



Graduate Women (WA) Annual Dinner 3rd July 2018

The Graduate Women (WA) Inc Annual Dinner, held on Tuesday 3rd July this year, was a huge success. Thank you to all the members who came along to help us celebrate. It was wonderful to see the large number of guests who had been invited by members. This year is our 95th birthday, quite a significant milestone. I like to think that despite the adversity of the loss of the gown hire business, we have actually gone from strength to strength.

Dr Anne Aly, Federal member for Cowan, had graciously accepted our invitation to be our dinner speaker. She pointed out how education had been a significant determiner of her success. It was evident that she embodies a strong drive to triumph in the face of adversity, and her story is a fascinating one of challenges taken on and overcome, which she pictured for us in a wonderfully gentle and entertaining way. She saw the transition into political life as a way of promoting evidence-based decision-making in public policy. This challenge is tempered by the understanding that when the workplace is not a meritocracy in nature, success or failure is realised in unpredictable ways.

Our MC for the evening was Helen Charlesworth who ensured everyone enjoyed an untroubled evening and that the programme moved along smoothly. The evening was held, as usual, at St Catherine's college. This year, however, the function was held in the conference room, with a meet and greet held in the smaller seminar room adjacent to the conference room. The buffet was also set up in this side room.

Once again, the St Catherine's catering was of a high standard, with something for every taste. The dinner was capped off with the annual birthday cake and toast, given by Helen Charlesworth.

With 56 people attending, the room was a lively assembly, and it was great to see members taking the opportunity to mingle socially. As President Jenny Jones noted in her welcoming address, there is something special about getting together to 'break bread'. Bringing the membership together in this way is important because it reinforces the sense of common purpose and is very morale boosting for the committee members and others who have organised the event.

We are already pondering who to ask for next year's dinner ... and looking forward to our 100th.

From Left:
GW WA Vice-President Jaya Dantas,
Dr Anne Aly, Federal Member for
Cowan,
GW WA President Jenny Jones,
GW WA Committee member Rhoda
Chance.

