

# FORUM LIFE

September 2025

## President's Pen



Today we celebrate the past, the present and the future of FORUM.

I give great thanks to our 2023-2025 State Management Committee, Life Members and Specialist Officers. From our first meeting as an INNOVATIVE team leading a great organisation, every step of our journey has been focused on making courageous decisions to advance FORUM.

At **FORUM** Conference 2025, we will be celebrating FORUM's past as Former State Presidents from 1999 share their achievements. The power of FORUM is that everyone can connect with FORUM's past, present, or future. Search and you will find your connection. Share these connections.

We celebrate the skills and knowledge that people develop in all aspects of Public Speaking and Meeting Procedures. We celebrate in FORUM, the success that these skills and knowledge have in so many different ways. For example people succeeding in business, speaking at many different events and FORUM 2024 CONVENTION, a new model of engaging with the community.



**Innovation & Intelligence = Inspiration**

I pay respect to our Founders who continue to guide us today. Jessie Groom OBE always reminds me of Pam Tranter OAM. It was said that 'You might as well try to stop soda water bubbling out of a bottle to try to stop Jessie Groom's community service'. Pam is the same, wherever there is a job to be done, a cause to be won, or a service to the community, there was Pam Tranter OAM, Forum Life Member. Thank you Pam.

Ruth Don is my hero. She was elected as President of Queensland Teacher's Union; she fought a long battle for improvement in teaching. As a senior officer of Nurses Union & Public Service Union, I continue to fight for women's rights, to improve nursing conditions, standards of care for the people of Australia. Women's rights.

It has been an honour to be FORUM's State President and I look forward to working together with our amazing new State Management Committee team, I am hopeful that we can establish the Council of Former Presidents to help SMC.



## It's Time for FORUM to MeetUp

Forum will be gathering for the upcoming conference to celebrate with members and friends. What a great MeetUp we will enjoy!

New marketing opportunities are available and one of the marketing opportunities is **FORUM** having a presence on the **Meetup platform**.

### What is Meetup?

Meetup is the people platform where interests become friendships, skills, careers, networks and people find events in their communities.

If you're still not sure what MeetUp does google [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com)

People use Meetup to meet new people, learn new things, find support, get out of their comfort zones, and pursue their passions, together.

It's time for FORUM to have  
a profile and footprint on



*meetup*



### 2025 Bursary Winner Jess Ruhle

Jess Ruhle is the well deserved and worthy winner of the 2025 Forum Communicators Association Bursary. Jess is a new graduate speech pathologist and a 1 year PhD student at University of Queensland (UQ). As well as this, she is an avid park-runner, and secretary of the Australian Voice Association.

Jess expressed her appreciation and gratitude to the Forum Communicators Association for this award. As a clinical speech pathologist and researcher, she has a deep understanding of the impact of communication disorders on the population and knows first-hand the impact they can make on the lives of individuals. The bursary prize will be used to support Jess's aspiration to become trained in laryngoscopy and improving the lives of all adults impacted by voice disorders.

Forum Communicators Association ongoing support and participation in the NCWQ Bursary program provides an opportunity for Forum to be acknowledged by a wider audience for its contribution in the community.

## Vale Bruce Kent

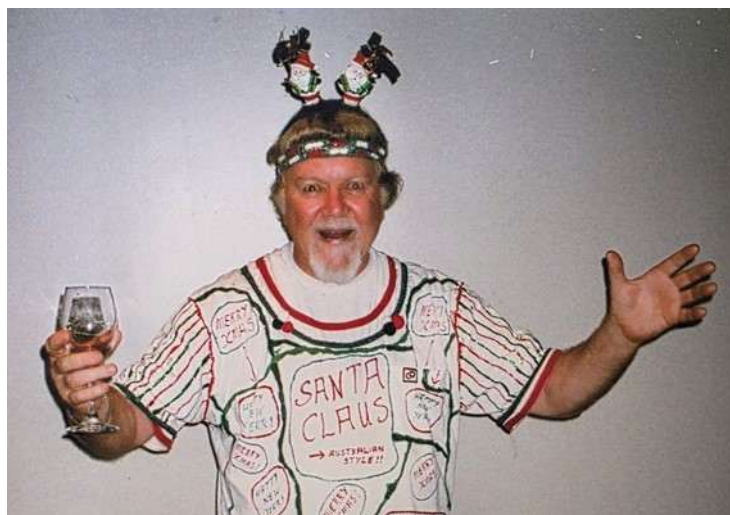
Chermside Forum lost a valued member Bruce Kent on 16 April 2025. Bruce passed away peacefully in his own home, sitting in his comfortable chair watching television.

Bruce joined Chermside Forum in November 2017. Bruce was a man of many talents. He was confident, intelligent, and passionate. He was a nurse, a teacher and herbalist. He also stood for parliament in Tasmania but did not get elected.

Most importantly, he was a raconteur, telling colourful stories of his adventures and life journey in several different states.

Bruce introduced the love of his life, Sandra Tam, to us and we have been blessed to have them both as members. Bruce visited other Forums, Conferences and other big Forum events.

Bruce will be missed as well as his word quizzes. However, Bruce will never be forgotten because he was indeed, unique.



### Our Forum clubs have been busy! Forum Online

E-Forum continues to meet online every second Monday night each month for one hour with a wide reach into the community, with members who join from near and far.

Just send an email to Pam Tranter: [pamtranter46@outlook.com](mailto:pamtranter46@outlook.com) and she will put you on the email to receive the Zoom link each month.

Check out the Syllabus for what's happening each month, new members are always welcome at E-Forum.

**E-Forum has been operating for 5 years and is going from strength to strength.**



## Turning Fear into Fun and Captivate Our Audience in Cleveland

As public speakers, we know public speaking is often ranked among people's greatest fears, right up there with heights and spiders. But for Forum members, it's more than just a skill to develop—it's an art form, a playground, and a stage to dazzle. Whether we're seasoned speakers or working up the courage to say "hello" to a roomful of strangers, Cleveland have been driven to inspire, entertain, and remind us and our visitors why public speaking can be one of the most fun and rewarding adventures you'll ever embark upon.

To do this, we set our speeches to the theme EXPAND, keeping in line with our commitment to grow and expand our numbers. Some speech titles have been:- Expand Your ... Taste Buds, Knowledge of Eggs, Creativity, Wardrobes, Horizon, Your Knowledge of Medical Advancements, Expand or Shrink Your House?

To inspire our new members and keep them speaking, we had On Your Soap Box, Journalist for a day, book and movie reviews, poets corner, cameo's , progressive story, and the dying art of telling jokes. To keep all of us learning, Tutorials and Workshops provided by qualified health professionals and members provided a lot to talk about, at our Happy Hour after every meeting at the local Pub.



**Talented members, social events and  
building community connections.**

## Chermside members enjoy another very good year!

In May 1962 Chermside Forum was formed and this year in May, we celebrated 63 years for Forum fellowship. We celebrated with cake at the lunch after the meeting. ***As we are now 63, we are officially the longest acting Forum.***

In keeping with the Theme of All Things Australian, our title for speeches was “A Sporting Occasion”. One speech was about the occasion that Australia won the Americas Cup and the impact that had on all of Australia.

Another speech a member gave a history of Cricket in Australia focusing on a family member who was the hero of the day.

Naturally, we had a speech with the title “Being 63” which was very entertaining. The message was about well known people who were very successful when they were 63.

***A very good year is 63.***

***Chermside Forum - Coming together to celebrate our wonderful community.***



## Bremer Forum

### Bremer Forum is capturing its history

Some members of Bremer are currently capturing the club's history, recording the number of meetings, membership over the years, memorable events, celebrations and milestones. The research has given members an opportunity to reminisce and reflect about our captivating sessions. Who could forget Peter's standout and fabulous session with the Musical theme. Peter's session was one of many opportunities to hone our skills in both writing, practicing and delivering our speeches.

In the last few years we have maintained a stable membership and have been pleased to welcome Shirley Jackson from the former Ipswich club, Andrea Baumert- Howard and our newest member Sandra Green.

Andrea and Sandra have a wealth of public speaking experience and are very talented. If you see Andrea or Sandra at Conference please welcome them or drop into a Bremer Forum meeting as a visitor.



A word cloud featuring various terms associated with the Bremer Forum. The words are arranged in a roughly circular pattern and include: 'celebrations' (yellow), 'impromptu' (red), 'ideas' (green), 'liarsclub' (blue), 'history' (green), 'visualize' (orange), 'speeches' (red), 'creativity' (orange), 'events' (blue), 'meetings' (orange), 'forum' (blue), 'tutorials' (purple), 'entertain' (red), and 'prepared' (green). The word 'speeches' is the largest and most prominent in the center.



## Bayside Forum

### Bayside Forum - Connects with the Community

Much of this session has been in planning our second Community Meeting on 14 May and this time, **6 community groups and the Brisbane City Councillor Alex Givney** took part. There was a wealth of information provided to the audience and we all gained so much from the speakers. The aim of these community meetings is to promote Forum as well as gain an insight into what is happening locally. Along with Cr Givney were the men from Volunteers in Policing - Capalaba & Wynnum, Ann from the Bayside Branch of Soroptimists International, Ann from Maybanke (Domestic Violence Accommodation & Services) , Kirsten from Rosies - Friends on the Street, Michele and Jennifer from OWN - Older Women's Network and Heather from Writers of Wynnum Manly.

### Bayside continues to implement change and grow membership.

At the beginning of this session members chose to hold an annual AGM rather than a BGM twice a year. This has freed up an extra meeting this month and so far, it is working well. We also welcomed new member Helen who has brought a bright spark to the meetings.

speaking  
voice meetings  
friends discussion  
bayside forum  
teamwork topics  
community consultation  
celebrations  
message  
futurethinking

# Forum Building Skills - Training

**Are you considering taking on a roll in a community group or sporting club then Governance training is an almost essential training requirement.**

In any Office bearer role you will be required to consider your organisations Constitution, Regulations and By-laws. However, you will also need to consider the requirements for the Australian Taxation Office, the State and Federal Human Rights Acts, State and Federal Privacy Acts, State and Federal Library Acts, to name just to just a few of the legal acts to be considered when making decisions.

**Ipswich City Council is offering workshops and training for Community groups to ensure Stronger Communities.**

The workshops are engaging, informative and designed to build the knowledge and capacity of local community groups, organisations and sporting clubs in Ipswich and beyond.

## **Revenue Generation**

Tuesday 19 August 2025, 5.30 pm – 8.30 pm

## **Grant Writing Workshop**

Saturday 20 September 2025, 9.00 am – 2.30 pm; and  
Tuesday 23 September 2025, 9.00 am – 2.30 pm

## **Governance – Roles and Responsibilities**

Tuesday 21 October 2025, 5.30 pm – 8.30 pm

## **Volunteer Recruitment and Retention**

Tuesday 18 November 2025, 5.30 pm – 8.30 pm

Prior Registration is essential. For more information, please contact the Community Funding Team at [communityfunding@ipswich.qld.gov.au](mailto:communityfunding@ipswich.qld.gov.au) or phone 3810 6648.

<https://www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/live/our-community/workshops>

North Ipswich Reserve Corporate Centre, 43 The Terrace, North Ipswich. Please arrive 30 mins prior to the session commencing.

