

## NWR Newsletter – February 2023

Cessnock NWR had their last meeting for 2022 in November. The first meeting for 2023 is coming up on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

2022 topics included Homelessness; Ancestry; Hobbies and Interests; September meeting fell on the National Day of Mourning so was cancelled; Adventures, Past, Present and Future; Passion and Effort.

All our members are keen to join in the stimulating conversations.

HISTORY – When we were known as Women In Touch. Over the break I read a newspaper article featuring myself and Sara Turner called ‘Women Can Meet and Talk Freely’ published in The Cessnock Herald 10<sup>th</sup> January 1989. The group had been meeting for three years at this time.

The article noted that the Cessnock group had hosted two public meetings with guest speakers Olivia Senlon who lectured on goal setting and the importance of striving to achieve dreams and Elizabeth Cambell who spoke on peer support. Finally, for the Bi-Centenary in 1988 author Colleen McCulloch spoke on her works, life and beliefs. It was mostly a question and answer session. Her laugh was contagious and unforgettable.

In July 1992 Chris Hietbrink, President of Baulkham Hills visited Cessnock and Gosford groups. At Cessnock she was part of a dinner meeting and the topic was organ donation with Pamela, a recipient of a transplanted liver, the main speaker. Chris mentioned that everyone’s beliefs and points of view were respected. The main point was the education to the group in relation to organ donation and transplants.

Interestingly it was around this time that Chris seriously spoke about a name change from Women In Touch. The overall ‘group’ wanted to portray the image of being an intelligent, interesting, unbiased, non-political, non-religious discussion group for women. This was along with the importance that there was no sexual overtones or homosexuality preferences for the members. It has been the increasing public perception of WIT, and as Chris and the committee believed it must be resolved by renaming the organization and thereby being in a position to more positively promote our group as discussion based not sexual preference based.

Finally, on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 1992 Cessnock hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference – Helping Yourself To Health.

Our current group look forward to more stimulating conversation throughout 2023.