



BRISBANE WOMEN'S CLUB

—
EST 1908

FY21 ANNUAL REPORT

ACN 009 985 746

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OUR VISION, MISSION, PURPOSE AND VALUES	3
Vision	3
Mission	3
Purpose	3
Values	3
AN OVERVIEW OF BRISBANE WOMEN'S CLUB	4
Our Founder and History	4
An Overview of Modern BWC	8
Acknowledgement of Country	9
Our Governance	10
Our People	11
OPERATIONAL REPORTS	14
Chair of BWC Board Report	14
Director of BWC Membership Report	16
Director of BWC Charitable Giving Program Report	18
Director of BWC Events Program Report	22
OUR FINANCES	25
Director of Finance Report	25
OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION	27
Acknowledgments and Thank You	27
Join the BWC Community	28
Looking to the Future	29
Contact Us	30

OUR VISION, MISSION, PURPOSE AND VALUES

Vision

An equal and inclusive society for women.

Mission

To create a community of women, women's organisations, and those supporting the advancement of women to instigate change for equality through policy, partnerships and philanthropy.

Purpose

To advance opportunities for women so they may participate equally in society.

Values

We understand the importance of CONNECTION for women and actively work to instigate connections that will add value to all parties.

It is through COLLABORATION and working positively together with our partners, our members and within our organisation, that BWC will effect change.

We will foster and nurture a diverse and inclusive COMMUNITY where everyone is treated equally.

We work with CARE to achieve outcomes that are in the best interest of women.

AN OVERVIEW OF BRISBANE WOMEN'S CLUB



Our Founder and History

We are grateful for a collaborative project between The University of Melbourne and The National Foundation for Australian Women as part of, “*Australian Women’s Archives Project – The Australian Women’s Register*” for providing the following summary and history of Brisbane Women’s Club:

Brisbane Women's Club (1908 - Present)

From

- 20 February 1908,
- Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Occupations

- Philanthropic organisation, Women's reform group and Women's rights organisation

Alternative Names

- Women's Progressive Club (previous name)

Summary

One of the oldest women's clubs in Queensland, the Brisbane Women's Club was formed in 1908 under the sponsorship of the Queensland Women's Electoral League. Originally called the *Women's Progressive Club*, the name was changed to *The Brisbane Women's Club* in May 1912. Ardent feminist and women's rights campaigner Margaret Ogg was one of the 59 founding members. The objectives of the club were to provide a social centre for women workers in the cause of reform and to encourage free discussion on subjects of public importance, including social, political and municipal matters. The club lobbied the Brisbane City Council and the State Government for the betterment of the community. In an effort to improve the life of rural women, the club was instrumental in the establishment of the Queensland Country Women's Association in 1922 and the Bush Book Club in 1921. The Brisbane Women's Club celebrated its centenary in 2008 and continues to provide a social and cultural centre with a philanthropic charter.

Details

Margaret Ogg is credited with founding the Brisbane Women's Club and it was under her guidance members became a driving force to develop Brisbane into a better place for women to live and work. The Brisbane Women's Club was a place where women were encouraged to take on leadership roles and fulfil their potential. The first club premises were in a building on the corner of Adelaide and Albert Streets. For many years contributions were made to a building fund and eventually the club bought its own building at 107 Albert Street in 1964.

The Brisbane Women's Club met every second and fourth Thursday of each month, with the second Thursday dedicated to social activities while the fourth Thursday was educational. Invited guests would present a paper at these meetings. In 1913 Margaret Ogg suggested holding frequent debates among members to encourage public speaking. The first debate was held on 3 August and the topic for discussion was 'Should Women Enter Parliament'. During both world wars, the Brisbane Women's Club ran the War Work Circle. Members would knit and sew for refugees and soldiers and raise funds for the Red Cross. They worked in groups to weave 126 camouflage nets and make over 2500 articles of clothing. Brisbane Women's Club members served in World War I, World War II and the Vietnam War. Club members met immigrant ships at

the docks to welcome and assist young girls arriving in Brisbane. They also established the Traveller's Aid Society in 1929, which assisted confused and tired travellers arriving in Brisbane to get to their accommodation or connecting plane, bus, tram or train.

The club sponsored such reforms as:

- waiting sheds for tram passengers
- numbering tram stops
- name plates on trees in the Botanical Gardens
- dating milk bottles
- erecting a shelter shed on North Quay
- installing traffic lights at busy intersections
- the supply of milk for school children
- zebra crossings outside schools
- better street lighting
- equal pay for women
- the removal of the double standard in divorce laws
- the right of women to sit on juries
- the establishment of baby clinics
- changes to laws that would allow women to be elected to local councils and to sit on governing boards
- the introduction of domestic science for schoolgirls into the Queensland school curriculum

The club had a strong connection with the National Council of Women, the Queensland Women's Electoral League, the Brisbane Lyceum Club, the Queensland Deaf & Dumb Mission, the Queensland Bush Book Club, the Mission to Seamen, the Country Women's Association and the Crèche and Kindergarten Association. Upon Margaret Ogg's death in 1953, the club established a scholastic bursary in her memory. It was to be awarded to the girl who gained the highest marks in social studies in the Scholarship examination. In 1970 the Margaret Ogg Memorial Bursary was created for the best short story in the Warana Writer's Competition for under 18's. The winner received a book prize. In 2009 the Brisbane Women's Club and Yvonne Haysom Bursary takes the form of a scholarship that is open to students of the Conservatorium of Music, Griffith University. It is valued at \$1000 and is awarded annually to a female undergraduate studying in the creative arts.

Archival resources

Fryer Library, The University of Queensland

- Ephemera relating to women's movement organisations, 1960 - , FVF632; Brisbane Women's Club (1908 -), Children By Choice Association Incorporated (1972 -), National Women's Consultative Council (1984 - 1992), Brisbane International Women's Day Committee; Brisbane Women's Union; Coalition of Australian Participating Organisations of Women; Domestic Violence Resource Centre; Emma Miller Women's Group and Grass Roots Resource Centre and many others.; Fryer Library, The University of Queensland.

John Oxley Library, Manuscripts and Business Records Collection, State Library of Queensland

- 28386 Dining Room of Brisbane Women's Club [Work of Art] 1930, 1930, 28386; Brisbane Women's Club (1908 -), Elliot, Mona; John Oxley Library, Manuscripts and Business Records Collection, State Library of Queensland.
- 28405 Brisbane Women's Club Records 1908-2013, 1908 - 2013, 28405; Brisbane Women's Club (1908 -); John Oxley Library, Manuscripts and Business Records Collection, State Library of Queensland.
- 7976 Brisbane Women's Club Records 1908-2008, 1908 - 2008, 7976; Brisbane Women's Club (1908 -); John Oxley Library, Manuscripts and Business Records Collection, State Library of Queensland.
- Annual report and financial statements / Brisbane Women's Club, 1974, Call Number: S 367 017; Brisbane Women's Club (1908 -); John Oxley Library, Manuscripts and Business Records Collection, State Library of Queensland.
- [Newsletter] / Brisbane Women's Club., 1950s - 1980, Call Number: S 367 015; Brisbane Women's Club (1908 -); John Oxley Library, Manuscripts and Business Records Collection, State Library of Queensland.

Published resources

Online Resources

- Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.party-1477384.Details>

An Overview of Modern BWC

In more recent times, BWC sold the premises that it owned in the Brisbane CBD. While this has meant BWC no longer has a physical premises for members to ‘drop in’, the decision was central to BWC securing its long-term financial sustainability by releasing investment capital and providing operating cashflow to support its operational requirements, philanthropic program and activities.

In recent years BWC has awarded grants to a diverse range of organisations that deliver tangible benefits to the women of Brisbane including:

- Women’s Legal Service
- Yalari
- Friends with Dignity
- UQ Women’s College
- Qld Country Women’s Association
- Logan Women’s Health and Wellbeing Centre
- Lady Musgrave Trust
- Suited for Success
- A Brave Life
- Sisters of the Good Samaritan

In 2017 BWC partnered with the Queensland Government to launch a financial literacy course, “Invest In Yourself”, aimed at improving women’s financial awareness, knowledge, skills and decision making. BWC has also run professional career development events with the Australian Institute of Company Directors in recent years to help women develop their readiness to take up board roles.

Since early March in 2020 BWC has been severely impacted in its ability to operate by the COVID-19 pandemic. The ongoing presence of COVID in our community, government restrictions, impacts on work, family and life continue. It is not surprising that women of all ages have been disproportionately impacted by these changes over their male counter-parts. Issues such as child-care, domestic violence, availability of housing, flexible work arrangements, job security, gender equality, equal pay, sharing of home duties have all been prevalent in our society in recent COVID times. Now more than ever, BWC wants to focus strongly on supporting local Brisbane women.

Acknowledgement of Country

Brisbane Women's Club would like to acknowledge the Turrbal (including Yuggera, Noonucal, Goenpul and Yugembah) as the First Nation owners of the lands where BWC members come together as a community supporting local women. We pay respect to their elders, lores, customs and creation spirits. We too, worry about country and seek to work together to recognize, protect and maintain all aspects of First Nation's culture and heritage, for all Australians.







NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2021



Our Governance

- BWC is a public company limited by guarantee; registered with ASIC.
- BWC is governed by a Constitution. Our Constitution guides BWC to achieve the following charitable objectives:
 - Exercise leadership around issues affecting women;
 - Support projects and organisations aimed at improving the lives of women;
 - Mentor and guide women to achieve equal participation in social, cultural, economic and political arenas of Australian life; and
 - Create events and activities which benefit women.
- BWC is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC).
- The BWC Board currently comprises six (6) directors, including Chair, Director of Finance, Director of BWC Memberships, Director of BWC Charitable Giving Program, Director of BWC Events Program and a Company Secretary.
- Each board member brings the necessary skills and experience to the BWC Board to run operations and oversight its governance requirements. Currently the Board holds a mixture of qualifications (including commerce, accounting, law, arts, governance) and diverse professional experience (including small business, corporate and consulting across a variety of industries).
- The Board oversees the management of around \$1 million dollars of investments that underpin BWC's operations and philanthropic activities.
- The BWC Charitable Giving Program promotes annual grant(s) including calling for grant applications, establishment of a members grants committee who review grant applications and make a recommendation to the BWC Board for award of grant(s).
- Membership is open to all (including anyone who aligns with our values, supports our objectives and pays their membership fee). Membership fees contribute to the BWC Charitable Giving Program and administration costs of running a membership organisation with a social events program.
- BWC is registered with the Queensland Office of Fair Trading, Department of Justice and Attorney General and holds a Certificate of Sanction for an Indefinite Term allowing BWC to conduct appeals for support ie collect donations.
- The BWC Board endorses an audit of BWC financial accounts by an independent chartered accountant. The BWC financial year ends 30 June each year.
- BWC maintains Association, Voluntary Workers and Public Liability insurance, renewed annually.

Our People

Name		Position(s)	Term	Board Meetings FY21
Rachael Hockaday		Director	25/02/2016 - Current	Attended: 4 Eligible: 5
Leah Gabriel (nee Stangle)		Director, Chair of BWC Board and Company Secretary	7/02/2019 - Current	Attended: 5 Eligible: 5
Niki Dowsing		Director of BWC Charitable Giving Program	27/04/2020 - Current	Attended: 5 Eligible: 5
Jacqui Schultz		Director of BWC Events Program	21/07/2020 - Current	Attended: 5 Eligible: 5
Ursula South		Director of Finance	28/11/2020 - Current	Attended: 2 Eligible: 3
Rachael Pimm		Director of BWC Membership	7/04/2021 - Current	Attended: 1 Eligible: 1

Member Volunteers During FY21

Katelyn Hynes	Grants Committee
Amanda Mannix	Grants Committee
Robyn Francis	Grants Committee
Michelle O'Sullivan	Events Committee
Suzanne Wacker	Events Committee
Elise Williams	Finance Committee

Members at 30 June 2021

5+ Year Members

Robin Francis
Nina Psaltis
Kristen Sharpe

4+ Year Members

Rachael Hockaday
Margaret Raptis
Nicola Dowsing

3+ Year Members

Louise Hall
Catherine Black
Suzanne Wacker
Sharlene Roach
Sylvia Selva
Aimee McVeigh
Alana Paterson
Michele Blanshard

2+ Year Members

Sally Foley-Lewis
Elise Williams
Rosemary McKeon
Katelin Haynes
Emma Fitzgerald
Anna Hebron
Robyn Francis
Michelle Stickley
Leah Stangle
Robyn Usher
Amy Hourigan
Mary-Anne Anderson
Simone-Lee Givney

1+ Year Members

Lynda Galway
Kylie Minns
Georgina Tolan
Kate Witteveen
Therese Lardner
Sora Fallaha
Jyoti Pant
Nicola Seaton
Amanda Mannix
Ronlyn Benbow
Jocelyn Mackenzie-Ross
Olga Chaourova
Karen Healey
Brenda Stephens
Brigid Stevenson
Siena Perry
Karen Jacques
Rowena Collings

Joined This Financial Year

Catherine Edwards
Jacqueline Schultz
Lou Wilson
Azadeh Maleks
Susan McGinley
Kimberley Beuth
Sarah Palmer
Jennifer Tyrrell
Nicole Hill
Sarah Foley
Angela Grant
Leisha Titmarsh
Ursula South
Tarah Hodgkinson
Erin Haywood
Selina Trace
Emma Best
Katherine Sheldon
Ingrid Moreno
Shannon Chapman
Lena Bhavanam
Sophie Young
Penelope Butcher
Xiaowen Chen
Isabelle Hodgkin
Leanne Boyd
Rachael Pimm
Cris Santos
Kim Davis
Jodi Elsaesser
Jacqueline Choquenot
Grace Townsend
Marnie Cruickshank
Rebecca Drayton
Paula Read
Peta Willoughby



OPERATIONAL REPORTS

Chair of BWC Board Report

In FY21 BWC built upon our earlier work to reinvigorate the women of Brisbane and strengthen BWC as an influential charitable organisation making a difference for women in the community in which we live. As we look to refresh BWC in the future we still want to ensure that we honour the legacy of Margaret Ogg and those BWC members before us. The BWC Board feels an enormous sense of responsibility to “do right” with the money we have been entrusted to make a difference to the lives of women in Brisbane. We feel that this is best achieved through a members organisation drawing on the strengths of the amazing talent that Brisbane has to offer through the provision of a social program as well as our continued commitment to supporting local women’s charities through the donation of grant monies and other support.

We went back to the drawing board to look at our strategy and what it is the club wants to achieve going forward. Consequently, we reshaped the Board and created specific roles for a Director of BWC Charitable Giving Program, Director of BWC Events Program and Director of BWC Membership to complement the general work of all Board members. We continued our strong focus on corporate governance giving more structure and direction to the organisation, including in the management of invested funds and reduction in operating costs balanced against increase in revenue. We unpicked some of our processes which no longer suited us and made changes to better BWC for membership growth and community engagement in the future.

Like everyone, we were not able to deliver on all of our plans owing to COVID-19 and government restrictions; however, we are proud of what we have been able to achieve, deliver and develop in FY21. BWC supported local Brisbane Women in FY21 through a number of activities including:

- Gifting \$5,000 to 4Voices for its program providing a mobile van service supporting women of all ages who are socially isolated; experiencing bullying, abuse or violence, are homeless; are not connected in the digital world;
- Collecting goods and donating items for baby bags to past grant recipient, A Brave Life; and collecting jumpers to be distributed by Signal Flare to homeless and women in need in Brisbane;
- Despite COVID-19 and government restrictions, holding a number of Meet and Mingle – Professional series networking events featuring keys speakers Kylie Chown and Nia Lloyd; as well as hosting a fabulous Christmas High Tea at the ever-sophisticated Emporium Hotel;
- Delving into our inner artist and having some fun with a Paint and Sip evening, while feasting on Italian food;
- Establishing our first social media members group in Facebook for more interactive engagement with our members;
- Engaging with more of our members through sub-committees and voluntary roles, as well as trialing more social media communications;
- Profiling our members and community via a membership survey which is being used to shape the strategic direction of the organisation going forward; and
- Building our membership numbers to 84 members; while supporting an even greater community of local Brisbane women helping other women.

Many thanks to the BWC volunteer Board who have really stepped up to the challenge this year to deliver bigger and better things for our members; and to do so while ensuring best practice governance of a charitable organisation is maintained. With the continued support of our members, we have some great plans to deliver in the future – we want to build on the BWC legacy and continue to make an impact for local Brisbane women.

Leah Gabriel (nee Stangle)

Director of BWC Membership Report

As at 30 June 2021 BWC had 81 members. Membership numbers remained steady from last financial year (FY19/20: 77); impacted again by COVID-19 and government restrictions on face to face social events and community activities.

Membership fees remained at \$71.50 (\$65 plus GST); as an annual subscription renewed on the anniversary of individual membership approval. Members became a member of a company limited by guarantee.

Membership fees contribute to the BWC Charitable Giving program, including distribution of grant monies to 4 Voices; supporting local women through the BWC Events Program; and contribute to BWC administration.

The BWC Membership base is made up of a diverse group of, predominantly, women who:

- Reside in Brisbane;
- Have an interest in women's issues;
- Want to connect with like-minded women; and
- Are in a position to 'give back' to the community (eg financial, time, volunteering, skills, connection, mentoring)

All membership applications were approved pursuant to the BWC Constitution.

All members are eligible to apply for board and committee roles as they become available.

Key to moving forward are the results and feedback we received from our BWC Membership Survey conducted in May 2021:

- We received a response rate of 49% (which is excellent as far as survey engagements go)!
- The majority of our members are in management positions across a broad range of industries including recruitment, legal, finance, government and communication.
- The two biggest reasons for joining BWC included:
 - Networking and connections with like-minded professionals/women; and
 - Supporting causes for women

- Our average rating for membership satisfaction was 3.4/5 (so, we have some things to improve on, but our members are mostly happy).
- When attending events, members wanted:
 - Guest speakers
 - Workshops/classes
 - Happy Hour/Networking
 - Panel Discussions
- With resounding clarity members advised that the best form of communication is via email (97%); social media; text message; newsletter and then website notifications.
- Biggest things we can improve upon:
 - More clarity around purpose and goals of BWC
 - More membership benefits
 - Look ahead calendar of events
 - More communication

Having only started the newly established role of Director of Membership in early April 2021 I'm keen to streamline BWC member processes to improve the membership payment system; improve membership records and membership communication.

I'm looking forward to an exciting FY22 working with our engaged members to build a better BWC for the women of Brisbane!

Rachael Pimm

Director of BWC Charitable Giving Program Report

In FY21 the BWC Board sought to increase the support the club offers local women by formally structuring (and re-naming) the “**BWC Charitable Giving Program**”, where distribution of grant monies are only one of the ways in which we help. In addition to providing an annual grant(s) funded by membership money and club invested funds, we wanted to continue to build upon our successful goods drives of the past and incorporate goods collections/donations to worthwhile charities that support local Brisbane women.

BWC Grant

In October 2020 BWC launched our second grant for 2020 (the first grant being awarded to Good Samaritan Housing for its ‘Mentoring and Empowering Vulnerable Mothers’ program, which was reported in our FY19/20 Annual Report). We invited applications from local charities that support local Brisbane women in one or more of the following ways:

- Providing projects or support aimed at improving the lives of women;
- Mentoring and guiding women to achieve equal participation in the social, cultural, economic and political arenas of Australian life;
- Exercising leadership around issues affecting women; and
- Providing projects for women that have negatively been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Again, we drew upon the fantastic knowledge, skill, insight and experience of our 2020 Grants Committee (comprising Amanda Mannix (member), Robyn Francis (member), Michele Blanshard (member) and Katelin Haynes (member) to form the Grants Committee, which I chaired.

We received seventeen (17) applications. The grant applications involved a variety of projects and causes, with most seeking financial assistance to provide support, mentoring, education, wellness and/or self-care for women (targeting socially and digitally isolated women, victims of domestic violence, mothers of autistic children, under/unemployed women, women with cancer, mums with a premature/sick babies, for example). Other projects included leadership training for women’s community groups, provision of meals for women with cancer; and financial payments to individual women achieving great things in the areas of research, science, advanced study and the arts industry.

The Grants Committee members each individually reviewed and ranked all applications before having a face to face discussion regarding their findings. Collectively, the Committee recommended to the BWC Board that 4 Voices (www.4voices.org.au/) be awarded the grant for its “Connecting the Community of Inala” project as it was felt that they outlined a very worthwhile project that aligned with BWC scope for grant award and BWC strategic objectives. The Board agreed and endorsed the recommendation; and 4 Voices was presented with a cheque for \$5,000 in December 2020.

BWC Charitable Giving Program; Grant Recipient – 4 Voices



4 Voices is a fantastic Brisbane based charity that provides connection to women and girls who are experiencing social isolation, domestic violence, homelessness, and digital exclusion; in particular, those who have difficulty connecting socially and digitally because of fear, shame, embarrassment, poor English, lack of support, insufficient intellectual capability, no access to technology and/or who are computer illiterate. 4 Voices provides a mobile van service with telephones, laptops, printer/scanner/copier, Wi-Fi and a television and operates at 10 locations across South-east Brisbane. They assist women to register for MyGov, open email accounts, complete online forms, print documents, write their CV, search for jobs, housing, medical or other support. By providing a mobile service they are able to go where the help is needed most. Funding from BWC was sought for the 4 Voices mobile van service to visit the community of Inala on a weekly basis for three hours, over a 12 month period. It was expected that at least 100 girls and women in Inala would benefit from this service each week it was to be provided in 2021.

BWC Goods Drives

During COVID-19 we have had to look at other ways that we can support local women. Providing specific items that are needed by local charities to deliver their program of work is another way that our members are able to support and make a difference in our broader community.

A Brave Life – Baby Bundle Program



In August and September 2020 we went on a baby bag bonanza collecting much needed items for past BWC Grant recipient, A Brave Live (www.abl.com.au), could use to stock their care bags as part of their “Baby Bundle Program”. Imagine, arriving at hospital, giving birth and coming from a situation of poverty, domestic violence, trauma, relationship/family breakdown, unplanned pregnancy or homelessness and not having the basics for yourself, let alone your baby. Our members and community were very generous and provided tangible items or shopping money. We collected so many items we had trouble fitting them in the car come delivery time. We donated 47 travel mugs; 30 hairbrushes; 22 packs of hair bands; 53 roll-on deodorants, 82 toothbrushes; 40 water bottles; 98 shampoo/condition packs; 264 personal tissue packs; 64 soap/body wash; 104 face washers and some other additional items.

Signal Flare – Jumper Drive



In May and June 2021, as the temperature dropped, and we all snuggled nice and warm at home we collected new and good quality pre-loved jumpers for local women in our community who were homeless or doing it tough. Signal Flare held a BBQ at Musgrave Park, South Brisbane and distributed clothes, shoes, toiletries and food to those in need; including a mountain of jumpers donated by our community (some 40+ jumpers).

On behalf of the BWC Board I would like to personally thank all of our BWC members and community for supporting the BWC Charitable Giving Program with your membership money and goods donations. The last twenty-four months have been incredibly hard for charities and the local women whom they support. With your help we have made a difference. I'm proud to continue the long legacy of BWC supporting local women in our community.

Niki Dowsing

Director of BWC Events Program Report

What a year and an introduction as newly established and appointed BWC Director of Events! We set out to increase our social activities in FY21, and while the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact us and our ability to hold social events we took the opportunities we could when those slim windows of time allowed our members and community to get together, like pre-pandemic times.

Socialising When You Can't Leave the House – Facebook Member's Group

When social events were not allowed, in September 2020 we established BWC's first ever social/online community via our closed Facebook members group. Who knew how tricky it was to match member names with carefully crafted social media profiles! Social media is a learning curve for all of us and we are grateful for everyone's support and encouragement as we continued to pivot our activities for an online environment. Facebook has provided a great and innovative way to communicate with our community.

Christmas High Tea @ Emporium Hotel

After a quiet July – October in 2020 (....COVID.....) we wanted to deliver something great for the end of the year and had a blast planning, delivering and celebrating our Christmas High Tea at the Emporium Hotel in November. If we could have predicted the support from our community to get away from zoom, out of our jammies and active wear and into our party dress attire with so much enthusiasm we would have found a bigger venue! We were thrilled when tickets to our Christmas event, featuring travel stories from Christine Velde as she entertained us with stories of her travel adventures in Bali, sold out in record time. We couldn't travel but we could party, social distanced of course, and I'm not sure who was the last person to put down their cocktail and leave the Emporium Roof Top bar in the wee hours of the following morning!

AGM and Spanish Dinner @ Moda

A somewhat more subdued affair, in February 2021 we ticked the box on our corporate governance formalities and elected the new board of BWC for the year ahead and reflected upon the activities and achievements and interruption of COVID-19 for FY19/20 as part of our AGM. The food and wine was delicious; and when we talked and ate so much and they

advised we had another main course to be delivered we sent for more Spanish wine and called for desert!

Meet and Mingle Professional Series – Kylie Chown @ Brisbane Club

With COVID at bay in Qld in April 2021 we kicked off the new format to our networking events and invited the lovely and informative Kylie Chown to school us all on optimising Linked In for our own personal profiles. For those that were brave we had a photograph take corporate head shot photos so our Linked In profiles stood out from the crowd.

Paint and Sip @Cork and Chroma, Southbank Art Studio

With mixed reactions, still lots of high spirits (laughs and alcoholic), we found our inner artists in May 2021 and painted black cockatoos/penguins.... depending on how you interpreted the brief! Who doesn't love Italian food bought to your painting easel as we did our best to let the creativity flow?!? Most smile, I'm not sure how many have picked up a paint brush since.

Meet and Mingle Professional Series – Nia Lloyd @ Brisbane Club

As the financial year drew to a close we squeezed in one more networking session in June 2021 with the fabulous Nia Lloyd from Career Voice to help us find some balance in our lives as we work, support family, study, contribute to the household, and try to maintain connection with our friends. No matter what you do, how much flexibility you have in your life it was interesting to hear the common challenges we all faced trying to 'adult' in 2021.

It has been fun, entertaining, fabulous meeting and getting to know our members and guests. For those that left the comfort of home and came out to meet new people, learn something new, contribute to our community – we thank you! Our goal is that we build an engaged membership community and that anyone would feel comfortable and welcome attending a BWC event. You are helping us to deliver that in spades and build this fantastic network of influential women making change and supporting local women in Brisbane.

Jacqui Schultz



OUR FINANCES

Director of Finance Report

BWC continues to maintain a sound financial position. BWC's operating outcome continues to reflect the impact of COVID-19 on the financial markets, the investment portfolio, operating activities and member retention.

The Board continues its commitment to managing a balanced operating budget; and to generally not budget or forecast an operating deficit. Such an approach continues to support BWC's financial sustainability over the short, medium and long term future.

Revenue

In FY21, BWC generated total revenue of \$57,741 (\$49,721 in FY20). Dividend income and trust distributions, totaling \$44,881 at year end represent around 78% of BWC's income. BWC's investment portfolio continues to be managed by Ord Minnett.

The remaining revenue was generated from events of \$7,135 (\$2,486 in FY20) and membership fees totaling \$5,725 (\$5,786 in FY20).

Investments

BWC's investment in shares and other securities are valued at their market value and all movement in market value are recognised in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income.

The Board has maintained a Medium/Low overall investment portfolio risk range and has endorsed the position that protecting the investment portfolio is more important than high returns and that capital losses are of concern.

Expenses

In FY21 BWC incurred total operating expenses of \$41,743 (\$39,449 in FY20). This represents a slight increase of \$2,294 compared to the previous year.

BWC's significant operating expense items during the year (excluding donations and grant funding) relate to investment management fees \$15,041 and event costs \$7,261. We have incurred \$2,208 in consulting fees which has largely been to assist the Board to undertake a review of the strategic plan and to begin the journey developing a marketing strategy.

During the year the Board approved one BWC Charitable Giving Program grant of \$5,000 to 4Voices.

Balance Sheet

Net assets totaled \$1,146,141 (\$984,643 in FY20). The assets largely comprise BWC's investment portfolio. The Board determined to hold less cash at hand in FY21.

FY21 Financial Reports and Audit Report

The FY21 Financial Reports and Audit Report is provided separately to this our Annual Report (and is available on the ACNC website for reference).

In line with the review of other governance processes the Board has reviewed the way it manages investment, operating costs and membership. We were sad to see our long-time external book-keeper, Belinda Grech, depart after providing book-keeping and membership assistance for over 3 years.

We look forward to working with Heather Ebertson for our book-keeping in FY21; with continued assistance from Frances Zappala for BAS. We have bought membership management back under the Board direction through the appointment of a dedicated Director of Membership with extensive account experience.

Ursula South

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Acknowledgments and Thank You

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following people and businesses for their support of BWC in FY21:



brisbaneclub.com.au



bulimbagolfclub.com.au



emporiumhotels.com.au



modarestaurant.com.au



careervoice.com.au



kyliechown.com.au



thehrpeople.com.au



corkandchroma.com.au



gustoitalianobrisbane.com.au

If you can support any of these businesses, please do, as they supported us.

Join the BWC Community

Become a Member

Our members are the heart of our club. If you want to support BWC please join as a member. We offer events and activities in response to our members' interests as related to gender equality. Membership fees facility our annual charitable grants program where we give back to local Brisbane charities that support local women and align with our constitutional objectives. As a community we like to support worthy causes through financial contributions, donated goods, promotion of key messages, attendance at charitable events and through volunteering our skills and services. We love a good chat; if you are new to Brisbane, or perhaps have lived here your whole life, and are looking to connect with like-minded people then please consider becoming a member. See our website for membership details.

Become a Corporate Partner

BWC represents a diverse group of individuals who are centrally located and have a passion to help. BWC acts as a connector between individuals, companies and organisations who have similar values. If you would like to discuss an opportunity for BWC to connect with your company; or for your company to position itself as a sponsor of BWC then please reach out.

Promote Your Business

If you have a great business and services or products that you want to promote amongst our members please let us know! Our members give a lot, and we love to give back to them, and to promote products and business that align with our values.

Apply for BWC's Charitable Giving Program

If you are a local registered charity that supports women in our community we want to hear from you – do you need goods? Do you need volunteers? Do you need a specific skill for a short term project to help you achieve your goals? If so, let us know as we are all about supporting local Brisbane women and charities!

You can contact us via our website, social media or

email us BWCMail@bwc.org.au

and we will forward your inquiry to the most appropriate person.

Looking to the Future

Event	Location	Date / Time
Saturday Soiree	Bulimba Golf Club, Bulimba	Saturday 28 August 2021; 2 - 4pm
Meet and Mingle – Professional Series featuring Karen Vercoe	The Brisbane Club, Brisbane City	Wednesday 20 October 2021; 6.30 – 8pm
Red Bench Morning Tea	Lovewell Café, Mt Gravatt	Sunday 24 October 2021; 10am
End of Year Christmas and High Tea Party	Emporium Hotel, South Brisbane	Sunday 28 November 2021; 12.30 – 2.30pm
AGM and Spanish Dinner	Moda Wine Room, The Barracks	Thursday 25 February 2022; 6 - 8pm
Meet and Mingle – Professional Series	The Brisbane Club, Brisbane City	Thursday 31 March 2022; 6.30 – 8pm
Meet and Mingle – Professional Series featuring Kylie Chown	The Brisbane Club, Brisbane City	Thursday 19 May 2022; 6.30 – 8pm
BWC Celebration Event	TBA	Saturday 18 June 2022; 2 – 4pm
Meet and Mingle – Professional Series featuring Lady Mayoress Nina Schrinner	The Brisbane Club, Brisbane City	Thursday 21 July 2022; 6.30 – 8.00pm
Saturday Soiree	Bulimba Golf Club, Bulimba	Saturday 13 August 2022; 1-4pm
Meet and Mingle – Professional Series featuring Francesca Webster	The Brisbane Club, Brisbane City	Thursday 8 September 2022; 6.30 – 8pm
Dinner Club	TBA	Friday 21 October 2022; 6.30 – 8.30pm
Christmas Party and High Tea	Emporium Hotel, South Brisbane	Saturday 12 November 2022; 1-3pm



Contact Us



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Brisbane Women's Club - BWC



Brisbane Women's Club Official



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