

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN THE HISTORY OF QCWA

1922

11 August: The Queensland Country Women's Association was formed at a meeting called by Brisbane Women's Club supported by Sir Matthew Nathan GCMG, Governor of Queensland. Mrs J H (Ruth B) Fairfax of Cambooya was foundation President. Miss Marjorie Scholefield, Honorary Secretary. Membership 5/- per annum.

1923

Constitution and Rules, name and Motto accepted at 1st Conference. Northern Division formed; remainder of the State known as Southern. Central Office confirmed in Toowoomba. QCWA badge designed by Mrs A H (Mabel) Chandler of *Tanyanah*, a property adjacent to the locality of Burra Burri. Association colours chosen, silver and royal blue. Provision of Rest Rooms encouraged.

1924

March, first annual report. Governing body Central Council' formed. "Lota' Seaside Home at Manly donated by Mylne family. Seaside huts and cottages erected or rented.

1925

Central Division formed. 'Linga Longa' at Sandgate was opened by Metropolitan Branch as a sea-side home.

1926

Western Division formed – making four in all. The QCWA was registered as a Body Corporate. All property to be held in the name of the Association. The position of Deputy State President established, Mrs Graham Mylne appointed.

1927

First two sea-side huts at Redcliffe officially opened. (Site of Diamond Court) Fee 5/- per week and 1/- sanitary fee. Branch Relieving Housekeeper Scheme in operation, QCWA working to establish Bush Nursing Centres. Song 'Forward! Ever Forward' by Meta Maclean accepted and copyright purchased. Premier's pass given to State President to cover rail travel.

1928

QCWA badge registered as a trade mark. Student and Waiting Mothers Hostels being established. 1929 Wireless receiving and transmitting sets provided under direction of Aerial and Inland Medical Services of Australia. Awarding of Life Memberships discontinued. Branches establishing libraries. A Rural Women's Organisations Conference held in London. Mrs Fairfax attended. Liaison Committee formed.

1930

Northern Territory Branches under jurisdiction of QCWA. Meeting of Rural Women's Organisations Liaison Committee held at Vienna. Mrs Fairfax an Australian delegate.

1931

Formation of Younger Sets. The 'Council Newsletter' became a monthly publication at 3/- p.a. 'My Creed' by Howard Arnold Walters sung for first time at State meeting in Townsville to music composed by Miss Laurie Sterne. Silver badge introduced.

1932

Common Seal presented.

1933

State President's badge introduced. International Conference in Stockholm (known as 2nd Conference), The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) named. QCWA joined as Constituent Society, Mrs Fairfax first Vice- President of Pacific Area.

1934

Council Newsletter named "The Queensland Countrywoman".

1935

QCWA involved in formation of Far West Children's Health Scheme – later Bush Children's Health Scheme.

1936

ACWW 3rd World Conference held in Washington D.C., USA.

1937

Name of 'The Queensland Countrywoman' copyrighted.

1938

Emergency Housekeeping Scheme became a state objective. Gold QCWA badge presented to Mrs Mylne.

1939

ACWW 4th World Conference held in London.

1939-45

Second World War years. QCWA assisted the war effort by making camouflage nets, growing herbs, collecting sheepskins and money for making them into sheepskin vests, making and laminating papier mache hospital equipment, making field dressings, knitting thousands of garments, repairing and mending hundreds of uniforms. Worked in conjunction with the Australian Comforts Fund. A 'Penny a Week' scheme was established mostly to send food to Britain. Miss Scholefield as State Handcraft Organiser represented QCWA on Red Cross. Some buildings taken over by Defence Department. Meals provided for troops on trains.

1940

Ten acres of land at Bardon and items of valuable furniture given to QCWA by Mr Peter Petersen.

1943

'Holyrood' Hospital, Gregory Terrace, Brisbane purchased and used as hostel for women doing essential war work. Rail transport granted to Emergency Housekeepers.

1944

First Conference since 1938. State divided into 17 Divisions. Position of State International Officer created. Three-year term introduced for State President. State Handcraft Committee formed. Bardon land sold to State Government. Student bursaries established, including Ruth Fairfax Agricultural Bursary.

1945

'Honour to God' added as first line of the Motto. International days and Country of Study introduced – China first country studied. Three-year term introduced for all presidents and Committee Chairs. Ruth Fairfax Domestic Science Bursary introduced. CWA of Australia formed with presidency rotating through States.

1946

QCWA hostel for women war workers on Gregory Terrace became first QCWA Club. Post war help to Britain continued for many years due to strong links with Women's Institutes. First State Handcraft Exhibition at Rockhampton Conference.

1947

Silver Jubilee of QCWA. 51 Langshaw Street, New Farm purchased to house State Office. ACWW 5th World Conference held in Amsterdam.

1948

State Office moved from Toowoomba. Ruth Fairfax died. New Farm building name 'Ruth Fairfax House'. Journal Committee formed.

1950

Mrs H (Elizabeth) Sterne president of CWA of A for one year in first interstate rotation plan. ACWW 6th World Conference held in Copenhagen.

1951

State Leader of Younger Sets to be elected. Many Mothers' Hostels, Students' Hostels and Rest Rooms being established. The replica QCWA badge made of sapphires and diamonds given to Ruth Fairfax by members as a farewell gift in 1928 was presented to State president Mrs W H (Daphne) Roberts for State Presidents to wear.

1952

Aged Care Home opened at Ipswich, and the seaside home of Lota was converted to 'Helena Mylne Home for Aged Country Women'. Membership rose to 6/-.

1953

'Toxteth' adjoining QCWA Club on Gregory Terrace, Spring Hill purchased. State President Mrs A.M. (Alice) Berry elected ACWW World President at 7th World Conference held in Toronto.

1954

First Summer School held at Warwick. Management of Club handed to South Coast Division.

1956

Publication of 'The Queensland Countrywoman' ceased in December. 21 Divisions.

1957

State Building Fund established to build a new headquarters. ACWW 8th World Conference held in Colombo; Alice Berry's second term as World President.

1958

'Mallalieu' Hostel for Music Students at Toowong bequeathed by the late Beatrice Mallalieu opened – Younger Sets project. Publication of the Journal re-commenced in September. Printing of first edition of QCWA Lady Lavarack Cookery Book compiled by Miss Felice Sterne.

1959

Foundation stone laid for new 'Ruth Fairfax House' on site of 'Toxteth'. No future objective to be named after one person. State Cookery Contest sponsored by 'Queensland Country Life' commenced to help with building costs. 539 Branches and 89 Younger Sets. ACWW 9th World Conference held in Edinburgh.

1960

State Office moved from New Farm to 'Ruth Fairfax House' on Gregory Terrace which opened for occupation by QCWA Club in November. QCWA State Cookery Committee formed. First QCWA teatowel printed – design 'Ruth Fairfax House'. Members asked to raise one pound per member per annum for RFH. Former Club in 'Holyrood' converted to a Student Hostel administered by South Coast Division. Now 22 Divisions. Northern Territory branches became independent.

1961

Official opening 'Ruth Fairfax House' 15 May. New Farm property sold. State Music and Drama Cultural Committee grew out of South Coast Division's festival which started in 1959. Dame Alice Berry DBE President of CWA of A for two years during second cycle of interstate rotation.

1962

ACWW 10th World Conference held in Melbourne hosted by Dame Alice Berry, national president.

1963

CWA of A Conference in Brisbane. First State Archivist appointed. Properties on Boundary Street, Spring Hill purchased.

1964

First State Music and Drama Festival held. Gregory Terrace Student Hostel ('Holyrood') management handed back to State from South Coast Division.

1965

Two houses at Southport donated by Mrs Kathleen Rawlins in 1958 were sold. Land at Imperial Parade, purchased for a Home for the Aged, to be built as a state project. ACWW 11th World conference held in Dublin.

1967

'Rawlins Court' Home at Labrador opened in April. 'Linga Longa' at Sandgate given to the Sub-Normal Children's Association.

1968

Site clearing and commencement of building of 'Trainee Teachers' Hostel' in Boundary St. Spring Hill. ACWW 12th World Conference held in Michigan USA.

1969

Knitting and Crochet Competition sponsored by 'Queensland Country Life' commenced and State Knitting and Crochet Committee formed.

1970

The 92 room 'Trainee Teachers' Hostel', (later known as 'The Lodge') Boundary Street, occupied in April, official opening in May. Dame Alice Berry International Fund opened.

1971

Former bursary money to be used in Special Education Aid Fund. Membership set at \$1.00. 'Holyrood' building removed, ground landscaped. Appointment of Convenor for Country Woman of the Year. Quest to raise funds for Trainee Teachers Hostel. ACWW 13th World Conference held in Oslo.

1972

Golden Jubilee Year, *50 Years History* written by Mrs E McIntyre OBE. Past State President badge introduced. QCWA Country Woman of the Year: Mrs A Betts of Thallon-Daymar Branch.

1973

Mrs Joan Voller president of CWA of A for two-year term during third cycle of interstate rotation.

1974

Position of Deputy President abolished, replaced by two Vice Presidents. Males allowed to stay at RFH. Ten years rule for committee service introduced. \$50,000.00 raised to provide eighty cardiphones for country hospitals. ACWW 14th World Conference in Perth, WA hosted by Mrs Voller, National President.

1975

CWA of A Conference in Brisbane. UN International Year of Women commenced. Since that year 8 March has been celebrated as International Women's Day, and the United Nations Decade for Women, from 1976 to 1985, was also established.

1976

Membership raised to \$3.00.

1977

State Treasurer became a paid Officer. State Modern Floral Art Committee formed. Christina Atherton Rose specially struck for the Association. ACWW 15th World Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya.

1978

State divided into three regions – Northern, Central and Southern each with a State Vice President. Region Meeting with Training organised. International Year of the Child supported.

1979

Public Relations Officer appointed but discontinued the following year.

1980

Country Woman of the Year quest sponsored by Queensland Country Life recommenced. The 'For Service' badge introduced. Mobile Outback Support Team (MOST) commenced operation. ACWW 16th World Conference held in Hamburg.

1981

First edition of 'Find the Way to QCWA' printed.

1982

Diamond Jubilee Year. 'The Order of the Outback' awarded to QCWA by the Shire of Burke.

1983

Annual subscription raised to \$10.00 to include 12 copies of *The Queensland Countrywoman*. Past State Office badges presented. Country Woman of the Year quest altered to award. ACWW 17th World Conference held in Vancouver.

1985

Australian Bi-Centennial Project adopted – 14 holiday units at Kissing Point, Townsville. CWA of A presidency to be an elected position. Miss Dorothy Ross AM OBE of NSW elected Hobart for a three-year term. CWA of A Conference to continue to rotate around the States. Social Issues Fact Finding Team (SIFFT) set up in each State.

1986

ACWW 18th World Conference held in Killarney.

1987

Purchase of 'Gowrie', 63 Gregory Terrace, Spring Hill. Public Speaking competition trialled.

1988

'Mallalieu' closed to girl students. Essay competition commenced. Public Speaking Competition to continue, Convenor appointed. Tapestry of Queensland Coat of Arms presented to State Government to mark Bicentenary of European settlement in Australia. CWA of A Conference held in Brisbane.

1989

Link membership introduced. 'Gowrie' occupied by music students. Rebuilt 'Helena Mylne' Memorial Home for Aged Care opened. Eleven copies of journal published (December 1989 and January 1990 combined). ACWW 19th World Conference held in Kansas City celebrating the Diamond Jubilee.

1990

Mallalieu opened to male students and apprentices. 51 Brisbane Street (next door to Mallalieu) purchased and divided into two flats. QCWA Grace composed by Mrs M Stubbs, acknowledged. Six years rule passed for Committee members. QCWA State Aged Care Committee formed bringing together the six aged care facilities: CWA House Oakey, Helena Mylne Memorial Home at Lota, Jubilee Gardens at Scarborough, Rawlins Court at Labrador, Sunset Lodge at Emu Park and West Moreton Rest Home at Ipswich. Subscription \$15.00 (\$1.50 for Division). Billy Maykin and Stella Bunter bursaries commenced.

1991

Dressmaking Convenor appointed. CWA of A Conference held in Darwin, first time in Northern Territory.

1992

Dressmaking competition commenced. QCWA Cook Book named for Lady Campbell. ACWW 20th World Conference held at The Hague.

1994

Mallalieu closed to all students. Drought Crisis Funds administered by QCWA. Designated International Year of the Family—an idea first mooted by Mrs Esme Findlay through Toowong Branch and at CWA of A in 1982 thence via ACWW to UN. Mrs B (Sylvia) Laxton elected to president of CWA of A.

1995

ACWW 21st World Conference held in Christchurch NZ. International Conference for Women in Beijing. World Rural Women's Day designated as 15 October. Mallalieu building leased for a peppercorn rent to the Hear and Say Centre for Deaf Children for two years.

1996

State Executive assumed management of the Club, Lodge, Gowrie, and Rawlins Court; committees disbanded. State Properties Liaison Officer appointed. QCWA Host Society for South Pacific area Conference at Cairns.

1997

75th Anniversary of QCWA. History of the Association display at Conference. Gregory Terrace to Gregory 'Bush Bash' to celebrate the anniversary. Ruth Fairfax Bursary re-established by Tim Fairfax, grandson of our founder. Mrs Audrey J Hoskin Bursary for music students announced. Administrator of State properties employed.

1998

Mallalieu and 51 Brisbane Street sold. Book titled *Country Women: History of First Seventy-Five Years of The Queensland Country Women's Association* written by Muriel Pagliano AM launched at Conference. ACWW 22nd World Conference held in Pretoria. Women's World Summit Foundation Award for Women's Creativity in Rural Life to member Georgina Le Cheu of Cairns Aerial Outpost Branch—first Australian winner.

1999

Emergency Housekeeper Scheme closed and a QCWA Rural Crisis Scheme implemented. Queensland Youth Orchestra/QCWA scholarship founded. Denham Street units opened in May.

2000

QCWA Piecemakers Committee and coordinator ratified at Non-Conference Council. Essay Competition added to Public Speaking Convenor's duties. Inaugural International Study Weekend held at 'The Lodge' in January. Rule Book and Constitution review commenced.

2001

Mallalieu Home Foundation Trust Scholarship awarded. Annual membership subscription \$24.20 including GST \$2.20 (\$2 held in Divisions). CWA of A President Marie Lally toured the State conducted 'Lally Rallies' as a Centenary of Federation project. ACWW 23rd World Conference in Hamilton, Ontario.

2002

80th birthday of QCWA. Country Stitches touring exhibition of QCWA handcraft. Photography competition started to mark the Year of the Outback; Convenor appointed.

2003

Due to major changes in State legislation all Aged Care facilities were reviewed. Conference decided QCWA would enter into a joint venture agreement with RSL Care to establish new facilities at Emu Park and Ipswich. 'Rawlins Court' Labrador sold. West Moreton Aged Care Home closed in September. CWA of A Conference in Brisbane. Mrs H (Myra) Pincott elected national president.

2004

State Aged Care Committee replaced by State Aged Care Advisory Group. 'Jubilee Gardens' Scarborough sold. 10 copies of *The Queensland Countrywoman* per annum (No publications in January and February). State Building Fund established to redevelop Ruth Fairfax House site on Gregory Terrace, Spring Hill. ACWW 24th World Conference held in Hobart.

2005

'The Lodge', Boundary St, Spring Hill sold. State Office moved into temporary headquarters at 'Gowrie' 63 Gregory Terrace, Spring Hill during the redevelopment. Changes made to criteria for UNAA/QCWA Award.

2006

International Study Weekend held in Rockhampton at RGGs. May Council held in Hervey Bay. RSL Care took over running of HMMH. Building of new RFH on Gregory Terrace commenced.

2007

RFH Committee established; RFH No. 3 officially opened by Governor Ms Quentin Bryce AC on Association's 85th Birthday. Gowrie, 63 Gregory Terrace sold in June, vacated August. Helena Mylne Memorial Home sold in July. International Study Weekend held in Clare, Burdekin. ACWW 25th World Conference held in Turku, Finland.

2008

ACWW South Pacific Area Conference held in Perth; Sunset Lodge closed and Sunset Ridge Aged Care co-badged with RSL Care opened.

2009

CWA of A Conference held in Shepparton. Mrs. Heather Wieland elected National President.

2010

ACWW 26th World Conference held in Hot Springs, Arkansas USA.

2011

ACWW South Pacific Area Conference held in Tonga. Significance Assessment of Archive Grant.

2012

To celebrate 90th Anniversary, *Nine Decades of Tea and Scones* promotion in Toowoomba; launch of *From Outback to the Sea Pictorial History of QCWA*.

2013

Community Service acknowledged by induction into Business Leaders Hall of Fame. ACWW 27th World Conference held in Chennai, India.

2013

The Country Kitchens Program commenced.

2014

ACWW South Pacific Area Conference held in Dubbo NSW. UNAAQLD Award received.

2015

Bunya Mountains building 'Clear View' opening.

2016

ACWW World Conference held in Warwick UK. Members voted to accept men as Friends of QCWA. QCWA became an Honorary Fellow at International House, University of Queensland.

2017

ACWW South Pacific Area Conference held in New Plymouth NZ. Sale of CWA House Oakey.

2018

Awarded the Queensland Greats Award. Members voted at Conference to sell Ruth Fairfax House on Gregory Terrace (89-95 Gregory Terrace, Spring Hill). 58.1% of Queensland is declared as drought stricken. The Queensland Government donated \$100,000 towards an appeal that raised over \$7M. The Public Rural Crisis Fund assisted more than 2,900 applicants with these funds.

2019

COVID-19 Global Pandemic declared. Many places throughout the country went into lockdown. Branch meetings and events were placed on hold.

2020 – QCWA accepted an offer of purchase for Ruth Fairfax House 89 – 95 Gregory Terrace, Spring Hill from Brisbane Girls Grammar School. Branch meetings and events recommenced with restrictions. Queensland rail pass for Board Members cancelled in the first term of the Palaszczuk Government reinstated.

2021

Settlement of the sale of Ruth Fairfax House on Gregory Terrace. New Ruth Fairfax House State Office purchased at 11 Cleveland Street, Stones Corner. COVID-19 vaccines developed in record time and roll out in Australia began in first part of the year. The purchase of Pembroke House for State Officers accommodation.