

FORUM LIFE

January 2025

President's Pen

'Together Celebrating Forum' Australia Day Awards and Honours



It is a true privilege to congratulate Pam Tranter on being awarded an OAM in recognition of her major achievements and services to our Redlands Community and Forum Communicators. From the bottom of my heart we celebrate this magnificent achievement. Your unwavering commitment and dedication have not gone unnoticed, your passion has made a real difference in Redlands and Forum, a better place for having you as part of their outstanding community. We also give thanks to Pam's peers who nominated Pam Tranter.

Forum Convention

I can't thank members enough for making the September 2024 Convention an amazing time for everyone. Forum Communicators bravely implemented an innovative program, that was different, challenging and achieved positive results.

Innovation is a companion to unexpected findings, and we now have blueprints and feedback to improve, fine tune and modify the Model. As outlined in Cleveland Forum's feedback: *'Thank you State Committee for taking on an act of bravery and delivering a professionally challenging Convention'... 'The planning, the organising, the effort was to be commended.'*

To Cleveland Forum thank you for an unforgettable lunch, the food was delicious. I appreciate all the effort you put into making a special lunch for a special program.

Together Celebrating Forum

Work has commenced on the 2025 Forum Communicators Conference 2025, and I have made a real effort to bring us Together, Celebrating Forum. Program activities, built on the foundations of owning half a watermelon rather than a whole grape, focus on sharing and celebrating. We in Forum want to stay afloat in many different ways and venture into the future. We are smaller in number of members & don't want to be the grape, it sinks. Intrigued, interested, contact me as I am seeking interested members to assist.

Innovation + Intelligence = Inspiration

Pam Tranter OAM

A beautiful example to all Forum members

Pam's Mum was very inspirational in that she could accomplish many tasks while working full time. Once Pam was working, she started being involved in various organisations and when a Mum herself Pam was involved in P&C and organisations her kids were in. Once the kids were in high school and working Pam had time to be involved more. She learned to control her stuttering, she'd had all her young life, by joining Forum. She also learned skills in Forum which are still used today in her organisations, particularly meeting procedure. Pam has a wide range of friends and mentors from all walks of life, all of whom she values highly.

Pam's award listed the many organisations she has been in and some where she still is a member.

Current organisations:

Forum Communicators Assoc Inc 35 years – now a Life Member; Redlands Branch, Cancer Council Queensland 20 years: Founder The Optimists 47 years and a Life Member; Night Ninjas 7 ½ years.

Previous organisations: BayFM Community Radio 20 years and a Life Member.

Redlands Women's Information Network 10 years.

Awards: Australia Day Senior Citizen of the year 2011

Redlands Coast Inspiring Senior 2019.



Cancer Council Education stall



A donation for Night Ninjas



Night Ninjas presentation at a Probus group



Forum's 80th birthday party

Ashgrove Forum

Ashgrove Forum recently celebrated their 1000th meeting. Long standing member Pat Pepper reminisced about the memorable speeches delivered over the years. Barbara Eutick had entertained them with her hair-raising tale about being stuck in a canoe in the mud up a tributary of the Amazon. Louise Quinn guided us through her days at the Queensland Art Gallery briefing us about visiting exhibitions. Some speakers became Forum legends notably Lettie Morelle who would hold forth on reconciliation long before it was popular. Louise and Lettie were each awarded an OAM in part for their contributions to the Forum movement.

Each Ashgrove Forum member strove to reach their full potential. Pat witnessed speakers blossom under tuition in the supportive and encouraging environment. One lady who could hardly finish a speech without bursting into tears progressed to become President of the Lady Bowlers travelling the State addressing Bowling Clubs. Her speech at Forum about Sumo Wrestling had the audience in stitches.

To this day, members have endeavoured to live up to the legacy of past mentors by researching and speaking about topical subjects, their work or area of interest – always informative, challenging and entertaining. Carmel Towler who works in the care industry, has spoken about the courage of a client in having prosthesis attached after losing all four limbs, and Ronda Nix OAM about her mission to get people to nominate women for Order of Australia awards and overcome the discrepancy between the number of men and women receiving awards for their contribution to society.

Pat claims she has rarely attended a meeting without learning something, been encouraged to consider another viewpoint, entertained, or enthused to action.

Our Forum clubs have been busy!

E-Forum

E-Forum will be roaring into action on the second Monday night each month for one hour with a wide reach into the community, with members who join from near and far.

The hot topic for their first meeting is likely to be Pam Tranter's starring role on ABC radio with Steve Austin.

Just send an email to Pam Tranter: pamtranter46@outlook.com and she will put you on the email to receive the Zoom link each month. Website Coordinator Rosie is featuring Facebook adverts regularly to attract more people to this great opportunity.

Check out the Syllabus for what's happening each month as speakers are always welcome.

Bayside Forum

Following on from a busy Convention in September, Bayside Forum held a special meeting in October inviting the community to present ***“How their organisation contributes to the liveability of the Bayside, from the Brisbane River to the Redlands”***.

This was an excellent night with 6 organisations raising awareness of the outstanding work they do, many of them volunteers. All came under the banner of Environmental, Humanitarian or Services increasing liveability in our combined Bay area communities. Other Forums could easily duplicate this format in their own local area. Building on the experiences of this meeting, another is scheduled for 14 May 2025 for interested organisations. Bayside and Cleveland Forums have started supporting each other in joint activities where possible and we thank them for that.

Pictured here are Catherine Williams (STAR), Janese Lowe (U3A), Eddie Johnstone (OzFish), Marilyn Jacob (St Pete's Pantry), Ian Thomson (Ocean Crusaders) and Pam Tranter (Forum).



Bremer Forum

Bremer Forum adapts to our changing needs and environment.

In session 2 of 2024 Bremer tested a collegiate approach to the presidency by having multiple Presidents leading the session. Three members stepped up and each brought their personality and flair to the President's role. The club found this process worked very well and was a great adaptation to a new age of FORUM as members have multiple demands on their time.

Throughout the session we enjoyed many opportunities to practice our public speaking skills. **'Word Wizardry'** challenges which were very engaging and entertaining. **Hack-A-Thon:** members to discuss ideas raised in speeches.

Interview scenarios - You Can't Ask That segment, the themes were *Sex 'n Stuff* and *Death, Dying and Dead Bodies*. The focus was on speaking in a more social and relaxed Forum.


Successful Affiliated Forum clubs ensure all members are trained and have the opportunity to perform the President, Secretary and Treasurer roles. This improves the ongoing viability of the club and ensures members maintain a strong skills base.

Chermside Forum

As we begin 2025, Chermside Forum has for its theme this session Australiana. We will pay tribute to the wonderful country we have the privilege to call home. This is an opportunity to consider the what, why, when, how and everything else about **Australia**.

In the spirit of promotion, we now have a Facebook page.

In addition, we have the promise of a short article/advertisement for Chermside Forum in the local Chermside guide in February. This local guide covers our catchment area. Hopefully we can pick up a few new members as we have lost a few due to their personal circumstances.



Chermside Public Speaking Forum
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First meeting for 2025 is on Thursday 23 January.

Chermside Forum extends to all Forum members and potential visitors good wishes for a very happy New Year.

Cleveland Forum

Cleveland Forum Club welcomed the return of current members and new members. The **club membership increased** by 50% new members. The new members are beginners so our focus for the semester is to invest in providing them with skills and confidence so they become experienced speakers.

We are brain-storming ideas including inviting a local school to debate with our experienced speakers, and looking at doing this through a workshop, funded through a council grant. We will also be working on speeches for Forum Conference so all members know what to expect and will support the club in the speaking competition.



The Cleveland club not only gathers for public speaking events but also enjoys social outings such as the recent golf day.



Affiliated Forums - Voting

Voting at your Affiliated Forum – A show of hands or a secret ballot

The Constitution states

R1.6 Voting

(a) At all meetings of the Affiliated Forum and the management committee **a simple majority shall decide all motions**, except that of dissolution / recess, see R1.10.

In the event of a tied vote the chairman shall have the right to exercise a casting vote. See Standing Order 26.

(b) Voting shall be by show of hands or secret ballot. **A secret ballot may be held at the discretion of the chairman or can be requested by any member.** The voting figures of any secret ballot, whether on an election or not, should be made available to the chairman, but the number of votes cast shall not be otherwise divulged in any way.



Yes No Abstain

It is your

VOTE!

The book "Mr Chairman" written by Marjorie Puregger is the official "go to" place for any procedural question not covered in the Forum Constitution.

Page 70-71 says: Members who abstain from voting do not escape all responsibility for decisions made by the meeting. They are still bound by majority decisions when subsequent action is taken.

Although there is no legal compulsion to vote, if the Constitution states that a resolution must be passed by a certain percentage of those present, those who abstain from voting may prevent the motion from being passed, and their action - or inaction - is equivalent to a negative vote.

This could happen at a meeting or conference of delegates where a two-thirds or three-fourths majority vote of all delegates is required. If only a few delegates abstain from voting it may become impossible to pass a single resolution.

Where the Chairman has a right to vote and does not exercise it, he is counted in the total of those present.

Membership Matters

The value of volunteering shines through Pam Tranter OAM.

There was great excitement over the Australia Day weekend. On Sunday 26th with the official announcement of Pam's OAM for her services to volunteering services to various organisations.

Pam was then invited to go on-air on ABC radio with Steve Austin on Monday 27th. It was an enjoyable experience and ***Pam managed to give Forum a good reference.***

The next day with the radio on in the background Pam suddenly heard Steve Austin's voice and heard her name mentioned, a quick dash closer to the radio and he played the segment of the interview about Forum and Cancer Council then went on to introduce a lady from the Volunteers Association about a Government program. So we got a second airing.

What marketing plans do you have for your club in 2025?

Will you hold a

- ***Community Symposium or Debate***
- ***Attend the local Community Group Market Day***

Send Public Awareness emails and marketing brochures to

- ***Other local community organisations eg Men's sheds, Lions clubs, Playgroups, Probus clubs etc***

Contact your

- ***Local newspaper or Council with a press release***
- ***Local radio station with a press release***

Will you join your

- ***Local Stronger Community network to promote Forum***

The 4 Ps of marketing your Forum Club are

Product – Public Speaking

People – Friendly, Welcoming, Collegiate Social Environment

Price – Low Cost Membership Fees

Place – Meeting Location and Time