

FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR MARCH, 2007:

Firstly, a very big thank you, Gloria for her continued support of this organisation. While Gloria has been busy fighting to oppose another Dam on the Murray she has also managed to provide an update to our web masters. Thank you also Gloria for picking up some of my chores while I was recuperating. I am pleased to advise that I am feeling very much better with the installation of a brand new titanium knee. What an ordeal.

I am pleased to see the return of so many pearl raffle ticket butts and the slowly growing bank balance. There are still many tickets outstanding but overall I feel that it has been a very worthwhile exercise. I thank all those members out there for taking the time to sell tickets for a very worthwhile cause. Let's hope that we can return something to these members when the IT Smart Application is approved. I am also eagerly awaiting the proposal that Sandra Gillanders is putting together for us for the Women's Advancement Initiative. If however, anyone has any grand ideas for a proposal I am very open to suggestions.

Since I don't feel up to too much travel at present, Helen Jenkins will be standing in for me at the SSA Network meeting in Nelson Bay on 30th March. Mary Howard, NSW Director, will also be attendance. This will be a great opportunity for Mary to meet Helen, Tanya and Marianne. I know that you will ensure that she is made feel very welcome.

The NRWC has commenced its project for 2007 with the launch onto the website of a survey relative to **"Maximising opportunities for rural women in employment and leadership – identifying the constraints and proposing possible solutions"**. I would like to encourage you all to forward this onto anyone within your networks. It is a very simply formatted survey which gives us a quick evaluation of the uptake and results. It is quick and easy to complete. The results will be passed onto the Office of Women. I will be travelling to Sydney at the end of April to participate in the next Face to Face meeting with these very vibrant women to assess the results of this survey and where to go next with it.

On the local scene, I am heavily involved in the organisation of our Celebration of Seafood. This is to become an annual event with a Blessing of the Fleet, decorated boats, Helicopter River Rescue, Naval Cadets and the involvement of the Local Marine Volunteer Rescue. I am working with the local Rotary Club who are extremely enthusiastic about building the event into something truly memorably. Events like this are great to be involved in when everyone is prepared to do their bit for its overall success.

My dear friend, Margaret Stevenson, a long time QWIN member has been asked to work with the Qld Seafood Industry Association on an EMS for this area. This together with the grant from Burnett Mary Regional Group (Landcare) to OceanWatch should ensure that great improvements occur to our very unhealthy river system which we liken to that of the Murray. Such a shame that human interference leads to such devastation of these once mighty systems.

I close with this thought: ***May the holes in your net be no larger than the fish in it.***

Until next time. Keep Winning.

Anne Whalley.