



**Australia Day**

*Australia Day Council of New South Wales*



*National Council of Women NSW*

*1896 – 2015*

*Celebrating 119 years of women's achievements and  
contributions to society*

***Australia Day Awards***

**2015**

***Award Recipients and Sponsors***

*Awards presented by*

***Nancy Serg OAM***

*Maltese Community Leader in NSW*

*at the*

***'Celebrate Being an Australian' Australia Day Luncheon***

***The Strangers' Dining Room***

***Parliament House, Sydney***

## ***From the President***

### ***National Council of Women of New South Wales***

#### ***Nola Barkl***

For many years, through the institution of these Australia Day Awards, our Council has encouraged women to undertake further studies, which eventually lead to the elevation of the role of women in society.

The individual studies of the chosen awardees range across a wide field in accordance with the preference of their sponsors whom I thank for their generous support. I would also thank the respective universities for their help in nominating students who fulfil the requirements of our criteria.

When you read through the profiles in this booklet, I know you will share my pleasure that we have been able to assist fourteen diligent and talented women to further their studies. On behalf of the Council, I congratulate each one on being selected to receive one of our 2015 Australia Day Awards.

It is inspiring to know that these awardees, whose achievements are already impressive, wish to gain further knowledge with an ultimate desire to better their communities. Our very best wishes are extended to them as they seek to reach their goals.

With apologies for her inability to be with us today, our new patron, Mrs Linda Hurley, has sent a message of congratulations.

Grateful appreciation is expressed to Convener Jane Baker for facilitating the selection of awardees in accordance with the following criteria.

#### ***National Council of Women NSW Australia Day Awards Criteria***

- Awardees should be free to attend the NCW NSW Australia Day Luncheon to receive the award in person.
- Awardees should be Australian women students of achievement, particularly in their late undergraduate or postgraduate years.
- The Award is to assist and encourage the awardee in her chosen discipline in the honours year or in specific research.
- The Award is to assist deserving students, not necessarily the top student in the course.
- Preference should be given to a student who has achieved good grades throughout her course, despite being disadvantaged by illness, physical disability, financial need, family circumstances or other hardship.

The selection process is undertaken by the faculty of the participating university or specific body, subject to final approval by the Sponsor and the NCW NSW Awards Committee.



**GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
SYDNEY**

Message from

**Mrs Linda Hurley**

I am honoured to be Patron of the National Council of Women of New South Wales and send my best wishes for the *Celebrate Being an Australian* Australia Day Luncheon. Unfortunately, another commitment has prevented my attendance.

It will be a day of great excitement for the postgraduate students who will be recognised by these National Council of Women of New South Wales Australia Day Awards.

These outstanding women, who are undertaking diverse fields of study will be encouraged and assisted by these Awards to further their research and professional experiences New South Wales will, no doubt, be well served by them as they pursue their careers.

I join you in paying tribute to them and their work and offer my congratulations to all involved in today's celebration of Australia Day.

Mrs Linda Hurley

## **NADINE ADAMS**

### ***Mathematics, University of Wollongong***

Nadine grew up in a small rural community where the school only went to Grade 10, in a family where finances made further study unaffordable and with the belief girls needed short-term employment until marriage. At 24, with a good score in the qualifying tests for university, but as a single mother of two, she returned to study, and, with a struggle, achieved a B Informatics over 10 years, despite remarriage, two more children and a part time job. A Graduate Certificate in Flexible Learning followed, study complicated by the demanding commute to the city, undertaken by regional patients and their families. During this time her young son had major surgery and months of chemotherapy for cancer.

In 2010 she completed a Master of Professional Education and Training whilst employed full-time. In 2013 she began a PhD at the University of Wollongong, distance learning from her home in Mackay where she holds positions in Central Queensland University, (Mackay Campus) as a Lecturer in STEPS Mathematics and Tutor in the Mathematics learning centre. It was while she was Project Officer at CQ University working on the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) funded project *Building Leadership Capacity in the Development and Sharing of Mathematics Learning resources Across Disciplines, Across Universities* that she met and so impressed her present PhD supervisor.

Nadine was a key member of the CQ University ALTC team, exploring different technologies and genres of video production, creating video learning resources for mathematics students, and developing ways to combine videos to form a comprehensive set of mathematics learning resources for students. She developed instructional videos for academic staff to aid their development of skills and these were used to initiate staff, at a number of institutions into the practice of developing multimedia rich learning resources. “engaging others who engage others” in building better mathematics education and changing the culture of mathematics instruction and learning.

Her scholarship of teaching and learning, and learning and teaching practice is nationally recognised, her leadership in terms of engaging others in the process of improving education ongoing, with substantial impact at universities both within Australia and overseas. Her current research is at the leading edge of technology in education.

### **SPONSORED BY**

#### ***Soroptimist International Region of NSW***

*Soroptimist International is global movement of women with members belonging to over 3,000 clubs in 126 countries. Members of clubs represent a wide range of occupations, talents and interests.*

*Soroptimists promote:*

*HUMAN RIGHTS , EQUALITY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PEACE*

*The theme “Soroptimists Educate to Lead” provides opportunities for members to improve the lives of women and girls worldwide.*

*Soroptimist International Region of New South Wales is a member of the Federation of the South West Pacific. The first club was Soroptimist International of Sydney, chartered in 1937. There are now twelve clubs throughout New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.*

**HELEN ENGLISH**  
*Music, University of Newcastle*

Helen's early career was as a freelance musician, specialising in piano and harpsichord. Her career as an academic began in 1997 when she joined the Music Department at the University of Tasmania as an Associate Lecturer. In 2000 she moved to Newcastle, NSW and in 2006 she was appointed as a full-time Associate Lecturer. She completed an MA at UoN in 2006. In 2007 and 2008, Helen focused on historical soundscapes and presented two creative works in New York and Leeds, UK. More recently she has been researching music making in nineteenth century Newcastle, NSW, looking at issues such as social inclusion and social reconstruction for what was a British settler society.

She enrolled in a PHD in 2013 with the topic "Music Making in Newcastle, 1870-1879". Her research into music making in mining communities has taken an innovative approach to understanding the role that music played in the recreation of identity in a new country and she presented her work at the inaugural Newcastle/Hunter Studies symposium at the Newcastle Art Gallery, at the Australian Historical Association conference and at the University of Newcastle Postgraduate Symposium in the Faculty of Education and the Arts. Also based on her research, she composed and performed a work *Forgotten Composers of the Hunter Valley*, for a School of Creative Arts showcase concert.

In 2015 she has been invited to be part of a panel to present and discuss her research at the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies in Los Angeles. During her PhD candidature she has also published aspects of her research.

Helen has a passionate interest in mentoring students to develop and achieve aspirations, which she facilitates through her role in Student Experience, through developing scholarships and prizes and through creating opportunities for students to perform, to assist in workshops at the Conservatorium and to move on to further studies.

**SPONSORED BY**  
***The Women's Club***

*The Women's Club at 179 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, was formed on 9 October 1901 and is the longest established women's club in New South Wales. The prime object of the Club is "to promote culture by encouraging and facilitating the study, practice and appreciation of music, art, science and literature". To achieve this objective, the Club holds a wide variety of activities and circles.*

*The club premises are in the heart of the city and offer deluxe accommodation for country members, a dining and sitting room overlooking Hyde Park, and other facilities such as a library and a bridge room. It has affiliation with clubs in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.*

**TONELLE HANDLEY**  
*Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health,*  
*University of Newcastle*

Tonelle graduated B. Social Science with a major in Psychology from the University of Newcastle, followed by a Graduate Diploma in Psychology and recently a PhD in Psychiatry from the same institution. She is continuing her research with funding from the Australian Rotary Health Geoff Betts Postdoctoral Fellowship working in the NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Mental Health and Substance Abuse based in Orange.

She is part of the Community Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Research Network involved in youth suicide prevention and has developed internet delivered pilot interventions for co-occurring depression and alcohol misuse in rural young people. Her publications cover mental health problems, especially depression suicide and alcohol abuse in rural communities.

Tonelle is an exceptional young researcher with an interest in suicide in rural and remote communities. Her CV is very strong and she demonstrates the kind of initiative and energy which will make her a very successful researcher. More than that, her social engagement has shown her involved in sharing her findings with rural audiences through the Rotary movement who fund her scholarship and particularly by accepting invitations to address Rotary and other audiences.

She is probably the best young researcher to have emerged in this field in recent years, but also has considerable modesty and humour.

**SPONSORED BY**  
***Country Women's Association***

*The CWA was formed in 1922 when country women were fighting isolation and a lack of health facilities. Within a year, it was a unified, resourceful group. Members worked tirelessly to set up baby health care centres, fund bush nurses, build and staff maternity wards, hospitals, schools, rest homes, seaside and mountain holiday cottages - and much more.*

*Members have been initiators, fighters and lobbyists. They have made localities into communities by providing social activities and educational, recreational and medical facilities.*

**MARIE ISKANDER**  
*Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales*

Marie is a sixth year Arts/Law student at the University of New South Wales. She has been the Editor of the *Australian Indigenous Law Review* since 2013, is Co-President of the UNSW Law Society and is also a Peer Tutor at the university. Marie has completed internships with the Redfern Legal Centre and the Human Rights Clinic and is currently completing research work for Dr. Leon Terrill on Indigenous Land Reform and Home Ownership in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States. In 2014, Marie will complete her Arts Honours (Politics) on the topic of “Democracy in the Middle East” with particular reference to the Coptic minority. She was also involved in the International Criminal Court ('ICC') Mooting Competition, where she competed with her team at the ICC in The Hague in May, 2014, a team that reached the semi-finals

She acts as a mentor to Indigenous law students, is an elected Student Representative on the Faculty Board for the UNSW Faculty of Law, Vice President (Education) Australian Law Student’s Association, was listed on the Dean’s List for Academic Excellence in 2009, 2011 and 2012; and in 2013 was awarded first prize in the Sir Anthony Mason NSW Young Lawyers Constitutional Law Competition. She has also been an HSC tutor and a volunteer in the Human Rights Clinic.

As the author of a landmark article in *Lawyers Weekly* Marie was quoted in ‘The Conversation’ on ‘The Ugly Truth about being a Law Student’ discussing depression in law students and young lawyers – the pressures of Law School more than balancing any prestige associated with being a law student.

**SPONSORED BY**  
***Australian Federation of Graduate Women NSW Inc. (AFGW)***

*AFGW is part of IFUW an association of women graduates from institutions of higher education throughout the world, founded in 1919. AFGW NSW began earlier as an association of women graduates of the University of Sydney—at that time the sole university in New South Wales, but joined groups in other states in 1922 to form AFGW and affiliate with IFUW.*

*At a local level, as well as bringing graduates together for friendship and continued learning, AFGW promotes and encourages education and research through scholarships to support women and girls. Currently, within NSW, AFGW provides major awards for women graduates, a Travelling Scholarship, a biennial post graduate scholarship for a student from the Central West of NSW, and a scholarship for a mature woman to enable her to attend university. Annual prizes are given by branches in most universities in NSW and for TAFE courses bridging university. Outside Australia, support is given to students in Timor l’Este, Bangladesh and Papua New Guinea.*

*There is a commitment to help women achieve their potential through education and thus influence and benefit society. AFGW sees itself as the voice of women graduates seeking to empower women and girls world wide through lifelong education and to achieve an equality of opportunity through initiatives in education, friendship and peace.*

**JENNY KALDOR**  
*Faculty of Law, University of Sydney*

Jenny has a BA (Honours First Class and University Medal in English) and an LLB (Honours First Class) from the University of Sydney, and an MSc in Food Policy from the City University London. She is now in the second year of her PhD at Sydney Law School having spent five years in commercial law practice in Australia and the UK.

Her research investigates how law and regulation can add value to public health efforts to address diet related ill health, following the pattern of the public health laws on tobacco control, seat belts and water fluoridation. She is looking specifically at innovative moves by governments around the world to use law and regulation to control high levels of fat, salt and sugar in the food supply. Denmark has effectively eliminated trans-fats and South Africa has new laws about salt content in food Jenny hopes to spend time in South Africa contacting and interviewing local relevant stakeholders.

In April 2014, Jenny served as the rapporteur for an international expert consultation on overweight, obesity, diabetes and the law co-sponsored by the Western Pacific Regional Office of the World Health Organization held in Manila at WHO headquarters. This meeting – a first for the region – was also co-hosted by Sydney Law School, the Boden Institute for Obesity, Nutrition, Exercise and Eating Disorders at the University of Sydney, and the International Development Law Organisation. In her role as rapporteur, Jenny drafted the summary and final reports. She was also the lead author of the law background paper distributed to delegates from the region.

She served as President of the Law Postgraduate Research Students' Committee organising a postgraduate Conference and already has co-authored many papers on her research.

**SPONSORED BY**  
***Gilbert + Tobin***

*Gilbert + Tobin is a leading corporate law firm and a key player in the Australian legal market. From Sydney, Melbourne and Perth office, Gilbert + Tobin provide innovative, relevant and commercial legal solutions to major corporate and government clients across Australia and internationally, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. Gilbert + Tobin is the legal advisor of choice for industry leaders both in Australia and the Asia Pacific across key sectors including: banking and finance; corporate advisory—funds, mergers and acquisitions, private equity, capital markets, tax and stamp duty; communications and technology; competition and regulation; energy and resources; intellectual property; media; litigation and dispute resolution; and real estate and projects.*

*Established in 1988, Gilbert + Tobin employs more than 500 people with the highest proportion of female partners of any major Australian law firm and are acknowledged as a pioneer in providing pro bono services.*



**SINEAD KEAVENEY**  
*Chemistry, University of New South Wales*

Sinead graduated BSc (Advanced) with First Class Honours in Chemistry from UNSW and is starting the third year of her PhD studies investigating and understanding ionic liquids as solvents for organic reactions.

These new, more environmentally friendly, and recyclable solvents are used to make chemicals but not enough is yet known about them and the research is focused on understanding how they work and in which applications they should be used. She already has several joint publications and presentations in the field.

Last year progress was challenged by a bout of glandular fever which for the past 12 months has had an impact on her studies, and has meant that she has had to be very careful and manage her time appropriately so that she didn't become too run down. Despite this she was involved in oral presentations in Canada, Estonia and Australia and has co-authored several more papers on her research.

In 2008 Sinead completed the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award and was runner up in the Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs award. She has been involved with the 305 Squadron Australian Air Force Cadets Unit since 2009, now as a Senior Staff member, training and mentoring the senior cadets and participating in the organisation and administration of the range of activities run in this youth development programme.

Sinead is a Science Student Ambassador at UNSW

**SPONSORED BY**  
***Sydney Mechanics School of Arts (SMSA) - Science***

*SMSA very generously supported three awards this year.*

*SMSA is the oldest adult education organisation in Australia, founded in March 1833 at the request of artisans and tradesmen who had studied with Henry Carmichael aboard the Stirling Castle en route to Sydney.*

*Right from its founding, the SMSA was the leading provider of adult education in the colony, running a lending library, conducting classes and holding lectures on everything from phrenology to chemistry and the poems of Lord Byron. There were even classes on 'Simple Surgery'!*

*The SMSA quickly became the centre of colonial Sydney's intellectual, cultural and political life. The University of Sydney, Australia's first university, was not founded until 1850.*

**ALEXANDRA KEITH**  
*Agricultural Science, University of Sydney*

Alex graduated BSc Agriculture with First Class Honours and the University Medal from the University of Sydney. She did placements at the Cotton Research Institute, with cattle and sheep farming and in cotton and broad acre cropping.

After graduating she worked for eighteen months as a Horticultural Field Officer in Victoria contacting vegetable growers to assess produce quality and forecast supply for major supermarket chain, and to assist them in developing and implementing Food Safety and Quality programmes. This prompted a return to further study to enable her to provide greater assistance to the development of Australian agriculture. She is now in the third year of her studies for a PhD researching the stability and applications of biochar in Australian agricultural systems.

This research into the potential benefits of biochar to agriculture and in regards to climate change mitigation, is an extremely important area that deserves greater focus. It is particularly relevant in light of the ever-increasing challenges that the world faces to feed a growing population and manage the change induced by rising atmospheric carbon dioxide levels.

Alex's other interests include triathlon, camping, bushwalking skiing and canyoning and recently she represented Australia at the World Triathlon Championships.

**SPONSORED BY**  
***Sydney Mechanics School of Arts (SMSA) - Agricultural Science***

*SMSA very generously sponsored three awards this year.*

*SMSA filled a vital niche in adult and vocational education and made a major contribution to the colony's economic development by providing the first technical education in Australia for trades in 1865 and, in 1878, established the Working Men's College.*

*These technical classes were so successful that the School negotiated their transfer to the colonial Government in 1883, forming the precursor to TAFE as we know it today and, ultimately, to both the University of New South Wales and the University of Technology, Sydney. The first women were admitted as members in August 1833, just five months after the School's founding, and women's names appear in class rolls from the 1860s, providing an alternative for women who were disenfranchised from traditional education.*

## **ALANNA KRISANALEELA**

### ***Medicine, University of Notre Dame, Sydney***

Alanna graduated B Med Sc with first class honours in Pathology from University of NSW and is now a graduate student in Medicine at UND. She received a mark of 100% for an individual project in Social Justice, a component of the 2014 course. Her project gave an account of her time in Yen Si Rat, a Thai Sanctuary for the disadvantaged ill.

'It has been stated that the central dilemma looming over the medical profession in the 21st century is "excellence without equity". The Achilles' heel in modern medicine is that the majority of our talents and knowledge serve only those who can afford them. The onus of rectifying this dilemma rests upon the shoulders of the emerging medical professionals who have a moral responsibility to bridge the gap between those who can and cannot afford medical care.' With this as her starting point Alanna aimed initially for a project in a remote Aboriginal community. Lacking contacts in this field the idea proved too difficult so she redirected her efforts to Thailand where there were family friends.

Apart from her physical work in the facility, which provided accommodation for patients undergoing therapy at the nearby hospital and up to two of their relatives Alanna was able to leave a lasting benefit: she introduced Thai medical students to the facility. After witnessing first hand the conditions these residents were in, they returned following her departure. Since then groups of medical students from Prince of Songkla University have made bi-monthly visits to the facility and organized a number of events for Yen Si Rat. Hopefully, this ongoing partnership can prove to be beneficial for the facility as it raises greater awareness of the inequities present in the community as well as providing a secondary source of support for the patients.

In addition to her studies Alanna is a surf life saver, recipient of South Maroubra's most valuable team member award, and a Latin and Ballroom dancer. Alanna holds an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid certificate and is continuing this summer to volunteer at Yen Si Rat.

### **SPONSORED BY**

#### ***Catholic Women's League Australia NSW Inc.***

*The Catholic Women's League in NSW can trace its origins back to 1913 when the Catholic Women's Association was founded in Sydney. It is now an incorporated organisation and has branches in every State. It is a national non-government, non-profit organisation which upholds the dignity of women and encourages their participation in Church, social and public life.*

*Catholic Women's League fosters the spiritual, cultural, intellectual and social development of women. The organisation, under the patronage of Our Lady Help of Christians, is a member of and networks with women's groups at State, National and International levels, liaises with State and Local Governments and gives support to the Parish, the aged, the family, the bereaved, people with disabilities, social justice issues, Christian marriage and single life, vocations to the priesthood and religious life and the promotion of ecumenism and interfaith dialogue.*

## **MICHELLE LAING**

### ***Nursing, University of Technology Sydney***

Michelle is about to start the final year of the B Nursing course at UTS, fulfilling a long held dream, after twenty years in business. She has been an executive assistant, an event manager, a business manager and a facilities manager. Her career in England culminated as executive assistant to the Director General of the National Health Service Connecting for Health (NHS CfH) working to implement an electronic health record across the NHS, the largest IT project in the world. What a long journey from the Department of Health liaising with Cabinet Ministers to bedside nursing!

Michelle migrated to Australia in 2008 to work for the National e-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) on the personally controlled electronic health record for two years as business manager of the scheme. Since 2011 she has been Facilities Manager for Stryker South Pacific, part time since 2013. After this, Michelle took the first step to move to front line nursing doing the one year University Preparation Programme part time in 2012 and was accepted into the UTS nursing programme starting in 2013.

She is now a Student Promotional Representative of UTS, a University Peer Assisted Study Support leader, and mentor to first year students in practical skills. Despite her full schedule Michelle still finds time to volunteer at the Exodus Foundation.

### ***SPONSORED BY The Zonta Club of Sydney***

*The Zonta Club of Sydney has been in operation since 1966 and is part of Zonta International, which started in the United States in 1919. Zonta International is a global organisation of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy. It has nearly 30,000 members in more than 1,200 clubs in 63 countries and geographic areas.*

*Zonta International seeks to provide service and advocacy at the global and local level to:*

- Improve the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women.*
- Work for the advancement of understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of executives in business and the professions;*
- Promote justice and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;*
- Be united internationally to foster high ethical standards, implement service programs, and provide mutual support and fellowship for members who serve their communities, their nations, and the world.*

*Zonta International, its districts and its clubs are non-sectarian and nonpartisan.*

**BRIDGET MOTTRAM**  
*Social Science, University of Western Sydney*

Bridget graduated B Social Science in 2013 at UWS with a double major in Criminology and Criminal Justice and Sociology and with first class honours. Her honours thesis, based on interviews with domestic violence workers on their experiences with female clients accused of violence, is under review for publication in a leading journal on women in social work. She is in the first year of study for a PhD, which will involve interviews with women accused of using violence in their relationships.

To support herself throughout her studies Bridget took on a variety of jobs: total party management of up to 100 children a weekend; Supervisor for Gold Class customers at Event Cinemas (her supervisory style being accepted now as the standard operating procedure); and a customer service operator at Tabcorp. At UWS this past year she has also been working as a tutor at UWS this last year.

Bridget was active in the Australian Army Cadets retiring as Staff Sergeant after serving as platoon commander, participating in the Chief of Army Challenge and commanding catafalque parties at community Anzac Day Dawn Services and other remembrance events. For the last ten years she has been actively involved in CanTeen, the organisation for young people living with cancer.

**SPONSORED BY**  
***Sydney Mechanics School of Arts (SMSA)***

*SMSA very generously sponsored three awards this year.*

*Today, the SMSA continues to operate the longest-running lending library in Australia and a robust public program of talks, seminars and screenings which are free and open to both members and the general public.. The School also opened the Tom Keneally Centre in 2011, forming Thomas Keneally's living legacy to Australia and a venue for literary activities such as writing classes, readings and author's talks. The SMSA also continues to contribute to the local community through grants, scholarships and donations to organisations including the radio station 2RPH, Julian Ashton Art School and Dictionary of Sydney, and endowments to UWS, UTS and the University of Sydney. The School also supports a broad range of Not-For-Profit and community organisations in the local Sydney region including the Benjamin Andrew Footpath Library, a mobile library for the homeless. Since colonial times the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts has made a major contribution to Sydney's culture, industry, society and politics*

**EMILY SHEPPARD**  
*History, Macquarie University*

Emily is in the final stages of her degree, BA, with majors in Ancient History and English Literature, and with a Diploma in Education. She plans to teach English and History at secondary level and hopes to do a Masters by Research in a few years' time. In addition to this, Emily has completed the Open Directing Course at NIDA; is a programme facilitator for the 'Just Like You' programme of the Cerebral Palsy Alliance; and is involved with the Emerge Leadership Programme of the Alliance.

She has coped with Cerebral Palsy throughout her education, taking a bit longer over her degree but maintaining high academic standards.

As Transition Programme Officer/Disability Liaison Officer in the First Year Experience Unit (FYEU) at Macquarie, she was responsible for the organisation and development of the Mentors@Macquarie Programme and has been team leader for the Faculty of Arts in this programme.

Emily was involved in UniWISE events (formerly Academic Orientation), acting as advocate for new students with disabilities as well as promoting equity within FYEU. She was a keynote speaker at the Macquarie Disability Action Plan launch and is a member of the Disability Action Plan Reference Group.

**CO-SPONSORED BY**  
***Sari Browne OAM JP***

*Sari Browne is a Past President of NCW NSW and a long standing member of the Executive as delegate for Legacy, for the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia and for the Great Synagogue. She has been a member of Legacy for 52 years, is Past President and an honorary life member. She was the first women elected to the Board of Management of the Great Synagogue in 99 years. She has been a Past President of the Great Synagogue Women's Auxiliary and is a Board Member of the NCJWA. Sari is currently a volunteer tour guide for the Great Synagogue. She won the NCW NSW Foundation Day Award in 1995.*

***and***

***The National Council of Women NSW***

## **GEORGI SHEUMACK**

*Midwifery, University of Technology Sydney*

Georgi is starting the final year of her B Midwifery course at UTS. As a school girl in 2008 she had the pleasure of visiting the 'Mercy' orphanage in Soe, West Timor and the 'Mercy' orphanage of Denpassar as a volunteer missionary, two orphanages sponsored by the Impact Church on the Central Coast. Whilst orphanages like these are doing their absolute best to care for these children, the sad fact is there are only limited places for them and the demand for places far outweighs what is available due to a lack of funding. Therefore, she feels it is pertinent that changes be made to allow women to plan their families freely and hopefully prevent the increase in unwanted and orphaned children.

Georgi has become interested in the complex cultural and legal barriers that Indonesian women face in accessing and choosing family planning health services, having seen first hand the children that are orphaned as a result of an unwanted pregnancy or children whose parents cannot afford to care for them. She would like to work in collaboration with the Indonesian health care system to improve the current policies around family planning, alongside the registered midwives of her local church.

The first step towards this goal is to complete her degree and follow her other interests in books, horses, family and the beautiful Central Coast beaches when time permits.

### **SPONSORED BY**

***Alice Arnott Oppen OAM***

***Founder and Chair of Women's Plans Foundation***

*The aims of the Foundation are:*

*To promote a family planning component in overseas aid programs*

*To bring an enabling power to all women*

*To ease world population pressures thus evolving towards sustainability and peace.*

*Women in Australia have the ability to plan the number and spacing of children and know there are many ways to contribute to society. This is an ongoing work.. Women in third world countries, especially, welcome this knowledge. Through the Foundation, we can share with all women who need to space and choose the number of their children, thus improving health and communities.*

**MELISSA TRICKEY**  
*Audiology, Macquarie University*

Melissa graduated from the University of Melbourne in 2007 with a BSc with Honours in Pathology and a History and Philosophy of Science minor. She then worked at Siemens Australia for more than three years as the Executive Administrator in the customer care service, in charge of several projects, researching and presenting new Green Office initiatives. She was Musical Theatre editor theatrepeople.com.au in a period of 30% growth over two years.

In 2012 she returned to study, gaining a Graduate Certificate in Public Health from Curtin University. She then moved to Sydney and enrolled in the Masters in Clinical Audiology achieving excellent grades including a high distinction in Paediatric Hearing Assessment, undertaking a research module in Paediatrics and becoming a dedicated volunteer at The Shepherd centre's Kidscape programme. Her research was into the experiences of fathers whose children have been diagnosed with hearing loss. Specifically, through her research which has determined the barriers that prevent participation of fathers in their child's hearing rehabilitation, Melissa has made identified changes that the profession can adopt to increase their participation.

In January she began as a graduate Paediatric Audiologist at The Shepherd Centre in Newtown.

Melissa was instrumental in the development of the Macquarie University Audiology Students' Association and was president in 2014. As part of this role she has organised fund raising activities for charities that serve hearing impaired people in the Philippines and Cambodia. She has also provided support to new audiology students through the association and support to faculty members, volunteering her time to assist with various events such as hearing awareness week.

***SPONSORED BY***  
***Women of the Peninsula***

*Women of the Peninsula is a group of friends, many former members of Quota International of the Peninsula, who continue to enjoy each other's company after the closure of the club.*

*Apart from meeting to renew friendships, the group work together in the Northern Beaches and Central Coast to raise funds, through the sale of Easter Chickens, for this annual Award. The Award is given to a student of Speech and Hearing in a continuation of a major focus of Quota International.*



**MICHELLE VAN GELDERMAISEN**  
*Centenary Institute, University of Sydney and  
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.*

Michelle completed a BSc (First Class Honours) at the University of Sydney in 2012. Her Honours thesis looked at new ways to target breast cancer through restricting nutrient intake to the cancer cells. She is completing the second year of her PhD studies in this field making rapid progress and was in fact first recommended for today's award by a researcher at another research institution who was involved in her mid-point review. The committee noted how well she understands the field of breast cancer research, her outstanding progress to date and the fact that she is on track to finish her PhD in the minimum 3 years.

Testament to her rapid process when the first 18 months of her PhD, Michelle has co-authored a publication in *International Journal of Cancer*, submitted a second co-authored paper, and a first author paper on her breast cancer work is in preparation. This high level of progress was recognized at the beginning of 2014, with award of a prestigious Cancer Institute NSW/Sydney Catalyst top-up scholarship. This peer-reviewed award was given to only three cancer researchers in 2014, and recognises her outstanding abilities.

On top of these scholarships, Michelle has been awarded prizes for her presentations at the Australian Breast Cancer Conference (2013) and the Sydney Catalyst Post-Graduate & Early Career Research Symposium meeting (2014). She is a fantastic communicator demonstrating her excellent knowledge in the field of breast cancer research.

Outside her talents for experiments, communication and scientific writing, she is generous with her time, which is seen in her many community contributions outside work.

She has a heart and a passion for justice, whether that is in the day-to-day lives of her colleagues or on a more global scale. She is not afraid to stand up for the rights of others or stand up for what she believes in.

**SPONSORED BY**

***Olena Pchilka Branch of the Ukrainian Women's Association NSW***

*This is a small group of Ukrainian-Australian Women who meet to maintain the customs and culture of their country of birth. They organized an afternoon function for NCW NSW demonstrating their traditional cuisine and their traditional, beautiful embroidery. They then elected to apply the money raised, topped up by individual personal donations, to sponsor a NCW NSW Australia Day Award for a young woman working in medical research.*

*At this troubled time in the Ukraine, we recognize their thoughts must be with friends and family caught up in the strife and acknowledge their generosity in this support for a young researcher in their new home country.*

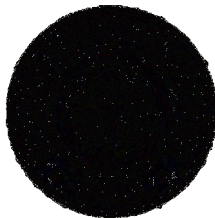
## **INTRODUCING OUR NEW SPONSOR**

### **COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

*The CWA was formed in 1922 when country women were fighting isolation and a lack of health facilities. Within a year, it was a unified, resourceful group. Members worked tirelessly to set up baby health care centres, fund bush nurses, build and staff maternity wards, hospitals, schools, rest homes, seaside and mountain holiday cottages - and much more. Members have been initiators, fighters and lobbyists. They have made localities into communities by providing social activities and educational, recreational and medical facilities.*

*The CWA is the largest women's organisation in Australia. Its aims are:*

- *To bring all women and families together and form a network of support.*
- *To provide a forum for the voice of all women in New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory.*
- *To improve conditions and welfare of all women and families especially in country areas. □*
- *To support schemes which enhance the value of country living, especially health and educational facilities.*
- *To encourage development in regional areas and to increase the viability of rural communities and the environment.*
- *To provide a voice to Government at all levels.*
- *To promote International goodwill friendship understanding and tolerance between all people.*



## **NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN NEW SOUTH WALES**

Established in July 1896, the objects of the Council are to bring together, by means of association, voluntary bodies, societies or associations of women and of women and men:

- To promote sympathy of thought and purpose among women of New South Wales
- To uphold the social, civil and moral values and religious freedom of the community
- To promote the interests and advancement of women and to secure their recognition in the community
- To promote such conditions of life as will assure every family and child an opportunity for full and free development, and to uphold the family as the basic unit of society
- To form a link with National Councils of Women in other countries through the National Council of Women of Australia Inc. and the International Council of Women.

# NOTES

