INNER WHEEL AUSTRALIA MAGAZINE

November 2026, Issue 127

Grow & Flourish
International Inner Wheel theme
2026-2027







Inner Wheel Australia

Executive Committee

President	Yvonne Romp
Vice President	Monique Maunder
Immediate Past President	Clare Swaan
Secretary	Sharon Lawrence
Treasurer	Tricia Cuming

Elected Officer

Editor	Christine Wickes

Appointed Officers

Constitution Chairman	Karen Winters
National Project Officer	Erica Peck
Merchandise Officer	Cheryl Leddy
Media Administrator	Alwyn Williams
Directory Editor	Suze Rogashoff
Badge Officer	Pauline Barrett
Returning Officer	Karen McKenzie
Public Officer	Lorraine Hyde



International Inner Wheel President

Ingelog Wyndhamn

(Sweden)

International Inner Wheel Board Director

Julie Brzozowski

(FNQ Tablelands)

National Representative

Clare Swaan

(Norwest)

IWA President Yvonne's thoughts



The conference in Maroochydore is over and what a fabulous conference it was. So many wonderful speakers who are doing so much in the community helping and supporting so many projects. Many tears appeared when Mark Forbes was telling us all about EndED. I must admit I was very unaware of the extent of what an eating disorder really meant and how you can recognise the markers from a young age.

At the opening ceremony we met the Mayor of Maroochydore Roseanna Natoli & also heard from MP Fiona Simpson who not only talked to us about her time in Council she also led us in singing our National Anthem, a lady of many talents!

Ashton Wood from DV Safe phones explained how valuable these clean phones can be to a victim/survivor of domestic violence. These phones are passed on to supporting agencies who then pass them on to the victims/survivors.

Jacqui Deane from Stemm, & Elisha, wow that was a story to hear about our very young mums trying to balance school & early motherhood by themselves. Such wonderful support they receive from Jacqui and her Stemm foundation.

Without these wonderful people behind all these things where would it all be, so many people would not survive without this help. My heart goes out to them all for the work they are doing. What great projects we can look into for future projects.

Speaking of Projects, it was fabulous to be able to hand over another three grants this year to the 3 cord blood grant recipients. Unfortunately, both Professor Richard D'Andrea & Dr Patrick Connerty could not be in attendance to receive their awards in person, but we were honoured to meet Dr Sara Chiaretti, who was in attendance and joined us for our 'Touch of Elegance' Gala Dinner.

The Gala Dinner, how elegant did you all look, fantastic, our members as usual go to so much effort to dress to the themes. What about the 'Touch of Magic. The room was filled with Witches & fairies, such magical costumes and such a wonderful close to the Conference.

Apart from the fun events, there was so much more going on everyday. The Ladies who looked after you all in the house of friendship did not stop working over these few days. They welcomed all our members and had so many beautiful items their trading tables. Our National Project Coordinator Erica Peck and her wonderful helpers were there with 3 tables of beautiful items and I believe the stall made quite a good profit from all the goodies supplied by our members. The Conference Trade table was also very successful with a different range of beautiful items and thank you to Chery Leddy & all her fabulous workers. District A77 Members were all over the place working in Registration, greeting, ushering and more. I can't thank you all enough.

A Conference cannot happen without a team of hardworking members, and we certainly had that this year. Leeanne Ballinger, Coordinator & Karen Winters as secretary, along with Christine Bush as assistant Coordinator, Lyn Papa as Treasurer & Betty Hay as Registrar, what a wonderful, connected team. To work alongside them was more than a pleasure, with regular monthly zoom meetings and two face to face meetings and I think hundreds of emails it all came together.

Cont.

I cannot thank all these ladies enough. I also must thank Karen Winter for the beautiful decorations she made for each event and the beautiful candle lovingly put together by Karen representing the IIW President Ingelog's garden including the three friendship roses.

One of the highlights for me was witnessing our very deserving and much-loved member, Judith Banks, receive her Margarette Golding Award. It was such a special and heartwarming moment to see Judith recognised for her dedication, generosity and commitment to helping others. Judith has devoted so much of her life to volunteering and supporting a wide range of organisations, giving so generously of her time, energy and compassion. It was truly wonderful to see her selfless contribution acknowledged and celebrated in such a meaningful way. A very well-deserved honour for a truly special person!

What about our Western Wheelers! Sometimes, I think we don't truly appreciate just how much talent, passion and dedication we have within our Clubs.

Along with all the fantastic festivities, our Executive had a very busy few days, attending numerous meetings both before and during the Conference. I'm pleased to say we covered a wide range of important topics, many of which will be shared with our members through your Council Members and District Chairmen.

As I reflect on this year as IWA President, I feel truly humbled and incredibly proud of our wonderful members. It was so lovely to see so many of you attend the Conference, get involved, share a laugh and enjoy everything it had to offer. It was also wonderful to have nine of our NZ friends & two husbands join with us for the fun.

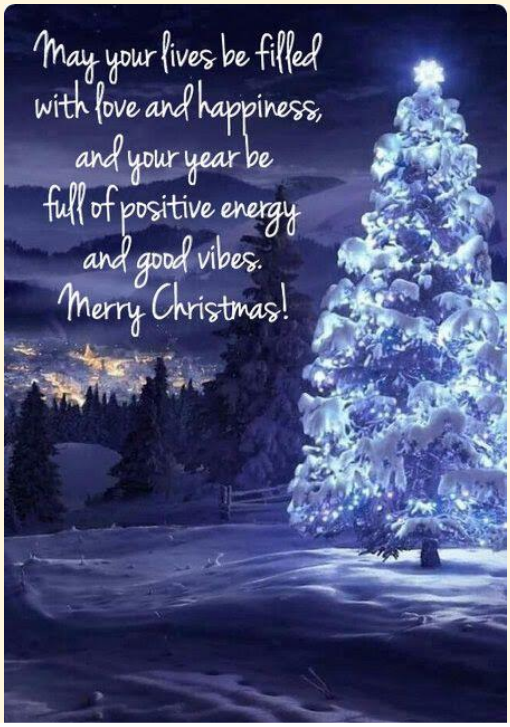
I hope you all carried home some beautiful memories, new friendships and plenty of happy moments to look back on as you enjoy the rest of your year. Thank you all for being part of such a special Conference and for making it so memorable. 💗

In Friendship and wishing you an early Christmas

Yvonne Romp

IWA President 2026 -2027







Inner Wheel Australia

58th Annual Conference

Maroochydore



Thursday 14th – 17th October 2026











Day 1 We registered, we perused the merchandise and we purchased raffle tickets and all while we caught up with old friends. After a twelve month wait the Conference had begun.





Day 2

Meet and Greet

For some the day started early with the Governing Body Meeting.

















President Yvonne welcomed us all to the Conference and guests enjoyed the opportunity to mingle and reconnect with fellow members with friendly conversations throughout the room.

Day 3

The Opening Ceremony



The flowers represented this year's international logo.



MC Susan Chisholm



IWA Council Member Lyn Papa lit the flame.



International Board Director Julie Brzozowski read a message from IIW and declared the Conference open.











IWA Conference banner

The Banner Parade

















Guest speaker, State Member for Maroochydore, Fiona Simpson, gave us an insight into what it is like to be a woman parliamentarian. We were amazed to find that she is the longest sitting member and as such should be known as the mother of the house.

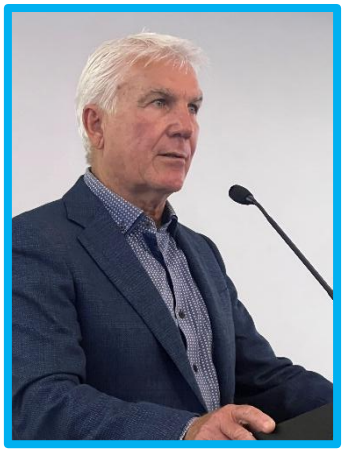


The Mayor of the Sunshine Coast, Rosanna Natoli, welcomed us to the area and after explaining some of the varies attractions that can be enjoyed in the area told us about the preparations that are occurring ahead of the 2032 Olympic Games in Brisbane.



Fiona ably led us all in a rousing rendition of the National Anthem.





Mark Forbes, the founder of endEd shocked us all when he talked about the foundation. Mark, and his wife had formed to help individuals and families affected by eating disorders. The statistics are alarming! Their story is one of resilience, generosity and the belief that community can change lives.



IWA Council Member Joan Grist concluded the session by extinguishing the Flame of Friendship.

Afternoon Day 3

The Forum



President Yvonne ran a forum covering several topics.



Margaret Whitchurch lit the flame for the afternoon session.



Karen Winters spoke on the value of Facebook.



Alwyn Williams gave a presentation on Media.





Tracy O'Laughlin spoke on 'Orange the World'.



Judy Degnan shared her insights on Membership.



Clare Swaan spoke on Scholarships.



Leeanne Ballinger led a group discussing how to keep our Clubs strong.



Margaret Sansom showed off the new IWA travel outfit.

At the Touch of Elegance Gala dinner;

Day 3
Gala Dinner







CM A53 Robyn White lit the flame.



Karen Grantham said the Objects.



Sharon Lawrence read the roll call.

We were entertained by Kim Kirkman.



We toasted our IW friends with Dianne & Arthur Allen.



Barbara Howells proposed the toast to the King.



We were welcomed by IWA President Yvonne Romp.

Three Cord Blood Grants were awarded.



Dr Sara Chiaretti



Dr Patrick Connerty



Professor Richard D'Andrea

We had many happy winners.



















At the end of proceedings Lyn Stansbury Extinguished the flame.

There were lots of elegant ladies and …



….debonair men.

Day 4
The Business Session






All was in readiness, the timekeepers were in place, so President Yvonne opened the meeting and called on Judith Banks to light the Flame of Friendship.







The following is an abridged version of the application sent in.

Helping those less fortunate than herself has been a life-long commitment for Judith Banks. On her eleventh birthday, she joined the Girl Guides, and she has upheld the Guiding purpose, service to the community to the fullest, ever since. Her dedication to helping others has continued throughout a rich and varied lifetime of service. In 1958, when she was just eighteen years old, she began assisting Liverpool Guide leaders to take girls from the East Hills Migrant Centre on hikes and outings. As an adult volunteer, she continued to work with the organisation, attaining the position of Captain of 1st Wentworthville Guides, she worked closely with Guides with special needs, ensuring they could participate fully in camps and outings. In 1996, Judith was recognised for her service to Guiding and was presented with the Boronia Award

The Parents and Citizens Committee at Hoxton Park Primary School was another organisation Judith demonstrated extensive commitment and support. She remained an active member of the committee from the early 1960s until the 1990s. She was awarded lifetime membership at Hoxton Park Primary School in recognition of her service and dedication.

Judith was also a member of the Waratah Slimmers Club for over thirty-three years. Beginning as a small club in Kemps Creek, it expanded to include more than thirty clubs across New South Wales ,where members met weekly to discuss weight loss and wellbeing.

The Quota Club focuses on supporting disadvantaged women, children, and those with speech and hearing impairments. Judith actively supported the Quota Club of Liverpool and their fundraising efforts. In recognition of her lifetime of selfless service and devotion to others in the community she was awarded the Quota Citizen of the Year Award in 1997.

Judith was an active member of Meals on Wheels, supporting the organisation since the late 1970s when she delivered meals to those in need.

Liverpool Council has twice recognised Judith's dedication to her local community. In 2009, she was awarded the Officer of the Order of Liverpool in recognition of her community service to her local area. In 2018, she was again honoured, being presented with the Companion of the Order of Liverpool for fifteen years of continued service.

Judith has maintained a lifelong commitment to serving her community, committed to quietly improving the lives of others while also running a successful chicken farming business with her husband, Ted. She cares deeply about the welfare of others.



Christine Bush recited the Objects.



President Yvonne welcomed everyone.



Secretary Sharon announced the apologies and coducted the roll call.
This was followed by the Rose Ceremony presented by Alwyn Williams.

Rose Ceremony



Lil Pratt



Ann Watts



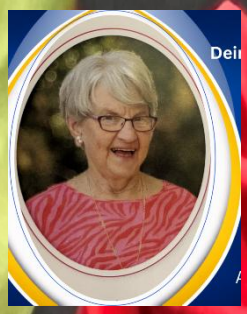
Ann Gibbs



Doris Earnshaw



Jean Byars



Deirdre Russell OAM



Jacquin Herschel



Jan Madden



Libby Lord



Elsie Gearside



Margaret Vincent



Naomi Flint



Mary Bertoldo



Iris Hermenn



Joan Morrow



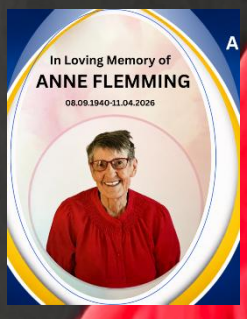
Wendy Heagney



Helen McBain



Lorraine Barker



Anne Flemming



Yuliya Kosenkova



Lois Hateley



Sheila Ward



Wanda Tresidder



Carol Porter OAM



Deb Harvey



Julia Murray



Suzanne Crook



Daphne Darvenzia



Kay Galipo



Lena Graham



Helene Laws



Beverly Vincent



Laurel Charles



Bettie Small



Janet Knowles



Judy Speer



Day 4 Annual General Meeting







Media Administrator Alwyn thanked the White Ladies for the generous donation of the red roses.

As usual the Annual General Meeting was brief. Treasurer Patricia Cuming read the Financial Report and Past President Clare Swaan read her Annual Report for 2025/26. Robyn Gillespie was awarded the President's Award for her commitment to Inner Wheel, special mention was made of her help with the charter of the Canberra Club. Positions were then ratified and the meeting closed.



Ashton Wood, founder of DV Safe Phones, shocked us all when he informed us about the amount of domestic violence within Australia. His team is committed to ensuring that every call for help is heard. They give away around 400 rejuvenated phones every week. We had about 260 to give him, just a drop in the ocean with what he needs.



Following the Executive and Editor's reports, other reports were read.



Leanne Ballinger - Conference Chairman



Erica Peck –National Project Coordinator



A40 DC Pam Walker.



A50 Janet Powell



A53 DC Barbara Edge



A54 DC Tonianne Hawthorne



A55 DC Maree Pollock



A60 CM Lyn Stansbury



A61 DC Jo Van Maanen



A62 CM Judy Degnan



A70 DC Marilyn Armstrong



A76 DC Chris Reminton



A77 DC Christine Bush



Conference Coordinator Leanne Ballinger read the Grace.



Guest Speaker, Jacqui Deane, founder and Coordinator of the STEMM Program (Supporting Teenagers Education, Mothering and Mentoring) explained how she saw the need for such a program and then through great persistence developed it to the program it is today. She then introduced a young mother who had been through the Program. Today she is married, has a university degree and owns and runs a number of businesses. Wow what inspirational women!





Allwyn Williams, Pakenham Member from District A62 then spoke on her aspirations and why she nominated for the position of IWA Vice President for 2027 – 2028.





It was then time to introduce next year's Conference and to hand over the Conference banner to 2027 Conference Secretary Sharon Lawrence.



Constitution Chairman Karen Winters extinguished the flame.

Day 4

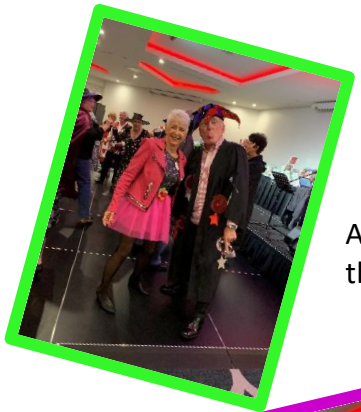
Friendship Dinner Dinner



Ann Mason lit the flame and the party began.













We were entertained by the Western Wheelers dancing to Grease.



CONFERENCE 2027 NEWS ARTICLE.

Pack your bags, polish your conference badge and start practising your conference wave... Fremantle the place to be by the sea.



Affectionately known as "Freo" by locals, Fremantle is a city with a unique charm all its own. Nestled on the shores of the Indian Ocean at the mouth of the Swan River, it is renowned for its heritage architecture, maritime history, thriving arts scene and relaxed coastal atmosphere



Visitors will be captivated by the city's streets lined with beautifully preserved nineteenth-century buildings, many of which form part of Fremantle's internationally recognised heritage precinct. From lively cafés and boutique shopping to colourful markets and waterfront dining, there is something to delight every visitor.



The beautiful port city of Fremantle will host our 2027 Inner Wheel Conference. Famous for its vibrant atmosphere and stunning coastal location, "Freo" provides the perfect setting for us all to come together.

Of course, the real highlight will be the friendship, fellowship and fun that make every Inner Wheel gathering so special. But while you're there, why not take a trip to Rottnest Island and meet the famous quokkas? They may be Western Australia's happiest residents and, unlike some conference delegates, they're always ready for a photo!
Join us in Fremantle in 2027, where friendships will flourish, the sea breeze is free, and the memories will be priceless.

VOLUNTEERS AFTER A 3-HOUR MEETING



"We solved one problem, created three new committees, and somehow volunteered for two more jobs."

When God was creating Western Australia.
He made the Kimberley and said, "This will be spectacular."
He made the Margaret River region and said, "This will be beautiful."
Then, He made Fremantle and said, "I'd better put the Dockers here to keep everyone humble." 😄 💜 ⚓

2027 Conference Secretary Shazzie

Freemantle- The place to be by the sea in 2027

ORANGE THE WORLD

25 November – 10 December

A brighter, safer future for women and girls.

INNER WHEEL UNITE IN ACTION
HER SAFETY OUR PRIORITY



Australian Parliament House illuminated last year.

Orange the World is our opportunity to raise awareness, start conversations and inspire action to end violence against women and girls.

This year we are encouraging every Inner Wheel Club to take part, whether through a large community event or one simple action.

Every Club can make a difference.

OUR 4 THEMES

INCLUSION OF MEN & BOYS



Engaging men & boys as allies.

REACHING BEYOND INNER WHEEL



Invite & engage others in the events.

EDUCATION ON RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS



Practices from early childhood to adolescence.

COLLABORATION



Collaborate in events for the local community.



Inner Wheel ladies & DV Safe Phones

WHAT COULD YOUR CLUB DO?

- Organise a Walk /Run
- Hold a Morning Tea
- Order and wear an OtW shirt
- Partner with a school / club
- Orange Cupcakes
- Host a Respectful Relationships activity
- Collect and donate phones

Facebook | IW For Her Safety

Instagram | IW Orange the World

YouTube | Inner Wheel Her Safety

WhatsApp | Orange the World

GET INVOLVED – IT'S EASY.

Put your event on the worldwide map.



Let's turn Australia orange

Include Men, Reach Beyond, Collaborate, Educate

Break the silence.
End the violence.

Inner Wheel Australia - National Project

Cord Blood Research

Our exciting news is the release of our new logo. IP Australia has finally informed the IWA Executive, that our trademark application has been accepted.

New shirts are being designed with the logo on it, and we are currently looking for sponsorship to create some new merchandise with this fabulous logo emblazoned on it.

'Maroochy Magic'

The 58th Annual IWA Conference - Maroochydore Queensland

What an amazing conference! Thank you to the hard work of the organizing committee and local clubs. The Cord Blood Research Trading table was full of wonderful stock, that was brought in from near and far. Thank you to all the IWA members, that put hours of work creating such adorable items. Thank you to all the IWA Cord Blood Coordinators for their inspiration and hard work.

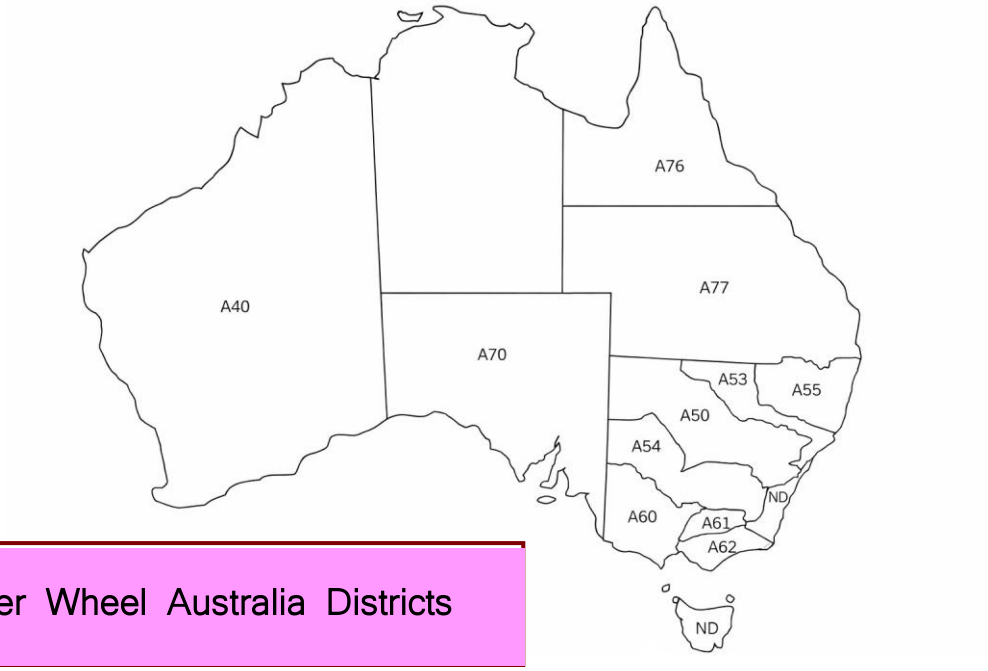












Inner Wheel Australia Districts

Like us on Facebook

www.innerwheelaustralia.org.au

Containers for Change Deposit Scheme





