INSIDE:
This Mothers’ Day edition of Highway highlights the contributions of women to church and society and the awards presented to eight GUC members:

- Gems of Ku-ring-gai
- Seniors Festival Mayoral Awards
- OAM for David Brawn
“Sweater, n. A garment worn by a child when its mother is feeling chilly” – Ambrose Bierce, “The Devil’s Dictionary”

Highway wishes all GUC mothers a very Happy Mothers’ Day!!

We have all experienced the care, concern and devotion of a mother. Yes, with hindsight, we may have done some things differently. But who could question the love and care of a mother?

“A mother’s love for her child is like nothing else in the world. It knows no law, no pity; it dates all things and crushes down remorselessly all that stands in its path.” – Agatha Christie, “The Last Séance”

This edition of Highway focuses on mothers and on the contributions of women to church and society. For women are more than mothers. “Feminism is the radical notion [affirmed by Jesus] that women are people.” – Cheris Kramarae

Highway is proud to congratulate members of our congregation who have received various awards, both national and local. We have some extraordinary people in this congregation, both women and men. See pages 10 – 16.

Deadline for the August issue is

Rev Paul Swadling
Contents

May 2016

About Gordon Uniting Church.................................................. 4
About Sydney Covenant Uniting Church................................. 5
On the way together Rev Michael Barnes............................... 6
Meet Colleen Geyer, new Assembly General Secretary .......... 9
Gems of Ku-ring-gai ................................................................. 10
Seniors Festival Mayoral Awards ......................................... 13
Arthur David Brawn OAM......................................................... 14
Mothers’ Day Message ........................................................... 17
Sacred Places by Sue Conde...................................................... 18
A Daughter for Graham & Angela Balock .............................. 23
Facebook Post by Ku-ring-gai Mayor ................................... 24
February Breakfast Forum ....................................................... 25
GUC/SCUC Working Bee, 27 February ................................. 24
by Sue Conde........................................................................... 25
Christian Conference of Asia Facebook Post......................... 27
Thomas Edison’s Mother ......................................................... 28
Fighting for the Rights of All Women ..................................... 29
National Council of Women of Australia............................... 29
Three Mighty Women ............................................................ 31
Uniting Gordon Community Centre ....................................... 32 - 34
On the lighter side .................................................................. 35

Extending our Highway: Hillston to Clare to Ivanhoe
ABOUT GORDON UNITING CHURCH

We are growing and maturing Christians within an accepting, caring and open community.

Minister of the Word: Rev Michael Barnes
Administrator & Family Worker: Nicola Robinson
Church Council Chair: Lloyd Robinson
Church Council Secretary: Sue Conde
Community Centre Director: Sue Conde
Community Centre Chair: Rev Paul Swadling

The Highway Centre Office on the corner of the Pacific Highway & Cecil Street, Gordon NSW 2072 is open 9.30am to 1.00pm Monday to Friday.

Phone: (02) 9498 6729 Email: info@guc.org.au
Web: www.guc.org.au Community Centre: www.gucch.org.au

SUNDAY SERVICE TIME: 9.30am Morning Worship

MESSY CHURCH: 3rd Saturday each month, 4.30 – 6.30 pm

UNITING GORDON COMMUNITY CENTRE:

Playgroups on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9.30 – 11.30am during school term

Friday Program: Held during school terms. For times see pages 31 – 32.

Walking group, computer training, English for newcomers, watercolour painting, colouring in for adults, “wrap with love” knitting group, Mahjong, needlecraft, gardening, current affairs, stories in the courtyard, BBQ lunch.
SYDNEY COVENANT UNITING CHURCH

We are a Spiritual Church, a Healthy Church and a Growing Church.

Minister of the Word:
Rev Sunil Jeong

Youth Pastors:
Hyejung Shin & Eunhye Jeon
Mobile 0410 560 691
E-mail covenant95@gmail.com

On the corner of the Pacific Highway & Cecil Street, Gordon NSW 2072

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES
Sunday Worship: 12:30 pm
Young Adult Group: 3:00 pm
Sunday School: 3:00 pm

OTHER PROGRAMS
Wednesday Worship: 7:30 pm
Tuesday & Thursday Prayer Meeting: 8:00 pm
Cell Group Meeting: Friday 8:00 pm
ALPHA Seminar: Twice a Year
40 Days Prayer Meeting: July & August
Mission Field: Aborigine (Burke) and Indonesia (Noeraku)
On the way together
Rev Michael Barnes
I have been watching the final series of *Downton Abbey* recently. One of the recurring themes is the role and place of women in early 20th-century society. In a recent episode I watched, Lady Mary takes on the role of agent of the Grantham estate to the surprise of many, including Carson, the butler. Lady Edith writes columns for a magazine in London and eventually becomes the owner of the publication. Both women carved out roles that pushed beyond the traditional expectation of a good marriage and attending to local charities (Interestingly, the oft-honoured role of mother was delegated to a nanny.)

That struggle for recognition has continued throughout the 20th and early 21st centuries. Thankfully, much has changed. But much remains to be changed. The incidence of domestic violence in Australia (on average, more than one woman a week is killed by a partner or ex-partner) undermines any claim we might make to be a civilised and egalitarian society.

In our month of peace-making, you have heard me speak of the author, feminist, and pacifist, Vera Brittain. Throughout her adult life, she embraced the challenge of pursuing an independent career, as a writer, while being a ‘good wife’ to her husband, George Catlin. She was very sensitive to the fact that her high public profile sometimes cast him into the shadows.

Today, balancing these different demands is accepted as a normal part of life. Not so, 50 years ago. Vera Brittain was testing deeply-embedded cultural norms.
She was very aware of the personal cost of that pathway. She wrote to her daughter, Shirley Williams, ‘I should have proved a more effective person had I not been obliged to spend more time and energy learning to believe in myself and my purposes… that you, who have been spared that particular battle, will live to see women ascend to heights of achievement hitherto undreamed of…’

Indeed, as a community, we stand on the shoulders of pioneers who have gone before us.

And, as Vera Brittain noted, such pioneers had to face and deal very personally with the way that society moulded women in decades past to think less of themselves.

We find a similar struggle alluded to in the New Testament. The early Christian community practised an equality between men and women that was new, inspiring and, sadly, hard to sustain. In Galatians 3:28, we hear Paul proclaim, ‘In Christ, there is neither male nor female; all of you are one in Christ Jesus.’ Indeed, Jesus had modelled an unusual practice in the 1st century in that unescorted women followed him and provided for his disciples. (Luke 8:1-3; Luke also records that these women were present at the crucifixion. Luke 23: 49).

This practice, however, conflicted with prevailing social norms. Quite quickly, the early church adopted a modified form of gender equality. In Ephesians 5: 21-22 we read, ‘Be subject to one another... Wives, be subject to your husbands.’ Sadly, the early church could not sustain a simple equality of the genders. (While ascribed to Paul, this letter was more likely written by a disciple of Paul.)

The struggle for gender equality began two thousand years ago.

Thankfully, it was re-energised in the early 20th century, and the church has played a significant role in this struggle. (The Congregational church ordained women to the ministry in the 1920s. You can read more on this
at http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders/biogs/WLE0126b.htm) And the struggle continues.

I am so pleased that there are so many women role models in our church, locally and nationally. They contribute so much to the church, and they remind all of us of the critical importance of equality in a spiritually healthy, community of faith. May the church continue to lead the way!

Meet Colleen Geyer, new Assembly General Secretary

The 14th Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia appointed Ms Colleen Geyer as its incoming General Secretary.

Ms Geyer has taken over the reins from Rev. Terence Corkin, who stepped down from the position after fifteen years of service at the end of 2015.

Ms Geyer was previously the Director of Mission at UnitingCare Queensland and has held a range of significant positions including Director of Mission at BlueCare, Associate Director at UnitingCare Australia, Registrar of Coolamon College, and National Consultant for the Assembly Gospel and Gender Unit.

Ms Geyer was a member of the Executive Leadership Team of UnitingCare Queensland and the Governance Committee of the UnitingCare Queensland Board, as well as the Queensland Synod Chaplaincy Commission, Placements Committee, and Discipline Procedures Review Task Group.

Ms Geyer chaired the UnitingCare Queensland Human Research Ethics Committee, the UnitingCare Australia Ministry and Mission National Network, and the Board of Jabiru Community Youth and Children’s Services Association Inc. She has also been a member of the Pastoral and Spiritual Care of Older People (PASCOP) national board.

Ecumenically, Ms Geyer has been the Christian World Service Coordinator with Queensland Churches Together as well as a member of the Queensland Churches
Together Indigenous Peoples Partnership. She has also been a member of the Queensland Churches Environmental Network and the Roman Catholic/Uniting Church National Dialogue.

Retiring President Rev. Prof. Andrew Dutney said Ms Geyer emerged as a very clear preferred candidate who had a deep understanding of the vision, values and processes of the Uniting Church in Australia.

“She came with particular gifts for this time in the life of the Church – strong skills in the development and practice of governance… [and] strengths in areas of risk management and financial management and human resources,” he said.

By the end of the long decision-making process, the committee recognised Ms Geyer’s very strong sense of call to the position.

Ms Geyer said as she looked back over her vocation with the Uniting Church she felt an affinity toward the role.

“It makes sense of all that has come before – my gifts, my skills, my leadership, the relationships that I have built nationally and internationally, and the wisdom I have gained,” she said.

“During the interview process and the conversations we have had, my sense of call has deepened and been affirmed by others.”

Ms Geyer said she embraced the uniqueness of the Uniting Church as an authentic movement of God, and appreciated the Church’s commitment to working ecumenically in seeking unity and understanding with other churches.

“The Uniting Church has developed in me an understanding of my Australian identity and who I am in a country that doesn’t belong to my people of origin.

“It has provided me with an opportunity to meet, work with and journey with the First Peoples of this land, seeking always to be open to their wisdom.’’

Ms Geyer acknowledged that, in common with many parts of society, the Uniting Church faced an uncertain future.

“Statistics tell us we are changing, that our congregations and faith communities won’t look or be the same, that our services and our schools are facing strategic and sustainability challenges,” she said.

“Together, it is our responsibility to look to the future with the hope that is from God, and the realism that calls us to think about the new.”
So far this year, eight people from Gordon Uniting Church and/or the Uniting Gordon Community Centre have received significant awards. One of these is an Order of Australia and seven are from Ku-ring-gai Council for local community service. Six award winners are women. ‘Highway’ congratulates the winners and is proud to affirm that GUC, UGCC, the Gordon community and the wider Australian community are all beneficiaries of the community service performed by these eight people. The awards were presented in three categories. Editor

Gems of Ku-ring-gai

Flo Brawn, Sue Conde, Roslyn Rossettin, Rosemary Watson and Diana Wilkinson were among the thirty nine Gems of Ku-ring-gai who were presented to an admiring audience at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden on Wednesday 16 March. This celebration marked International Women’s Day. The Mayor, Cr Cheryl Szatow, welcomed guests and presented the awards.

**Flo Brawn** was recognised as a Gem of Ku-ring-gai for her work with our community centre, particularly the ‘Wrap with Love’ knitting group, and for her voluntary work at Northaven, the UCA aged care centre in Turramurra.

**Sue Conde AM** was recognised as a Gem through her work as the voluntary...
Director of the community centre – organiser/committee secretary/encourager – and her service on the Council of Knox Grammar School.

**Ros Rossettin** was recognised as a Gem for volunteering with the community centre and, in particular, for establishing the ‘Step by Step’ walking group in association with the community centre and the National Heart Foundation.

**Rosemary Watson** was recognised as a Gem for her work as a tutor for the community centre’s ‘Wrap with Love’ knitting group. With Bruce, Rosemary also initiated Friday’s sausage sizzle lunch and even provides dessert. Up to 40 people gather each Friday after their classes to enjoy fellowship over lunch.

**Di Wilkinson** was recognised as a Gem for her work as a tutor for the community centre’s English Conversation for Newcomers classes. Di has assisted many new residents in the area feel welcome and confident in speaking English.

Before the awards were presented by Mayor Cheryl Szatow, the gathering was entertained by The Good Friends Ladies Choir and the Swastik Institute of Dance Group. The choir is a non-profit group that raises funds for the poor in Tanzania,
Kenya, the Philippines and for Syrian refugees. The choir has a Christian ethos.

The Good Friends Ladies Choir

The Swastik Institute of Dance, a Sydney based fine arts temple, promotes Indian classical music and dance and performs for charities and community events.

Dancers from the Swastik Institute of Dance

The gathering also heard presentations by Aileen Mountifield and Bianka Costigan. Aileen has a community based chaplaincy role where she facilitates programs that support women who have experienced abuse. This work led Aileen to establish the Lisa Harum Foundation with the aim of supporting and educating women and families.
Bianka Costigan is a Central Coast mother of three whose passion to raise awareness about domestic violence has been driven by her own personal journey. Bianka sits on the Board of the Tara Costigan Foundation.

**Seniors Festival Mayoral Awards**

Each year the Council presents Seniors Festival Mayoral Awards to groups and individuals in Ku-ring-gai who have made outstanding contributions to the Ku-ring-gai community. An individual recipient must be an older person who is a resident or has undertaken the majority of his/her activity in Ku-ring-gai.

**Jean Smith** and **Bruce Kwong** each received a Seniors Mayoral Award on Thursday 3rd March at the Festival concert launch held in the Turramurra Uniting Church Hall. Jean was nominated by the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society for her work in assisting people with family history research. Bruce was nominated by Gordon Uniting Church for his work in assisting people to expand their computer skills. Highway is proud of you and pleased to congratulate you both!
On April 8\textsuperscript{th} the award of Order of Australia (General Division) was presented to David Brawn at Government House, Sydney. The presentation followed the announcement of this award on Australia Day. The OAM was presented to David for service to the community, principally through Rotary.

David is a member and strong supporter of Gordon Uniting Church, a member of the Church Council and a friend to many of us who call GUC our home church.
We are delighted to offer David our congratulations, our warm regards and our continuing friendship. Well done, good and faithful servant!

The services for which David received the Order of Australia include:

**Rotary International:**
Founding Member, Annual Rotary Charity Regatta, since 1994.
Secretary and Director, Ranfurly Book Aid Inc, Rotary Australia World Community Service, since 2004.
Treasurer, Rotary Club of Carlingford, 1986; Member, 1984-1988.

**Community:**
Member Church Council, Gordon Uniting Church, current, and Member Finance Committee, current, and Parishioner since 1987.

☐ On 13 February, in response to a request for information, David sent me the details below. I want to thank David for being prepared to share this information. When you read the details below, I am sure you will understand the motivation of David’s nominators and supporters and the reasons for the award of Order of Australia. Editor

David wrote, “I was advised in November 2015 that a nomination was being processed. I was invited to review information behind the nomination and to amend if necessary. I was told to keep all things confidential.

About three years ago Flo had been approached for information by two persons from my Rotary Youth Exchange task, a national 20+ years task with nervous/lost and troubled students. These two persons had also recruited me to the ‘Wrap with Love’ organising team and more recently a breakfast for homeless persons at the Margaret Street Presbyterian Church.

Flo had to nominate a politician who would know me and she could only think of Gordon Moyes. I could recognise his contribution on the draft nomination that I had received.

The Rotary Charity Regatta mentioned was an idea that I borrowed from a NZ Rotary club. It raised $75,000 in its first year and has raised well over $3,000,000.
for the Children’s Hospital Randwick in the twenty years since. We also provided ‘Seed Capital for a Safety of Lives at Sea' (SOLAS) project of the Cruising Yacht Club of Sydney. This is now a major world-wide addition to deep sea yachting events. We also set up a Rotary Sydney Cove Foundation that has over $1,000,000 capital with ongoing contributions looking for tax deductibility. It distributes $40/50,000 to charities annually.

I received confirmation of the award on my Birthday in mid-December.

In the final advice to me I was reminded of an embargo on the information. All media had the information ahead of the announcement.”
Happy Mothers’ Day!

June Swadling enjoying ‘sliders’ at Caffé Cherry Beans, St Ives Shopping Village. I love you, mum! Happy Mothers’ Day. Editor ☑️

Our MD message for all GUC Mothers!

Tick the box if you can read this. ☐
Sacred places


By Sue Conde

Before each Easter Experience performance, actors, kitchen staff and party room hosts gather in the church for prayer. On the 9th March Sue led the following devotional in preparation for that day’s performance. Editor

Jerusalem was a sacred place for the Jewish people. In the early books of the Old Testament we read about the kings of Jerusalem in the times of Abram and Joshua. All through the Bible we are familiar with references to Jerusalem and its significance for the Jewish people.

Isaiah 52 says, ‘O Jerusalem, the holy city… The Lord has redeemed Jerusalem’. Yesterday, 8th March, I attended an event celebrating International Women’s Day. A young Aboriginal woman spoke about the importance for young Indigenous people of knowing the stories of their ancestors, and she mentioned Professor Denis Foley – a custodian of the sacred places for the Aboriginal people in the Northern Beaches area. How fortunate we were last September during our Inter-Faith Month to walk with Denis through the bushland around Narrabeen, to learn from him the meaning of the rock carvings there, and to be aware that we were in a sacred place.
I’m reminded also of sacred places of Christianity that I have visited – Canterbury Cathedral, Iona, the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, and the history of these places which has made them sacred in our culture.

Sacred places give meaning to us. They become places that sustain life and nurture us.

Here at Gordon, The Easter Experience has provided an experience for young people for 18 years now. In that time I estimate that approximately 2,700 children have experienced the meaning of the Easter story, and I also estimate that over those years around 900 people have been involved as cast, kitchen team, those who build up and those who destroy Jerusalem after three days. Can we now come to regard our Jerusalem here at Gordon as a ‘sacred place’? Has it become a place that sustains life here and nurtures us?

I am full of admiration for the people of our congregation and now the people of our Village for the commitment for almost a generation (where a generation = 20 years) to this sacred place and experience. I believe this experience does indeed nurture us. We have heard Ravenswood girls in their senior years recall The Easter Experience and the impression that it has left with them. Each year we share what we have heard from the children as they go through the scenes of the Easter story. Each year we hear the children say that they have learnt something new and experienced something beyond what they had expected. Surely this is in the nature of the divine.
Sacred places are places where we can gather together as humans. Sacred places become places where human and the divine can combine and connect. We may find fear, we may find joy. There may be many experiences, but I pray for our community that we will continue to value our sacred place of Jerusalem here each year, as we provide a place which will sustain and nurture young people for hopefully another generation to come.

Prayer

*(based on a prayer for justice and peace, Iona Abbey Worship Book)*

Saviour Christ,
you came into a holy place
and read the sacred word
about sight for blind folk and freedom for prisoners.
Come to this place now.
May we treasure our sacred places.
Here may your story come alive again today
so that the eyes of the children are opened.
Help us to see the world as it is,
and as it could be;
till the yearnings of ordinary people are taken seriously,
and the visions of the young are valued,
and the potential of the old is released;
till your kingdom is celebrated everywhere,
and your church is good news to the poor.
Amen.
Mayor Cheryl Szatow

The Mayor of Ku-ring-gai, Cheryl Szatow, posted the following comment and photos on her Facebook page:

Last week I was pleased to meet with Reverend Sunil Jeong and members of Gordon Uniting Church and receive their donation of 100 First Aid Kits for the Ku-ring-gai Refugee Welcome Pack Appeal. The money for the First Aid Kits was raised by generous contributions from Gordon Uniting Church and Sydney Covenant Uniting Church who serve the Korean community in Gordon.

The Mayor presented certificates of appreciation to Gordon Uniting Church and Sydney Covenant Uniting Church. This was followed by afternoon tea.

Editor
Breakfast Forum Saturday 20\textsuperscript{th} February

By Bruce Kwong

On Saturday 20\textsuperscript{th} February, Roy Williams spoke at a GUC Breakfast Forum on the topic of his latest book, “Is Australia a Post-God Nation?”

Roy Williams is recognised as one of Australia’s emerging public intellectuals. His non-fiction book reviews have appeared regularly in The Weekend Australian since 2006. He writes and speaks knowledgeably about a wide range of subjects including politics, history, science, sociology, sport, law and religion.


In his second book, “\textbf{In God They Trust?}”, Roy examined the religious beliefs of Australia’s Prime Ministers since Federation.

Roy's latest book, “\textbf{Post-God Nation?}”, published in May last year, explains how Christianity shaped Australia but then fell off the radar … and what might be done to get it back on.

As part of the favourable critical response to the book, Roy was invited to deliver the annual Smith Lecture in Sydney in November 2015.

Roy’s talk covered three areas:

1. The vital and under-appreciated role played by Christianity - the churches and individual Christians - in shaping Australia since 1788;
2. The reasons for the decline of Christianity in Australia since Federation and especially since the 1970s - the “Secular Juggernaut”;
3. What might be done to revive Christianity in Australia.
Writing is Roy’s second career. His first was as a lawyer. He won the Sydney University Medal in 1986 and spent twenty years in the legal profession at Australia’s oldest and most eminent firm, Allens Arthur Robinson.

Roy left law in late 2004 when he was stricken by a life-changing illness. Now 52, he lives in Sydney and is married to Sally.

Many of you may of course recognise Roy, as for a number of years now he has been cast as one of the Jesus’ or Jesii in Gordon Uniting’s annual “Easter Experience”.

A Daughter for Graham and Angela Baldock

On Tuesday 16 February Graham Baldock, former GUC youth worker, released the following news:

“Angela, Hanna and I are proud to announce the safe arrival of Emily Joan Baldock, born at 12:12pm. Mum did great and big sister seems pretty happy.”

Congratulations and best wishes from all Highway readers! GUC wishes Emily Joan God’s richest blessings! A future NCWA Australia Day award winner?
GUC/SCUC Working Bee, Sat 27 February
Photos by Andrew Cripwell
Who Keeps the Peace?

By Sue Conde

We’ve just celebrated Anzac Day, and once again we have honoured those who have made sacrifices, we have paused to take time to remember those who gave their lives so that we may live in a free Australia. This year we have also been reminded of the peacemakers – those who are often forgotten, but whose deeds and actions are more important than ever in this, the 21st century, when it often seems that we are reluctant to learn from past experiences of conflict.

Women are powerful agents for peace. Let us learn about and acknowledge some women who have made a difference and have received international recognition for the work that they have done. Many times the people who are the peacemakers receive little credit for the significant contribution that they have made to end conflict and bring a new era of peace for their communities and their country. Let's take, for example, the three women awarded the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkul Karman.

**Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**, Africa's first democratically elected female president, helped secure peace in Liberia, promote economic and social development, and strengthen the position of women.

**Leymah Gbowee** mobilised and organised women across ethnic and religious dividing lines to bring an end to the long war in Liberia and secure women's participation in elections.

**Tawakkul Karman** played a leading part in the struggle for women's rights, democracy and peace in Yemen. She co-founded the human rights group Women Journalists Without Chains (WJWC) with seven other female journalists in 2005 in order to promote human rights, "particularly freedom of opinion and expression and democratic rights."

The priorities which women raise in relation to peace and the development of peace agreements extend beyond territorial issues or power struggles. Often it is women who are able to identify the root cause of the conflict, and as such are better able to facilitate meaningful resolution. We may feel that the issues that these three women faced are a long way from our life here in Australia, however
global issues are increasingly having an impact on us. We can’t ignore them.

But it’s not just in areas of conflict that women are making a difference.

Take the time to explore the UnitingWorld website (http://www.unitingworld.org.au/about/relief-and-development/relief-and-development-programs/partnering-women-for-change/), and read there about the ‘Partnering With Women for Change’ program that is operating in several Pacific nations. This program is focusing on the strength of women to identify and address key development challenges in their own countries and communities, such as lack of access to economic resources, a limited role in community decision making and vulnerabilities to gender based violence. To empower women as agents of change in families and communities across the Pacific is a core aim of the program. These women will have the capacity to be peacemakers by resolving conflict in their communities where they are able to share in the decision-making on an equal basis alongside men.

Let’s support Australia’s development programs. It has never been more important to ensure that women's voices are heard and that women are included as active participants in all aspects of the lives of their communities, and especially in peace processes.
Matthews George Chunakara, General Secretary of the Christian Conference of Asia, posted the following story on his Facebook page:

Meet the Defence Ministers of Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands and Germany. These aren’t the wives of powerful European leaders. They themselves are some of the most powerful leaders in Europe and Scandinavia. This is what progress looks like.

Allow me to introduce you to the Defence Ministers of Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Germany.

Ine Eriksen Sreide (Norway), Karin Enstrm (Sweden), Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert (Netherlands) and Ursula von der Leyen (Germany)
At a security conference in Munich, politicians from around the world gathered together. When Belgium’s male Defence Minister spotted these four ladies sitting together, he snapped this photo. A Tweet by Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert – the Dutch Defence Minister – with the photo quickly went viral.

Hennis-Plasschaert told The Guardian:

“[The Dutch politician] Neelie Kroes once said to me that old boys’ networks are the oldest form of cartels we have in Europe. She was right, but things are changing, and women can do similar things now.”

Comment from the Highway Editor: The current Australian Minister for Defence is Senator the Hon Marise Payne (pictured). So, that makes at least five Defence Ministers who are women. The times certainly are a-changing.

---

**Thomas Edison’s Mother**

One day, Thomas Edison came home and gave a paper to his mother. He told her, “My teacher gave this paper to me and told me to only give it to my mother.”

His mother’s eyes were tearful as she read the letter out loud to her child: "Your son is a genius. This school is too small for him and doesn’t have enough good teachers for training him. Please teach him yourself."

After many, many years, after Edison’s mother died and he was now one of the greatest inventors of the century, one day he was looking through old family things. Suddenly he saw a folded paper in the corner of a drawer in a desk. He took it and opened it up. On the paper was written: "Your son is addled [mentally ill]. We won’t let him come to school any more."

Edison cried for hours and then he wrote in his diary: “Thomas Alva Edison was an addled child that, by a hero mother, became the genius of the century.”

---
The photo above returns us to the days of the suffragettes. What courageous, forward looking, risk taking, enterprising people.

National Council of Women of Australia

Australia was one of the earliest countries to join the International Council of Women (ICW), the world’s oldest international women’s organisation. NCWA is a member of the Asia Pacific Regional Council of ICW.

For nearly 120 years National Council members have been making a difference in Australia. NCW New South Wales was started in 1896. With our roots in the anti-slavery movement, it wasn’t just about ’getting the vote’ for women - it is about achieving equity and security across all endeavours of life in Australia.

NCWA is a national non-government umbrella organisation with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives, which seeks to raise the awareness of women and girls to their rights and responsibilities as citizens and to encourage
the participation of women in all aspects of community life. We work with, and across all sectors, to identify and bring about change to ensure that there is equity and security for all in Australia.

Nancy Berg OAM and Nola Barkl from the National Council of Women (NSW) with the 2015 National Council of Women Australia Day Awards winners

Neither women nor girls, nor indeed any human being, is a ‘good’ or chattel of another human being and should never be denied their human rights. NCWA links NCW groups across Australia, each with diverse affiliates, in a federal structure and provides a forum for considered debate on policy matters brought forward by the constituent Councils. We also accept National Affiliates - subject to meeting eligibility criteria.

Singly, and in alliances, NCWA works for improved conditions for women and their families, especially the most vulnerable. In the ACT, NSW, Qld, SA, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia members maintain an active program of seminars, conferences, consultations, submissions, publications, advocacy and activism. We try to identify the structural impediments to equity and security and then work to address those issues. You may notice something different about us - we do not fundraise (this is done by some of our affiliated organisations for their worthy causes) ...although contributions are gratefully accepted. We want/need your intellectual input, ideas and energy.
The State/Territory National Councils of Women welcome both individual and affiliate/group memberships. Whether you are part of a women’s organisation or an individual you are invited to contact the relevant State and Territory Councils to discuss membership. Contact details are in the ‘contact us’ section or go to their own sites by using the links on the menu.

There is still work to do!

Three Mighty Women

The three women pictured in this incredible photograph from 1885 -- Anandibai Joshi of India, Keiko Okami of Japan, and Sabat Islambouli of Syria -- each became the first licensed female doctors in their respective countries. The three were students at the Women’s Medical College of Pennsylvania; one of the only places in the world at the time where women could study medicine.

As Mallika Rao writes in HuffPost, "If the timing doesn't seem quite right, that's understandable. In 1885, women in the U.S. still couldn't vote, nor were they encouraged to learn very much. Popular wisdom decreed that studying was a threat to motherhood." Given this, how did three women from around the world end up studying there to become doctors? The credit, according to Christopher Woolf of PRI's The World, goes to the Quakers who "believed in women’s rights enough to set up the WMCP way back in 1850 in Germantown."

Woolf added, "It was the first women’s medical college in the world, and immediately began attracting foreign students unable to study medicine in their home countries. First they came from elsewhere in North America and Europe, and then from further afield. Women, like Joshi in India and Keiko Okami in Japan, heard about WMCP, and defied expectations of society and family to travel independently to America to apply, then figure out how to pay for their tuition and board...

Besides the international students, it also produced the nation’s first Native American woman doctor, Susan LeFlesche, while African Americans were often students as well. Some of whom, like Eliza Grier, were former slaves."
Uniting Gordon Community Centre

Website:  www.gucc.org.au

OUR VISION
The Uniting Gordon Community Centre is an activity hub which includes people of all ages and cultures, enabling them to pursue interests and ideas, as they walk beside each other exploring the meaning of life in our changing community.

Fridays in Term 2, 2016
Each Friday from 24 April – 19 June from 9am – 1.30pm we offer the programs set out on the following page.

ENQUIRIES:  Sue Conde – phone 9449 2107 or sue@guc.org.au
Office Phone: 9498 6729, Website:  www.gucc.org.au

ENROLMENT FEES:
Enrol for the whole term any Friday morning or attend on a casual basis

Computer Classes:  $65 per term, includes all printed notes
Watercolour Painting: $65 per term, includes printed material
Other Classes:    $45 per term for one or more classes or
All classes: $8 per week if paid on a casual basis

2016 TERM DATES:
Term 2: Fridays 24 April – 19 June
Term 3: Fridays 17 July – 11 September
Term 4: Fridays 9 October – 4 December

NEW CLASSES:
We would be happy to offer a Jigsaw Puzzle group – with a lending library of puzzles – or a Scrabble group, or Gardening group … Or you may have other suggestions.

Please get in touch with us if you or your friends are interested in getting a new group started.
### Uniting Gordon Community Centre: Term 4 Program

**Friday 24 April – 19 June, 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Class or Group</th>
<th>Leader/s</th>
<th>Group Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00-10.00</td>
<td>Step by Step Walking Group</td>
<td>Roslyn Rossettin</td>
<td>Meet in car park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00-10.00</td>
<td>Computers</td>
<td>Bruce Kwong</td>
<td>Stage in Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00-10.00</td>
<td>English Conversation for Newcomers</td>
<td>Kerry Blight &amp; Diana Wilkinson</td>
<td>Blue Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.30-12.30</td>
<td>Watercolour Painting &amp; Drawing</td>
<td>Jeanie Atkinson</td>
<td>Red Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.30-12.30</td>
<td>Adult Colouring-In</td>
<td>Jeanie Atkinson</td>
<td>Red Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00-10.30</td>
<td><strong>MORNING TEA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kitchen servery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00-12.30</td>
<td>Mahjong</td>
<td>Shirley Morley</td>
<td>Room 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00-12.30</td>
<td>‘Wrap with Love’ Knitting group</td>
<td>Flo Brawn &amp; Rosemary Watson</td>
<td>Red Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00-12.30</td>
<td>Needlecraft</td>
<td>Lesley Meldrum</td>
<td>Church foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.15-12.30</td>
<td>Computers</td>
<td>Bruce Kwong</td>
<td>Stage in Main Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.10-11.10</td>
<td>Current Affairs</td>
<td>Michael Barnes</td>
<td>Main Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.15-12.15</td>
<td>Stories in the Courtyard</td>
<td>Paul Swadling</td>
<td>Courtyard or Main Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30pm</td>
<td><strong>BBQ LUNCH IN THE COURTYARD</strong></td>
<td>Bruce &amp; Rosemary Watson &amp; their talented BBQ team</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Classes subject to alteration**

Child minding available for English Conversation Group
# Events in Second Term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AUSTRALIA’S BIGGEST MORNING TEA</strong></td>
<td>Supporting the NSW Cancer Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Week 5 - Friday, 27 May at 10 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We invite you to ‘bring a plate’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>for our special Morning Tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tax deductible receipts are available for donations on the day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RESPECT FOR SENIORS</strong></td>
<td>‘Wear Purple Day’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Week 7 - Friday, 10 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A celebration of ageing in which</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>older people’s individual, collective and lifelong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>contributions to our society are recognised and honoured.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SALES TABLE</strong></td>
<td>For our charity - Lindara Family Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>on Friday, 13 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Would your class or group like to manage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the Sales Table this term?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Please let Sue know if you can help.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PARKING ON FRIDAY MORNINGS</strong></td>
<td>We are sorry that we can offer only limited parking on Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>mornings. Please remember that you need a ‘parking permit’ to park in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the carpark – see Sue or Marie – and display your permit on the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>dashboard of your car.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On the lighter side...

16 years into the 21st century...

...some things have changed!

Others have their traditions!

"It's a pickle jar, Tom... Twist the lid, not scripture."