

WELCOME to the latest edition of *Our OWN News*

Congratulations to our new Life Members

Congratulations to Lee Hodgson, June Donnelly and Barbara Barnes, who were awarded Life Membership at the Older Women's Network Qld Annual General Meeting on 7th October.

Di Hill presented Lee and June with their Certificates and flowers on the day, and caught up with Barbara at a Mitchelton event a couple of weeks later, with Lee and Leonie (below).



Barbara joined OWN Qld in 1999, was the Mitchelton Branch Convenor for many years and has been the Treasurer on the Management Committee for close to 20 years.



Lee and June are also long-term members, Lee having joined OWNQ in 2002 and June in 2005.

Both have been

active on the management committee for many years, and held the positions of President and Vice President, as well as being Branch Convenors.

In the background of the photo (above), is Claire Moore, our OWNQ Ambassador, who was special guest at the AGM meeting.

More AGM news on page 17.

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President's Report ...

Here we are again at the end of another year, with all the challenges 2021 we have been faced with because of COVID-19, but there are plenty of reasons for hope and optimism for our future.

Thanks to all of our Queensland branches for all the volunteers actively advocating behalf of older women and managing the operation of the groups. It is the willingness of members to volunteer their skills and experience that makes OWN Qld the strong, successful organisation it is.

Now to the Queensland AGM meeting. Again we were faced with many challenges with COVID-19 borders closed. We had to use Zoom for the AGM for the first time, which we learnt much from for next time.

Thanks to all that put time in helping to get it organized.

Our OWNQ Ambassador, Claire Moore, was our guest speaker. Claire is just one of the most amazing women that you will have the pleasure to meet. She is truly an inspiration to all women.

Also three of our committee members were given life membership: Barbara Barnes, June Donnelly and Lee Hodgson, in appreciation for all the years they put into OWN Qld.

I would like to thank the office staff, Leonie and Marianne, and David, also the Management Committee for all their help and support throughout 2021.

Once again it is my Christmas wish that all of our members and seniors in general will feel acknowledged and valued no matter whatever their life circumstances.

If you have the chance to spread some festive cheer, don't miss the opportunity to share it.

As this is our last newsletter for 2021, I'd like to wish you all a joyous Christmas season and a happy and prosperous new year.

I look forward to working with you all in 2022.

Queensland President Lee Hodgson



Need to Contact the Office?

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OWN (Qld) Inc. is funded by the Queensland Government.

Supported by



OUR AIMS:

- Encourage life enrichment, mutual support & companionship amongst older women
- Provide information and education
- Enhance the positive image of older women
- Promote discussion and action about ageism, racism and sexism
- Lobby for a fairer deal on issues affecting older women

DISCLAIMER: OWN (Qld) makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of information contained in this newsletter. Articles included are for information purposes only and views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of OWN (Qld).

WITH THANKS: We'd like to thank the State Member for Mackay, Julieanne Gilbert for printing copies of the newsletter for the Mackay branch.



Coordinator's Report

Hello everyone

In August we were delighted to launch our latest Branch at Lutwyche, which has been well supported by the local community. This is the tenth Branch in our OWNQ family. In just three meetings, there are already eighteen members who have joined, with apparently more to come in November. The venue where the meetings are held is provided free of charge by Aura Holdings who own and manage the Atrium Lutwyche Retirement Community facility, and they too have been very supportive in helping to get this branch up and running. A very enthusiastic and efficient leadership team for the branch have come on board and we thank them for that energy and commitment.

Last week we had some more good news, that OWNQ has been approved for further funding until March 31st, 2023 and a contract will be sent to us in the near future. Our current contract expires in June 2022 and of course we will be doing our best to try to secure ongoing funding for the years beyond. As Lee mentioned though, things are very different in the covid-world and it is hard to predict what lies ahead, but we can see the unquestionable benefit to the community of women having a place to connect and be themselves.

Once again we would like to thank our funding body, the Qld Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. We had not even approached the Department yet about securing the next contract so it is heartening to see that our work is valued.

Burnie Brae Community Centre at Chermiside has invited OWNQ to explore the possibility of establishing a new branch at their centre and a Meet and Greet is being held there on November 11th to sound out the local interest. Attendees do not have to be members of the Centre to be eligible to participate. We hope this branch will be a go-er and if so, it will be our 11th Branch!

Many thanks to our Management Committee retiring members Karen Baker and Luz Carleton for their contribution, and to Karen for her ongoing work in providing technical training. Welcome to our new MC members Kathy Kunde and Rosemerry Paidley, and to the continuing MC members – your work is greatly appreciated. Congratulations to our three new Life Members, we are thrilled to acknowledge your service to OWNQ.

As always, our thanks for your contribution to the Convenors and leadership teams in the branches and all those who help with making the branches so vibrant and successful,

The next newsletter is due out in January, so please do send your best photos of your Christmas celebrations to be included in that edition.

It seems early to be wishing you all a very happy Festive Season, but Christmas is literally just around the corner – next month! Have a safe and joyful time, hoping families can be reunited if there has been time apart.

Leonie





GYMPIE

- Meets:** Each second Thursday
- Time:** 9.15 a.m. to 12.00 noon on pension week
- Where:** Gympie & District Indoor Bowls
35 Graham Street, Gympie
- Contact:** Marilyn, Ph. 0409256603
- Trips:** Jenny, Ph. 0481199943

We are pleased to report our Election in July went well and would like to thank Lee for coming to join us.

It was disappointing to hear of the cancellation of the Conference in Brisbane but these things are bound to happen at this time. We thank the Committee and all those involved who put in the hard work to organise such an event.

Everyone had a great time at the local RSL when we celebrated Christmas in July with most of the ladies dressing in red or green.



Our meetings in August started off with a Grocery Grab where the wine, chocolates and mystery parcels were popular, passing from one person to another. Thanks to our member Gloria, who always runs these fun mornings.

For the second meeting we were able to re-schedule Margaret, the physiotherapist who forgot to come the first time. Margaret told us how important it is to keep moving as we age. She has started an exercise programme for the older generation and several of our members have joined up.

Another milestone for our member Beryl K. as she celebrated her 80th Birthday on 22 August.



To welcome the start of Spring, members were asked to wear their best Spring hats and to bring along their prettiest cup, saucer and plate for our High Tea morning.





GYMPIE (continued)

Winners of the cup, saucer & plate were Ena, Beryl & Jenny. Best dressed ladies were Lesley & Enid. While we enjoyed morning tea, our member Janette gave a talk on the Special Olympics. Janette is a coach and her daughter plays in the Basketball team. Over the years the team has won many medals with the most exciting one being a gold at the Nationals competition.

A morning of laughs for the next meeting with members telling of their 'Senior Moments'. We can all relate to losing our car in a car park or trying to unlock the wrong car, forgetting what we were doing or turning up to an appointment on the wrong day. An outing to the local RSL for morning melodies and lunch finished off September.

To celebrate Seniors Month in October we took a bus trip to Maryborough with a stop on the way at Tiaro for morning tea. The ladies visited the markets with a few walking to the War Memorial and gardens in Maryborough.



For the rest of the year we will have a financial advisor, a member from the RSL and their assistance dog will visit, our member Pat Towner is helping us make parchment cards and then a fun morning of Pass the Parcel.

Our final meetings for the year will be our Christmas party, which will be held at the Southside Bowls Club on the 16th December, and the craft ladies will have their Party on the 17th December.

We wish all the groups a very Happy Christmas and a great New Year.

Kaye

MORAYFIELD

Meets: Third Wednesday each month

Time: 2.30 p.m.

Where: Morayfield Senior Rentals, 21-23 Barossa Cres. Caboolture South

Contact: June 0411 018 570

Activities like games and craft started by the branch are now held in the meeting area twice a week, which is great news for all residents!



This quarter, Morayfield Branch members helped celebrate Michelle's 50th birthday and visited the Caboolture Historical Village for Flag Day.



Lisa and Deb at another activity (left).

Our best wishes to Beryl and June who have recently been in hospital.



WOODY POINT

Meets: Second Tuesday each month
Time: 9.30-11.30 a.m.
Where: Woody Point Memorial Hall
Oxley Avenue, Woody Point
Contact: Helen 0418 796 365

The meeting on October 12th went well with a guest speaker from Hearing Australia.



The Redcliffe Botanical Gardens was our destination on 26th October.



At our meeting on 9th November we will be packing up our basket to go to the Police Department, for the refugee women & children. This is a worthwhile activity the branch supports each year.

The last meeting of the year will be the Christmas Party scheduled for 23rd November at the Sea Salt & Vine at Scarborough, always a popular venue for our group.

Helen

MAROOCHYDORE

Meets: Third Monday each month
Time: 1.00-3.00 p.m.
Where: "The Avenue" Retirement Community
32 Baden Powell Street, Maroochydore
Contact: Lee 0429 831 414

Maroochydore Branch continue to welcome new members and eight new members attended our meeting on the 20th of September, along with over twenty-five of our regular attendees.

We were fortunate at a recent meeting to have a wonderful guest speaker, Mr Julian Porter, Managing Solicitor from Sunshine Coast Legal Centre.



Julian kindly conducted an information session and spoke to our group about some of the important legal documents and issues that can affect us all as we age:

- Wills and Executors
- Enduring Power of Attorney
- Advanced care directives

Many thanks to Julian for making the presentation informative and a little light-hearted, and for answering all the questions on issues our members raised.



MAROOCHYDORE (continued)

At our meeting on Monday 18th October, the scheduled guest speaker was from Maroochydore Neighbourhood Centre to discuss homelessness and associated issues.



We also enjoyed our new treat, a lucky door prize, and congratulations to Claire, who is pictured holding her lovely teatime hamper!

On 1st November we held a social dress up day for Melbourne Cup.



Our prize winners Margaret and Stephanie in race day finery (above).



And some of the other attendees.



Along with our regular meeting business, we planned some fun events for the rest of the year, including:

- Ten Pin Bowling (11th October);
- Branch Meeting Fun Day, with grocery grab and lucky door prize on the 15th November.
- Christmas lunch at the Palmwoods Hotel on 6th December (members to bring a gift to value of \$10.00)
- And to top off the festive season, join us for a morning of Christmas cheers with Martin Duncan's Scone Time on 9th December.

Contact Lee for further information about upcoming events.

Sue



CAPALABA

Meets: First Wednesday each month

Time: 9.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

Where: Capalaba Uniting Church Hall
30 Ney Road, Capalaba

Contact: Naomi 0424 060603
Desley 0409 594 908

In **July** Hazel gave us an informative insight into "Tai Chi for Health" together with a practical demonstration with everyone joining in. It was very relaxing and we received lots of lovely feedback. It was a great morning followed by morning tea.

Jan and Ann brought along the pickles, jams, chutney, lemon and passionfruit butters they have been making. They (including Mavis) have put an enormous amount of time into this project. The money from this is going towards subsidising our Christmas luncheon in December.



Cr [Adelia Berridge](#) has organized the loan of a microphone and speaker until we are able to purchase a unit of our own. Thank you, we are so grateful for your support.

The wind tried very hard to spoil our picnic in the park morning tea but it didn't count on the resilience and adaptability of our Capalaba members.

We quickly moved across the park and out of the wind to Naomi's place where we feasted on sandwiches (with "real" corn meat), damper and syrup, carrot cake, and ginger caramel tarts. Naturally the wind couldn't win

against such a spread provided by Jan, Ann and Mavis.

We tested our brains with a quiz, "Sweet Temptations".

Unable to meet due to lockdown in **August**, we made a video to encourage our members to check up on each other and stay safe.

A relaxed morning chat whilst savouring a delicious "High Tea" at the Waterloo Bay Leisure Centre in Wynnum. Thank you to Sandy for organizing this and the volunteer staff who looked after us. We always enjoy our visits to the Centre.



Senior Lifestyle Bayside contacted us to submit a piece on the "Importance of friendships in our senior years". This was in the August/October edition of this magazine.

In **September** Trish Carter from Total Hearing and Health gave an informative and reassuring talk at our meeting. This picture of a crocheted item is handy to fit our face



masks to at the back of our head, as some people have a hearing aids, glasses, earrings then a mask around the ear area.

Sue took the seat for the Election of Officers. Those who helped in various areas over the last year have agreed to continue doing so, although we do need a member to take notes of our meetings in 2022.



CAPALABA (continued)



We attended the National Flag Day 120th Anniversary, 4th September, at Caboolture Historical Village. It was a fun and interesting day out. The Ormiston Heritage Pipes and Drums (from the Redlands) were entertaining.



Some of us were able to meet at the Donald Simpson Centre in Cleveland for morning tea.

We accepted an invitation to the "Here's to Life" Fashion Parade today. The money raised assists them with the running of their programs.



Councillor Adelia Berridge attended our **October** meeting. It was good for our members to meet her face to face, as she has been very supportive to our branch in many ways. Capalaba branch will feature in her council newsletter this month.



Good to see the ladies adapting to using our own QR Code.

Saaliyah Seedat gave us a 15 minute intro on the "My Health for Life Program". This is a free lifestyle program available to eligible participants who want to improve their health and reduce their risk of developing chronic disease.



Enjoyed seeing the wildlife and artwork scattered throughout our walk to Indigiscapes Centre this month.

We met at Hoya Garden Nursery at Alexandra Hills for morning tea. Afterwards we strolled through the garden area and massive gift shop.

(continued next page)



Our members are all looking forward to the Christmas luncheon on Macleay Island in December. The ferry ride around the surrounding islands is always enjoyable too.

As the December season approaches us, Capalaba members wish our *sister branches* a happy and safe Christmas.

Cheers from Desley and Naomi

WYNNUM MANLY

Meets: First Wednesday each month

Time: Starts 10.00 a.m.

Where: Wynnum Municipal Building, Wynnum

Contact: Heather 0422 883 349

The Wynnum Manly branch was formed in 2021 by Di. At our first meeting we were introduced to Di and Leonie Swainston, Coordinator for OWN (Qld) who took us through the aims of OWN. It was wonderful to meet Leonie and hear about the great things about this fabulous group. Di has worked very hard to get our group up and running and now we have eleven members and growing.

We meet first Wednesday of the month at the Wynnum Municipal Building. Last meeting we used the time to plan some activities for November and December and some ideas for 2022. Suggestions were made for Bus Trips, Movies, Theatre, Lunch Venues, Afternoon Drinks and perhaps a worthwhile fundraising event. 2022 looks like we will be very busy.

We are planning a Christmas lunch after our December meeting (1st Dec) at the Manly Trailer Boat Club. The views from this place are amazing as it looks out over the bay and the harbour while we take in the lovely sea breeze.

In May this year we had a dinner at Fielders Club and met the President of OWN (Qld) Lee. It was so nice to meet you Lee.



Di brought some purple feather boas for our lively group of ladies to jazz up the occasion.

We have a morning tea on third Wednesday of each month at various cafes around Wynnum and Manly area. Here is a photo of some of our lovely ladies enjoying the tastes of Fleur by Ellie at Wynnum.



Di has introduced us to Techno Mornings where we share how to get the most out of our Smartphones and tablets. These mornings are a hit and many of the ladies stay on for lunch. Our plan is to have these techno mornings once a month.

On 21st October our Branch participated in the Seniors Expo at St Peters Anglican Church Wynnum. We had five ladies from our branch attending our table where we meet some lovely people and invited them to our next meeting.

I have just recently taken over as Convenor of the Wynnum Manly Branch and am looking forward to 2022.

Heather



BRIBIE ISLAND

Meets: Third Thursday each month
Time: 10.00 am to 12.00 noon
Where: Bribie Island RSL Club
99 Toorbul Street, Bongaree
Contact: Betty 0409 470 100

Like the rest of Queensland we have become quite adept at working around COVID lockdowns. The planned morning tea at the Vatahapie Café for our July outing had to be postponed until the following week. This meant fewer ladies attended but we were still able to support one of our local cafés. The meeting that month was dedicated to some fun and games. Our OWN Bingo and a Grocery Grab were noisy affairs. We learned more about each other when we shared our responses to the question “*What was your first paid job?*”

Our Convenor Betty, was busy applying for funds for the purchase of equipment from the Moreton Bay Regional Council and was successful in obtaining financial support (for attendance at the NOWN Conference) in the form of a “wish” from one of our local charities, Busy Fingers.

The Abbey Museum was booked for our August outing. Another COVID non-event which unfortunately we have not been able to reschedule this year.

Our monthly meeting was replaced by two sessions (with our guest speaker) due to room restrictions (only 20 allowed in the meeting room). While the first group were learning about reflexology from Lynelle, the others socialised downstairs on the deck at Social Cafe, and then we swapped places. Lynelle’s visit has resulted in her visiting the island twice a month to work her magic on those of our members who book appointments.

Our grant application to the local council was successful. Betty was then busy spending the funds. We now have an ink stamp, a range of banners advertising OWNQ Bribie Branch, a digital projector for our guest speakers, a camcorder with a tripod to record our guest speakers and a portable PA system and microphones are on back order.

September was a very successful month after the disappointments of August.

A bus trip to Summer Land Camels at Harrisville (a beautiful setting in the Scenic Rim) was a great day out for those ladies who attended. We enjoyed camel milk, cheese, sausages, gelato, burgers or quiche for morning tea and lunch. A tour of the farm was very informative. Before boarding the bus several purchases of beauty products were made in the gift shop.





BRIBIE ISLAND (continued)



The guest speaker at our next meeting was a resounding success. Diane from Bribie Island Environment Protection Association (BIEPA)

spoke passionately about the turtles which visit Bribie. It was great to have Lee, Marylyn and Marj from Maroochydore Branch visit and enjoy the friendship of our members.

We were looking forward to our visit to the Caboolture Historical Museum in early October. A phone call to say they had double booked that day was shrugged off and we had a morning tea at Vatahapie Café organised at short notice instead. It was hard to hear yourself think as the ladies were a noisy mob that day. Maybe next time we will need to sit outside!

The meeting room was almost at capacity in October. Jodie from HISC returned along with Annette who spoke on “Everything you need to know about funerals but didn't know to ask”. Her own personal story, which was both sad and comical, showed the importance of appointing an Enduring Power of Attorney.



Our social outing for November is currently creating a lot of excitement. No, not Melbourne Cup but Oaks Day when the fillies come out to play. A luncheon, sweeps and Fashions on the Field (Op Shop style) are planned. Fingers crossed that the current COVID cases are contained.

Betty (Convenor)





MITCHELTON

Meets: 4th Wednesday each month
Time: 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon
Where: Arana Leagues Club
247 Dawson Parade, Keperra 4054
Contact: Judith 0431 159 921

Time does fly and Christmas is almost here.

The Mitchelton Branch of OWNQ has been busy. Our guest speakers have come from the Aged Care sector and the Australian Pain Management Association on how we can handle our aches and pains. August was an open meeting and plans were made for 2022. A lot of ideas came from that meeting and a lot of fun.

Coffee Mornings, mostly Techno sessions at the Leagues Club are a standard part of our activities. We went in search of new venues and found the Lagarto Café, Samford Valley and the Birds & Bees Café Everton Hills.



Trish, Pat and Evie at the animal farm, Samford

Housing for older women has some of our members busy, while the branch is now a part of the Senior Committee of The Hills & Districts Chamber of Commerce.

Seniors Lunch, celebrating Seniors Month was held 21st October with members from various local senior groups and individuals attending. The theme was Technology and the Joys of Learning. The idea of a Techno Coffee session has been picked up by other people including the Senior Committee.

Barbara B. has had two good reasons for celebrating over the past couple of months. Firstly, Barbara, a founding member of Mitchelton Branch and Convenor for nearly 20 years, celebrated her 80th birthday in some style. There was another surprise for her when the Management Committee awarded her with Life Membership. This was presented at our Coffee Morning on the 12th October by President Lee Hodgson & Vice President Di Hill. Our Coordinator Leonie was there to help in the celebrations.

Christmas will be celebrated on the 24th November with Kelly Ashford, the historian from the Moreton Bay Regional Council telling us about early times in the Pine Rivers & Moreton Bay Regional Councils. We always follow our meetings with coffee and lunch at the Leagues Club.

Next year's program is being organised and it should be interesting.

Thank you to all our members who have supported me during this year. It has been interesting, with COVID_19 always in the background. We have grown and will grow.

Judith



MACKAY

Meets: Every Tuesday

Time: 9.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon

Where: PCYC, Scriha Street, North Mackay

Contact: Ruth 0432 686 970, Helen 0400 424 649

We have been busy since coming back to PCYC after school holidays. Our first speaker was a new manager of Relationships Australia.

The AGMs have been dealt with and we had a good representation from Mackay. Next was Mackay family history which was informative and interesting.

The speaker Veronica from Almans Financials was a fun, interesting and beautiful young woman who kept us amused with her lovely accent and smiles and informed us about finances.

Helen, Luz and I attended two QCOSS meetings, one doing a profile on OWN Mackay, where we will be in the QCOSS newsletter. We were the only social group to attend the meeting next day besides service providers to talk about our needs in the community.

Judy, Helen, Cindy and myself attended the TAFE as a one-off to speak to migrant students learning English "Aussie" so they could do an essay on a senior in their community who has been here for quite a while. It was fun and we spoke to Chinese, Egyptian, Russian, Balinese, South Americans, to name some. We have been invited back to listen to their essays they have written on us soon.

On 26th October, we had a Good Shepherd Lodge representative who spoke about My Aged Care and home services.

Melbourne Cup Day celebrations were held on 2nd November. On 9th November, the PCYC venue is unavailable so branch members will go to Harrup Park for morning tea and help each other with techno issues.

Other upcoming meetings will include a grocery grab, open meeting to discuss where to from here, concert with Jennifer's Drumming and discuss her new book.



This is a photo of our dear Jenny Scott who has moved to Brisbane to be nearer to family. We will miss her happy face amongst us. She has been with us for just on 22 years and has been a valuable member of our group, a convenor, a letter writer for us, an actor in concerts, our brochure designer and a good friend. With her is one of our original members Fay Raye who has been a member for 25 years.

Recently, 27 members visited Eaglemount retirement resort for morning tea and to check out homes there.



MACKAY (continued)

Trish Allen received \$500 worth of vouchers from Gillian at Eaglemount retirement resort for attending the morning tea and tour of the facility.



On 21st September, 45 of our ladies had a Devonshire tea at Mt Ossa, travelling to outer surrounding places in the Mackay area.



Christmas lunch on the 14th December at The Grove Andergrove will bring our group to a close for the year.

We look forward to a bright next year with less COVID in the country.

All the best to all our members in the State.

Ruth

LUTWYCHE

Meets: Third Wednesday each month

Time: Starts 10.00 a.m.

Where: The Atrium Lutwyche Retirement Village, 15 High Street, Lutwyche

Contact: Carol 0417 703 550, Dianne 0435 370 092

After an information session and morning tea in August, run by The Atrium Lutwyche, there were enough interested members to form a working branch at the next meeting in September. Leonie ran that meeting and organised an interesting guest speaker. Lee, our Qld President and Leonie, Qld Coordinator convinced **Carol** (*that's me*) to become Convenor, with **Di** as Co-convenor and **Ros** as Treasurer and notetaker (*until a Secretary can be coerced into volunteering*).

At the September meeting more members joined. Perhaps they were tempted by the Atrium's kind offer to pay the \$20 annual membership fee for the first 25 new members and for us to use their Meeting Room free of charge on the third Wednesday of each month.





LUTWYCHE (continued)

By our first official meeting on **Wednesday, 20th October**, we had a total of 11 members and by the end of that meeting another 7 lovely women joined us. A couple of our new members put their hands up in September to provide a lovely morning tea to share and our guest speaker, **Bernie Brearley from The Stroke Foundation** was very knowledgeable and reminded us of the warning signs of a stroke and the benefits of quick action when these are detected. We all gained a lot from the discussion.

As we are a new branch, we thought it might be a good idea to find out more about the history of the area. On **Wednesday, 3rd November**, we are meeting at 10am at the Sano Café attached to The Atrium and proceeding to the Windsor and District Historical Society Building just down the road, for a private tour and presentation at 11am by their Secretary, Robert Price.

Upcoming events are:- **Wednesday 17th November** at The Atrium, monthly meeting. Social catchup, with planning Christmas lunch and short presentation about the State Library from one of our members, a librarian. Members might like to discuss an enjoyable book they have read recently.

Wednesday 8th December, Christmas Lunch catered by Sano Café at The Atrium. Details available from **Carol 0417 703 550 or Dianne 0435 370 092**

Wednesday 19 January, 2022 - 10 am Monthly meeting at the Atrium. Guest speaker Susan Dunlop from Nundah Historical Society to talk about the life of Loris Bonney (aviator) and her many courageous achievements. Bonney Avenue was named after her.

Wednesday 16 February - 10 am Monthly meeting at the Atrium, Guest speaker from Qld Police: Scams and Personal Safety

Wednesday 16 March - 10 am Monthly meeting at the Atrium, Guest speaker Dennis Wayper: Life and Times of Doris Day.

We are hoping to have input from new members for suggestions of the type of activities that interest them and encourage them to use their many talents to further the aims of the OWN organisation and make us all "Proud to be Ourselves". I love that motto.

Carol, Convenor, Lutwyche Branch

BRANCH CHRISTMAS PARTIES

23 rd November	Woody Point at Sea Salt & Vine, Scarborough
24 th November	Mitchelton at Arana Leagues Club
1 st December	Morayfield (contact June for details)
1 st December	Capalaba at Macleay Island Bowls Club
1 st December	Wynnum Manly at Wynnum Manly Trailer Boat Club
2 nd December	Bribie Island at RSL Club
6 th December	Maroochydore at Palmwoods Hotel
8 th December	Lutwyche at The Atrium (catered by Sano Café)
14 th December	Mackay at The Grove, Andergrove
16 th December	Gympie at Southside Bowls Club



To confirm details, please contact your Branch Convenor

Annual General Meeting

This year's Annual General Meeting for the Older Women's Network Qld was a learning experience. Originally planned to be held at the National Conference, the AGM plans were changed when the Stamford Plaza Hotel (our conference venue) cancelled our conference booking as they had decided to become a quarantine hotel.

So we set about finding another venue and chose the very light and airy New Farm Neighbourhood Centre. However, some of the staff and volunteers there, who weren't aware of our exclusive booking for the meeting room, had to hurry along some of their visitors partaking of meals in the very same room our meeting was set to be held.

And then there was all the fun and games that came with setting up the Zoom portion of the meeting. Technology did what technology does, and refused to cooperate, but we soldiered on. The President and Vice President only had to repeat their Welcome and Acknowledge of Country twice!

Once the meeting was finally underway, though, it proceeded relatively smoothly. Our special guest speaker was OWNQ's new Ambassador, Claire Moore, who spoke about effective ways to get things done in communities, by interacting with political figures and candidates.

Ruth McLean, a former President of OWNQ, acted as the Chair of the meeting for the Management Committee vote.

Congratulations to the 2021-2022 Management Committee members: President Lee Hodgson, Vice President Di Hill, Secretary June Donnelly, Treasurer Barbara Barnes, and committee members Sue Fowler (returning for another year) and two newcomers, Kathy Kunde, and from Mackay, Rosemerry Paidley. Barbara, Kathy and Rosemerry had joined the meeting via Zoom.



2021/2022 Management Committee members who were present in person at the neighbourhood centre



Those present in person at the neighbourhood centre

It was also great to see Beryl, a member of Morayfield, make the trip into New Farm to join the meeting. Thank you to David for taking photos and initially setting up Zoom, and a big thanks to Leonie who arranged a lovely afternoon tea for all those who attended in person.

OWNQ's Housing Interest Movement

We are proud to say that some of our OWNQ members participate in a Housing for Older Women (HOW) movement, which involves a number of organisations. Any of our members who have interest in and concern about older women with housing vulnerability are welcome to join the group. Zoom meetings are held bi-monthly in conjunction with QShelter. Our Housing Interest Group have provided some background information about the HOW Movement.

VISION:

To ensure Queensland older women have safe, secure, and affordable housing appropriate to their needs, which fosters well-being and enables aging in place.

MISSION:

To enable the voices of Older Women in Queensland to inform the increased provision of diverse models of affordable housing.

GOALS:

1. Advocate for and participate in the creation of flexible and innovative housing models using co-sponsor and co-design principles and processes to meet the needs of Queensland's older women to age in place in the community.
2. Support the establishment of a Specialist Housing Support Service for older persons as developed by Housing for Aged Action Group (HAAG) in Victoria.
[Source: https://www.older tenants.org.au/home_at_last]
3. Advocate for regulatory reform which will increase housing options and improve tenancy rights.
4. Promote alliances to increase supply of appropriate housing.
5. Advocate for the creation of financial products and removal of financial barriers affecting Older Women's' housing options.
6. Build the capacity of the HOW Movement to provide a voice of persons with a lived experience and their supporters to achieve all the above.

A full update provided by the Housing Interest Group will be uploaded to our website in the near future. Look for it on the Latest News section of the website www.ownqld.org.au. You can also follow the HOW movement on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/609354786404807>.

You can help by becoming a follower of the Housing Older Women Facebook Page and inviting your friends to do the same. Anyone interested in participating in the group can contact Di at aussidi@gmail.com.

