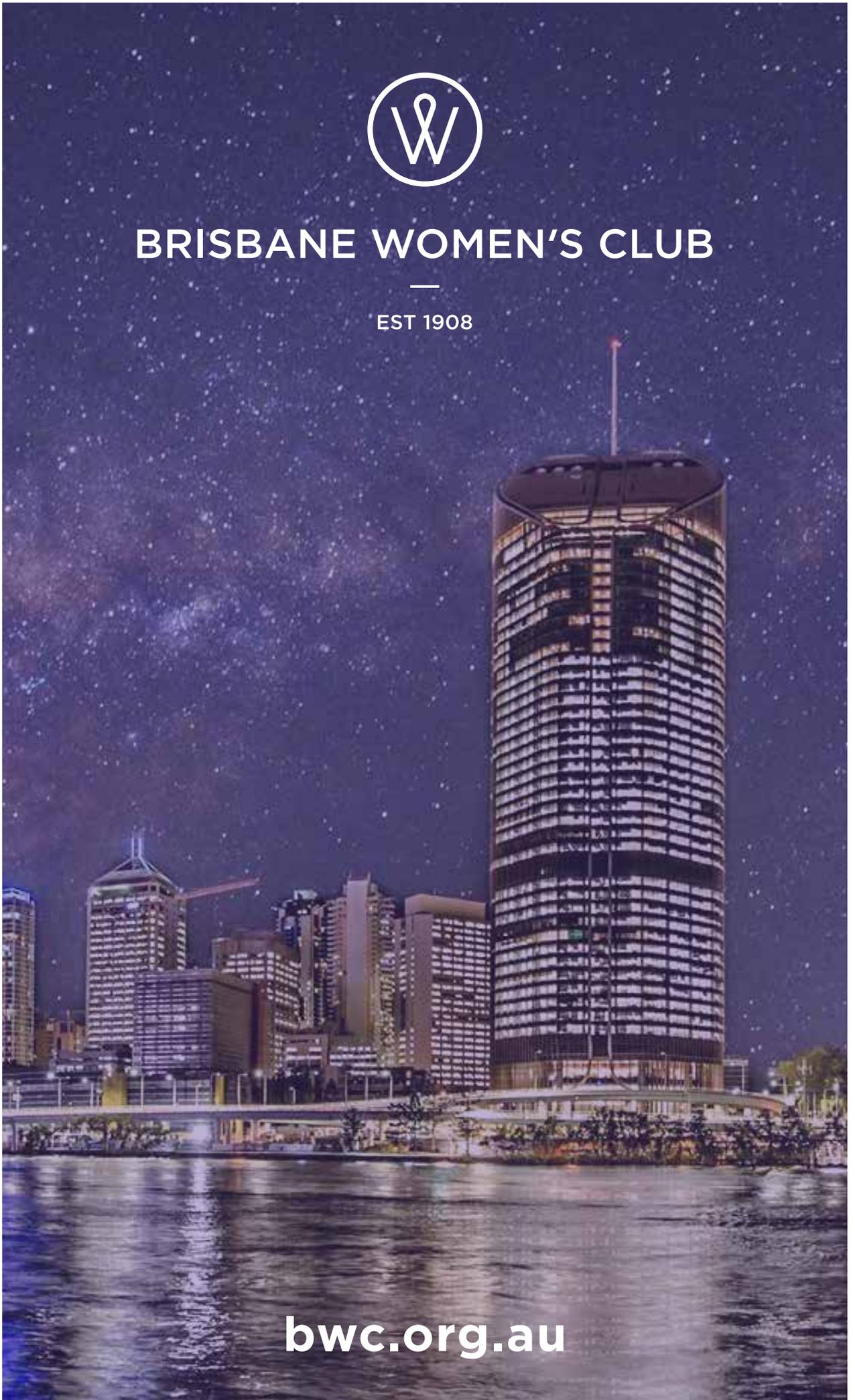


# ANNUAL REPORT 2018



## BRISBANE WOMEN'S CLUB

—  
EST 1908



[bwc.org.au](http://bwc.org.au)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

About BWC	2
Our Board	3
Chair's Report	4
Event Summaries	6
Our Finance	8
Our Supporters	10
Charitable Grants Program	10
Get Involved	11

# ABOUT BWC

## Our Mission

Brisbane Women's Club (BWC) is one of the oldest and most influential women's groups in Queensland. It has been a strong advocate for women and a champion of social change for more than a century.

Today, the Club has a growing membership – a whole new generation of business and professional women looking for inspiration, wanting to be part of a voice for women in our community, and wanting to give support and encouragement to other less fortunate women in their community. BWC is a leader and facilitator, harnessing the skill of its members and building partnerships to create opportunity and to tackle issues of importance to Queensland women. As well as a vibrant program of activities and events, the Club's Charitable Trust supports initiatives that empower, encourage and enable women to fulfil their potential.

## Our Vision

That Brisbane women are able to reach their full potential in all aspects of life free of discrimination, with BWC members being a force for change supporting each other and the community.

## Our History

The Brisbane Women's Club was founded in 1908 by Margaret Ogg, an extraordinary woman with a passion to improve the lives of Queensland women. Operating continuously for more than 110 years, from its inception the Club has had a strong social justice purpose.

The Brisbane Women's Club was a key fundraiser and driver of the establishment of Women's College at UQ, actively campaigned for the pension and support for single mothers and today, through its Charitable Trust donations, financially supports a range of organizations and projects in QLD encompassing women's medical research, women's education, QLD country women, and women experiencing domestic violence.

## Current directors:



Robin Francis



Patrice McKay



Rachael Hockaday



Georgia Henry  
(appointed 04 Oct 2017)



Megan Cairney  
(appointed 04 Oct 2017)

## Former directors:



Amanda Sartor  
(resigned 26 Jul 2018)



Catherine Black  
(appointed 04 Oct 2017)  
(resigned 07 Aug 2018)



Nina Psaltis  
(resigned 24 Jul 2017)

OUR BOARD

110 YEARS

# CHAIR'S REPORT



Robin Francis, BWC Chair

Brisbane Women's Club may be a small organisation but it's one with an ambitious purpose – to support women to participate equally in Australian society. Our strategy has focussed on women's policy, philanthropy, networking and partnerships and we have been active on all four fronts during 2017-18.

## Philanthropy

BWC's philanthropic grants program supporting disadvantaged women has continued this year with a significant grant of \$10,000 to Suited For Success, an amazing organisation which supports unemployed women to succeed in getting into the workforce.

In awarding the grant this year, we wanted to align with our financial literacy policy focus and Suited for Success was the outstanding applicant with a strong track record in helping thousands of women to achieve career and financial independence.

## International Women's Week

In Brisbane, International Women's Week seems to grow and grow every year and this year BWC was invited to a number of wonderful events including the Premier's Reception, the Inspire lunch, where an engaging panel explored topics central to women's gender parity, and the Women in Focus event where Dr Kirsten Ferguson spoke about her award-winning global initiative #CelebratingWomen.

It was a real joy to run into so many of our members at these events and to be part of a tangible groundswell of women who want to agitate for change to improve the lives of women in the political sphere, in the workplace, and in Australian communities.

# SUCCESS

## Invest In Yourself

As you may already know, BWC continues to run our Invest In Yourself (IY) campaign focussed on improving women's financial literacy and which is supported by the Queensland Government's Office For Women. IY delivers a range of interventions to improve the self-awareness and skills of women around financial decision-making, empowering them to work toward financial security and independence. Working with our fantastic partner, Inspire, we've delivered seven events over the past year involving more than 300 women ranging from university students, early career women, women taking a career break, women planning for retirement, and rural women running agribusinesses.

BWC has also been admitted as a member of Economic Security 4 Women, a national alliance funded by the federal Office For Women, which lobbies for social and legal changes which will benefit women financially.

Finally, in June this year, I met with the Qld Minister for Women, Di Farmer, for a very engaging conversation about BWC's IY campaign and its alignment with the Qld Government's Women's Strategy.

## Women's Policy

We've continued our policy focus firstly on women's financial literacy through our Invest in Yourself campaign running a range of events throughout the year. I even ventured out to rural Queensland to engage the women of Warwick in conversation about the importance of women's financial independence and financial planning for their futures. The campaign has been a timely one with widespread Australian media attention on the financial disadvantages women experience.

Our second policy area has focussed on women's leadership and specifically, on improving women's representation on boards. This year BWC partnered with the Australian Institute of Company Directors in Brisbane to run a sold-out event focussed on women's board readiness. The demand for this event was so great that we plan to run a similar event in 2018-19 and it indicates the appetite many Queensland women have to develop their careers to take up board roles.

BWC has also continued its membership of the Office for Women's Strategic Advisory Group for Women on Boards.

## Member Engagement

Being a member of BWC is all about connection and contribution. In 2018, Brisbane Women's Club has been engaging with our members through our regular events and newsletters, connecting members with organisations they are wanting to support and with other members with similar interests.

Members of BWC are encouraged to look for ways to contribute to the issues we support, to bring ideas and suggestions on policy, activities and issues, and to engage with each other to make a difference to the women of Brisbane.

## Networking

This year many of you may have attended one of our very successful monthly Meet and Mingle nights. Our Meet & Mingles have gone from strength to strength and it has been fantastic to meet so many of our members as well as women from a broad cross-section of Brisbane life. We plan to grow these monthly gatherings and to provide opportunities, not only to relax and to connect with each other, but also for women to tell their often-incredible stories in a supportive and fun context.

## Viva Italia Wine Event

On a very pleasant evening in May 2018, the Club held an Italian wine appreciation event generously hosted by Peter Scudamore-Smith of Uncorked and Cultivated. Peter was one of the first Australians to be awarded the internationally coveted (and rare) honour of Master of Wine.

Our guests were treated to some fabulous Italian wines – sparkling, reds and whites – with enlightening commentary from Peter about their characteristics, their terroir and optimal food pairings. It was terrific night and guests lingered and lingered, to talk, to taste, and to appreciate.

## Board Readiness

BWC, in partnership with the Australian Institute of Company Directors, has tapped into the strong demand among Qld women to understand how to successfully compete for roles as board directors. In a sold-out panel event in July 2017, more than 90 women listened intently to women board directors Bronwyn Morris, Rachael Hunter and Belinda Drew (from the business, government and community sectors respectively) discuss their personal experiences on the road to board positions. The panel spoke frankly about the factors that were central to their success and dispelled several notions about expectations of board commitment and contribution.

The panel also included Carol Lewis, an internationally-experienced board search consultant, who provided some fascinating insights into differences between men and women aspiring board applicants, suggesting how women needed to shape their careers differently.

So it's been a busy year! I want to finish my report by thanking the BWC Board and General Manager for part of the year, Laura Bos, for their commitment and hard work. As I said at the start of this report, we are a small organisation – it's amazing what determination, perseverance and hard work can achieve!

Robin Francis  
BWC Chair



Meet & Mingle Event

# OUR FINANCE



Patrice McKay  
Finance Committee Chair

The directors of Brisbane Women's Club have approved the draft financial statements to be presented at the Annual General Meeting. The accounts have been audited by Wayne Wessels of Wessels & Co Pty Ltd Registered Auditors.

## Year in Review

Brisbane Women's Club recorded a deficit of \$59,085 in 2018, (surplus of \$19,682 in 2017) and held net assets of \$977,001.

## Revenue

Revenue in 2018 of \$60,038 was down on the previous year (\$80,580 in 2017). This was mainly due to the receipt of a \$20,000 project grant for financial literacy from The Office for Women in 2017. Investment income formed the majority of revenue at \$50,378, followed by event income and membership fees.

## Expenses

Total expenses for 2018 were \$149,471, up from \$95,229 in 2017. During 2018 a general manager and communications executive were employed and office space rented for part of the period at a cost of \$84,915. Currently Brisbane Women's Club has no staff employed or premises rented, which is expected to result in a reduction in expenses going forward. Investment management fees (\$10,932) and advertising/promotion (\$8,575) were other notable expenses.

## Charitable Trust

A Grant of \$10,000 was awarded to Suited to Success to extend their Steps to Work program to disadvantaged women.



## Investments

Brisbane Women's Club's held investment funds in the amount of \$989,622 at 30.6.18, (\$1,042,571 in 2017). These funds constitute the only financial assets of the company.

Immediately prior to the end of the financial year, the directors appointed Ord Minnett as the club's new financial advisor to maximise returns whilst protecting the value of the assets. Income from the investments formed over 80% of the club's revenue in 2017-2018, providing vital funds to provide grants and carry out club activities.

The investment funds originated from the sale of the club's Mary Street premises in 2013 and it has been the board's intention to preserve the capital of the investments and utilise earnings for grant making and other activities.

INVEST

## Finance Committee

During the year, a finance committee was formed to assist the board with financial matters. Committee members were Amanda Sartor, Catherine Black and Patrice McKay.

Patrice McKay  
Finance Committee Chair

## OUR SUPPORTERS

### Partnerships

BWC's partnerships in 2018 have aligned with our policy work. Our Invest In Yourself campaign has partnered with Inspire, a group of women financial planners who are members of the Association of Financial Advisers and our Women's Board Readiness partner is the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

# ADVOCATE

## CHARITABLE GRANTS PROGRAM

The Brisbane Women's Club Charitable Grants Program continues to financially support worthy organisations whose missions are aimed at improving the lives of women in our community.

Suited to Success was this year's well deserving recipient of a \$10,000 grant. This incredible organisation assists vulnerable women to become job ready and to overcome barriers to employment. The grant contributed to extend, review and further develop a youth program in conjunction with Australian Catholic University (ACU) to identify and address women's issues related to employment. In making their decision to contribute funds to this project, the Brisbane Women's Club board were particularly encouraged that the grant would be making a tangible difference to employment outcomes for disadvantaged women.

Brisbane Women's Club looks forward to working with Suited to Success further in the future.

Previous grant receipts include The Lady Musgrave Trust and Logan Women's Health & Wellbeing Centre in 2017

## GET INVOLVED

With the incredible support of individuals, organisations and community groups, BWC is able to make a real difference. There are plenty of ways to get involved and support our network.

### Membership

If you would like to join this growing community of energetic and passionate women, you can do so on our website [bwc.org.au](http://bwc.org.au) and register online.

### Volunteer

Volunteering is a great way to get involved with BWC. We are fortunate to have many wonderful and talented people as part of our membership that donate their time and energy into assisting with events and support of other members. If you would like to get involved please contact us.

### Business & Corporate Sponsorship

Businesses of all sizes can help make a real difference through initiatives such as workplace awareness and staff fundraising, giving programs, business donations and corporate partnerships.

To find out how your business can get involved contact the General Manager at [bwc.org.au](http://bwc.org.au) to arrange a meeting.



