

Franklin Women

September 2015 Newsletter

I like to drag birthday celebrations out for as long as possible, so it is only appropriate that our September newsletter is a birthday edition (did you know FW turned one on the 9th of September?). Rather than the regular newsletter segments, this newsletter is dedicated to the people who have helped FW get to where it is today. It turns out a lot needs to be done to get something like FW off the ground, keep it going and help it grow. I have learned two lessons very quickly after launching FW: one, it is OK to ask for help; and two, when you do, so many people will be there to lend a hand. I am so grateful for all the people who have helped me and FW more widely which really is a testament to what the FW community is all about – helping each other do great things. This newsletter is to say thank you.

Melina



Thank you...

NSW Peer Advisory Committee – When this small team of researchers get together once a month it is decision-making central! [Magda Ellis](#), [Anita Heywood](#), [Holly Seale](#) and [Amy Vassallo](#) have given up their time and minds to help grow FW since it launched. Whether it's brainstorming event topics, assessing scholarship applications or even cutting out nametags for events, these ladies have been there every step of the way and their selfless dedication has helped make FW the organisation it is today. We hope to grow our committee as our community grows!





Fiona Stanley – When we first approached Fiona to ask if she would be our patron we had only just started, yet Fiona did not hesitate to lend her name in support of our mission with the hope it would give us a stronger platform and credibility in the field. At those early stages that faith in us, shown from someone of her stature, was invaluable. We are so grateful to have the support of a woman who has made such contributions to the field, not only with respect to her research but also mentoring the next generation of researchers and clinicians.

Louise Randall (aka our ‘roving reporter’) – Louise is a talented immunologist, mother to a darling little girl Amelia and all-round generous person. She is also very passionate about sharing people’s stories. Every month Louise seeks out a woman in the health sciences and interviews them about their career journey for our blog with the hope that their story might inspire/challenge/comfort others who are navigating their own path. Louise is always on the look-out for a new story to tell so let us know if you have one to share. As we have recently heard from one of our members, hearing experiences of others can really make a difference ... *‘I really enjoyed reading the latest FW career blog. I have been feeling very disheartened by science and its prospects. But this cheered me up!’*



Katie Richards – Here at FW we have the science skills down pat but we are still learning all the other skills required to make a professional organisation, well, professional! One of these skills is media relations. That is why we are beyond lucky to have Kate McEvoy Richards, a health communication expert who works with large companies in the health sector, graciously provide us with her skills in-kind. Thanks to Kate we had a number of media outlets run stories on our inaugural Carer’s Travel Scholarship which was awarded to Dr Willa Huston. Not only did the media raise Willa’s and Franklin

Women’s profile, it also got more people talking about why such awards were needed – we are ecstatic to now see similar initiatives being adopted in Institutes around Australia. Hooray!

The National Breast Cancer Foundation – Every professional organisation needs a meeting space, right? Very quickly after launching FW it became apparent that Melina’s living room wasn’t gonna cut it. Now, the FW peer advisory committee meets once a month in the city offices of the [National Breast Cancer Foundation](#) (NBCF) – offered to us in-kind as a generous gesture of support. How this came about is actually a wonderful example of how the FW community works. Group Leader at the Garvan Institute Clare Stirzaker and her team receive research support from the NBCF and introduced FW to the NBCF at a ‘women in science’ event. The rest, as they say, is history!



Women in Technology and Women in Science AUSTRALIA – Franklin Women is



one of a number of groups in Australia who are passionate about supporting women in careers in the science sector, from technology to engineering. We have been grateful for the continued

support from two of these groups in particular, [Women in Science AUSTRALIA](#) and [Women in Technology](#). Each group has slight points of difference with our niche fields and initiatives, but we have a shared goal to promote and support women in STEM careers. This shared goal has allowed us to share ideas, resources and people (we have spoken at each other’s events!) – another great example of what can happen when women support each other.



The wider FW community – We are humbled by how many people have reached out to offer us words of wisdom, their contacts or their skill set to assist get Franklin Women off the ground. We need to make a few special mentions as, as clichéd as it sounds, we couldn’t have done it without you ... [Gaya St George](#), [Nadia Badawi](#), [Bianca Hoban](#), [Julie Geldard](#), [Chloe Warren](#), [Kristine Macartney](#), [Wendy Gold](#), [Caroline Homer](#), [Raina MacIntyre](#), [Sal Austin](#), [Julia Palmer](#), [Marilena Salvo](#), [Miryam Edhtedari](#), [Clare Stirzaker](#), [Bridianne O’Dea](#), [Deborah Marsh](#) and many others who sent emails or phone calls offering to help if we ever need it (as well as many who are championing the cause without us ever knowing). One thing is for sure: lots of small acts of kindness culminate into something great.

We want to include your contributions in our newsletter. If you have published your work recently or are doing (or know of) something that other women in our field would be interested in, drop us a [line](#). Want to receive our newsletters directly to your in-box? [Subscribe here](#).