



FORUM LIFE

October 2020

Bayside Forum Member Speaks Out

When members join Forum, they promise “never to be silent when I ought to speak” and Bayside’s newest member, Tania Kromoloff, is staying true to her pledge. Tania was recently interviewed on Brisbane Radio Station 4ZZZ regarding the proposed [Toondah Harbour](#) development at Cleveland. Tania has been heavily involved in action aimed at preventing proposed development on the internationally protected local wetland area. The current proposal is for residential units in 10 story blocks to be built which will house 10,000 new residents. We are all extremely proud of Tania for speaking out on an issue of such great importance.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!!



Bayside members, Richard and Megan Hallson, are very excited to announce that the Forum family will

soon be expanding – with their first child due in March 2021. Stay tuned for updates!

Combined Zoom Meetings

Our monthly combined Zoom meetings have been a great success and many of our members have taken the opportunity to mix with their Forum friends, hear many awesome speeches and learn from the powerful tutorials that have been presented. This online format is also a great opportunity for non-members to see what Forum has to offer! Our October meeting was the last one for this year and we look forward to resuming these combined meetings in February 2021.

Register your interest in attending by emailing: forum@beconfident.org.au

Forums meet regularly in the following areas:

[Ashgrove](#)

[Chermside](#)

[Cleveland](#)

[Dalby](#)

[Ipswich](#)

[Gold Coast](#)

[Wynnum](#)

Do You Need More Information?

www.beconfident.org

or email:

forum@beconfident.org.au

Palm Beach –Currumbin Forum

Congratulation to Barb Bryson, winner of PBC’s Most Memorable Speaker award for the last two sessions – well done Barb !! PBC members are currently meeting via ZOOM and loving the fact that more visitors are now joining their meetings, having removed the tyranny of travel time.

Date claimer: PBC will be celebrating their 25th birthday on the 20th of October and are looking forward to celebrating this milestone online, with their friends from distant Forums.

Forum is a QLD wide organization of local, friendly groups that meet regularly to help each other be confident and effective communicators for their professional and personal lives. We provide essential personal and professional development for people who want the ‘communication edge’ no matter what your stage of life or career.

Forum 'Oldies' Poem

*We Forum members love to meet
Hear speeches from our mates
But lately, with this virus here
We've stayed inside our gates*

*'Cos most of us are 'oldies' now
We've had to stay away
Wear our masks and wash our hands
Stay distanced every day!*

*Those who're over 70
We're said to be "at risk"
We must take good care of ourselves
Because...we would be missed!*

*We're now quite nice old people
Who would never be uncouth
Be we were there in the 60s
If they only knew the truth!*

*We'll never say the things we did
Before we got this old
There wasn't social media
So not everything was told*

*There was sex & drugs and rock 'n roll
Those years gave us a thrill
We smoked and drank and partied hard
Thank goodness for the pill!*

*But lots of us then settled down
Turned into Dad and Mum
And some to Gran and Grandpa too
That's who we've now become*

*So yes, we have been stuck at home
And not allowed to travel
We'd made our plans to do so much
Then saw those plans unravel*

*We weren't allowed to see our kids
'Cos they could make us sick
But shouting to them from the car
Would sometimes do the trick*

*It didn't bother us too much
We whiled away our time
We painted, gardened, so much more
Cleared cupboards, washed off grime*

*Of course, there was technology
To help us keep in touch
Skype and FaceTime – Zooms galore
Did offer us a crutch*

*But now that we can meet again
It's great to all be here
With Covid-19 rules in place
There is no need to fear*

*So let's rejoice in lockdown ease
To recovery, and health
And hope this awful virus
Doesn't leave us with no wealth*

*We hope to soon re-make our plans
'Cos some of us can't wait
To travel out to – anywhere
Straight out through our front gate!*

Featured Member

Penny Hamilton – Dalby Forum

Penny Hamilton joined Dalby Forum in 1990 and has been an integral force behind the restructuring and growth of our association since that time. Penny has served on the State Committee many times and her dedication to Forum was officially recognised in 2019 when she received the 'Spirit of Forum' Award.

Penny also worked closely with historian and author, Maureen Whitehead, giving support where required and contributing to the writing of the invaluable book on the history of Forum "Never Be Silent...the story of 76 years of speaking up", which was published in 2016



"As I take one giant leap into retirement, it has been an absolute honour and privilege for me to be the CEO of YellowBridge Qld, a not for profit that works together with some of the most vulnerable people in our community. For you and I ... when we get up every morning, life is pretty easy. We can put on our shoes, go for a walk, get our own breakfast, drive a car, go to work, we have a job to go to, we have a roof over our head, we can pay our bills, change a lightbulb, we can mow our own lawns. But for our clients ... some of these things are just not possible. But I do know a group of people who make this possible and they are the people who work for YellowBridge They spend their day ensuring people who need a helping hand, get one. They place our clients at the heart of everything they do and they search for the best in all situations and all people. How lucky am I to finish my working career with an amazing group of people who make a difference every day.

I do say 'Thank you Forum' every day I work for YellowBridge. The number of meetings I had to chair, discussions I needed to lead, interviews I had to give both on TV and radio has been constant and it is my Forum training that has served me well. I don't know any place where you can learn and practice what Forum offers.

Retirement will see me stepping into the volunteer sector and I will be heading up the project to end Youth Homelessness in Toowoomba by 2024, giving some time to our deaf community who are very isolated, working in Collectables - a boutique Op Shop for people with a disability, and enjoying my first 2 new grandsons born in September. I have always heard that retirement is busier than working ... and I am looking forward to finding out how true that might be ... I suspect it is!"

Congratulations – Chloe Ainscow



Chloe Ainscow is the very deserving recipient of this year's NCWQ - Forum Speaking Bursary. Chloe's dedication to volunteering, communication and community leadership ensured her selection from a large number of very high calibre applicants.

From Toowoomba, Chloe is currently a second-year student of a dual Bachelors' degree of Business (Human Resources) and Arts (Economics) at the University of Queensland. She has excelled both in communication and leadership in her community.

As well as competing in debates and public speaking competitions herself, she has coached younger students and adjudicated debates. She has also studied tertiary units in the Communication field. Chloe has demonstrated her commitment to leadership in the community through her volunteering work with the Institute of Continuing & TESOL Education, the Smith family and Girl Guides, and taking executive positions with on-campus societies.

Last semester Chloe achieved a GPA of 7 and received the Dean's Commendation for Academic Excellence. This demonstrates her commitment to her full-time studies, whilst also working part-time.

Chloe aspires to obtain a graduate position in either a top-tier consultancy firm or financial institution, before becoming a policy advisor or economist in a government institution/department such as the Treasury, the Reserve Bank of Australia or the Productivity Commission. The bursary will allow her to attend more networking events at university and undertake more internships."

Winner of the NCWQ - Forum Bursary 2020



*Previous winners of the
NCWQ – Forum Bursary:
2017 – Taylor Birtchnell
2018 – Madison Birtchnell
2019 – Anekah Hinchcliffe*

VALE – LILLIAN SHELTON

Gympie Forum members are mourning the death of their long time member and valued friend, Lillian Shelton. Lillian joined Gympie Forum in early 1984. From the start, she was an active member, always ready with a speech. This continued right up until their August social meeting this year. With her many years of teaching and her extensive travelling, Lillian had a wealth of material for her speeches, though she never resorted to anecdotal speeches.

Lillian became an assessor (for both speech and procedure) early in her Forum career. Her assessments were always to the point, kindly and encouraging. She was the convenor of “The Hills Are Alive” convention. Over the years Lillian held all executive positions. She will be remembered for her sense of humour too. When encouraging fellow members to take executive positions one year, Lillian brought her stock whip in and proceeded to “round us up”. We think Lillian was the first to use a theme for session speeches.

Lillian was a valued member of Gympie Forum and also made a major contribution to Forum literature with the “Welcome to Forum” booklet which was attributed to Gympie Forum - but was mostly Lillian’s work. Lillian was an inspiration and mentor to so many of us in Forum. We will miss her.



At the age of 92, Lillian was Queensland’s old registered teacher. Between 1943 and 1972 Lillian worked in dozens of schools as a teacher, relieving teacher and principal. After a stint as a teacher in the UK, her excellence was recognised in 1963 when she was asked to be the first principal of the Charters Towers School of the Air – the second School of the Air in Queensland. In 1973, while Principal of The Hall Girls and Infants School in Rockhampton, she was asked to be an Acting Inspector of Schools in Maryborough. The following year she made state history when she was named Queensland’s first female District Inspector of Schools (primary) for the Western QLD region, based in Mount Isa.

Read more about Lillian’s exceptional life and wonderful contribution to teaching [here](#)

Musings from an Ipswich Forum member

"I really love our Forum meetings, they are always innovative and designed to stretch us in our goal to become better speakers. Our first meeting for September was no exception, only it stretched us in a slightly different direction with humorous and fun activities.

We began with a lively presentation by Forum's Chief Assessor, Leanne Walker, on becoming a great communicator. Leanne shared with us her research into a subject we may not have thought to investigate on our own.

She helped us consider why women may often be their own worst enemy in a corporate setting.

As Forum members we are trained in using our speech making skills but sometimes we find comfort behind a lectern with a copy of our script close by. However, as women in the community or workplace we also have to look to developing our non-contextual confidence. In others words, to expand our conversational skills, to learn to speak up, to have a message and be brave enough to share it in a setting where sometimes the male voices dominate. To be able to answer questions, give directives and propose solutions to problems – all things that women do so well at home – but apparently not so well in public life"

Looking Back....

In 2006, Carindale Forum members held a mock wedding, including a sumptuous wedding breakfast, speeches and 'official' photos. Pictured (left to right) Angela, Nora, Mary and Glenys.



Members practised delivering 'special occasion' speeches, something we all have to do at some stage of our lives, so this was a fun way for members to prepare themselves for the inevitable – and that's what Forum is all about!

At Forum's inaugural meeting on 30 July 1941, Miss Ruth Don was elected President. The name Forum Club was adopted to stress the link with Rostrum, and with the traditions of oratory in Ancient Rome.

The Club met over dinner so members could fit a meeting in between the day's activities and the war work that occupied their evenings. Many members went on to night patrol on the river, watching for enemy mines or with the Air Observer Corps, watching radar screens for enemy aircraft.

It was difficult to find a room where a meal could be had along with privacy for speakers. After several short term venues the Red Cross Café proved a happy home for over two years, in spite of some competition from wedding receptions and the distraction of the acrobatic rats racing around picture rails.