



Welcome to your role as a QCWA International Officer.

The position is very important as you are a member of the executive at Branch, Division or State level. As well as helping the executive make decisions, you should encourage International interest and participation in events. Time should be allocated for your report at meetings.

This document is a guide to the many aspects of being an International Officer and should help you understand what is required during the year.

WHO can take on the role?

For eligibility, nomination guide and time frame see Constitution

For division and branch see relevant clause in the Constitution.

WHAT do you do?

Be familiar with:

QCWA Procedures - Duties of Office Bearers, namely State, Division or Branch

International Officer ... these documents are on the website - visit

Important Documents, & State Contests and Committees By-Laws - International

Review the information on the QCWA web site, at qcwa.org.au, in the members only section.

HAVE an overview of the year's events so that you can be well prepared e.g., competition deadlines, tea towel & recipe book orders, special occasions.

Calendar – The International Country of Study is from January – December

- **January and February** - Continue to encourage schools to participate
 - * Find out dates of division and region competition Finals' Days
 - * Check that the branches have this information
 - * Source judges for competition entries and set judging day and time
 - * Encourage Branch International Days which may be a joint event with another branch
 - * Nominate a future country to study if advised. Nominations need to be with your Division early in the year, so that the chosen country can be sent to SEB by 30 April, for consideration at May Council
- Attend International Weekend if you can, and encourage others to do so too. Register on time.
- **March** 8th UN International Women's Day, hold an event or join with another likeminded group
 - * Develop branch orders for International (country of study) tea towels and recipe books and send to your division before next division meeting.



A GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS | JAN 2023



- **April** – Tea towel and recipe book orders are to be given to the division secretary by division meeting for forwarding to the state secretary. Once the order has been placed with the printer there will *not* be a re- print * April 29th is Women Walk the World Day – around this date women across the world do something to raise awareness of the plight of women.
 - * Note closing date for nominating a future country of study – needs to be submitted via Division to SEB before 30 April.
 - 29 April – ACWW Women Walk the World – organise a fundraiser walk, size of the group is not important – it is getting together and sharing the experience that count
- **For May Council** – Tea towel, and recipe book orders and nominated country of study need to be sent from division to state office in time for May Council Meeting ie before 30 April.
- **June** – Participate in International Days where possible.
- **July** – If finishing in the position have information ready to support next Branch International Officer
 - * Welcome to the position if you are new.
- **August** – If finishing in the position have information ready to support the incoming Division International Officer
 - * Welcome to the position if you are new.
- September – Make sure all winning competition entries are sent to State International Officer and **correct paperwork** has been completed.
- **October** –
- 15 October – UN International Rural Women’s Day
 - State Conference** – have a list of entries to be collected and confer with Division President who will be collecting entries post conference. See that entries are returned to owners and winners presented with prize money (at a meeting if possible).
 - * tea towels, recipe books and member & school competition kits will be given to Division Presidents at conference to be given to Division International Officers then forwarded to Branch International Officers – copy information and pass on to branches as soon as possible before the end of the year!! Schools like to know in advance of the New Year and members can think about their entries, especially project books.
- **November** – Have you been able to distribute competition information etc?
 - * Remind members of International Weekend closing date.
- **December - Enjoy Christmas**



- **COUNTRY OF STUDY**

After the end of World WarII it was decided to encourage a greater understanding of other countries and their cultures. This began in 1945 with the study of China and continues today. See the list of countries in the State History Handbook.

Branch members can promote a country that is of interest to them after noting if that country has been studied before via the State History Handbook. The nomination goes to the division for a ballot and then the winning country goes to State Executive Board for vetting before a list of all acceptable countries goes back to branch members for voting. The votes are collated at pre-conference council and the winning country is announced at State Conference.

The State International Officer will have designs for the International tea towel, recipe book and all changes to be made to competition schedules ready for the May Council Meeting for approval. As preparation and printing take time, orders for the tea towel and recipe book need to be finalised before May. The future country to study is nominated well in advance.

Competition schedules for children and members will be given to Division International Officers in October (post Conference) to pass to branches. There is information on the website and in the State Contest and Competition By-Laws. The schedules and judging forms are in the Competitions section – International. This includes the return forms and **must be used and returned as requested on time.**

Scrapbooks and Project Books were introduced in the 1960's and more recently Computer Generated Books have been added. Soft (stitched) and Hard (no stitching) Crafts began in 1978. Decorating tea towels began in 1990's. Children's competitions began as essays in the late 1970's and have evolved over the years.

Please acknowledge any sponsors at displays of the competition entries etc.

INTERNATIONAL WEEKEND

This weekend is held at the beginning of the year to enable members to learn about, and gather information, about the country being studied that year.

They then take it back to share with members. Registration forms need to be returned by the due date. A suitable venue can be nominated for a future weekend through the correct channels.



ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD (ACWW)

This association connects and supports women and communities Worldwide.

QCWA is a member society.

ACWW was founded in 1929 to bring together rural women and their organisations all over the world, and in so doing address the challenges they faced as a result of the isolation of their communities, discrimination against women, and their lack of standing in political processes.

ACWW's membership spans 82 countries, and since 1947 we have passed more than 180 policy resolutions by popular vote. The key concept behind each of these is the empowerment of rural women in all their diversity. This continues to be our driving priority.

Rural Women are the backbone of families, communities, and nations, but they suffer the worst impacts of climate change and conflict, go unheard in legislation, and remain unprotected and unsupported.

ACWW has had Special Consultative Status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 1947.

A Triennial World Conference is held. QCWA sends a delegation, these members vote on resolutions, some of which can affect our part of the world. QCWA members can also attend as observers, however they must be individual financial members of ACWW.

ACWW **head office** is in London from where projects around the world are implemented and monitored. We support ACWW by donating to projects running through the Rural Women in Action Fund.

The Dame Alice Berry Trust Fund - in 1953 Australian Mrs Alice Berry was elected as the ACWW World President at the Seventh World Conference in Toronto, Canada. She then served a second term from 1957. In 1970 a trust fund was established in her name and holds your donations to go to ACWW projects.

WOMEN WALK THE WORLD DAY on 29 April is a great way to raise awareness of difficulties women and families have and to promote our branches as well as supporting the Rural Women in Action Fund.

UN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY is on 8 March and **UN RURAL WOMEN'S DAY** 15 October.

QCWA supports countries like Papua New Guinea by sending Birthing Kits & Kits for Kids and raising funds for specific South Pacific Area projects as they arise.

Encourage membership of ACWW. Members receive biannual copies of 'The Countrywoman' journal each year. Membership starts in January and is paid individually via the ACWW Website.





SOUTH PACIFIC AREA (SPA)

This is the part of the world we share with 10 other countries. An Area conference is held every 3 years. We can send resolutions and discussion topics. A QCWA delegation attends, and any member can attend as an observer, however all must be individual financial members of ACWW.

Used, trimmed postage **stamps** are collected and sold through a dealer with the money going to support the South Pacific Area President. Separate them into Australian & Rest of the World. Foreign **coins** are also collected and sold.

UNITED NATIONS

QCWA often follows the UN designated years, and integrates them into our schedule where possible, e.g., Year of Family Farming/Potatoes/Astronomy. =In 2023 it is the Year of Millets – a legume grown extensively around the world.

In 2015 the QCWA was awarded a United Nations Association of Australia/Qld aware for all it has done, and continues to do, with assistance overseas and with our Public Rural Crisis Fund.

The current UNAA/Qld aware criteria are on the website and members can enter a project. QCWA has served morning tea for more than 10 years at the UN Peacekeepers Parade in Brisbane.

The ACWW World President signed up to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2 Zero Hunger. As QCWA is a member of ACWW, we have an obligation to support this goal.

Our Country Kitchen’s Program is helping to promote Goal 2, Goal 3 Good Health and Well-being, and Goal 12 Responsible Consumption.

