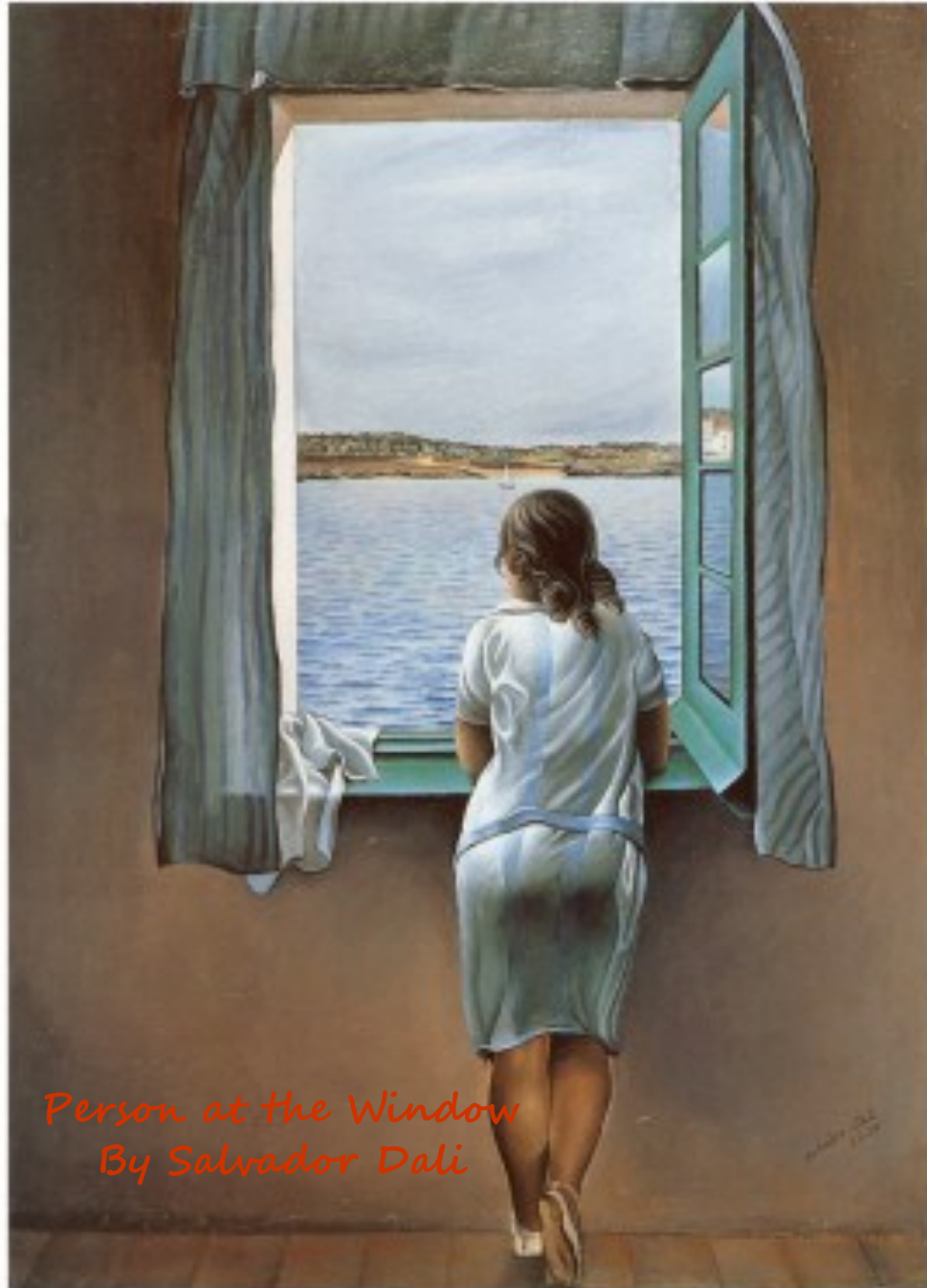


National Women's Register

Australia Incorporated



*Person at the Window
By Salvador Dali*

“Let's **C**...
LIFE: How do we **C**ommunicate?”

Newsletter 2015 - 47th Edition



(From NWR UK Website)

NWR Lively-minded Women

2015

IN THIS ISSUE

National Women's Register is an **International Organisation** of women's discussion groups with members in Great Britain, Europe, Africa and Australia. Each group provides its members with opportunities to participate in stimulating discussions on a wide range of topics from the serious to light-hearted and non-domestic points of view.

The aims are to focus on a nominated subject through **personal research** and communal activities so that a better understanding and intimate knowledge can be gained and shared. Speakers who are experts in their particular field of endeavour are also invited to attend and address the meetings.

The regular meetings give members opportunities to share **their ideas**, concepts and opinions in an atmosphere of friendship in a non-threatening environment to stimulate self-image, self-esteem and confidence.

The **Foundation Group** was formed in Britain in 1960 under the name of "National Housewives Register". It readily flourished and was later renamed "National Women's Register". It was brought here in 1975 as National Housewives' Register and a number of informal groups were started in Australia.

Then, in 1981, "**Women in Touch**" (Australia) was **officially founded**. It continued to prosper until 1992 when the organisation changed its name to "National Women's Register" (NWR). This brought the Australian membership in line with the international organisation of NWR.

Today, members in many **countries worldwide** continue to foster "A Meeting Point for Lively Minded Women" of all nationalities in their search for knowledge and a better understanding of the joys and richness that can improve their lives.



© Can Stock Photo

What's all the talk about?

NWR groups have had an interesting year discussing some very interesting and thought-provoking issues. A few members entered the UK Short Story Competition: **Freedom Read on!**



Glimpses of events... past & present

Twinning Groups... Conferences, here and in the UK, giving the women across the miles lots of food for thought.

It's so good to share time together!

From the "Mother Ship" UK

"get yourself along to an NWR meeting and life will become more interesting"

Natalie Punter
NATIONAL ORGANISER

Kate Dobson
FINANCE MANAGER

Llana Levine
WEBSITE & PUBLICITY
COORDINATOR

Samantha Bushell
NWR OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Angela Norman
NWR OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Greetings from the outgoing UK National Organiser

I am so sorry for not being in touch sooner as I intended. I have officially stepped down - yesterday - and, clearing my inbox, I came across your email.

The past couple of years have been particularly busy involving staff shortages and a lengthy process of new website development. A new Finance Manager, Kate Dobson, was employed in January 2014. The Website and Publicity Coordinator, Alyson Watts, left the post in February 2015 and a replacement, Kath Latham, was not appointed until October 2015. Of course I am aware that Mary Dodkins used to keep in touch with you and, in fact, had agreed to continue to do so with news of NWR activities here. However, I believe her ongoing health problems have prevented her from doing so.

The website is now looking good and is currently managed by Llana Levine as Kath Latham is on Maternity Leave. Natalie Punter is working more hours than me and has the new title of National Organiser. Both Natalie and Llana are full of enthusiasm and fresh ideas for the future of NWR. Please feel free to get in touch with them:
llana@nwr.org.uk; natalie@nwr.org.uk.

All the very best to your members,
Kathryn Buckman

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Response to Kathryn Buckman and Bev Shaw from Natalie Punter

Kathryn,

Thank you for this introduction... and Bev,

I look forward to further contact with you once I have a firmer handle on my role.

Regards, **Natalie**

UK NWR National Conference 2015 -GLASGOW

The NWR National Conference & AGM 2015 took place in Glasgow on Saturday 20 June in the beautiful and historic Grand Central Hotel. The trustees, staff and conference committee were delighted to welcome 260 members. Many made a weekend of it and enjoyed wraparound events including a guided tour of Glasgow's historical sites.

We had an impressive line-up of high calibre speakers talking on the theme of 'Diverse Connections'.

The conference kicked off with **award-winning writer and journalist Alistair Moffat** who captivated the audience on the subject of DNA and how much it can inform us about our ancestry. In addition to Alistair was **BBC broadcaster and writer Sally Magnusson** who talked movingly about her mother's dementia, which led her to write *Where Memories Go* and starting up the charity Playlist for Life. Finally we got to hear from **English language teacher and co-author of the children's novel Food Wars, Mairi Nasr**. Mairi lived in Lebanon for several years and gave us food for thought about accommodating different cultures.



NWR Short Story Competition 2015: "FREEDOM"

The competition was held in June this year. Four of our Australian members sent through their stories to the UK Office to show what our Aussie members can put down in words their insight into "Freedom", in no more than 2000 words. !!!!!!!

National Committee & Local Organisers 2015

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Margaret Patterson -National Organiser
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Alison Smith -Vice-National Organiser
Email: robinali.smith@bigpond.com.au

Bev Kearney -National Treasurer & Public Officer
Email: bev.kearney@optusnet.com.au

Beverly Shaw - National Secretary
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NEW SOUTH WALES

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Illawarra Day Group
Trish Copeland
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Illawarra Evening Group
Bev Shaw
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The Hills Group
Marlene Murrows
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Sunshine Coast Morning Group
Robyn Tait
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Kalamunda Group
Di Sankey
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INTERNATIONAL GROUPS

EIRE
- County Meath

QATAR
- Dohar

ZIMBABWE
- Bulawayo
- Harare

For more information on
International Groups please
contact the UK
Administration at:

office@nwr.org.uk

Disclaimer

The opinions of this Magazine are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or ideals of the National Women's Register, Australia. The Editor reserves the right to publish or reject any material submitted. Any such material may be cut or condensed by the Editor.

Greetings... from our National Organiser

Margaret Patterson

This year has continued with all groups discussing diverse topics, being delighted and inspired by guest speakers and by participation in a variety of activities to keep 'the grey matter' stimulated and horizons broadened.

The May meeting seemed to come around very quickly with the news that maybe a group will be established on the South Coast at Merimbula. Theresa Smith, who has had connections to NWR UK, was sent all the information including Bev Shaw's contact details. Hopefully, the group goes ahead.

Again we had visitors from UK. Caroline Parsons came to the February meeting in Sydney and Jenny Hornsey joined the Illawarra Day group meeting when the topic was "What country/area would you like to live in for a year?" She contributed in the form of a poem which you can read in the Day group's report in the Newsletter. It is always great to catch up with overseas members.

The Hills group has the Conference plans in hand and hope all will be there to make it a huge success. It is always fabulous to meet new members and to reconnect with those you already know.

This year's Half Yearly Luncheon was again popular, with greater numbers than previous years. We were also very pleased to welcome Glenyse Pianta from Boroondara, Victoria. It was the first time for quite a few years that personal contact has been re-established with the group in Victoria. I hope we can keep the visits going. Glenyse has also extended an invitation to any NWR members visiting Melbourne, to contact her and have a chat, a laugh and a coffee.



There have been a couple of changes in UK administration. Llana Levine is the NWR Website & Publicity Co-ordinator for twelve months and Natalie Punter is the new National Organiser (the position previously known as Business Manager).

The Newsletter has been put together this year by Bev Shaw. Thank you Bev, for taking on the extra workload. I'm sure everyone appreciates your efforts! Also I would like to thank the members of the Executive, Alison Smith Vice NO, Bev Shaw National Secretary, Bev Kearney National Treasurer & Public Officer and all the LO's, who have made it possible for NWR to function. Margaret Fitzgerald too, for her excellent work with the NWR Australia Website. She ran an interesting workshop at Dapto recently, which enabled a number of us to see how information can be added and updated on the site.

Enjoy the rest of the year's discussions, keep up the laughter and have a safe, healthy and happy Christmas & New Year.

Margaret

What have our GROUPS been talking about? NSW



The Eastern Suburbs Group has 29 members this year.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Corio Community Centre at Maroubra Junction which is property of the Maroubra Junction Uniting Church. We are happy to have this space available to us as it is very cheap, central and comfortable although in winter it is unheated.

The year began with the planning meeting in February. In March our guest speaker was Emma-Kate Wallace from WEFT Shop. WEFTshop collaborates with refugee artisans living on the Thai-Burma border to earn a fair price for their handmade and traditionally loomed products www.facebook.com.

April meeting our guest was Hanna Hibbert, archivist at the Australian Jockey Club. Hanna has written a book on AJC history and was a very engaging and informative speaker.



The May meeting was the Twinning meeting with Grantham and the topic they chose this year was 'Mistresses in History'. The mistresses our ladies researched and spoke about made for a very lively evening and we all learnt a great deal more about their lives and commented on societies' judgement of mistresses over different periods.

My son Chris who is a Chartered Accountant and Financial Planner presented a talk about financial planning at the June meeting.

Eastern Suburbs Group

2015

Margaret Fitzgerald, LO

It was a general talk but many of the figures were interesting and we found out a lot about recent changes to pensions and super which did affect some present.

July meeting was Book Night and was held at the home of one of our members. This night is always very enjoyable as we sit around a table and tell everyone about a favourite book we have read recently. It is always interesting to hear what people are reading and sometimes the story behind the choice.



The August meeting was a Games Night, many people were away or suffering winter ills and it was a very cold night so not a lot in attendance but the people who came enjoyed the Charades and Trivia and the fun discussions that the questions always prompted.

The meeting to come will be very interesting. In September my daughter Jackie will be talking to us about "Crime in the Eastern Suburbs: trends, hotspots and prevalence", she is Deputy Director of the Bureau of Crime Statistics so has all the scary information we need to know if our streets are safe or not.

In October we will be welcoming Dr Mehreen Faruqi, she is a Greens MP in the New South Wales Legislative Council and she will be talking to us about 'Social and Environmental Justice'. This meeting, I expect, will be very interesting as the issues are so current and controversial.

As you can see it has so far been a very interesting and enjoyable year and our members highly value the friendship and collegiality of the group.

Margaret

What about the talk in the Hills, NSW ?

The Hills Group

May 2015

Marlene Murrows, LO



My report for this year so far:

The Hills Group is going very well with 19 members.

Our focus this year is the Conference and trying to make it another memorable event.

Our members are very generous and lovely people who volunteer their homes for our 2nd Thursday of the month meetings.

The February meeting was devoted to the Conference, with each of us airing ideas and possible venues, speakers, etc.

Our speaker at the March meeting was Rosie Langley who supports the Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia. She told an interesting story of her fund-raising for the Hamlin charity and a recent visit to Ethiopia, so we got a first-hand account of the hospital. It was quite an amazing talk.

The April meeting was 'Research an historical figure'. We each, by chance, chose quite different characters, ranging from Catherine the Great, through to Mary Reibey (ex-convict) and Sir Paul Edmund deStrezlecki (explorer) of Strezlecki Track fame.

We very much enjoy these meetings as we all have our chance to speak and learn, and it's all presented in a pleasant, relaxed way.

Marlene

**NATIONAL WOMEN'S REGISTER Australia**

The Hills Group proudly presents the
2015 NWR Conference

Saturday October 24 9.15 am – 4.00pm
Pennant Hills Bowling Club 52 Yarrara Road
Just down from the Railway Station Pennant Hills

The Theme is **C** is for (wait and C.....um...see)

Conference

Our

NWR	CHALLENGES
Friendship	CHANGE
Embrace	CULTURE
Re-connect	COURAGE
Enlightenment	CELEBRATIONS
Nurture	COLOUR
Conversations	
Entertainment	

Conference program includes Morning & Afternoon Tea and Lunch
Cost: \$65.00

Free car parking for all attendees
Closest overnight accommodation may be available for those wishing to stay at the nearby Waldorf Apartments Tel: 8401 1500 or the Ibis Hotel Tel: 9481 7500

And... the gossip in the Illawarra, NSW ?



Illawarra Day Group welcomed 2015 with a meeting of 18 members and 2 visitors for the topic *"What is the more beneficial to society – to be an organ donor or to leave your body to a medical school?"* We didn't actually come to a consensus as both causes were very worthy.

In February we welcomed Jenny Hornsey from England. Jenny joined us a couple of years ago as her son and his family live in Kiama. Our topic for this month was *"What country/area would you like to live in for a year?"* Jenny wrote her talk as a poem:

Where would you live for a year and why?

I really don't know but I'll give it a try.

I've been to Switzerland, seen snowcapped peaks.

Done the Canary Isles for several weeks.

As a tourist I've visited Australia's greats.

I love it here – all your diverse states.

Have stopped over in Bali, Singapore and Japan,

Portugal and Spain to top up my
tan.

In Scotland and Wales I've travelled
around.

Ireland so green from the rain I
have found.

In England's Counties my feet have
been.

London the capital so much to be seen.

But with my caravan I'd like to roam

To favourite places near to home.

I'd love the time to stand and stare

At Yorkshire's beauty everywhere.

W.H.Davies eat your heart out !!!!!!!



Illawarra Day Group

May 2015

Trish Copeland, LO

For March we spoke about the colour "Purple". From Alice Walker, author of "the Colour Purple" to purple day for Epilepsy and quite a few topics in between. This was also the month of the Seniors' Concert in Sydney – great fun and very clever.

April's topic *"Houses/locations you have lived in...tell your story"* gave us an excellent insight into members' childhood as most of our stories began with first of fondest memories. We welcomed a new member – Leslie Pigott, who actually brought it all

together talking about the difference between a house and a home.



Trish

And... the antics of the Illawarra Evening... ?

Illawarra Evening Group

2015

Bev Shaw, LO

January: Our planning meeting and lunchtime get-together had to be cancelled unfortunately, due to members' ill health or unexpected commitments.

February: We finally met for a night's *planning meeting* which went very well with everyone coming along with topic suggestions. Unexpectedly, the meeting turned out to be an interesting one, robustly discussing a couple of topics which didn't get onto the 2015 agenda, over a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits.

March: The topic for the March meeting held at Anne Innes' home was about *Boxing Day – Open for Business!* How did we feel about that? It was a 50/50 consensus with most thinking that it really wasn't warranted but on the other hand there are those who don't have time before Christmas to do much shopping so look forward to being able to "hit the shops" straight afterwards and spend their money on future gifts – or exchange Christmas gifts for something they want before the options are gone. Good for some... a hassle for the retail staff more than likely!

April: April's meeting (April Fools' day) found us venting our frustration at Gwen Lucas' home, talking about how irritating it is when our *mail boxes get filled with junk mail*, even occasionally for those who have put a sign on the box saying "NO JUNK MAIL". When organisations actually send us mail to promote their services which is understandable to raise much needed funds... what do we do with the cards or stickers with our names on them? Most said they just put them in the drawer or throw them out as they weren't requested in the first place and will not spend money on posting them back. **Better to spend the money on supporting the charity if desired.**

May: Our May meeting happened on the 6th and we had planned to talk about the occupations undertaken by women in both wars, keeping the theme of war and the commemoration of the ANZACs in 100 years since WW1. Our plans changed when we found out that the *Illawarra Historical Museum in Wollongong* was hosting a night of speakers and exhibition of *"Wollongong at War"* which

fitted in with our theme.

Therefore our ladies

headed off to the local Illawarra Historical Museum for an evening of Wollongong war history, followed by a typical WW1 supper. The main speaker, Prof. John McQuilton, moved away from the usual WW1 historical facts and gave accounts of the more intimate effects of war on the very young soldiers and the families left behind. It was interesting that most of the soldiers, according to research, wrote to their Mothers and left any monies and possessions to them if they didn't return home. Fathers' feelings were often not written about or expressed as they were supposed to keep a "stiff upper lip" to be the backbone of the family. Research has shown that this was not always true and the effects of war and the loss of sons, brothers, husbands etc. took a terrible toll on all those left behind and soldiers returning, never to be the same again!

June: A local friend, Joy DeMestre, joined us to show her much anticipated DVD about her travels to the *Antarctic*. Joy took us on a wonderful journey as we followed the route taken to get there and watched beautiful photos and video "snapshots" of the landscape and wildlife of this wonderful, frozen part of our Earth. Most of us won't have the pleasure of seeing the Antarctic for ourselves so it was a great night as we watched and listened and learned a lot. We also received a surprise as another DVD was forthcoming... this time about adventures in the most historical land of all, Turkey and surrounding lands. What a thrill! Istanbul... here we come!



CONT.

... and lots of fun!

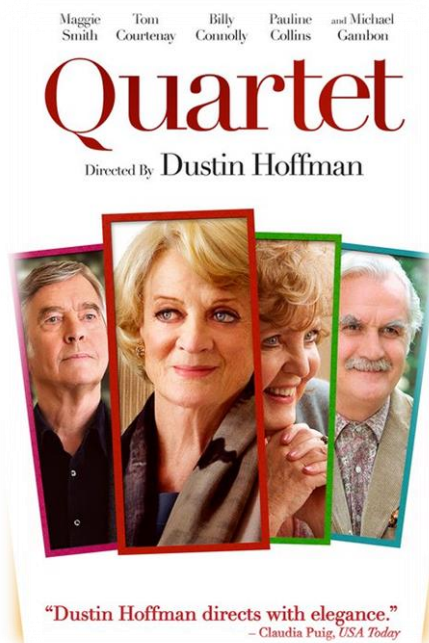
ILLAWARRA Cont.

July: *This was a night for thinking on our feet! Each lady had to bring along a secret topic to be placed "in the hat".* On choosing a piece of paper from the hat, each of us had a moment to read the topic (laugh or cry) then were given 2 – 3 minutes to discuss it. Topics ranged from vaguely serious to the "who would think of that?" We all did very well considering and we found out how much we had stored away in our minds and then spontaneously pulled out the weird and wonderful to put forward our thoughts! A fun night was had by all.

August: Our Movie Night... On the freezing "horses b'day" night we headed off to Robyn's home for a movie night where we ate popcorn, chips and sipped wine (just one, truly) as we laughed and almost cried with the great characters depicting life for the "upper crust" in a retirement mansion in the English countryside. We saw the same old "tricks" being played out as if in the school playground. Bad habits sure do take a lifetime to tame, if at all. The celebrated, very "mature" musicians thought they were "past it" whilst still hanging on tightly to who they used to be... but a gala concert brought out their fears, expertise and a romance. Music was enchanting!

Based on real-life celebrities of the musical era, it was a great movie...

Bev



Coming up:

September:

Women changing the status of women in Australia... any decade. Govt. leaders, Journalists, Suffragettes and Human Rights Pacifists

October:

You have won a \$10,000 cosmetic surgery prize... what procedure would you choose to endure? Do you like yourself just the way you are?

November:

Which do you prefer, the movie or the book?

December:

Dinner and everything Christmas!



*Have a happy, healthy & safe
Christmas and keep smiling in
2016 !*

Now it's up to Queensland...!

Brisbane West Group

2015

Carole Aveley, LO

24 Jan 2015 - Planning for the first six months.

Followed by a contribution from each member on **the colour GREEN** - from 'the grass is greener;' green thumb, green with envy, green eyed monster; to the Emerald Isle and recollections of a visit. Another interpretation - political connotations, conservation; olive green - olive trees and the Newnorian church north of Perth. *Rose wore a green outfit and Carole showed off with her emerald ring.*

28th February 2015 - Your personal BUZZ word for 2015, and why?

'**Mansplain**' - to explain something basic to someone in a patronizing fashion.

'**Minimalism**' - strip away excess stuff - Nola has done this very successfully in her home, and her life.

'**Absolutely**' - Rose compiled lists of buzz words forming them into sentences - very clever!

'**Awesome**' - overdone usage has lost its original impact. Be a thinker, be an individual.

28th March 2015 - Doggerel

This word caused some puzzlement and had to be looked up in the dictionary - which says "poorly written poetry." Most members chose a bit of amusing verse or some 'home made' lines.

2nd May 2015 - History or origin of a fairytale.

Rose played a CD of Danny Kaye's "There Once Was An Ugly Duckling". Nola gave us a biography of George Orwell and the plot of "Animal Farm". Bette told us the story of "Beeping Sleuty" - liberally scattered with spoonerisms, she had us hysterical with laughter!



William Archibald Spooner had a speech impediment, he struggled to speak normally. Anne chose a fairy story for adults, "Angela's Mandrake" by Jennifer Rowe.

Carole explained how the brothers Grimm researched Germany's mostly violent verbal myths and legends converting them into the tamer more recognisable fairy stories of today.

30th May 2015 - "Who Would You Invite to Dinner and Why?"

From Stephen Hawkins to Anna, the first woman mining engineer in Australia! We had a Grandfather born on the Isle of Anglesea, who left Plymouth in 1883 to settle in Australia. One of us chose to invite GOD, because she wanted to ask him so many questions!!!

27th June 2015 - Planning for 2nd 6 months followed by "Choose Your Favourite Orators"

My goodness, what is a good orator? Probably somebody who can hold your attention with the content of their speech, who can present their topic with sincerity and conviction, varying the tone of voice and knowing how to use pauses for emphasis. We favoured singers who wrote their own songs - John Lennon, Bob Dylan, Red Gum. Many politicians speak well, but do not always write their own speeches. Other examples were JK Rawlins inauguration speech at Harvard; Peter Lee, UQ president inspiring students; and Mark Anthony with his 'Friends, Romans, Countrymen' [Although we acknowledged Shakespeare's version].

Cont.

... enjoying this, Brisbane West!

25th July 2015 - "Message In A Bottle".

Two members related stories of genuine messages washed up on the shore. The first was written by a French mother that had lost her beloved son, aged nine. The bottle was found twenty years later on the south east coast of England: second was a message, one of many, thrown into the sea by scientists to track the currents around the Shetland Islands; it was eventually found 98 years later just nine miles from where it started out! Two of us chose to tell about messages for posterity: one told about the Planetary Society sending messages into space; the other has written the family history for her great grandchildren. ***Then we heard about a bottle found on the beach containing sea shells and a hermit crab.*** We learned how hermit crabs look for a larger shell when theirs becomes a little tight [!] if they find one that is too big, they will queue up until there are several lining up. When a large hermit crab comes along and takes possession of the large empty shell, one by one each in turn exchanges their home for a bigger one! **Message – are we like the hermit crab, always on the lookout for a bigger house, a better car?**



Topic for August - 'If you were born again - Who, When, Where and Why?'

Marie considered being all sorts of things such as a fly on the wall! Wondered about what advantages she might like to have had if she had been born either in an earlier century or a later one, and ended up 'Happy to be myself; happy to be living in this century.'

Anne is a great supporter of women's rights. She felt if she lived in any other time than the present she would struggle to find a time when a woman could be independently-minded - she decided she would have to be either royalty or a witch. She chose to be a witch before the dawn of Christianity in England, not Europe. At that time witches were greatly respected; the word witch comes from 'Wicca' which means to be wise, that's good; witches were always

old, that's good; they dispensed medicines and cures, that's very good. They lived close to nature, wild animals and always had a cat! That's excellent!

Bette wanted to be Shirley Temple: Bette has a lovely voice and sings in the Orpheus Choir; she identifies with Shirley because she could sing from such a young age; she admires her for giving up her acting career at 21 and going on to achieve a distinguished career as a diplomat. But she really envied her for her lovely long, blond, curly hair!

Rose had a fantasy of being a man! She thinks a man's life is much easier than a woman's - no giving birth, no restrictions on career, no fears about travelling alone etc. she would like to be witty, wealthy, healthy; she would like to live in Paris, speaking French, drinking champagne and travelling all over Europe. However, despite being very shy in real life and suffering very poor health she feels she was extremely lucky to find the wonderful man who she married and to be truthful, she would not want to be anybody else!

Carole loves music of all kinds and wishes she could play the piano well, like Valentina Lesitsa. However Valentina is a most outspoken woman, criticising her country, Ukraine, and is in big trouble for her tweets. So I do not want to be her! I would love to dance like Ginger Rogers, and especially dance with Fred Astaire! But Ginger was divorced five times and I do not want to be a famous actress. I envy people who can sing; I'd like to be part of a big choir and travel all over the world; but they do not get paid. I decided I would like to be Mrs Andre Rieu, organising all the trips his orchestra makes and travelling with them to exotic places and attending all their concerts!

News from Brisbane

We now have eight paid up members and feel very proud of our fledgling group! **We have twinned with Di Sankey's Perth group and the Bulawayo groups in Zimbabwe. So far this means sharing our programmes and quizzes. We also correspond with Mary Dodkins, in UK, who has been such a great inspiration over the last thirty years.** We are determined to keep contact with the other Queensland group, Sunshine Coast. Robyn and Robynanne correspond regularly and we have arranged for our two groups to meet up at a half-way place in October. We have chosen Bribie Island this time, to share tea and discuss "Our Favourite Cities", followed by lunch. **This is bound to be a very successful day.**

Carole

Let's hear it Queensland... !!

Sunshine Coast Morning Group

2015

Robyn Tait, LO

At the end of last year we said farewell to long standing member Maureen but at the same time welcomed new member Kerry plus Shirley a former member who has re-joined our group. So our numbers have remained constant (11).

All members came to our first meeting in January with their annual subscriptions ready so we were off to a flying start. We began the year chatting about our siblings and where we fitted into the family and how that may/may not have impacted on our childhood. Occasionally it's good to get a more personal understanding of our fellow members.

We have since tackled the topic of our digital footprint.

Did you know that up to 30 million of the 1.3 billion Facebook accounts belong to people who have died? It is not a simple process to remove/delete either. We are increasingly more connected by the internet with friends/family and business and what to do with this footprint after death is a growing dilemma.



With this in mind the next discussion was on how to keep body, mind and spirit healthy and some great ideas were exchanged.

Our April discussion was in fact several mini discussions as each member introduced a topic of her choice and we followed with our comments. We have enjoyed this format before as many different issues can be raised, always of interest but not necessarily needing a full discussion time.



One meeting each year we set aside for a games morning.

Our host is Willi who has a good knowledge of interesting games. One game is Mexican Train, a dominoes game with a difference and some new rules to learn. We also played some card games and the laughter flowed as we enjoyed some friendly rivalry in our efforts to win.



Loyalty was our June topic as we debated whether it is still valued in business, partnerships and friendships. I think we agreed loyalty is a quality valued in friendships but that in today's competitive world loyalty can be fickle as a better offer presents itself and businesses don't always look out for their long standing clients.

A lively discussion was hosted by Patricia in July on the subject of TV. We easily compared our favourite programmes and lamented the funding cuts to the ABC, although also pointing out that some of their newer comedy programmes are not actually very funny and possibly a waste of money.

Our member Irene lives in Noosaville and so we car pooled to drive to her home in August as she regularly makes the trip south to Caloundra for our meetings. We tackled the topic of left and right political factions, what does it mean to belong to a faction and how much power does a faction have? The answer is a lot! Also factions or alliances exist in all the major political parties and within states and are constantly manipulating in the background to gain an advantage. After this discussion we walked to a nearby café for an enjoyable lunch, making a delightful day overall.

Most months those who can, stay for lunch (BYO) and we enjoy this social time together.

Whilst it is not possible for any of us to travel to conference this year we will be with you all in spirit, especially as on the same day we will be meeting with Carole Avey's Brisbane West group. We've agreed to travel to Bribie Island where we will have morning tea together in a park near the water, followed by a discussion and then adjourn to a nearby café for lunch. This is our way of keeping in touch with the bigger picture of NWR.

Robyn

We'll be back with the groups soon...

... CONFERENCES - 2015 & 2014

NWR

NATIONAL WOMEN'S REGISTER Australia



2015 NWR Conference

C is forConfusion?

No need to be confused !

Our theme encompasses a lot of words beginning with the letter C

Including 'Colourful, Comedic, Committed, Charitable, Creative, choice'

And a whole container load more – but none being 'Complacent, Crap, Corny or Crazy'

Our speakers will be a little bit serious and a little bit not. Plus a creative activity and a surprise or two. Here is a little about our three speakers

Daisy Montano, an English Teacher was born in Bolivia. Daisy joined Rotary International in 2003. As a Rotarian, Daisy has involved herself in various international projects including projects in her home country of Bolivia

Annabelle Chauncy OAM is the co-founder of School for Life and currently manages the Australian operations of the organisation. Annabelle is dedicated and motivated to create realistic change in Africa. Annabelle's passion lies in building relationships, managing events, sponsorships and business development.

Tom Sweeney is the President and Artistic Director of the Willoughby Theatre Company which is currently staging *Legally Blond*. Tom will be talking about 'Let's put on a show' the behind the curtain expose of what it takes to put on a Broadway musical.

2015 marks the 58th year for this company providing community theatre of a high standard at an affordable price. Willoughby Theatre Company is a "not for profit" organisation.

We can promise you an interesting, fully catered, fun day with the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. Come along, non-members welcome so bring a friend.

We have extended the registration cut-off date to the 18th September. Cost: \$65.00

The registration form can be found on the NWR Australia website under "Events"

Just to remind you the conference is on

Saturday October 24

9.15am – 4.30pm at The Pennant Hills Bowling Club 52 Yarrara Road

(Just down from the Railway Station Pennant Hills)

The Hills Group are looking forward to welcoming you.

For those who are staying overnight you are welcome to join us in the new Pizza Restaurant within the Club after the conference.

A big "thank you" goes to the ladies of *The Hills Group*

for taking on the task of organising the NWR Conference for 2015.

Like all members, those of us able to attend were intrigued by the ...

Let's C theme

We couldn't wait to get to the conference to enjoy what you ladies had in store for us for the day and also, as we always do, enjoy the company of the many members we may only see once a year.

Looking forward to discovering the

C.. cret !



Conference 2014 - *Getting it Together*

held at the Chifley Hotel, Wollongong on Saturday 25 October 2014

Firstly and most importantly



I want to thank the ladies on the conference committee, **Marg Patterson, Lyn Hazell, Robyn Foster, Trish Copeland and Alison Smith** for their willingness to do whatever it took to make the program workable and enjoyable.

'Enjoyable' was the name of the game whenever we met to progress to the next point in the lead up to Saturday, 25th October 2014 at the lovely Chifley Hotel, Wollongong!

We all had fun in "Getting it Together"

Sessions 1 and 2

I was thrilled with the way the conference fell together so beautifully. It was always my hope that the guest speakers would give us plenty of food for thought and our previous meetings with them had qualified that they would. What is happening all around us is often missed if it's not a part of our personal lives or right under our noses. It's not that we don't care it's just that we mostly aren't aware of those who are struggling for many reasons, in our communities and there's lots of it unfortunately. I know I will be more observant and more ready to donate or give some time, attend an event, if there's an opportunity I know about. There were many comments to me from the ladies at the conference of how the speakers "got to them" and some were quite unaware of the organisations represented by the guest speakers and the amount of work that goes into building the many tiers of support given by charities and how unselfishly and tirelessly the volunteers and organisers give their time strictly for the wellbeing of others. The stories we heard of the kids on the streets, the young ones fighting for their lives and the children who lose the battle, living on one last dream, couldn't help but open our eyes and make us thankful for the good things in our lives.

Thanks to Margaret and Lauren Purcell from the Denny Foundation.

Thanks to Helen Merrick, Camp Quality (Illawarra)

Thanks to Pam Rimmer, Make-A-Wish Wollongong



The AGM moved reasonably smoothly, thanks to the National Committee members who agreed to stand for another year and the one and only nomination for National Secretary, namely Bev Shaw, to replace Trish Crimean. Many thanks and much appreciation goes to Trish who hasn't missed a beat whilst filling the roll of NS. I sincerely hope I can keep the ball rolling in the same informative manner. The history of NWR Australia is now at my home for safe keeping. *I've added another room!*

Newsletter 2014 - A great read! Thanks so much to Alison Smith for taking on that job! Good articles, great pictures to prompt our memories and thanks to your printer lady for a lovely booklet.

Programs: While we are thanking printers, thanks to my daughter and Snap Wollongong for printing our Conference 2014 programs and posters to take us through the day and give us a keepsake.

Session 3

What fun we had giving our creative flair a run on the bags. **Many thanks go to Carolin Chapman from the Mangerton Tin Shed Artists (and Illawarra Day group)** for providing us all with everything needed to paint away to our hearts content. The artwork from other artists was much appreciated and showed what can be done, if we try, when unaware of hidden talent. **Thanks also to Anne Innes** of the Illawarra Evening group for organising the purchase of the calico and the sewing of the bags, a fundamental of the whole process! And... didn't the painted bags look a picture of colour, hanging over the backs of the chairs to dry? Enjoy your bags, ladies.



While we painted we also thought about the things we like to do to keep us on the positive side of wellbeing.

What do you do to stay sane?

There were many suggestions flowing around the 6 tables of what helps keep the ladies out of the harmful clutches of stress when times get tough. Certainly gave me something to work with! **Here's just one table's ideas:**

Walking and meeting up with friends; Playing golf and doing gardening – even aggressively with a pick to get rid of pesky ferns; Listen to talking books whilst doing housework; Love the beach – sitting or walking – to blow away the cobwebs! Watching Upper Middle Bogan!! Patchwork and quilting; Bushwalking, art, tennis – mostly the active stuff; Writing about experiences – good and bad; Mosaics – drawing design, cutting tiles and putting it together; Of course... NWR

Conference 2014 ... finale



How about the Blue Mile walk!

Thanks very much to Robyn Foster for putting together the historical facts about the Blue Mile walk and leading us through that. We all appreciated having the booklet to take away for future reference to bring back memories of a beautiful part of Wollongong's coastline. The weather held out for those who went on the full and half walks... just. It was a nice change to get up and go and take in the fresh air as we walked along the foreshore and seashore, chatting and taking in the points of interest. We even had plenty of time to refresh and prepare for our evening.

And then there was dinner...

This was a great experience in more ways than one. Fifty ladies came to dinner in the Watersedge room looking lovely, feeling happy and ready to finish off the day's activities together. The tables looked classy in black and white and the buffet food was excellent, an extension of the tasty, well-presented food we had all day, from morning and afternoon teas to the relaxing lunch in the C-Grill restaurant, extending onto the balcony. We couldn't get enough of the variety of food and desserts provided at the dinner buffet, delivered with silver service by helpful and accommodating Chifley staff, given the task of "looking after our every need".

And then there was Wendy! CHOICES !!

What a wonderful entertainer Wendy Leatheam is! Thanks to Marg Patterson for enlisting her expertise! The secret of who was entertaining us at dinner was finally out.

Yes, the quiet lady who had spent all day with us, came out and showed her true colours and voice in the guises of 6 ladies, about the Choices we have, or not, in the lives of women of all nationalities, experiences and 6 different eras of history.

What struck me was the fact that in all the years that have come and gone since the first ladies arrived in this land, we have not come all that far in realising potential fulfilment in our professional and personal lives. Although, what Wendy made us see was that our choices or the choices others make for us, have consequences that impact on our happiness and wellbeing, even when getting to the top. What we do have is the ability to make a stand for whichever way is good and right for us individually and making our voices heard in a meaningful way is a continuing saga. Evidently the young Chifley staff, who listened intently from behind the closed doors, were very impressed!

Thank you so much Wendy for creating and performing the grand finale of our conference.

Following the gifts of those fabulous Singapore orchids and cards (beautifully chosen by Lyn Hazell), we also showed our appreciation with emails to our guest speakers, and to those leading other activities, letting them know of the commendable feedback heard from so many.



Thanks to the NWR ladies who made personal donations towards the work of the well-deserved organisations represented on the day.

We knew it would all be worth it... and it wouldn't have happened without the 50 NWR members whose presence made it very special.

Bev Shaw
Conference 2014 Coordinator



Back to Caloundra, last... but not least for Qld.

Caloundra Morning Group

May 2015

Dale English, LO

I have had approx. 20 attend in the year since I first started but none of them except Lorraine Samin, Lyn Porter and me have attended 3 or more discussions. That may sound really bad but we only meet monthly so spread over 12 months I'm trying not to be too discouraged.



We have set our meeting place at the Caloundra Power Boat Club which is a lovely venue overlooking Pumiceton Passage to Bribie Island, on the 3rd Friday of the month.

We have opted to choose our "next" topic at the current meeting so we can be more relevant to current affairs and the person whose topic we select, chairs the next discussion. I'm hoping this gets everybody along at least twice.



Dale

Introducing a possible new group in Merimbula, NSW... (snippets from Theresa Smith):

December 2014: ... I am thinking of establishing a group where I live, Merimbula area, far south coast NSW, with the main focus being ladies in their 30s/40s, if possible, as there is no real social network locally for women my age. We have day and evening VIEW, Probus, CWA, etc and various book clubs and the like, but ladies my age are not members. A couple of friends have expressed an interest, so I was wondering what is the next step? I've reviewed the website and looked at the material. (Bev responded with more information).

When I lived in the U.K in the mid 2000s, I used to attend an NWR group in the town where I was living, and I found it a very good way to meet people and to enjoy interesting topics of conversation and to learn something.

July 2015: Bev had sent Theresa Conference 2015 information to encourage a few ladies catching up with members if possible.

Thanks Bev, I did receive your earlier email. I don't get around to dealing with all my correspondence very speedily these days, as I have two little boys, and not much time for myself. Thank you, we have been trying to promote a local chapter of NWR, and whilst we had a good number of attendees at the first 2 meetings, that dropped off for the next 2, such that at the last meeting in June, only 2 ladies turned up, being myself and a friend who is also on the 'steering committee' so to speak. There is interest, however, I think the difficulty is that the demographic we are appealing to, or seeking to appeal to, is, like 'my committee', in their 30s/40s with young families and we find it hard to actually get to these sorts of things. We are discussing where to from here, at the moment, so we can work out what to do. At this stage, we'll keep the conference in mind and get back to you in another month or so.

Kind regards
Theresa Smith

Who's been talking... Victoria?



The Boroondara Group of twelve is in the city of Boroondara in Melbourne's inner and middle-eastern suburbs, five kilometres east of the central business district. The city was created in 1994 when the cities of Kew, Hawthorn and Camberwell were amalgamated. [I hope this answers any questions of where we fit into the network.]

This year we met on **January 14** to acknowledge Kris Jennings' leadership over the past years, to say thanks for her many contributions in this role and to plan our year's events. We loved the printed booklet of 2014 and actually borrowed some discussion ideas! Thank you for such a wonderful publication.

Saturday February 7 saw us enjoy a City of Stonnington 'Music in the Park' picnic evening in Prahan's Victoria Gardens. Australian Opera star Cheryl Barker delighted everyone. [Sadly not I as I had just broken several bones in my wrist the night before!]

March 12 was a newspaper discussion evening at Veronica's home. The range of topics, articles, magazines, journals and newspapers ensured lively exchanges of ideas and promoted many thoughtful and insightful responses.

April 9 was 'Show and Tell' at my place. Everyone brought a significant object to share. Amazing items, explanations and reminiscences took us on incredible journeys around Australia and the world! Fabulous stories and family histories went back centuries – we handled exquisite handmade family christening gowns and clothing, china, silver, a piece of the Berlin Wall, a treasured ring and stories of love, war and even Ned Kelly.

May 6 it was a book discussion at Michele S's home – another fabulous evening of insight, wonderings and laughter! Michele and I had read and enjoyed the same author - amazingly I had brought the first book to discuss and Michele had brought the sequel!

Boroondara Group

2015

Glenyse Pianta, LO



Left to right:
Veronica, Kris,
Catherine,
Jenny, Helen
and myself,
Glenyse

Those absent:
Joella, the 2
Micheles,
Wendy, Eden
& Trish

6 of our group of 12 at Veronica's home at our first discussion night of 2015.

Catherine was our hostess on **June 11** when we discussed 'Alcohol - the effects on society today.' A topic we 'stole' and one that led down many interesting paths. It is so stimulating to listen to everyone's slant and to hear each thought provoking comment.

Christmas in July, Saturday 11, was a magical afternoon at Jenny's home, surrounded by her beautiful Edna Walling garden, in Kallista in The Dandenongs. It was too cold and wet to be outside but sitting snugly inside was delightful. This year saw the introduction of a \$5 Kris Kringle! It was fun and laughter filled as people often chose to 'steal' gifts rather than select from under the tree. Many presents changed hands! Once again the ingenuity and creativity of every member came to the fore. Our delicious nibbles and roast turkey were complemented by Joella's absolutely wonderful pumpkin pie and Jenny's brandy sauce. I was also able to report on the wonderful lunch I had attended in Sydney on July 4.

August 12 was another interesting night when we discussed feminism and the role and representation of women today in top executive and leadership positions in Australia. We certainly had lots to say and got very much off track!

It has been a very busy year as usual and one filled with friendship and support for each other. We look forward to hearing about every group's year.

Glenyse

You can't keep secrets in W.A... WOWs!

Kalamunda Group

the WOWs (Women of Worth)
Diana Sankey, LO

I sent a message a while back saying the Kalamunda WOW'S were rather falling apart as our English enthusiastic participants had disappeared back to UK as soon as the weather turned cooler to wait for the English Spring flowers and warmer weather there and the members here I think went into semi hibernation!

At our last meeting only Janet our prospective member turned up for a **Taste and Smell evening** which actually was very interesting and made me realize we don't always taste what we eat and only really name and recognise the smell of burning toast. I would like to do it again sometime with more people.

Tina and I went with our Grandchildren for a Parks walk around the City of Perth which was a great success, First Burswood (or is it Crown now?) Park, Heirisson Island, Langley Park, Stirling Gardens for a picnic, then we were led astray to London Court where the tribe knew a candy store and on to Forest Place for an ice-cream after which our charges escaped to the Fountains so we returned very damp, happy children to their parents!

The following meeting I cancelled and went to meet Kathy Burgess who was once a member of NWR and lives in Denmark, WA and has a group called Chatterbox. She was visiting Perth with her husband to see family. It was a good meeting Kathy was great and I talked too much as usual but hope I let Kathy do her share as well. I hope we can get together again sometime.

Janet
our prospective
going to give us a
lesson. We will see
am going to visit my
in Switzerland end
UK also and won't
end of September so
again then unless anyone wants to keep it going while I am
away.



member was
Belly Dancing
but otherwise I
elder daughter
of June and to
be back until
we will start

Incidentally, I am going to join Gill, one of our English Member visitors, for a one day Conference they are holding and will hope to see some of our other visiting members.



Well here I am in England.

I have just returned from a very good one day Conference "Good for Body and Soul" run by the Pickering Group in Yorkshire.

One of my part-time members in Kalamunda belongs to this Group. I went with my sister Jo and Val Winter and Barbara Szolga great friends from Zimbabwe days with our NWR (WIT) Group there. Barbara is now a member in Cheltenham. We were joined by Val Chantry and Norma Duck from Leamington Spa Group who have both joined with our Group in Kalamunda when visiting relations in Perth, Australia. It was great to get together in beautiful Yorkshire with our fantastic and hospitable hosts, Gill and her husband Bruce.

Yorkshire Conference Day

We met for registration and refreshments 9.30 a.m. on Saturday morning and met the team led by Christine Harrison. Gill was on the team and introduced us to all her lovely members and there was a Welcome speech by the Mayor of Norton.



The first speaker was Sharon Richards, a Master Story Teller who had us all enthralled with her talent which we are going to try and emulate for our Grandchildren. **The 2nd Speaker was a professional Horticulturalist** also known as the Laughing Gardener who had us all in fits both hysterical and horrific with his potions to taste and poisonous plants to avoid and Creepy Crawlies in between. **After that we had a very good lunch with our new friends, then in the afternoon it was our turn to shine or otherwise with Crafty Crafts - Pottery, Willow- Weaving and Decoupage,** all very interesting and absorbing with a variety of successful or weird, wonderful objects but all good fun. It was followed by a sumptuous tea and more chatter before the finish.

For our little Group of 4 it was a fun evening with our wonderful hosts, Gill and her husband Bruce, who impressed us mightily as he was hugely outnumbered by NWR members (*Noisy or Notorious Women Reunited!*). We had a thoroughly good weekend. **Many thanks Pickering.**

Di Sankey

TWINNING... What does this mean?



Twinning with another NWR group, either here in Australia or, as is mostly the case, in the UK gives members an opportunity to share “across the miles” by sending emails about what each group is doing and talking about at meetings. Sharing a topic of discussion and comparing notes on ideas from different states or countries gives an understanding of the differences or likeness in thinking due to the environment we live in. Photos are often exchanged and occasionally we have the privilege of visiting one another if holidaying in the area, here or in UK. If you haven’t thought about doing this, the groups who are involved in Twinning – Eastern Suburbs and Illawarra Evening groups – would recommend you think about it. It’s as simple as contacting the UK Administration (see beginning of Newsletter) and ask for their advice on a UK NWR group who may be interested in linking up via Twinning. This brings NWR members close together even though we are countries apart.

TWINNING - Grantham UK and Eastern Suburbs Groups (an extract from both reports uploaded on NWR Facebook June 2015)

Grantham NWR meeting on Mistresses, 30 April 2015

The topic of our meeting was mistresses and the evening was hosted by Jane Potter. Fourteen Grantham members were present. It was commented that it was difficult to compare Australian mistresses with British mistresses as we shared a Royal family and American celebrities belonged to no one. The definition of a mistress was a relatively long term lover where the man is usually married and the relationship is secret. There was a selection of alternative names for mistresses – Lady love, kept woman, live-in lover, bit on the side, bit of fluff, paramour, courtesan, concubine and fancy woman, the Grantham members did not show a lot of feeling in general until the end of the meeting when we discussed Camilla Parker Bowles who Google shows as the No1 famous mistress!

Five rules for mistresses:

1. Do not fall in love.
2. Be smart save no pictures, delete all texts.
3. Play the part there is a reason they are not with their wives.
4. Protect your heart don’t listen to stories of home life it makes the wife more human.
5. Never threaten to tell the wife.

Members of the NWR had researched various mistresses biblical, historical and present day.

Here is a small snippet of the Grantham outcome.



Elizabeth Marchioness of Cunningham

Elizabeth was the latest mistress in a long line of mistresses of George IV. He met her when she was 49. She liked wealth and he showered her with jewellery. Elizabeth had great political influence over the king.

Marilyn Monroe

Marilyn allegedly had an affair with President John F Kennedy. It is known she met him in New York and was notoriously one hour late for dinner.

The affair was supposed to have started at Bing Crosby’s house in Palm Springs. She famously sang “Happy Birthday” to him at Madison Square Gardens. However, was this an affair or just another notch on his bedpost or did it never happen at all? We shall never know.



Hagar

Hagar was an Egyptian slave owned by Abraham. As Abraham’s wife Sarah was thought not to be able to have children she suggested the slave girl act as a surrogate; Hagar and Abraham had a son called Ishmael. Subsequently Sarah did have a child, a son Isaac and this caused jealousy and resentment between Sarah and Hagar and their sons, and created an unparalleled hate which has set off wars and atrocities for four thousand years. It was the title deed to the land of Israel, which God promised to Abraham’s lineage that has been the source of the friction between the Jews and the Arabs right up to the present day.

TWINNING... wait, there's more

Elizabeth Taylor



Elizabeth Taylor became the mistress of Eddie Fisher whilst he was still married to Debbie Reynolds. He consoled her after the death of her third husband Mike Todd, to whom he had stood as best man at their wedding and Debbie Reynolds was their matron of honour. Following his divorce Eddie Fisher's career nosedived whilst Debbie Reynolds saw a meteoric rise boosted by the scandal. Debbie was America's sweetheart so Elizabeth Taylor became the most hated woman in America. Eddie was married to Liz for 5 years before she met and married Richard Burton. After seven years Debbie Reynolds held out the olive branch to Elizabeth Taylor. They became good friends again and in later life Debbie used to visit Liz and they'd sit on her bed and reminisce whilst eating pumpkin pie. Elizabeth left Debbie a legacy of jewellery in her Will which she inherited on Elizabeth's death in 2011.

Eastern Suburbs NWR meeting on Mistresses - 6th May

Although it did not generate the amount of interest that was evident in our last twinning topic, those who participated learnt worthwhile things when social pages were opened. I include a section from my introduction.

"Although the concept of mistresses tends to evoke images of the gutter press unlocking salacious *tit bits* its worth thinking about it in the context of sex and power. Our Macquarie Dictionary defines "mistress" as 'a woman who has a *continual sexual relationship with one man outside marriage*."

I brought some concubine tea for "health and beauty" for supper [purchased while @ a tea tasting in China]. With changes in recent times to an understanding of de facto relationships I turned to the Family Law Act. Before the 1975 Family Law Act, divorce was difficult and so perhaps there were more mistresses. De facto relationships, especially concerning property, if the relationships broke down and needed dispersion, had been recognized in the 70's & 80's in most states. Between the 70's and the 90's family law matters were handled at a state level. However in 2009 the Federal courts were given the responsibility and they officially recognised de facto relationships. Today we recognize the roles of husband, wife & mistress as clearly as our ancestors did more than 200 years ago.

became the Fisher whilst to Debbie consoled her her third

23 of our members attended on a crisp autumn evening. Many chose mistresses with whom they had a cultural link.

Here are their snippets!

Madame Francois de Maintenon [Louis XIV 1700's]

Madame Francois d'Abigne was originally married to an older French poet who died when she was 25. She then became governess to Louis XIV's children, some of whom were born from his previous mistresses. He was attracted to Francois and consequently elevated her to the nobility. She converted to Catholicism and was secretly married to King Louis in 1683. However she could not be publicly accepted as she was a commoner. She founded a school for noble girls who would not otherwise have had an education. Because of her influence King Louis revoked the Edict of Nantes, which forced Huguenot protestants to leave France subsequently starting the watch industry in places like Geneva. This was a point not lost on Monique our Swiss presenter.



Lady Hamilton [Lord Nelson 1800's]

Emma was born in a village near Sue Perkin's parents in Chester. She was the daughter of a poor blacksmith but at age of 12 worked as a nurse maid and was then sought out by a brothel keeper. She posed as a model for photographs but then her current partner left her. When Lord Hamilton first saw her in Naples he was smitten. Lord Hamilton and Nelson were close friends and in fact Hamilton so enjoyed and revered Nelson's company he was prepared to turn a blind eye to their affair and live as a ménage a trois when he was not at sea. Emma died at 50 and she and Nelson had a daughter Horatia but never married. All over Portsmouth both Nelson and Emma are revered in spite of the fact that she was not allowed to go to Nelson's funeral.

Henry Parkes

Henry was the *Father of Federation* of Australia and father of 17 children. He was a self -educated figure whose natural talents helped him embark on a political career. However the doors of Government house were soon closed to him because of his second wedding to his previous mistress, Clarindah. His 3rd mistress, Nellie Dixon later became his wife and she remained with him until he died in 1896.



... and just a little bit more

Rose Soady and Norman Lindsay



Norman Lindsay, a notable Australian artist and author, of Magic Pudding fame, met beautiful Rose in 1902. She became his model, confidant, financial manager, housekeeper and lover. Norman was estranged from his family after leaving his wife and three sons for his life in Faulconbridge with Rose. Norman and Rose had two daughters. The Springwood house had many visitors from the arts community of the time. Rose bought the house for him which he later left in his will to the National Trust but as Rose lived on to be 93 the government then had to buy the place from Rose. They both wrote for the *Bulletin* and Rose wrote two books.

Blanche D'Alpuget Bob Hawke PM

At the time of her affair with Bob she was married and living in Indonesia. They met in 1976 when she was writing a book on a key legal figure [Kirby]. The affair went on for a very long time. In 1978 he proposed to her and they were to divorce their respective partners. However Hazel, his wife was loved by the Australian public, and it would have been a bad political decision. Hazel supported him for 39 years in spite of his womanising and alcoholism. Bob broke off his relationship with Blanche because he wanted to become PM. Blanche felt jilted and so allowed no sex while writing Bob's biography. Eventually Blanche married Bob in 1985. His children wore black at the wedding.

Conclusion

Interesting facts were uncovered and the general consensus was that this was a good evening but at the same time we wondered if we have really changed in our attitudes in the last 200 years.

Nantwich / Audlem UK group are Twinning with the Illawarra Evening group

NANTWICH & AUDLEM NWR PROGRAMME 2015

- | | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|---|
| 19.01.15. | Crap Night (the game, that is) | 27.07.15. | Find a "Good News" story in the press |
| 01.02.15. | What did you achieve in 2014? | 10.08.15. | Have you a gadget or utensil which is very versatile? |
| 16.02.15. | Room 101. What would you like to put in? | 24.08.15. | Choose a short verse to read to us and explain your choice |
| 02.03.15. | Film – The Theory of Everything | 07.09.15. | A-Z Research historical place or person |
| 16.03.15. | Caring for someone with terminal illness | 21.09.15. | TBA |
| 13.03.15. | Speaker – What did you do in the War ? | 05.10.15. | Planning meeting |
| 30.03.15. | Speaker – Audlem during World War I | 19.10.15. | If you could go back in time during your own lifetime, where would you pick and what advice would you give to yourself? |
| 27.04.15. | Desert Island – Disc 1 Record 1 Book and 1 Luxury | 02.11.15. | Research an important event from the last Century |
| 11.05.15. | Nantwich Players – Entertaining Angels | 09.11.15. | Telephone Treasure Trail |
| 18.05.15. | Speaker | | |
| 01.06.15. | Japanese Evening | | |
| 13.06.15. | Safari Supper – everyone welcome | | |
| 15.06.15. | Summer Walk - a different walk around Hankelow | | |
| 29.06.15. | An item of clothing/accessory you cannot throw away | | |
| 13.07.15. | Has social media changed your life? | | |
- * NWR Conference 20th June, Glasgow.
* We are hoping to have a skittle match at The Bickerton Poacher either in the Spring or Autumn.

Greetings from Nantwich / Audlem UK group

From:
Joyce
Clydesdale

Sent:
Monday, 30
March 2015

*I bet you
thought I had
forgotten you*

all. Time has passed so quickly and I have to apologise for not writing to you for such a long time. Our group was really interested in your conference and I am glad it went well. Many in the group have enjoyed reading your magazine and feel that the content and format are far better than our magazine.

Since last writing we have begun a book club evening and had some interesting books to read.

One book which was called *Running with the Kenyans* by Adharan and Finn was about his travels to the town of Iten on a six-month mission to discover the secrets of Kenya's elite runners. The only person who seemed to enjoy the book was the lady who chose it and most people decided that it was a book which would only appeal to keen runners or with some connection to running.

One book was *Shame* by Jasfinder Sangera who wrote about forced marriages and domestic abuse, particularly in Asian communities. Some of our members had heard her speak at the NWR conference and were very impressed.

The next book was *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes which was a bit of a tear jerker but everyone enjoyed it.

The last book was *Cutting for Stone* which is a novel written by Ethiopian-born medical doctor Abraham Verghese. It is a saga of twin brothers, orphaned by their mother's death at their births and forsaken by their father. It brought about a considerable amount of discussion about Ethiopia, relationships, medical practices and F.G.M.

At the next book club we are reading two books, *The Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka about Japanese brides going to America and *Elizabeth is Missing* about a mother with Alzhiemers. I am sure these will bring about lots of discussion. We also have a group book meeting with area NWR groups and we will be discussing *The Luminaries* by Eleanor Catton about a man who has come to make his fortune in the New Zealand goldfields.



August 2015

Once again I have to apologise for being so slow at writing to you. It seems to have been a busy summer. I had hoped to visit you in June when I visited my daughter in Engadine but I'm afraid the granddaughter was such an attraction I found it hard to leave her even for a few hours.

The NWR conference in June was in Glasgow and 6 of our members attended and we stayed in the Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow where the conference was held.

The speakers were Mairi Nasr who having lived in the Middle East for 20 years returned to live in Scotland and spoke about the climate of fear and tension in the Middle East and how the Muslim community living in Britain is misunderstood. Alistar Moffat gave a talk about DNA and how it is becoming possible to trace a person's ancestry over thousands of years. Quite a few people were very sceptical about his theories. The final speaker was Sally Magnusson who has written a book, "Where Memories Go: Why Dementia Changes Everything". Many people have experience of family members suffering with dementia and she gave an insight into the care and help which can be given to such patients. The social side of the conference was enjoyed having dinner at Jamie's (Jamie Oliver's), a tour of Glasgow on "The Big Bus" and of course meeting other delegates from all of the U.K.

The meeting in June when we were asked to take along an item of clothing or accessory which you couldn't throw away brought some happy memories for some and laughter about others.

The dress which you love but would never fit into again brought about laughter and one lady brought a beautiful vintage green lace dress which her mother had worn when she, the member, had got married. We all decided that social media had changed our lives but that many of us although we used it did not feel that because of age we were taking full advantage of all the possible uses. No one was on "Twitter" but many used Facebook, Skype, Facetime and many ladies would like to learn more about the latest uses of tablet and smart phones.



The meeting about the 'Good News' item had everyone scouring the newspaper for good news and we were in agreement that too much emphasis was on bad news in the press.

The meeting about a gadget or utensil which is versatile, brought out lots of gadgets but they weren't necessarily versatile just very useful and something that one couldn't do without.

... more from Nantwich

The meeting last Monday was an interesting poetry evening.

Some poems were funny, such as Pam Ayres Goodwill to Men-Give Us Your Money, some were inspirational such as the poem Hazel read which her boss had given her when beginning a new job and others were poems which had been learned at school. Another poem about growing old reminded the lady of her parents and how they grew old together and one lady had written her own poem when finding it traumatic to learn that at the age of 46 she had been adopted and had a whole new other family.

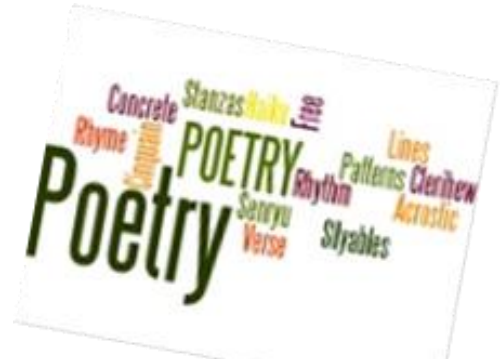
The next meeting is going to be one where we have to do some research. Last year we were each given a letter and asked to research a scientific fact and as it was so successful we have each been given a letter and we have to research a historical building or person.

Our social events have been theatre trips to the local Nantwich Players.

The productions are amateur dramatics but we all feel that the company is exceptionally professional. We had a skittles day and Sunday lunch as well as a joint BBQ with the Crewe and Willaston Group. Unfortunately the Safari Supper didn't have many 'takers' but the summer walk was very popular. One very wet day in June a group of us visited the National Arboretum and in spite of the weather everyone enjoyed the day. www.thenma.org.uk/

The book group continues to be popular

and we are having a joint meeting with other groups and we are discussing *The Last Runaway* by Tracey Chevalier. The last book was *Suite Francais* which was about France when the country was occupied by the Germans. Some of us went to the cinema to see the film of the book.



I will post our Spring magazine to you and include our current programme here. I hope Betty is on the mend. and that you are not feeling too stressed as National Secretary. Amazing how a glass of wine helps.

Not sure when we are next coming to Australia but I will be in touch when I come.

Best wishes

Joyce and all the Nantwich and Audlem ladies.

From "Illawarra ladies of the night"... point of view.

ILLAWARRA EVENING LADIES HAVE HAD A LOVELY "CONNECTION" WITH THE NANTWICH/AUDLEM GROUP SHARING POINTS OF VIEW ON CHOSEN TOPICS WHEN THE PROGRAM TIMING HAS BEEN RIGHT.

CHRISTMAS 2013 BROUGHT JOYCE CLYDESDALE, L.O. FOR NANTWICH/AUDLEM GROUP, TO OUR SHORES TO VISIT HER DAUGHTER LIVING IN THE SHIRE. HENCE WE ENJOYED HER COMPANY FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS INCLUDING AT THE NWR CHRISTMAS PARTY WHERE ILLAWARRA DAY AND ILLAWARRA EVENING LADIES GAVE JOYCE A FAIRLY HONEST INSIGHT INTO WHAT MAKES US TICK!

FREEDOM... Short Story Competition UK

Leo, the full grown lion with a massive mane paced along the sides of his wire run. Back and forth, hour after hour, and day after day he would walk along, his yellow eyes steadily fixed on the bush beyond. He had been a very young pup when his mother had been caught in a cruel trap that broke both her legs. She had died slowly and painfully, her cub nestled close as he tried to feed from his mother. Days later a guard had found the pair and despite much spitting and snarling, the young cub was very hungry and afraid, he managed to lure him into a sack. The game park to where the guard had taken the cub was close by and the animal had been bundled into his truck and taken there as he was clearly too young to fend for himself.

It was many days before Leo would allow anyone near but eventually with good treatment, plenty of food and careful handling he had become a favourite pet of the park and been allowed to play and romp with the owners two dogs on the lawns outside the cages.

Eventually, however, the small cub had grown and, because he was

considered too large to handle and Dangerous,

because of his boisterous behaviour he had to be restrained in a spacious run, strong enough to withstand any attempt he might make to get out. The park employed volunteers to help with the cleaning and feeding of all the animals housed there and a young girl from another country spent most of her holidays helping out, her special interest being Leo of whom she was very fond. She used to sit and talk to the lion through the wire fence, stroking his ears which he bent towards her hands while giving off a low purr of pleasure. She saw that he watched the bush beyond his cage, his eyes turning towards the open spaces time and again and wished that the time would come soon for his planned release to where he could roam free.



We couldn't leave it all to the ladies of the United Kingdom, could we? So... 4 of our Aussie NWR ladies gave it a go... in 2000 or less words.

Get ready for a treat. Read on!

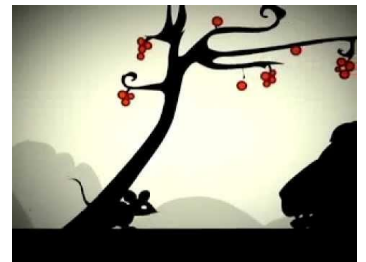
Many people, mostly children, were regular visitors to the park and Leo always attracted the most visitors.

Because the animals were wild, care had always to be taken to ensure protection from the seemingly tame beasts and the girl too was always conscious of this. Leo, as was the parks practice with all the larger animals, was

housed in a cage within a larger cage so that when the outer cage had to be cleaned, and fresh water put in, Leo would be placed in the inner cage, which was then securely locked. The Park's regular employees had dropped meat into the inner cage which had a small opening on the top of it which was then secured. They had fed Leo before dropping the gate that secured him in the inner cage.

One day the girl, making sure that Leo was safely housed in his inner cage, entered the outer one and raked and cleaned the area, unaware that Leo had inspected the lock and found that it had not been put in place correctly. Without warning and silently Leo had made his way out and had sprung onto the unsuspecting girl who had her back to him, biting her on the throat which is what lions do to their prey. Her screams brought immediate help but Leo had bounded off into the bush that he had watched for so many years. With a hospital close by the girl was rushed in for emergency surgery but was too badly injured and did not survive the attack. Leo had to be hunted down and shot for fear he would attack again.

Did Leo remember his earlier life in the bush? Did he recall his mother's cruel treatment and did the presence of humans cause Leo's attack or was the lure of freedom too much to ignore and to which he would try to return no matter what? One will never know.



Angela, Kalamunda Group

FREEDOM... think again!

What is freedom?

At first I thought, that's a very narrow subject... but as I cogitated I began to appreciate the freedom that such a subject opens up. We can interpret it in any number of different ways; all sorts of 'freedoms' pop into my mind.

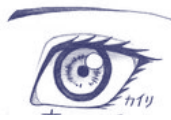


People

Slavery: not the kind that jumps to mind. I am thinking of other situations where one might yearn for freedom, along the lines of the wish for release from a tough or difficult relationship. Some of us get ourselves tied into marriages that are made in hell. I have a neighbor whose life is just so miserable because her husband drinks and beats her. Daisy is far too timid to 'opt out' not having enough confidence to face the world by herself. Imagine being tied to that sort of horror, dreading every evening, fearing the mood he might be in. Jim comes back from the pub at 10.30 pm, stumbling a little and finds a note "Your supper is in the oven." He picked a fight over the supper that is dried out and overcooked. He winds himself up into a rage which culminates in him giving her a punch on her jaw, and another one to her middle. Daisy came to my flat this morning holding her ribs. It's none of my business. I know I should not intervene, but a broken rib and a broken jaw, not to mention a broken heart is more than I can bear. I took Daisy to the home for battered women, where she is safe for the time being. When Jim came home this evening he found a note on the kitchen table "Your supper is in the dog!" written by me but not signed in case he came and gave me a punch too!

The Mind

I have a cousin who has cared for her ailing mother for the last two years. Eli has always been a bubble of joy and has not ever complained about having her wings clipped because of her mother's needs. Eli's Mom has had a stroke, leaving her unable to speak, unable to walk without help. Imagine being that Mom! Imagine being trapped in a body that does not work anymore; where your words come out scrambled; with a mind that knows what it wants to say, but can't get the words out. You discover that you have forgotten how to read or write, you can't even write down what you are struggling to say. This is what nightmares are made of. You watch your daughter endeavoring to understand what you want. You try and get your words into line, but you know they are getting encrypted on the way out. You watch as she gradually loses that bubbly nature, frustration getting the better of her.



What sort of hell is this? And you have no control and no idea how to win through. The hospitals are full; the care homes have mostly closed their doors to anyone that has a relation at home who can look after them. When the day comes for that person to pass on to the next world, sadly it is just a great relief to both the one who is trapped and the one who has carried the load.

There surely is freedom at last.

Anyone reading this please make a note: I fully support euthanasia and if I land in this position, please arrange to release me into the next world as soon as possible.

Animals

I hate to see animals caged; I can't stand zoos where the big cats pace up and down the perimeters of their enclosures. Even though the modern zoos have tried to enlarge the pieces of ground where these animals live, they are still restricted, living un-natural lives. You can see the boredom and misery in their expressions. It does not matter whether it is monkeys or mongooses, elephants or emus I find it cruel in the extreme. And as for birds in aviaries, especially raptors, I hate to see these magnificent examples of the aerial species confined to a few square meters of space. Watch them in the wild, see them soar, riding the thermals, covering miles in seconds; then swooping on some unsuspecting mammal and carrying it off to the nest, high on a perpendicular cliff, to feed their hungry chicks.



That is the law of the jungle; that is freedom.

In nature there are many examples where freedom can be celebrated. Have you ever watched a chick hatching from an egg? The chick has grown so large after consuming the yolk inside the egg, it needs to break out of there, so it pecks a hole in the shell, and gradually enlarges it until it can emerge, bedraggled and as ugly as sin, because newly hatched chicks have only scanty down covering their bodies. It only takes minutes to dry out and fluff up, and demand food from whichever parent is near enough to provide. And only weeks later, when feathers have replaced the down the parents will encourage it to jump off that ledge, flap its wings and fly! That surely is freedom!

But the most wondrous hatching is watching a butterfly break out of a chrysalis. It emerges all scrunched up, pauses while its wings unfurl, then it gives them a shake while they dry and without a seconds thought it is up and away....up into the wild blue yonder. What a miracle of nature – what freedom!

Carole

Brisbane West

FREEDOM... another point of view!

The story of Sonja...

My family and friends all thought I was crazy when I would say: "I wish I had more freedom to be me!" I knew nothing but what I had in my life... all the best things, things that any normal person would give their teeth for, so they said. Yes, my home life left nothing to be desired with a big house, big bedroom of my own with a bathroom just for me. My mother was a superb cook who knew everything there was to know about health, nutrition and presentation of our meals. It was never a problem having friends come over to eat and have a sleep over because my parents were welcoming of that. I was driven to school every day in a comfortable car with all the latest and greatest of features and when any new technology came into vogue, we were one of the first households to acquire it. My school was a private one with great teachers and my grades were worthy of the odd award here and there. Clothes were plentiful in my cupboard and if there was a special event, I simply went to the shops and bought something new to wear, along with the accessories to match. Everything was ordered and easy! So, you may be thinking, what was the problem! My problem was that while I had a good life, I simply didn't know who I really was. Was I just a replica of the family gone before, because of my genes or was I a unique person with special and significant traits of my own? I had to find out.



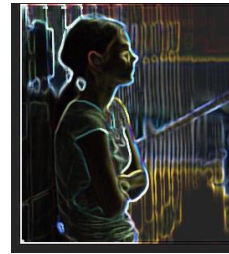
It was a rather cold and unfriendly night when I set out to go into town to investigate what "life" was really all about, at the age of 16. I had every intention of going home again, so it came as quite a surprise to me, as well as my family, when I phoned them the next morning to say I had spent the night with some special people in the city and had gone home to their share house to see how the "other half" live. The real shock came when I said that I was going to stay there for one week or so, to explore more of what motivated these people and scurrilously requested that Mum please let my high school patron know that this was "research". It was done! Now I could really find out what substance I had, as I thought I could make some kind of a difference.

The lifestyle seemed so "free" and I could do whatever my heart desired... I was standing on the doorstep of freedom! Or so I thought. It wasn't long before I found out that the shoe was on the other foot.

The people I now lived with didn't have a lifestyle at all and certainly no motivation to action. What they had was a lazy style, a style that had no rules, no control and I had no rights to be the person I felt I was. An identity crisis is what I was confronted with.

My life had gone backwards fast with no healthy food, no time limits, no privacy, no character building or the ability to change anything for the better. In all the hostility that hung in the air in that share house I did get to know a lovely young woman who taught me, indirectly, that freedom needed discipline in order to have life's options, education in order to make decisions about the future and all about someone to love and care for us.

Lilly had a very short family life with her parents and because of the intimidating influence of her home life where abuse of one kind and another ruled everyone, every day, Lilly was taken away from her mother and put into a foster home where she had to learn another set of "rules" to try to comply with in order to please her carer and show her "worth". At the age of 15 Lilly took to the streets with nothing but her clothes, a sleeping bag



and \$50 in her purse that happened to have "fallen" out of her carer's bag! During the year that followed, Lilly had couch-surfed in so many different places she had lost count. In doing so she had also lost her dignity, lost her friends, lost her trust and her ability to get back on track with her life. It was when Lilly said *"All I want is the freedom to be myself, get an education and show what I can do with my life"* that it hit me like a brick... freedom was just about everything I had left behind in order to "find" freedom.

Needless to say, my next phone call was to my poor, depressed mother and father. They had never stopped looking out for me. I always had money in my account in the 6 months I was away from them but I hadn't given them anything in return, not even my company, occasionally. When I stopped to think about it they had allowed me to do what I needed to do, in order to find out what was going to sustain me as the unique person I believed I was. They gave me the freedom to disrupt my education, to live a lifestyle that others had no choice about. What had I learned? All I learned was how to fall into a mold that stifled me and my abilities.



Cont.

FREEDOM... worth fighting for!

Story of Sonja - Cont.



So... when I made that phone call to them I automatically thought they would be a little less than generous when I asked to come home and start my life over again with the people who really loved me and who had also wanted the best for me... into my future. Mum and Dad didn't disappoint me. Within an hour of my call they were there to pick me up and transport me back home and to a place of comfort, choices, love and freedom.

I didn't forget about Lilly. As the story of my need to "*escape to freedom*" unfolded to my family and close friends I felt sadness and much regret as we talked and cried, over a very long dinner shortly after my arrival back home. I confirmed that the reason for deciding to go home revolved around Lilly and what freedom had meant to her. I told them of Lilly's life story and how she yearned to have choices in her life but couldn't get a start to do that. My father became quite emotional about Lilly's situation and said he would like to meet her. So... that was the start of a new beginning for Lilly. After a few visits to my home for some good times with me, Lilly became like a second daughter to my parents. Lilly got her freedom!

After staying with us for a few years, going back to school with me, getting good grades and living a healthy lifestyle, Lilly shone bright!

Freedom had some like-minded aspects for us both but we also had our unique interpretations too, in a well-rounded and happy way. I went to University to study Environmental Science and followed on to work in both agricultural and natural systems, involved in research to pave the way for more effective conservation management. Such an enthusiastic way for me to experience freedom, in nature! Lilly went to the local College to undertake a certificate course in Fine Arts.

What a wonderful world of freedom Lilly found, in painting the memories of her life as it was and how it had become!

Lilly worked in an Art Gallery which also gave her the freedom of displaying her very special art work and earning a living from it. We live quite a distance from each other these days but as often as we can, we meet for special occasions at the family home or have a weekend in the city, where we can't keep the smiles off our faces.

There is one very positive thing I can say about going out on a limb to find freedom. Freedom found me and it found Lilly and showed us both that sometimes we take the wrong road to find ourselves but when our hearts and minds are truly in the right place, we are always going to get there. There's nothing like learning the lessons that take us to that zone called freedom of spirit!

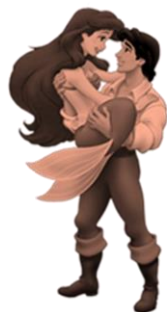
Freedom! It was there all the time.

Bev
Illawarra Evening Group



FREEDOM... it's all in the interpretation

Freedom! What a wonderful word. What does it mean to you? I can picture a Prince and Princess riding off into the Sunset to live happily ever after.



Free, freer, freest, the dictionary says is to be able to act at will, not compelled or restrained. Really? Is that what we want? Slaves want to be free of Masters, children want to be freed from parents, natives want to be freed from Colonialists, Workers want to be free of bosses. Does that always bring Freedom? Not on your life mate! I hear people say they would be free if only they hadn't a wife, a husband, children, a boss, a demanding job, a mother-in-law. Dream on Pal you wouldn't know what to do with Freedom! Others will say they would be free if they had a big bank balance, health, an understanding wife/husband, no family ties. Good on yer mate sorry you are such a bogan! Maybe we just need Freedom from ourselves? We have free air, free thoughts, most of us have free sight and free hearing, free speech is a bit of a myth but we do have a free choice of attitude and use of whatever brain we have. Surely with the right attitude we can be free of most things. In first World countries we do have a lot of Freedom. Do people appreciate it? OMG! Just listen to the complaints! The Politicians don't know what they're talking about and grab everyone's money, they say and as for the ever present dog fights between the different parties who are so busy picking each other to pieces they haven't time to concentrate on ruling the country. (here, I agree). People say the Police are too soft on the Criminals and too hard on the innocent (who's that)? And they are never in the right place at the right time. If they are over enthusiastic in repelling some drug-crazed adolescent they are fired if they are tolerant they are dead although of course they will be honoured for their bravery. The Health Department gets a lot of flak as usual. The poor, mostly dedicated staff of the hospitals, they complain don't have time, patience, empathy, sympathy or anything else to deal with their delicate, empty heads, scrawny necks, floppy boobs, flabby stomachs, voluptuous bums and bulbous or claw-like feet! The Doctors don't know what they are talking about, they reckon, and bury their mistakes. Well haven't they always but they try damn hard to save you first. We are all mostly a waste of Oxygen anyway and past masters at blaming everything except ourselves. How about us taking charge of our own lives

and not always having to have someone to blame for all our mostly self-imposed misery!

Let's get back on track. Children are not free to decide whether they go to school or not. They need schooling to lead worthwhile lives. They are not free to choose their own parents luckily, or they would ALL be impossible instead of just half of them!

What do you think would give you freedom? To have everything you want and to be able to do whatever you please, I can hear you saying. Well I think not, that's not Freedom, that is greed and you would never be satisfied. To be permanently on holiday, same thing and you'd get bored. To have a thousand virgins at your disposal! No not even that! You might die happy but that's not Freedom. And Girls your fifty shades of Grey choice! Seems a pretty exhausting and dicey way of trying to gain anything let alone freedom.

I think everyone needs constraint and control to gain Freedom. Nelson Mandela comes to mind as an example. He would never have been such a great man without his loss of Freedom. He wrote A Long Road to Freedom which illustrates Freedom does not come easily I actually haven't read the whole book but I often read *Invictus* the poem he loved. Which ends: *I am the Master of my fate; I am the captain of my Soul.*

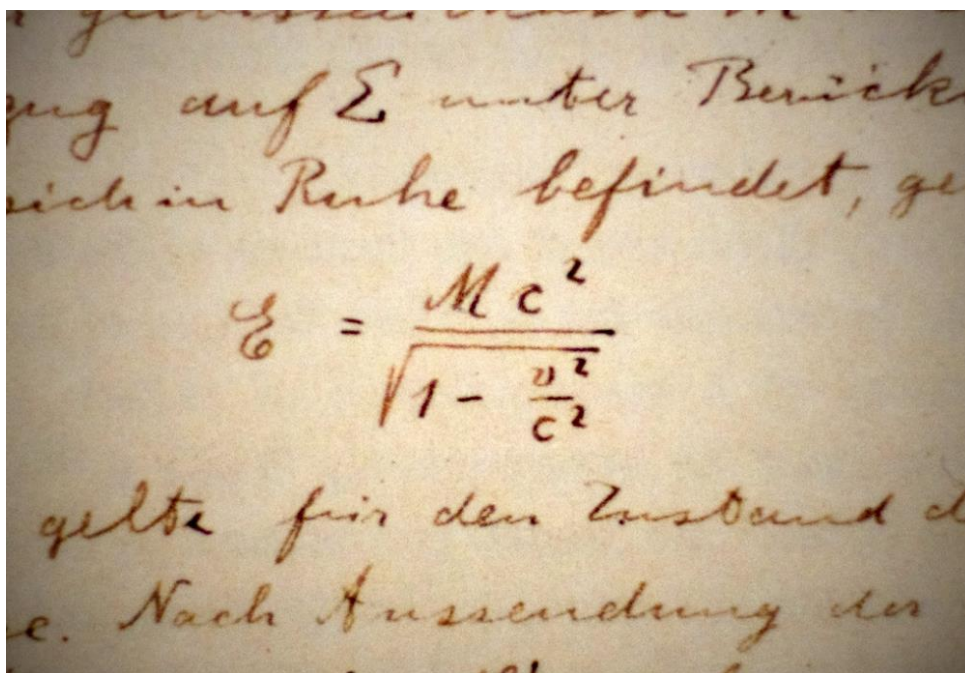
If you can realise that the grass is not greener on the other side of the fence, that money doesn't give you freedom, power is dangerous and that many of the things you want are not what you need. Open the doors to your heart and push out greed and envy, jealousy and self-indulgence and most importantly fear and let in love and respect, appreciation and acceptance, confidence and tranquillity, and that, surely my friend, will give you Freedom.



Di
Kalamunda Group, WA

**What light is to the eyes - what air is to the lungs - what love is to the heart,
liberty is to the soul of man.**

2016 - A THEME idea from the UK



posted by Ilana Levine

In 2016 it will be 100 years since Einstein published his theory of general relativity.

It followed his theory of special relativity published in 1905. Both theories are rather complicated, but basically Einstein argued, in the theory of special relativity, that things like time and space are relative to the state (speed) of the observer - **space contracts and time dilates when travelling close to the speed of light**. He determined that space and time act together (space-time) and due to relativity, an event can 'happen' at different times for different observers. **This theory is where the famous E=mc² came from**. In the general theory of relativity Einstein determined that massive objects cause a distortion in space-time which is felt as gravity. This theory is still the current description of gravitation in modern physics. It was the start of the nuclear age and built on work in the fields of physics and astronomy. These theories allowed the development of things we use every day, such as television, remote controls and lasers.

In celebration of this anniversary, our general theme for 2016 will be 'It's all relative'.

Some ideas have already emerged around the theme – such as looking at mother and daughter involvement with NWR, or even grandmother and granddaughters! * *This is for UK groups only:* [So put on your thinking caps for events you can organise and remember, there is a subsidy of £100 available towards venue hire and speaker costs. Just get in touch with the office for more information.]

* *Possible idea for the Aussies:* **We have decided to tie the themes together** and so the country for the themed evening will be Germany, where Einstein was born in Ulm on 14 March 1879.

The topic for the [UK] conference, which will be held on Saturday 25 June at the University of Sussex in Brighton, will be 'Relatively Speaking'. We are lining up lots of interesting speakers and exciting events and the booking form will be on the back page of the Autumn 2015 of [NWR Magazine](#) so do start booking early!

...a few crumbs - "FOOD for THOUGHT"

My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60.

She's 97 now, and we don't know where the hell she is.

Ellen DeGeneres



Long time ago I used to have a life, until someone told me to create a Facebook account



Some people just need a pat on the back.



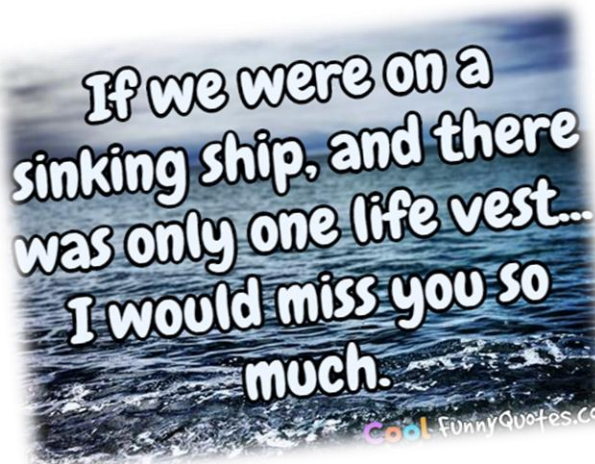
Anonymous



I just watched my dog chase its tail for 5 minutes, and I thought "Dogs are easily entertained"... then I realized "I was just watching my dog chase its tail for 5 minutes..."



If we were on a sinking ship, and there was only one life vest... I would miss you so much.



Never underestimate the power of the eyebrow...!

Jack Black

Website:
www.nwraustralia.org.au



Evening Lounge
By Brent Lynch

NWR

Join us on Facebook !



We extend our thanks to Annette Biermann and Snap Wollongong for assistance in formatting and printing this booklet. It is much appreciated!