



***National Council of Women NSW***

***1896 – 2012***

***Celebrating 116 years of women's achievements and  
contributions to society***

***Australia Day Awards***

***2012***

***Award Recipients and Sponsors***

***Awards presented by***

***Dr Grace Warren AM***

***Doctor No. 49 and Vice-President***

***Leprosy Mission International***

***at the***

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

***Cello's Restaurant***

***The Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, Sydney***

***January 25, 2012***

***From the President  
National Council of Women of New South Wales  
Tricia Graham***

As we gather here today to “*Celebrate Being an Australian*”, we also present awards to nine very talented young women who have demonstrated remarkable abilities in their studies. These young women have the potential to be the future leaders in their fields of study. The awards are only made possible by the generosity of sponsors. The awardees’ names and their sponsors are listed in this booklet. We extend our grateful thanks to these sponsors and acknowledge our appreciation for their ongoing support.

Each one of the awardees is outstanding in her own field of endeavour and the National Council is proud to honour them. We are committed to supporting the advancement of women through education and opportunity for all and know that these young women will contribute much to our community in the future.

We wish them all well in their future studies and again thank our sponsors.

***The Awards Committee***

The Awards Committee congratulates the young women who are today receiving the *NCW NSW 2012 Australia Day Awards*. They have demonstrated courage, tenacity and dedication in attaining success in their fields of study, undeterred by difficulties or disadvantages.

We wish them success in their future endeavours and trust they will continue to use their intellectual and creative abilities for the betterment of our society.

**Additionally, we acknowledge not only the generous support of Sponsors, whose financial generosity has allowed us to recognize today the achievements of the recipients, but also the academic staff of those institutions who have nurtured these students and have helped us in the selection process.**

**Committee Members 2011/2012**

*Marjorie James OAM, NCW NSW Delegate, United Hospitals Auxiliary*

*Carolyn Blanden, Head of College at Galstaun College, Ingleside*

*Patricia Morgan, Department of Education and Training (Retired)*

*Cassandra Allan – Executive Member NCW NSW*

*Tricia Graham, President NCW NSW*

*Nola Barkl, Treasurer NCW NSW and Convener, Awards Committee*

## **EMMA BAYNIE**

*Bachelor of Theology  
Australian Catholic University, Sydney*

Emma Baynie grew up in north western Sydney where she attended Catholic primary and secondary schools. She distinguished herself at St Leo's College, Wahroonga, being appointed as Prefect on the Social Justice Council as well as College Captain in 2007. In her final year at the College, she received several significant educational awards: the St Leo's Medal which is the Premier Award of the College, The Award of Leadership and also the Award for Outstanding Effort in Studies. Her HSC results were outstanding and she progressed to study for a Bachelor of Theology at the Australian Catholic University.

Emma has consistently displayed commitment to her faith, being a member of her local church's Youth Ministry Support Team and also the Diocesan World Youth Day Team in 2008. Over the past three years, she has completed 400 hours of parish-based ministry, as an intern in the Broken Bay Diocese World Youth Day Program. In August, Emma took part in World Youth Day in Madrid, representing her diocese on the Saints and Mystics Pilgrimage.

For the past four years, Emma has taken active steps to become involved in achieving social justice. She has taken part in the Edmund Rice Centre Indigenous Program: Let's Talk Immersion. This is a cross cultural immersion program, in which she visited Aboriginal communities. Emma has also undertaken voluntary work at the Columban Mission Institute, Centre for Peace, Ecology and Justice. Emma has been part of the Broken Bay Diocese Interfaith Commission, which she represented at the Parliament of the World's Religions, in Melbourne at the end of 2009.

At the Australian Catholic University, the Vice Chancellor, Greg Craven has a working group called "In the Square". This is a public policy planning group of which Emma will be part in 2012.

In 2012, Emma will be commencing an Honours year of her Bachelor of Theology and intends to research and write about the importance of Interfaith Relations and Dialogues between the Abrahamic Faiths for building peace in our world.

### ***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 and in the Australian Capital Territory. 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.*

## **ELIZABETH FROST**

*Bachelor of Nursing and International Studies  
University of Technology, Sydney*

Elizabeth will complete the combined Bachelor of Nursing and International Studies degree in 2012. In 2011, she studied at the University of Poitiers in France and received a high distinction for her major research project on the 2012 French presidential election. Adapting to a new language and culture was an invaluable experience, and moving away from the familiarity and comfort of her Sydney home fostered Elizabeth's independence, flexibility and practicality and a desire to continue learning about different cultures.

Now back in Sydney, Elizabeth is particularly interested in Aged Care and would like to focus on developing specific nursing skills in this area. "I believe nursing is an extremely rewarding profession and it is a great privilege to care for people at a time when they are most vulnerable", she says.

On graduation from UTS Elizabeth would like to enter a new-graduate nursing program in the Sydney region and, after gaining experience, to seek work in rural Australia where there is a demand for health care professionals. She will continue to speak French and would like to do some volunteer nursing, perhaps in French speaking African countries such as Senegal and Cameroon.

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

*The Zonta Club of Sydney has been in operation since 1966. It 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.*

## **JACQUELYN GOSS**

*Masters of Public Health/Masters of Health Management  
University of New South Wales*

Jacquelyn completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Newcastle in 1994 and worked for several years in the business world before completing her Bachelor of Nursing –with Distinction, at the University of Technology (Sydney) in 2007. Currently Jacquelyn is a Registered Nurse employed at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Cardiothoracic Intensive Care. Since 2010 Jacquelyn has been studying for the Masters of Public Health / Masters of Health Management degree at UNSW, where she is majoring in the study of International Health.

Over this summer Jacquelyn is completing an elective subject “Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health” which has confirmed her interest in maternal mortality, fertility regulation, gender equality and the role of global agencies in reproductive health. Jacquelyn believes the Family Planning Australia Certificate in Reproductive and Sexual Health to be invaluable preparation for her chosen career.

On completion of her studies in June 2012, Jacquelyn plans to work for Remote Area Health Corps (RAHC) to work in aboriginal communities in remote areas of the Northern Territory for approximately six months. She is currently in the process of applying to this organisation, believing that this experience will supplement her theoretical knowledge of women’s health and will be the stepping stone to applying for an international nursing position.

The scholarship with the Women’s Plans Foundation, will provide Jacquelyn with the opportunity to pursue her passion to ultimately work in the area of women’s health with an international aid agency.

### ***SPONSORED BY Mrs Alice Arnott Oppen 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 gain 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.*

## **REBECCA HAWKINGS**

*Department of Modern History  
Macquarie University*

Bec Hawkings has recently completed her Honours degree in Modern History at Macquarie University. Prior to this, she graduated with a Bachelor of Social Science, majoring in Modern History and Sociology, with a double minor in Politics and Philosophy. In 2011, she has achieved First Class Honours in both her thesis and her coursework. Bec has now applied to do a PhD in History.

Bec's particular interest is Australian political history, in particular Prime Ministerial history, which prompted her Honours thesis on the federal elections of 1949 and 1996. From this thesis, she has developed a conference paper examining the rhetorical similarities of Ben Chifflay and Paul Keating. Bec has been invited to present this paper at the upcoming Macquarie University Higher Degree Research & Honours Arts Conference.

Her journey to this point has been difficult at times. During the final semester of her undergraduate studies, Bec was diagnosed with a severe and recurrent depressive disorder that significantly affected her ability to study and to finish her degree. Nevertheless, she was able to complete her undergraduate coursework over the summer holidays and was accepted into the Modern History Honours program.

In addition to studying Honours full-time and undergoing treatment for her mental illness, Bec was also working at four part-time jobs in order to support herself. She made regular three-hour commutes to University to study and to write her thesis. Completing Honours coursework and a thesis is stressful under the most auspicious of circumstances. To do so successfully while unwell and while living so far from the University, has been a source of personal pride for Bec and also for her teachers.

### **CO-SPONSORED BY**

#### ***Dr Maurine Goldstone-Morris OAM***

*Maurine is a Life Member of International and National Council of Women, NSW. Her passion has been early Australian history; her contributions to its preservation having been recognised with a Medal in the Order of Australia. Among her many involvements, is her connection with the NSW Geography Teachers of the Governor Phillip Awards for fieldwork. This began in 1988 with 100 schools participating and has now spread throughout Australian schools and universities.*

*Maurine has been recognised with 'Freedom of the City of London' for her British Naval History and 'Lazo de Dama in the Order of Isobel La Catolica' from King Juan Carlos of Spain for her 'Navigational History of the World'. In 2004, Maurine was awarded an International Peace prize by the Authority of the United Cultural Convention of America for her contribution as a member of the International Parliament for Safety and Peace, held in Perugia, Italy.*

### **AND**

#### ***The National Council of Women New South Wales Inc.***

*NCW NSW works for the removal of all discrimination against women and the family and promotes the equal status of women in law and in fact. The organisation assesses and summarises women's opinions on all matters that affect the community as a whole and seeks to improve conditions for women and children in particular. NCW seeks to achieve this through submissions to the government of the day not only when issues are brought forward for debate but also when identified by our Council as requiring change.*

## **NAOMI LEVITON**

*Sydney Conservatorium of Music  
University of Sydney*

Courtesy of a supportive family, Naomi started playing violin at age 4, additionally taking up flute in Year 3 to join the Balgowlah North Public School band. She has continued with both instruments with the addition of viola, throughout her schooling and university studies.

Naomi's secondary schooling was undertaken at Manly Selective Campus, where she was a dedicated member of the band program throughout high school and became the SRC Executive's Performing Arts Co-ordinator. Her outstanding HSC ATAR of 96.55 included 3<sup>rd</sup> in NSW for Design and Technology, her major design project gaining the "Women in Design & Technology Award" in the University of Wollongong's Faculty of Engineering 2009 Year 12 Design & Technology Competition.

Naomi is studying a Bachelor of Music Education at Sydney Conservatorium of Music and tutoring flute and violin to primary age students. She currently conducts two school string ensembles and as a special service to Seniors, she conducts the Mosman Community choir. She has played in the orchestra of many musical shows at school and with community musical groups, particularly in and around Sydney's Northern Beaches, where she lives.

In 2008 Naomi became a founding member of the Northern Beaches Youth Orchestra where she has taken the roles of 1<sup>st</sup> violin, concertmaster and now principal viola player. She is a member of the NBO volunteer string quartet and string ensemble which perform at Council events including citizenship ceremonies.

Since 2010 Naomi has been a member of the SBS Youth Orchestra, a member of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music Chamber Choir and a Member of Warringah Concert Brass, taking part in Anzac Day celebrations State and National Brass Band competitions (open A grade) and community events across Sydney.

In 2009 Naomi joined the Manly Musical Society orchestra and has performed in *Pirates of Penzance* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*; also in an original pantomime *Big Bad Wolf – A Trial by Jury*, performing at schools across the Northern Beaches.

2012 will be a big year for Naomi as she has been nominated for a 2012 Rotary Youth Leadership Award.

## **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.*

## **SARA MOGHADAS MEHRABI**

*Faculty of Engineering  
University of Technology, Sydney*

Born in Tehran, Sara was admitted to the *Islamic Azad University* in 1999 graduating in 2003 with a Bachelor Degree (1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours) in the field of Natural Resources Engineering (majoring in Fishery). This was followed by her promotion in 2004 as Senior Researcher at the School of Naval Sciences and Techniques at the Northern Teheran Campus where Sara achieved 1<sup>st</sup> Rank among 173 students. Sara then worked as a Fisheries Engineer and Laboratory Supervisor, recording results of all water quality tests for research purposes with an emphasis on rainbow trout pools.

Relocating to Sydney, Sara attended UTS Sydney to complete her Masters Degree. In 2008, she was awarded Master of Hydrogeology and Groundwater Management with Distinction. Since her arrival in Sydney, Sara has worked as a Hydrogeologist with RPS-Aquaterra which has led to field work, particularly in coal, gas and sand mines in NSW, NT and WA.

In 2011, Sara enrolled at UTS as a PhD student to undertake a project related to carbon nanotubes fate and transport in subsurface natural porous material. Groundwater is a more reliable source of water that can be used in a sustainable way to ensure water supplies for various beneficial purposes. Sara realises that protecting the quality and quantity of Australia's groundwater is essential for a country such as ours which faces water security issues as a result of droughts and population growth.

Like other engineering disciplines, groundwater engineering is a male-dominated field requiring a female engineer to expend considerable skills and effort to prove herself the equal of her male colleagues. Sara believes there has been something of a cultural change and more women are actively engaged in engineering today.

During the past two years, as well as being a full-time student, Sara has helped support herself and her husband who has had work for only about ten months of that time. Despite such a heavy load, Sara has continued to maintain her high academic standards.

### **SPONSORED BY**

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

*Soroptimist International is a world-wide organisation of women in management and the professions, working through service projects to advance the status of women.*

*Soroptimists promote:*

*HUMAN RIGHTS*

*EQUALITY*

*SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT*

*PEACE*

*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 thirteen clubs throughout New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.*

**LINDA STEELE**

*Faculty of Law  
University of Sydney*

In all her work (both volunteer and paid) and most of all in her studies, Linda has demonstrated a strong commitment to gender equality.

Her childhood was spent in the south western outskirts of Sydney where her academic achievements were obvious, from primary school at Picton to secondary education at Hurlstone Agricultural High School. Her law studies began at Wollongong University where she continued to excel academically, gaining the Thomson Law Book Prize for the highest mark in Public International Law and graduating LLB (Hons, Class 1)/BA (Gender Studies).

Linda became a Solicitor and Barrister of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 2004, gained her Masters of Public and International Law at the University of Melbourne in 2007, and is currently a PhD candidate at the Sydney Law School, University of Sydney, expecting a completion date in 2012.

Along the way, she has held numerous academic positions, teaching and lecturing, and gained professional experience through working in legal research for QCs, Judges, Courts, Government Departments and academics.

Her interests, work and study have generally been directed to areas of social, intellectual and physical disadvantage, particularly of women but, also, of indigenous, refugee, child and aged groups. Currently, she is involved in a “Women in Prison Advocacy Network”, a New South Wales organisation supporting and advocating for women in and with experience of the criminal justice system.

Linda is quick to emphasise that her confidence and perseverance in her studies have been greatly influenced by a number of women mentors through high school and in all stages of her academic study.

***SPONSORED BY  
Gilbert + Tobin***

*Gilbert + Tobin is a premium player in the Australian legal market. Established in 1988, Gilbert + Tobin is the legal adviser of choice for industry leaders both in Australia and the Asia Pacific across key sectors including: Corporate Transactions; Competition and Regulatory; Communications and Technology; Intellectual property; Media and Entertainment; Litigation and Tax.*

*An advanced understanding of their clients, their industries and the markets in which they operate is a distinctive attribute of all Gilbert + Tobin lawyers. Gilbert + Tobin also has a strong commitment to its pro bono practice.*

## ***ERYN THOMAS***

*Adult Education  
University of New England, Armidale*

Eryn is a PhD student who is undertaking research into the role of informal learning in people's lives. Her life experience has led her to develop a capacity and passion for adult education, in particular her time spent working in the welfare sector and at TAFE.

After growing up on the Western outskirts of Sydney, Eryn has lived and worked in Armidale on the North Coast, as well as in Sydney. Despite having to care for aged parents, Eryn has had a rich and varied experience of work and education. Her working life has taken her from the Cabramatta Community Centre, to welfare work with DoCS and Family Support on the North Coast. Eryn has also worked for TAFE in both Sydney and Armidale and has worked as an online teacher for the Australian College of Applied Psychology.

She has studied for a number of degrees and courses: a Bachelor of Arts, Honours, Certificate IV in Community Services from TAFE, a Graduate Diploma of Vocational and Workplace Learning, Certificate IV TAA, and a Masters of Education (Adult Education), all completed while struggling financially, caring for her parents and often by distance education. Eryn is well placed to draw on her understanding of how life experience leads to significant learning which is nevertheless rarely valued as such in society.

### ***SPONSORED BY***

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

*AFGW is an association of women graduates from institutions of higher education throughout the world, founded in 1920 in The University of Sydney – at that time the sole university in New South Wales. It is now part of a national and international network and, through IFUW, has consultative status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (since 1947) and affiliation with 180,000 members of 79 national affiliations.*

*At a local level, as well as bringing graduates together for friendship and hospitality, AFGW promotes and encourages education and research through scholarships to support women and girls. Currently, within NSW, AFGW provides two major awards for women graduates and, outside Australia, support is given to two women university students in Bangladesh and Fiji.*

*Apart from this commitment to help women achieve their potential through education and thus influence and benefit society. AFGW sees itself as the voice of women graduates promoting the advancement of women world wide and seeking the achievement of equality of opportunity through initiatives in education, friendship and peace.*

## **TAEGAN YOUNG**

*Audiology Section, Linguistics Department  
Macquarie University, Sydney*

Taegan Young grew up on the Northern Beaches in Mona Vale. She attended St Ives High School and enjoyed her educational experience, being part of the Gifted and Talented Program and a keen musician. She enjoyed singing and also played the trombone. After achieving pleasing results in the HSC, Taegan enrolled at the University of Sydney.

In 2009 she completed a Bachelor of Science (Hearing and Speech) and then went on to study for a Masters of Clinical Audiology at Macquarie University, achieving consistently high marks in both degrees. Since December 2011, Taegan has been working for the Australian Government agency, Australian Hearing, in their Newcastle office.

During her studies, Taegan was involved in numerous volunteer positions. She helped care for and educate children with multiple disabilities at the Arranounbai Early Childhood Centre. For several years, she has also been a mentor, leader and program director at Camp Kedron for children and adolescents. Taegan was also employed in the St Ives High School Hearing Support Unit as a Learning Support Officer, supporting high school students with hearing impairment and additional disabilities in mainstream education.

In the final year of her Masters degree, Taegan travelled to the Philippines to participate in a research project led by Dr Noberto Martinez and Mr Hubert Ramos at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. This statistical research into the relationship between hearing loss and socio-economic variables was conducted in both urban and rural Filipino populations. Such valuable documentation provides impetus for greater efforts in humanitarian aid to the region.

While in the Philippines, Taegan was inspired by the passionate people who work tirelessly to implement change and improve the health of ordinary Filipinos. She is keen to return to the Philippines to engage in further research.

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

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

*Apart from meeting to renew friendships, the group works 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.*

## **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 to 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.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA FOR NCW NSW AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS**

#### **The Awards are --**

- Ø To be presented to women of achievement who are Australian citizens, particularly those in the late undergraduate or postgraduate years
- Ø To assist and encourage further studies in the chosen discipline in the Honours Year or, if applicable, specific research
- Ø To seek out deserving students, not necessarily the top student, in the course
- Ø To consider the student who is disadvantaged by illness, physical disability or financial need, but has demonstrated her ability to achieve good grades throughout her course

The process of selection will be carried out by the Faculty of the participating University or specific body in association with the Awards Committee.

