Honour.

Presided over by celebrant Kate, the "service" was a short one where Anna and Lane declared their love of public speaking and well-ordered meetings. They promised to encourage each other to make quality speeches and to run effective meetings for as long as they were members of Bayside Forum. They both vowed to never be silent when they ought to speak. At the following breakfast, the Loyal Toast was given before the MC toasted the happy couple. Paul's Best Man speech responding to the toast to the Matron of Honour was memorable for the anecdotes about Lane's imaginary childhood and his hopes for the happy couple. All the toasts were used to practice what we had learned with all members present participating. It was an evening full of fun, laughter and fellowship and highly recommended to others.

## Bremer Forum

### **Bremer Forum is looking to the future**

Asking ChatGPT for the answer to life the universe and everything will still result in 42 and so it is really useless on tackling the burning questions at Forum.

I mean is Forum still relevant? The answer is **YES**, more than ever in these troubling times.

Maybe we need to adapt to a new age and focus more on the speaking in a more social and relaxed Forum. Procedure is very much a big part of Forum life; however we might just have to reconsider the end goal.

How many people come to Forum to understand procedure? I would say not many. People come to forum to gain confidence in a safe nurturing environment so that they can develop and become a better version of themselves.

**A good meeting begins with the members enjoying dinner together.**

## Chermside Forum

Chermside Forum has started 2024 with a new member. New to us, but not new to Forum. Barbara Horsburgh, who has been an Ipswich Forum member for 7 years, has joined Chermside Forum due to Ipswich Forum's closing. We are delighted to have her.

Our theme this session is *"Two sides to everything"*. Members are encouraged to explore the other side of the issue.

For several years we have begun our meetings with *"A Word Quiz"* to get our minds thinking. By popular demand, we continue this fun activity.

### **Trial of new segment.**

We are trialling a new segment called *"A Famous Speech"*. A member looks at a well-known speech, analyses it and explains why this speech is good, the impact of the speech and/or what we could learn from that speech. The purpose of this exercise is to improve our speech making by studying those speeches that have been so memorable.

**Chermside Forum is growing.  
Memberships is strong at 15 members.**

## Cleveland Forum

Cleveland Forum held a stall at Capalaba Shopping Centre for two days in February and had an article published in the local paper the same week. This resulted in six visitors attending the next meeting. **We were ecstatic!**

One of these visitors has since joined and another one is joining next meeting. The others were invited to attend an "Open Day" meeting with a few results.

*We will keep planning and implementing ways to grow.*

Our meetings include a small segment where the Chairman of the Day interviews one of our members for up to 5 mins.

The interview questions include:

- Early life/school;
- Jobs held;
- Family holidays;
- What you have gained from Forum.



**If you can speak well,  
you can influence.  
If you can influence,  
you can change lives.**

This has proved a nice way to know about our members, especially for the newer members.

**Cleveland Forum continues to use public awareness opportunities to increase membership.**

Are you sick of nothing much to watch on TV on a Monday night. Then here is a great idea to fill in one of those nights.

OR

Invite your friends to attend one of our E-Forum meetings.

No need to dress up and go out. No petrol or parking fees - Only one hour of your time sitting at your computer to:

- learn skills that will be useful in the long term.
- discover that Zoom intricacies are easy.
- practice the role of a chairman, impromptu speaker or prepared speaker.
- enjoy informative tutorials to boost your skills.
- have a say on what is on the programme.

**Whatever way you look at it E-Forum will give you that secret something you have been looking for.**

**We need more FORUM clubs and members!**

***Do you have the drive and enthusiasm to start new clubs in growth areas?***

There are a number of growth areas with wider Brisbane, the Bayside and Ipswich areas have had significant population growth through greenfield site development and infill development (medium and high density development).

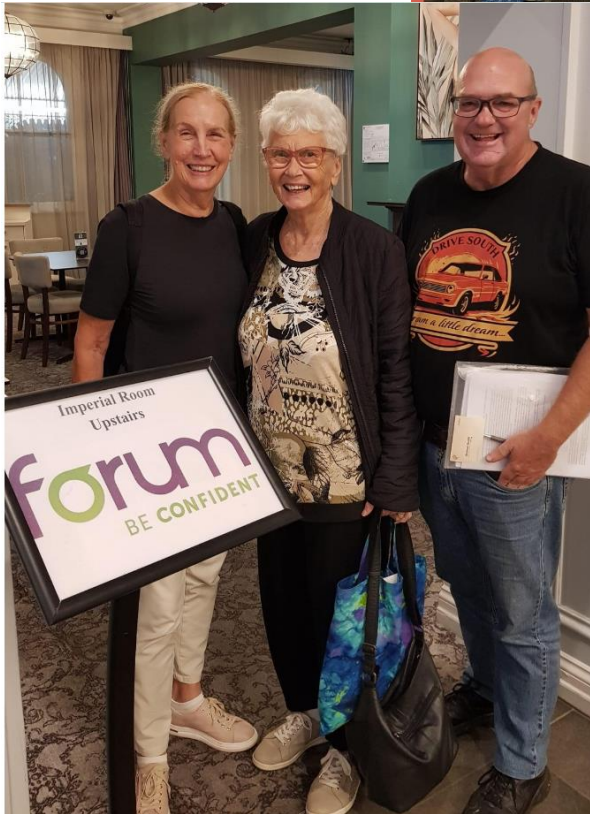
This is a golden opportunity for FORUM to develop footprints in growth areas such as Springfield, South Brisbane, North Brisbane and the Bayside.

### ***Membership matters***

A number of clubs are undertaking public awareness and memberships drives.

Please let your State Committee and other clubs know of any planned public awareness activities to improve membership.

# FORUM PHOTOS



Never be Silent