



## National Council of Women Australia

### Newsletter No 2

August 2018

#### **NCWA PRESIDENT REPORT- Barbara Baikie**

##### **Triennial conference**

We have continued to work on our Triennial conference will be held on 17,18, 19 October at QT Canberra. I have attached our flyer FYI and booking though try booking FYI and circulation(attachment 1). We have been holding weekly teleconferences – most weeks to finalise the conference. Sometimes I feel it like is shifting sands – one moment it is all settled and then something happens, and we need to sort it, but I think we are in the home straight now. The program and bookings are on the website or go to <https://www.trybooking.com/397537>. To access your special rates for accommodation please visit [www.qthotelsandresorts.com/private-page/corporate-group-bookings/](http://www.qthotelsandresorts.com/private-page/corporate-group-bookings/) Quote R-1710NCWA for booking. Book FAST as there are limited rooms at the standard room rate.

We are running a very tight ship with little room for error – so appreciate it greatly if you can encourage as many of your members and affiliates to come along – and book early!!!

At the conference there will be table discussions, each table will have a host and a recorder ( to record the discussions) and it will be hopefully hosted by the NCWA Board members.

##### **Activities**

It has been a busy couple of months, with attending regular NCW ACT meetings visits to Tasmania, and South Australia as well as attending the Convention of Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) meeting at the United Nations in Geneva Switzerland. I felt like a real jet setter.

##### **Meeting with NCWT**

I had a delightful trip to Hobart to visit the NCW T. Unfortunately, I was unable to visit when they were having their regular meeting. However, I had a wonderful lunch with Linley Grant, President of NCWT and four other members of NCWT.

It was wonderful to meet with them and to hear what was happening directly in NCW Tasmania and to hear of their activities and efforts to rebuild NCWT. It was also good to be

able to talk about what NCWA was doing. Thank you to Linley and members for your hospitality.



### ***Meeting with NCWSA***

I visited NCW SA on the 9 August> President Margaret picked me up from my hotel and took me to meet with a group of women from NCWSA, for afternoon tea, and then again to attend their monthly meeting. It was great to meet members and had the opportunity to chat both formally and informally about NCWSA, NCWA and many other issues.



I felt very lucky as I won the raffle as I had done at the NCW ACT meeting!!

Thank you again Margaret and members for your hospitality

### ***Convention of Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) meeting at the United Nations in Geneva Switzerland***

This was amazing trip, both personally and to represent NCWA at the United Nations. I choose to do as I felt it was a great opportunity to raise the profile of NCWA and contribute to the national and international discussion of women's issues. I was able to raise the issues of concern to us – violence against women, homelessness of aging women, and superannuation.

There were issues of coordination and despite efforts of Helen Dalley-Fisher to co-ordinate the civil society delegation it could have been better. We arrived in Geneva ill prepared to provide a coordinated approach. This resulted in a hot house (both literally and figurately) to agree on our approach. This did not allow for consultation with our members. None of the alliances attended this important international forum focusing on Women's issues. Nor was there any support from the government to the civil society to attend. These are issues that should be addressed in future.

Some photos and notes from the CEDAW meeting

**Day one 1.7.18** Initial briefing with other members of civil societies including

- Maria Nawaz and Tess Deegan - the Kingsford Legal Centre,
- Ngila Bevan from People - Disabilities Australia,
- Lee Carney - Human Rights Law Centre
- Lucy McKernan - Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,
- Anna Kerr - Feminist Legal Clinic,





- Cassandra Goldie - ACOSS
- Tina Dixson - AWAVA
- Lavanya Kala - Beryl Women Inc /AWAVA / Harmony Alliance
- Dr Hannah McGlare – Aboriginal Legal services
- Ruth Saovana Spriggs from Papua- New Guinea



**Day two 2.7.18** Pre briefing with the Australia government delegation led by Trish Bergin head of the OFW, at the Australian Consulate-General in Geneva, Switzerland located at Chemin des Fins 2.. It was hosted by Ms Suzanne Stein, PSM The Consul General for Switzerland and Liechtenstein.



**Day two continued,** we met privately and informally with the CEDAW review Committee. Australia's rapporteur was Patricia Schultz from Switzerland - in the foreground with her folder of the all the civil societies reports – including the NCWA report. She had read them all.

In the open forum Australia, followed by Cyprus and Mexico presented their oral statements. There a number of questions asked by the rest of the Cedaw committee.



The statements could be made in English, French or Spanish in which case you needed to listen to the translation by the ear piece.



### **Day three 3.7.2018**

The Australian government delegation led by Trish Bergin (FAS Office of Women) appeared to make a 30-minute presentation of the Australian government achievements. They then faced a day of questions from the CEDAW review panel.

The Australian Panel members included:

- Chantelle Stratford, - Family Safety – Chantelle Stratford, Branch Manager DSS
- Amy Haddad - Gender Equality Branch (GEB) AS & Principal Gender Specialist DFAT
- Steve McGlynn Home affairs Minister Counsellor Geneva Steve McGlynn (desig August 18)
- Rebecca Lanner - Indigenous Employment & Recognition - PM&C
- Margaret Kid Department of Education and Training



End of the hearing with Australia's rapporteur was Patricia Schultz



Leaving the UN for the last time

### **Day four 4.7.2018 18** There was a debriefing with the



Australia government delegation led by Trish Bergin head of the OFW, at the Australian Consulate-General in Geneva, Switzerland located at Chemin des Fins 2. They stated they felt the CEDAW review Committee had been very well briefed on the issues facing Australia. They also stated the importance to the Civil societies to raise these issues.

### *Women's Economic Security Consultation*

Margaret Findlater Smith and I participated in Women's Economic Security Consultation ½ day workshop with the Office of Women. Several of the alliances also participated, Equality Rights Alliance, Economic Security 4 Women, Australian Women Against Violence Alliance, and a couple of other individuals. This was a good follow on from CEDAW and government keen to find ways to ensure the economic security for women, at all life stages. It is proposed the Minister will release an Economic Security Statement in September. There were discussions about workplace participation, boosting women's career progression, encouraging women into STEM areas.

### *ACT Courts and Tribunal workshop*

I participated in the ACT Courts and Tribunal ½ day workshop to increase access for the CALD to Court for the protection from family violence. This was with a group of 60 professional across the ACT to find ways to make it easier for women to access Justice. While this had a ACT focus it has the potential to go much broader as courts struggle to make justice accessible for all women



### *Resolutions*

Robyn Nolan, Yvonne Robson and I met to review the resolutions that had been submitted. The needed to be some changes to most of them and they were returned to the proposers of resolutions. This has been done and they have been returned with amendments. They have now been circulated to councils for consideration and a decision made as to how the council will vote with at the conference

### *Website*

We have received confirmation of the funding from the Office of Women and I have signed the contract this week and we have engaged Social Good Outpost to undertake the work. I am delighted as they are members of NCWQ. The design work will commence asap.

### *NCWA Awards*

I hope that NCW constituent council are considering their nominations. Just to clarify some matters that have been raised. Firstly, the NCWA will not be making any nominations – they must come from the NCWs. The nominations can be made by individual members but must be agreed to by the council, or at least the NCW executive. Nominations have been extended to the 20 September. It is anticipated that Lady Cosgrove will be with us to present the awards at the conference dinner and this will be confirmed soon.

My thanks as always go to the executive Yvonne, Robyn, Angela, Margaret, Julie, as well as the rest of the board for your support Until next time, Regards Barbara



## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF QUEENSLAND

### Bursary Presentation for the empowerment of women

The 10<sup>th</sup> Bursary presentation was held on Wednesday 25 July 2018. Over 150 people attended including bursary recipients, their families, the generous sponsors and NCWQ members for an inspirational evening.

On the evening \$34,450 was given to 32 recipients from a diversity of background. Each recipient and sponsor were given an opportunity to give a short speech and have a professional photograph taken.

From the first presentation of 2 bursaries within Parliament House to 32 bursaries presented at Brisbane Girls Grammar school, the Bursary program is a substantial practical element of the NCWQ and its impact in the community.

Over 30 NCWQ members are involved in “team bursary” and spend hours advertising, reading, discussing and confirming the bursaries.



**Pictured above: 2018  
NCWQ Bursary  
Recipients**

### Young Women's Networking Event

The focus of this event was to identify possible young members for the NCYWQ.



On Saturday 28 July, a range of young women joined the Acting President, Amy Henderson, the Secretary, Erin Cunningham and the Reporting Secretary, Noela O'Donnell at a very trendy café.

Very interesting conversations were held by the young women about their current situations, their aspirations, issues that interest them and much more.

With the upcoming AGM and the Bursary Fundraising Morning Tea we are hoping to see the introduction of a range of young women who are willing and able to start the NCYWQ.

NCWQ AGM To be held on Monday 20 August, nominations are currently being organised for the many positions available.

Updates to the By Laws have been endorsed by the Management Committee and we hope will be carried at the AGM.

### Bursary Fundraiser Morning Tea and Fashion Parade

Set for Tuesday 4 September this will be yet another wonderful event to raise money for the NCWQ Bursary Program.

Organised by Noela O'Donnell AM and held at Tattersall's, this year the theme is *Acknowledging Queensland Sporting Women*.

The Fashion Parade is supported by Soubrét Pink, entertainment by musician Jo Davie and a talk by NCWQ Bursary recipient Madison Birtchnell.

Some images from the 2017 event, from our Facebook page, below.



**Amy Henderson**  
NCWQ Acting President & Treasurer

### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF TASMANIA 2018

Linley Grant OAM, President has been unwell and had a spell in hospital, so no report from Tasmania this time. We wish Linley all the best and a speedy recovery.

### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF ACT

Helen Raymond is currently on leave and Laurayne Bowler has kindly sent in this update.

At its last Council meeting, NCW ACT members expressed concern about the level of plastic waste in our community. Members have set themselves a special challenge to eliminate all plastic waste from their household garbage for one week from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2018. Members will report back to our meeting on 13 September on their success or failure to achieve 'no plastic waste', the changes they made to try and achieve this and suggestions for further action. We will also consider how sustainable the changes we made are and what further action we can take to reduce plastic waste in our community.

NCW ACT will hold its AGM on September 2018.

## NATIONAL COUNCIL of WOMEN of WESTERN AUSTRALIA

In June 2018 the Western Australian Minister for Women the Hon Simone McGurk MLA hosted a Morning Tea at Parliament House for members of the NCWWA Executive and Life members. The Morning Tea included the presentation to the NCWWA 2018 STEM Bursary winner and runner-up.

Laura Harris a first year Bachelor of Engineering student studying Mechatronics at Curtin University was the 2018 NCWWA STEM Bursary winner. Dana McMullen who is studying Mechanical Engineering (Honours) at Curtin University is the 2018 STEM Bursary Runner-Up. Cassie Rowe MLA Minister for Belmont stepped in to represent the Minister at the last minute. It was a most enjoyable event and a great opportunity to meet both incredible young women and their families. Both young women have become members of NCWWA.

NCWWA recently held a very successful and enjoyable movie afternoon to raise funds to assist a young NCWWA member attend the NCWA Conference. The movie "The Wife" -as the apparently perfect wife of a Nobel prize-winning writer- Glenn Close gives arguably her best ever performance in an adaption of Meg Wolitzer's novel was a great choice of movie to see.

NCWWA has held general meetings in June and July with two interesting and informative guest speakers. Tricia Murray CEO Wanslea was guest speaker at the June meeting and Kathryn Lawrence CEO of the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) was the guest speaker at the July meeting.

In 2018 the NCWWA Paddy Firstenberg Memorial Award attracted a number of outstanding women applying for the Award. The selection criteria for the award includes leadership ability, service as a role model or mentor, commitment to the empowerment of women and how the business, industry or community has benefited from the nominee's contribution. The selection panel met recently, and Caris Collard has been selected as the winner this year.



Robyn Nolan

President NCW WA





## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF VICTORIA

Over the past couple of months, we at NCWV, have received an increased number of expressions of interest in the organisation, a few from young women which is gratifying; we hope some will join as members.

We are now planning for the a.g.m. on 6<sup>th</sup> September. Janet Park, a Vice-President, has put in a lot of work to see that the proposed updated Constitution was ready in time for the meeting for members to approve, or otherwise. We are most grateful for the pro bona assistance we have been given for the re-drafting.

The members of Young NCWVic are gradually becoming more engage with NCWV. Under the proposed updated Constitution a place will be reserved for a young member to sit on the campaign and hard work has finally be rewarded. Executive. A small group are becoming involved with the *Respect Programme* and are in the early stages of planning the next project which will support young Sudanese women and girls.

Planning is well underway for the annual event, My Vote: My Voice. This year the school students will give a 3 min. speech based on the theme *My Vote My Voice: Diversity in Community Organisations*. The event, which is the backbone of the NCWV's Civic and Citizenship programme, will be held in the Legislative Council Chamber of the State Parliament of Victoria on 31<sup>st</sup> August. A record number of Schools have registered to take part.

Dr Manjula O'Connor of the Australasian Centre for Human Rights and Health (ACHRH) has been campaigning for a number of years to make dowry illegal in Victoria I am delighted to say Manjula's On 7<sup>th</sup> Aug, the Anti-Dowry Bill passed through the Victorian Parliament (Justice Legislation Amendment (Family Violence Protection and Other Matters) Bill 2018). It will go to the Governor for Royal Assent before becoming law; then the hard work begins to ensure it is enacted.

Definition of dowry abuse in Victorian Law will be as follows "using coercion, threats, physical abuse or emotional or psychological abuse to demand or receive dowry, either before or after a marriage' We are still waiting to hear about the grant for the joint project we are planning to undertake with ACHRH, an affiliated organisation to NCWV. Manjula hopes to have Dowry banned though out Australia as well as the world; she has started campaigning at the UN.

In June I attended the ECICW meeting in London, hosted by the NCW GB who put on an interesting programme to mark 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Suffrage movement. We were taken to see the recently erected statue of of Millicent Fawcett; the first statue of a woman to be erected in Parliament Square.



Millicent Mildred Garrett Fawcett

Leader of the Suffragists

Planning is well under way for the ICW-CIF General Assembly 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2018 The proposed resolutions have been circulated for delegates to review before hand

Elisabeth Newman  
President NCW V

## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF SOUTH AUSTALIA

**NCWSA Seminar Series 2018** commenced Saturday 30 June with the NCW SA seminar ***Empowered Women Empower Women*** on new women's initiatives, demonstrating just how powerful a force females can be when they support each other. This was well attended, very successful and challenging.



***Dr Nina Sivertsen, State Coordinator  
NCWSA, opening the seminar***

**The Ruth Gibson 2018 Awardees**, Marijke Eastaugh, sponsored by Australian College of Midwives SA, and Rosemary Young, sponsored by Women in Agriculture & Business, were presented with their awards by Mrs. Lan Le, NCWSA Patron in Chief on 1 July 2018. Both sponsoring groups are affiliated with NCWSA. The afternoon tea that followed was enjoyed by the awardees' families and friends, Ruth Gibson Memorial Award Committee and NCWSA members. We were delighted that two of Ruth Gibson's nieces were with us.



***L-R: Rosemary Young, Mrs. Lan Le, NCWSA Patron  
in Chief, Marijke Eastaugh***



***L-R: Mrs. Lan Le, NCWSA  
Patron in Chief with NCWSA  
Hon. Life Members, Elaine  
Attwood AM, Margaret  
Brisbane, Barbara Fargher***



## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The office has been busy with membership renewals and preparing for our Annual General Meeting in September, along with our Foundation Day event and the recommendations for awardees for the Professor the Hon Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO Peace Awards.

Every year at **the Foundation Day Luncheon**, we celebrate the advancement of women. The first General Meeting of NCW NSW was held on 26 August 1896. The societies and organisations, affiliated with NCW NSW since that first year, have continued to change over the years and the focus of advocacy has changed. The work of the first Council was advocacy for equal pay for equal work, the inclusion of 'domestic arts' in the school curriculum and libraries and kindergartens for the young. Today, we are still advocating for equality of opportunity and our emphasis is on women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) or STEAM if you include the Arts.

Our Guest Speaker in 2018 was Janet Schorer, NSW Children's Guardian speaking about leadership in the public sector. Her pathway to achieving better outcomes for NSW children includes paediatrics, social policy and public administration.

Each year, nominations are invited from individual members and members of affiliated organisations of a woman whom they consider worthy of recognition. These nominations are considered by a committee. The selected women are honoured with certificates, recognising their commitment to the common goal of working to advance the status of women and children.

They display the diversity of their dedication to that goal and provide an example of the many different ways a goal can be reached. Our Foundation Day Awardee, Sonia Casanova, was nominated by one of our Affiliated Organisations – Soroptimists

Photo L-R Janet Schorer, Annie Kiefer, Sonia Casanova,  
Photographer: [Michael Mannington, Volunteer Photography](#)



### **VISIT TO MT DRUITT**

In July, two of our members – Michelle Pedersen and Julie Morris – travelled to Mt Druitt to meet with a group of refugee women from [SydWest Multicultural Services](#). The visit was coordinated by Mervat Altarazi, General Caseworker: Settlement Team, Community Engagement Division. We chatted, with some help from an interpreter for some of the women, and talked in general terms – immigration issues, housing, children's education and their own employment opportunities. For most they have multiple issues with varying degrees of complexity that many of us, with English as a first language, would struggle to deal with. It was agreed we would have a community day later this year.

### **“NSW SEXUAL ASSAULT STRATEGY 2018-2021. A first for NSW.**

The three year, whole of government strategy provides a framework for responding to and preventing sexual assault and sexual harassment no matter where it occurs – in the home, in workplaces, in institutions or in public places.

The strategy aims to improve the existing service system for adults and children who experience sexual assault. Stronger community education about sexual violence and consent, trauma informed training and tougher accountability for perpetrators are among a range of measures to be introduced as part of the strategy.

The prevention and response to sexual assault demands significant commitment, not only by governments and from front line responders but by the wider community. The strategy will be owned by everyone. Preventing and responding to sexual assault is everyone's responsibility.

The NSW Government is investing more than \$200 million over four years across Health, Justice and the Department of Family and Community Services to support victim-survivors of sexual assault and children with harmful sexual behaviours.

For more information and to view the strategy, visit [Women NSW](#)."

Annie Kiefer  
President NCW NSW





Attachment 1

## National Council of Women Australia

### Triennial Conference *Finding Solutions* 17,18,19 October 2018 at the QT Hotel 1 London Circuit, Canberra

The NCWA Triennial Conference has delegations from all NCW Constituent Councils. There are members only meeting and workshops on the 17 October, and on the afternoon of the 19 October, including training for the National Council of Young Women.

**The public conference:** 9.00 am on Thursday 18 October opening by the Minister for Women is the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP. Conference MC is Genevieve Jacobs. Presentations from Terri Butler MP, Sharon Claydon MP and Trish Bergin from the Office of Women, Dept Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Speakers:** We have Australia's foremost the leading experts, in the field, such as:

- **Libby Lyons** Director of the Workplace Gender Equality Agency
- **Sally Loane** CEO Financial Services Council
- **Dr Sharman Stone** - The Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls
- **Carmel McGregor** – Adjunct Professor, Foundation steering committee 50/50 by 2030 Foundation • **Liza-Jayne (LJ) Loch** NOW Australia Chair
- **Troy Roderick** - Specialist in Diversity & Inclusion
- **Professor Margaret Jolly** - Convenor of the Gender Institute ANU
- **Kate Jenkins** - Sex Discrimination Commissioner
- **Bonnie Millen** - National President People with Disability Australia
- **Phyllis Williams** - Chairperson *Housing for the Aged Action Group*
- **Dr Skye Saunders** Ass professor at Law, ANU Gender and law expert
- **Scott Rankin** Creative Director of Arts for social change organisation Big hART

**NCWA awards-** Encouragement Award, Senior Service Award and NCWA Woman of the Year, will be presented, by our patron Lady Cosgrove (TBC) at the conference dinner

**Conference Cost** early bird rates: Members: \$330 Non-members: 375

**After 31 August** Members: \$350 Non-members: \$395

**Dinner:** Members: \$70 Non-members: \$80

To book go to <http://www.trybooking.com/WQBX>  
email: [info@ncwa.org.au](mailto:info@ncwa.org.au)



2017 Conference photos

