

Report from the International Council of Women

35th General Assembly

13 - 19 September 2018 at

The Grand Inna Malioboro Hotel, Jogjakarta, Republic of Indonesia

The General Assembly was held in conjunction with Indonesian Women's Congress (Kowani).

Australian Delegation

The Australian delegation was led by Barbara Baikie President NCWA, along with three other NCWA Past Presidents, Julie Morris, Margaret Findlater-Smith, and Leonie Christopherson AM. Sheila Byard OAM, Wendy Rainbird, Jennifer Anne Davies, May Hu OAM, Maureen Oborn, Benjie Perryman and Deborah Towns completed the delegation and Nicole Penman was an observer. So, it was a very strong delegation.

Elisabeth Newman and Hean Bee Wee AM (also NCWA Past President) were also there but not part of the Delegation as they were ICW Vice Presidents.



The Australian Delegation at the Conference Dinner

We all arrived at various times and various ways. I arrived at 9.30 pm from Zurich. It was very busy as last minute arrangements were made. The Program was a little flexible as things change as they always do when trying to run a big function like this with so many people attending. It was obvious that the Kowani, with support from the Indonesian government, wanted to show Indonesia in the best possible light to the delegates and they certainly succeeded. Every night we were treated to an event, that included a performance, speeches and good food.

Day 1 – Thursday, 13 September 2018

7.00 – 9.00 Registration.

There were 195 NCW delegates and we were joined by 1000 Indonesian women from 1000 Women's Organisations of Indonesia.

There was a special marquee erected in the car park of the hotel as the rooms inside could not cope with the big number.

9.00 Opening by MC Hadriani Uli T I Silahhi and followed by a speeches from;

- the Chairman of KOWANI – De Ir.Giwo Rubianto Wiyogoa
- ICW President Dr Jung Sook Kim (Korea)
- The Governor of DIY

Key Note speech Rini M. Sumarno – Minister of State-owned Enterprises (SOE) of the Republic of Indonesia

First Panel discussion – Empower a Woman, Transform A Society Moderator Judith Jubilina Dipodiputro – Special adviser to SOE of Indonesia

Speakers:

1. Dr Paticica Licuanan – *former Minister of CHED* – Women's Empowerment through education and women's rights
2. Remmy Rikken – *former Chairperson of Philippines Commission on Women* - Women's Empowerment for transformative leadership
3. Dr Sharifah Hapsah – *President of NCW – Malaysia* – Raising economic capacity of women
4. Prof Akiko Yamanaka – *Special advisor to the President of the Economic research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)* - Women's Empowerment in Political, Economic and Education field
5. Rery Murdiyat - *CEO of Media Group* – Media role for the achievement of gender equality

In the afternoon workshops were held on these five topics and I was asked if I would run the session on women education. I divided the workshop into three sections –

- Why is education important for women?
- What are the barriers
- What can we do

The first section we did in one group and the other two sections we did in small groups and they then feed back to the whole group. The process worked very well with people being engaged to contribute. Vanisa Dhuru, President, National Council of Women New Zealand (NCWNZ) assisted me



in the reporting back. Julie Morris assisted preparing the PowerPoint presentation.
Please see attachment 1 for the Report

Second Panel Discussion – Transforming society thorough Equal Human Rights – moderator Sylvia Ordonez – Executive Director of Centre of Asia- Pacific Women in Politics (CAPWiP)

Key note speaker – Yohana Yembise – Minister of Women Empowerment and Child Protection – Republic of Indonesia

Speakers

1. Dr Ranjana Kumari – *Director of the Centre for Social Research of India* – Getting to Zero Violence against women
2. Dr Mohinder Watson – *ICW Representative to UN* – Protection of women against gender-based violence
3. De Sorosh Roshan – *NCW USA, Member and Chair of NGO Committee Vienna* – Women’s equal rights to health and social protections

Day 1 Dinner.

At the end of the day we were hosted to a welcome dinner, with speeches and entertainment.



Day 2 - Friday, 14 September 2018

This morning it was down to work - the day's program was reversed, as the President of Indonesia could only come in the afternoon. The delegates met in a room that was set up with each country identified.

Of course, we were up the front as we were seated alphabetically. The first session was general information and business, roll call and apologies, In Memoriam, approval of minutes, President's report, Treasurer's report, Auditors report, Presentation of candidates for President and Treasurer (there was only one for each – but we had to go through the voting process). The voting overwhelmingly re-elected Dr Jung Sook Kim from South Korea as President and Martine Marandel from France as Treasurer.



Next were the reports from National Councils – please see attachment 2. Of course, I was first. We all only had three minutes to present. I showed ours as a PowerPoint presentation to show visuals as English was not the first language for the majority of participants. Reports followed over the next few days from Brunei, Bangladesh, Belgium, Fiji, Guatemala, Indonesia, India, Italy, South Korea, Lithuanian, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Nigeria, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, Thailand, Taiwan, Turkey, Papua New Guinea, Tunisia, Philippines, Canada, USA. It was amazing to hear of all the work being done around the world and the similarities of issues facing women regardless of where they live. Sometimes it was a matter of degrees. One particularly sad story was when the Nigerian representative spoke about the young girls that had been taken and only a few of them had been returned. She spoke about the need for cultural change for women to be valued for equal worth.

We broke for lunch and we had to be back in the main tent early in preparation for the arrival of the President. It was an amazing event to be there with so many women. The President was almost mobbed by people. But our very own Benji Perryman managed to get a selfie with him.



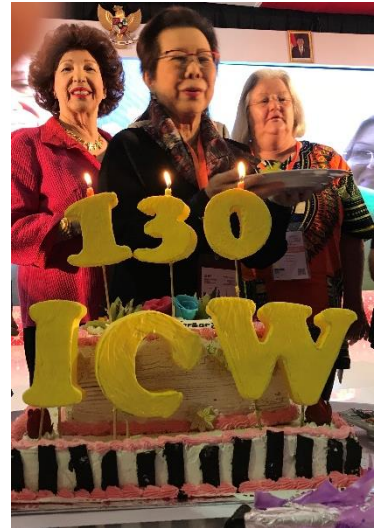
Local media - I was later quoted on the importance of education (along with Elisabeth Newman) in the Indonesian Press

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/118589/no-doubt-of-women-serving-as-mothers-of-nation>



President Joko Widodo, with all the dignitaries and the Board of ICW. You can see Elisabeth Newman just behind the President, Unfortunately Hean Bee Wee AM, is hidden in the back row.

There was a very large 130-year-old birthday cake to celebrate 130 years of ICW. We sang happy birthday, Dr Jung Sook Kim handed around some cake



Day 2 Dinner we were taken to the Prambanan temple – under police escort as the traffic was very busy.



We were welcomed as we arrived.



Unfortunately, we were unable to go inside but we were able to appreciate the beauty while we were treated to another outdoor performance of traditional music, song and dance. A sumptuous buffet was provided for all the delegates and guests.



Day 3 – Saturday, 15 September 2018

The reports from National Councils continued and the presentations of candidates for the Board members and Recording Secretary. Elisabeth Newman and Hean Bee Wee AM had finished their terms and were to stand down. There were four members seeking re-election. There were seven nominations for five positions. They all presented their credentials and voting was conducted. The sitting board members were re-elected, Linda Liu, (Taiwan), Doris Bingley (Malta), Jamal Ghibril (Lebanon), Fatma Fatos Imal (Turkey). Another candidate Pusha Hedge was later elected as a board member. Nebiye Isin Atalya (Turkey) was also elected to the board and will remain as Recording Secretary.

Reports were given from Standing Committee Coordinators. Elisabeth Newman as part of her role of Vice President had been responsible for the standing committees. She presented her report.



Wendy Rainbird presented her report and was well received. Wendy also later presented her case for re-election and spoke for her continuation as Environmental advisor.



Leonie Christopherson AM also presented her report for

Arts and Letters. She spoke of the importance of participation in the arts to make the world a better place. Leonie was standing for election as the Communications Coordinator and showed a beautiful video of how we don't need words to communicate our feelings and intentions.



Jennifer Ann Davies stood for election as Arts and letters Adviser, taking over from Leonie Christopherson AM.

In the late afternoon we were on a tour of Keraton – which was a Sultans Palace. It covered one kilometre by one-kilometre square. It is now in two halves, with one half open to the public for viewing. It has been made into a museum. The current Sultan and his wife live in the other half. He and his wife have five daughters, so there is debate on who will take over when he dies. However, it is unlikely it will be one of his daughters – it is more likely to be one of his brothers. We were treated to speeches, another amazing performance and dinner.



Day 4 – Sunday, 16 September 2018

The day commenced with an interfaith service that some members chose to attend, then back to business. The elections were held for the ICW Coordinators and Advisors

Wendy, Jennifer and Leonie were all duly elected along with Vivi Germanos-Koutsoundasis OAM in her absence. Please see Attachment 3 for complete list of advisors and coordinators.

Congratulations to all four for your appointments and I know that you will all represent Australia very well at the international level.

All the newly elected and re-elected ICW Coordinators and Advisors



There was reports from the UN Reps and the Regional councils – Asia Pacific (APRC), European Centre of the International Council of Women (ECICW), and Regional Councils Americas (RCA)

The presentation of the LELAF Mechta Van Den Bogert Award – It was a delight that it was made to our Nicole Penman. She will be undertaking a project working with women from Samoa and Papua New Guinea. Hean Bee Wee AM will be her sponsor to support her work.

In the evening we had a wonderful APRC 10 year birthday dinner. Of course, there were speeches, dancers, music and a birthday cake.

Colourful outfits and a lot of singing – notably, I am woman!!



Day 5 – Monday, 17 September 2018

The morning was devoted to the Regional Councils for them to undertake their work. We belong to the APRC along with Bruni, Darussalam, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Republic of China, Thailand and Vanuatu. Monothip Tabucanon is the President (Thailand), Maureen Oborn (Australia) is General Secretary and Lee Ong Wha (Singapore) is Treasurer.

There was a workshop/panel discussion on the **Theme: Empowerment of women and girls in Innovation and Technology**. I was the Moderator and the speakers were Vanisa Dhiru (President, NCW NZ), Lata Ghandi (Vice-President, India) and Monothip Tabucanon (President, APRC) and Linda Lu (Vice President, ICW). The four speakers Vania Dhiru, Lata Gandhi, Monothip Tabucanon and Linda Li outlined the importance of innovation and technology.



The AGM was held and Hean Bee Wee AM was elected as President, Christine Knock as General Secretary (NCW NZ) and Mae Chu Chang (Taiwan) Treasurer.

That evening we were taken to an ICW Gala Dinner/cultural night at the Tentrem Hotel (where President Obama had stayed with his family). This is where each of the countries did a performance that reflected their national culture. South Korea looked magnificent in their traditional costumes, and Dr Jung Sook Kim sang *Danny Boy* beautifully.



The Australian delegation did not distinguish themselves well at all, trying to sing *Waltzing Matilda*.... It left A LOT to be desired!! However, the Indonesian traditional band accompanying us did know the tune, so that gave some sense of relief to the audience.

ICW Resolutions

There were 7 Resolutions that were all passed, including the availability for Safe Water that was proposed by Wendy Rainbird in her position of Environment Adviser and seconded by NCWA.

1. Alerting Young People to the Dangers of the Internet
2. Addressing Abuse on the Elderly for a Better Quality of Life
3. Sub-Saharan Women Migrants in a Precarious Situation: This was amended and extended to cover all Women Migrants in a Precarious Situation
4. Mental Health Support Following a Natural Disaster
5. Access to Environmental Information and Education
6. Availability of Safe Water
7. Combatting and Eliminating All Forms of Sexual Harassment

Day 6 – Tuesday, 18 September 2018

The last day was much quieter. The new Triennial theme was established: –

Social Protection for all women and girls: sustainable development for the world.

The Plans of Action with amendments was approved. Elisabeth Newman worked hard to prepare the plan of action.

The 2018 – 2021 Budget was approved.

Introduction of new Life and Individual members took place.

At Lunch the delegation had a short debrief about the conference. Overall there was satisfaction about attending the conference, there were some frustrations with the organisation and timings but despite that, everyone was pleased they had attended and for the first time attending it was a great learning curve. One chief learning was to be better prepared for the cultural night!!!

After lunch there was the farewell to the outgoing board and particular reference was made to both Elisabeth and Hean Bee's contribution and work on the ICW Board. I feel they will be greatly missed.

The Next ICW conference will be held in 2020 in France – timings to follow.

Dr Jung Sook Kim made a speech as the incoming President and presented the new board, and the Standing committee Coordinators and Advisors.

Closing ceremony was completed.

We had some free time and then transported to Balkondes. This was a state-owned enterprises home stay/small cabin complexes to support and improve the lives of Indonesian people in the rural villages – providing employment and cultural demonstration experiences.



We were first taken to dinner and a performance which was amazing, spoilt a little by light rain.



They had audience participation, where we all played on these handmade instruments. It was great fun. We were then transported to our home stay. On our arrival at our village we were treated to a welcome ceremony and then taken to our rooms at the end of a wonderful but long day.

Day 7 – Tuesday, 19 September 2018

Next morning, we were treated to a range of activities at our home stay location, including a beautiful dancing exhibition and planting a tree.



This is with Mohinder Watson ICW Representative in Geneva.



We were then transported to visit a school, which was lovely to see the children,



We were then taken to visit the amazing Borobudur. This is a 9th-century Mahayana Buddhist temple. It is the world's largest Buddhist temple. The temple consists of nine stacked platforms, six square and three circular, topped by a central dome.

With Patricia Mokhathali from Lesotho NCW.

Those leaving on the 19th were then transported to Jogjakarta airport to start the journey home after an amazing few days. Remaining delegates were treated to another formal event, lunch at Borobudur, with a buffet meal, cultural performances and a few more speeches before we were returned to our hotels in Jogjakarta.

There was a lot of welcome signage all over Jogjakarta and on our travels in Central Java.

A couple of groups of delegates



With Lisa Lawrence (Vice President, NCW NZ) and Vanisa Dhiru (President, NCW NZ).

Attachment 1

Workshop: Women in Education

- Why is the education of girls and women important?
- What are the barriers?
- Outcomes - What can we do?

Why is education Important?

- Empowerment • Lifestyle changes
- Respect in society
- Economic empowerment
- Life skills
- Self reliance → self esteem/resilience/self belief
- Attitude
- Fulfilment
- Broad vision
- Be free (freedom)
- Contribution to community
- Upbringing of children
- Family
- Community
- Security
- Respect for teachers, parents and society
- Enhance positive values between people
- Peer to peer learning
- Impact of the internet
- Preparation of the future

Barriers and Outcomes (summarized)

- Access to education to reducing barriers
- free education
- Internet access, esp. in remote and rural areas
- Create conversations and discussion on human rights
- Have conversations with stakeholders and influencers
- Review laws and regulation
- Share sensitivities about different cultures and practices
- Get actively involved as advocates for women and girls
- Build relationships and networks across the community with local influencers
- Become local advocates
- With knowledge about education initiatives, skills and gaps
- Be against discrimination
- Help build a balanced curriculum For access and resourcing.

Attachment 2

Report to the International Council of Women 2015-2018 from the National Council of Women - Australia (NCWA)

This has been a busy time and much has been achieved to raise the voice and influence of the NCWA. This report will outline some of the achievements.

Structure of the NCWA.

The NCWA has an executive that consists of the President Barbara Baikie, Secretary Yvonne Robson, Treasurer Angela Diamond, Past President Julie Morris, and Co-ordinator of Standing Committees Margaret Findlater-Smith, NCWA President Elect Robyn Nolan (currently NCW WA President).

Each state of Australia and the Australian Capital Territory has a National Council of Women that acts independently of NCWA, with their own constitution and work. Their executive and members connect with other organisations through their affiliations. Each Constituent Councils advocates to their respective Governments. The Constituent Councils come together with each of the NCW President to form the NCWA board. The NCWA undertakes leadership at the national level and advocates to the Australian Federal Government on issues that affect women.

Achievements

While in some areas there has been a decline in membership, overall the membership has increased. All the Constituent Councils are very active, holding seminars and a range of activities, including the presentations of bursaries and scholarships to women.

NCWA vision of equity and equality for all, was established, we undertook a consultative process to establish our values. The NCWA values were established as being:

- Integrity
- Leadership
- Meaningful work
- Helping Society
- Advocacy
- Representation

These values guide our behaviours, our interactions and work.

We undertook a national survey of our members and affiliates to establish what were the most important issues to the NCW. It found a range of issues, but the issues deemed to most important were violence against women and the growing rate of homelessness of ageing women, along with representation of women in senior positions, gender pay gap and superannuation This has been the focus of the NCWA work over the last three years.

We established a new logo and are currently working on a new website to refresh the image and give a more contemporary look for the NCWA and to make it more accessible to women of all ages.

In 2017 we held the midterm conference in Canberra that focused on the root causes of violence against women and homelessness in ageing women.

National Politicians attended along with professional women, practitioners and people with life experience of the issues. At the end of the conference a report was compiled and distributed to all interested parties. The Conference was an important tool to build bridges and open the dialogue with Government on a range of issues.

National Council of Young Women Australia was established with representatives from most constant Councils. It was launched at a



breakfast at Parliament house, by the Minister for Women at the time Sen Michaelia Cash. The young women later met with the Prime Minister at the time Hon Malcolm Turnbull. They also were able to undertake training to assist them in developing their leadership skills.



Our Patron, Lady Cosgrove hosted a garden party on the lawns of Government house for the NCWA members, affiliates and friends. It was a delightful afternoon and Lady Cosgrove gave a speech about the importance of the NCWA advocating for women.

NCWA has made numerous submissions to the Australian Government and participated in reviews of issues affecting women.

NCWA made a submission to the Convention for Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Review. I participated in the Australian civil society response in Geneva Switzerland in early July this year.

NCWA has established the NCWA awards to recognise our members achievements. There are three categories ;

- Encouragement Award ,
- Senior Service Award and
- NCWA Women of the Year.

Our Patron, Lady Cosgrove will present these at our Triennial Conference Dinner. This conference is to be held on the 17 - 19 October. The theme for this conference is: **NCWA - Finding Solutions**. Attending and presenting at the conference are some of Australia's leading experts in the field, including the Minister for Women, other members of Parliament, practitioners and academics. There will be Q&A sessions and time for NCWA members to discuss the material that has been presented.

It has been a great privilege and honour to be President of the NCWA for the last three years and to build on the work that our sisters had undertaken in the past. I want to thank the executive and board for their support.

I wish the incoming NCWA President Robyn Nolan all the best for her term in Office. Robyn is a highly capable and passionate about women's rights and I know she will do a wonderful job as National President

Kind regards

Barbara Baikie

President NCWA August 2018

Attachment 3

List of ICW Coordinators and Advisers

Role	Name	Country
Status of Women Coordinator	Chularat Israngkool Na Ayrettgaya	Thailand
• Human rights Adviser	Claudie Bougon-Guibert	France
• Implementation of Conventions Adviser	Vivi Germanos-Koutsounadis OAM	Australia
• Legislation Adviser	Vacant	
• International Relations and Peace Adviser	Mazal Renford	Israel
Sustainable Development Coordinator	Hadirani Ulti T.L Silalahi	Indonesia
• Economics Adviser	Ayfer Yilmaz	Turkey
• Women and Employment Adviser	Mae Chu Chang	Taiwan
• Rural and Urban Women Adviser	Saida Zniber	Morocco
• Consumer Affairs Adviser	Vacant	
General Well Being Coordinator		
• Nutrition Adviser	Rakhi Shetty	India
• Environment Adviser	Wendy Rainbird	Australia
• Health Adviser	Lyudmyla Porokhnyak	Ukraine
• Habitat Adviser	Emma Galama-Ronnerts	Netherlands
Communications Coordinator	Leonie Christopherson AM	Australia
• Education Adviser	Vacant	
• Mass Media Adviser	Annamaria Caslelfranchi	Italy
• Arts and letters Adviser	Jennifer Ann Davies	Australia
• Music Adviser	Eleonore Hauer-Rona	Austria
Social Issues Coordinator	Gloria Larabe Shoda	Nigeria
• Child and Family Adviser	Shelia M. Dey Pepper	Canada
• Ageing Adviser	Margaret Jip Kuo	Taiwan
• Youth Adviser	Vacant	
• Migration Adviser	Vacant	