

DECEMBER 2018



President's Welcome

Welcome to my first Newsletter as President of NCWA. At the outset I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for all the work you do for your constituent councils.

In particular can I acknowledge the NCWA Board 2018-2021:

- Robyn Nolan NCWA President
- Barbara Baikie IPP and Coordinator of Standing Committees
- Merrill Cole Vice President
- Yvonne Robson Secretary
- Angela Diamond Treasurer
- Julie Morris Board Member
- Juanita Flett President NCWACT
- Annie Kiefer President NCWNSW
- Erin Cunningham Acting President NCWQ
- Fiona Dorman President NCWSA
- Linley Grant President NCWT
- Elisabeth Newman President NCWV
- Robyn Nolan President NCWWA



Thank you to those who recently stood down from Board positions including Margaret Findlater-Smith (former Coordinator of Standing Committees), Margaret Flint (President NCWSA) Amy Henderson (President NCWQ) and Helen Raymond (President NCWQ).



I have acknowledged Barbara Baikie in my report to the NCWA December Board Meeting which is included in this Newsletter. We are all very grateful for her outstanding leadership over the last three years as NCWA President. In my view it is terrific that Barbara and Julie Morris remain as Board members and I look forward to working with them in the months ahead.

Since the December Board meeting Barbara and I have met with the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP office to discuss a range of issues including the mapping of domestic and family violence initiatives and the lack of progress of legislation announced in the May 2018 budget regarding the measures to tackle multiple superannuation accounts; changes to insurance for younger and inactive members; and restrictions on superannuation fees. Unfortunately, the legislation has yet to pass through the Senate. The proposed measures to tackle the impact of superannuation fees on member balances including the cap on administration and investment fees on accounts with balances less than \$6000 at three per cent and abolishing all superannuation fund exit fees are two significant issues which affect many women. I have now written to the Shadow Minister for Women and cross bench Senators seeking support for the legislation to be dealt with and passed in the Senate early in the New Year.



The next NCWA Board meeting will be held on Monday 4 February 2019. In conclusion I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe, restful and enjoyable break.

Best wishes to all for 2019.

Robyn Nolan
President NCWA
0417 917 294
robymn@bigpond.com

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN AUSTRALIA
PRESIDENT'S REPORT
NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 3 December 2018**

Thank you to NCWA Board and members for electing me as President at the recent NCWA Triennial Conference held in October in Canberra. I very much appreciate your support and I will try to the best of my ability to continue the great work done by Barbara Baikie, Julie Morris and all former Presidents of this great organisation dedicated to the advancement of women and their families.

I would like to place on record my special thanks to Barbara for her leadership over the last three years and I am very pleased that she not only remains on the NCWA Board as Immediate Past President but was elected to the role of Standing Committee Coordinator. Congratulations also to Yvonne Robson and Angela Diamond re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Congratulations to Merrill Cole who was elected as Vice-President and Julie Morris as a Board member.



Barbara will also be involved in producing the post-conference booklet with suggestions results and recommendations from the Triennial Conference. Thank you for initial work that has been produced to date from a number of people. I am hoping the conference report will be available early in the New Year.

The Triennial Conference built on the mid-term Conference where NCWA examined the root causes of violence against women and homelessness for older women. The conference speakers included some of Australia's leading experts in the field, Members of Federal Parliament and academics.



During the Triennial Conference Dinner the inaugural NCWA Awards were presented. Congratulations to Doreen Todd NCWA Woman of the Year- a long-time member from NCW NSW, Michelle Pedersen NCWA Senior Service Award in her 20th year of service to NCW NSW and Erin Cunningham NCWA Encouragement Award from NCWQ. It was terrific to have His Excellency Governor General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) and Lady Cosgrove attend the conference dinner and Lady Cosgrove presented the Awards.

Recently Barbara and I participated in the Office for Women Web Conference on gender- based violence. An overview was provided from Australia's appearance at CEDAW by Trish Bergin First Assistant Secretary Office for Women. Chantelle Stratford Branch Manager Family Safety Department of Social Security gave an overview of current Government initiatives related to countering gender-based violence and the panel responded to questions on notice received prior to the conference. It is my understanding that there will be a second Web Conference. However confirmation of a date has yet to be received.

Robyn Nolan
President NCWA

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN ACT

NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 3 December 2018



October saw our first guest speaker for our major project this year Richard Griffiths from Safe Shelter. Safe Shelter is a men's only crisis accommodation provider however Richard had some great insights as he was one of the original volunteers to help set up the shelters. Richard spoke to us about the challenges faced by short term accommodation providers along with their original enquiries into women's shelters. Particularly relevant was the logistical and infrastructure issues that are unique to having a women's shelter, specifically the need for additional security as many women seeking short term or overnight accommodation may be fleeing a volatile relationship.

NCW ACT has in November written to the Minister for Women/Minister for Housing Yvette Berry regarding any current or future plans for using existing under-utilised buildings in the ACT for overnight accommodation for homeless women.

I also attended the National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in the workplace which was hosted by the Australian Human Rights Commission. Much of the discussion was based around improved reporting, confidence and how we can ensure women are feeling supported to report. Ultimately it was also obvious that we need clearer direction for businesses to follow should a complaint arise, as well as clear expectations for what is expected for the harasser.

November saw us finish up our year with a small Christmas Lunch. It is pleasing to note the enthusiasm of the council in pushing through with our vision for next year.

Juanita Flett
President NCWACT

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN NEW SOUTH WALES

NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 3 December 2018

Since the last newsletter, we have held our Dame Marie Bashir Peace Awards. These awards are presented to girls in High School who have excelled in community service and awareness. The girls are chosen from high schools throughout New South Wales. The photo shows Dame Marie Bashir (former Governor of NSW) together with the Awardees.



These young ladies are so inspiring and very worthy of being recognised.

In October I attended my very first NCWA Conference. It was a huge learning curve and it was very beneficial to see just how the NCWA works and why, and to meet all the delegates from all over Australia. It was very gratifying to see our very own Doreen Todd and Michelle Pedersen acknowledged for all the hard work they have done for the NCWNSW

On the last day of November the NCWNSW hosted a delegation of women from Japan. These women came from all walks of life including caring for the aged. This is a new concept in Japan as previously most elderly family members were cared for by the younger members of their families.

They were interested in speaking to us about politics in Australia, the ratio of women in politics, how Australian women cope with work, home, family etc. Julie Morris chaired this part of the meeting and stirred up much stimulating discussion. We explained to the ladies the concept of volunteering and how the NCWNSW was made up of constituent groups. One lady was the maker of kimonos and gave us a wonderful impromptu Kabuki dance – with singing, fan and all. It was an enjoyable and very relaxing visit and they especially took to the lamingtons and Tim Tams served at the Afternoon Tea, (even though Sushi was on offer). In fact, all the Tim Tams were eaten!! NCWNSW have hosted visits from overseas delegates and have found these cultural visits to be of great benefit to us all.



This photo shows Annie and Julie plus the lovely Interpreter, hosting our Japanese Visitors.



The photo shows our delegation of Japanese Visitors together with NCWNSW members, Nola Barkl, Jane Baker, Sally Fennell, Trish Graham, Annie Kiefer and Julie Morris.

On the 24th of January, 2019 we will host our "Celebrate Being Australian" luncheon at Parliament House. If any of our interstate members are in Sydney at this time, please let us know and join us for this wonderful event.

In the meantime, have a Happy Christmas and we hope the New Year will bring much fun, love and laughter.

Annie Kiefer
President NCW NSW

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN QUEENSLAND

NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 3 December 2018

NCWQ delegates to the NCWA Triennial Conference were Noela O'Donnell AM, NCWA Board Member, Recording Secretary NCWQ Management Committee; Pat Pepper, NCWQ State Coordinator, NCWQ Adviser for the Environment and NCWA Adviser, Environment and Habitat; Georgina Pickers, NCWQ Adviser Human Rights and International Relations and Peace and NCWA adviser on International Relations and Peace; Kathy Cavanagh, MC Member, Bursary Program Coordinator.

All appreciated the range and expertise of the speakers in the conference program; the benefit of Genevieve Jacobs in chairing the session on discussing the resolutions so smoothly and efficiently; and the privilege of Sir Peter and Lady Cosgrove at the conference dinner. We were chuffed that Erin Cunningham received the inaugural encouragement award – a well-deserved recognition of her current Vice President position; instigation and nurturing of NCYWQ during its formative stage; a previous bursary recipient and member of Team Bursary, as coordinator and selection panel member.

The work in putting together such a conference is recognised, so thanks to the Conference Committee. Thanks are also extended to Barbara Baikie and her Executive for their term in office, and best wishes to Robyn Nolan and her team.

Since the NCWA Conference, NCYWQ recently hosted a Morning Tea at the University of Queensland Women's College, with the focus of supporting the organisation Share the Dignity. In particular, attendees were encouraged to donate bags and items to Share the Dignity's *Its' In The Bag* Christmas appeal, which supports women and families in need by filling pre-loved handbags with beauty, sanitary and baby essentials. NCYWQ were delighted to donate 37 filled bags to Share the Dignity as a result of the Morning Tea. NCYWQ are slowly but surely building their group of core members and are looking forward to what lies ahead in 2019.

The NCWQ Christmas Luncheon is to be held on 6 December. Affiliated organisation, the Catholic Women's League, will be featured. Their work will be shared with us and guests will contribute gifts for both men and women in their aged care facilities.

NCWQ sends Christmas Greetings to members of NCWA Executive and Constituent Councils and wishing all health and fulfilment in 2019.

Kathy Cavanagh
NCWQ

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 3 December 2018

I would like to extend congratulations to Robyn Nolan on beginning the term in office in the role of President of the National Council of Women Australia and congratulations to Barbara Baikie on completing a strong term in this role.

As of November 8th 2018, the National Council of Women SA had change in Executive at the Annual General Meeting. Great thanks and appreciation are extended to Margaret Flint, OAM as she concludes her role as President of NCW SA after two terms. President Flint's commitment and understanding of NCW SA and the roles the Council plays in the community is unshakeable and entirely valued and respected. Margaret will continue to serve on the Executive Committee in the role as Immediate Past President.

I am delighted to accept the role as President and I know that I have big shoes to fill. It is my intention to serve the organisation wholeheartedly and with passion for honouring our strong history as well as championing the work of the incoming Executive, Advisers and our Affiliated organisations whom we represent.

The Executive team now comprises:

President - Fiona Dorman

Vice President - Di Lockwood

Honorary Treasurer - Helen Pointon OAM

State Coordinator- Nina Sivertsen

Immediate Past President: Margaret Flint OAM

Executive Members

Bev Gum

Vahedeh Mansoury

Sandra Richards

It is with great excitement that we have ratified the Adviser roles for 2019 at our recent Executive meeting. We now have 8 NCW SA members taking Adviser roles in the following areas:

Status of Women:

Human Rights, Legislation and Implementation of Conventions - Di Lockwood

Women's Well Being:

Health, Nutrition and Well Being - Dr Fathimath Shifaza

Environment and Habitat - Sandra Richards

Women's Social issues:

Child Youth and Family - Vahedeh Mansoury

Women's Sustainable Development:

Economics, Employment and Consumer affairs - Sanja Jovanovic

Women in Communications:

Media - Jenny Hassam

Education - Dr Rhoda Abadia

Under the strong guidance of Dr Nina Sivertsen, State Coordinator, NCW SA looks to have another wonderful year ahead of speakers at our council meetings, with representatives from Australian Lions Hearing Dogs, SA Police on the topic “Road Safety Session for Seniors” and also from Dr Felicity Lewis who has a PhD in Health Education and is interested in social justice and health education.

Since the last Board Meeting, NCWSA delegates Di Lockwood, Hean Bee Wee AM, Maureen Oborn, Sandra Richards and Margaret Flint OAM attended the NCWA Triennial Conference in the ACT. At the November Council Meeting we had vibrant discussion of the Conference program and discussion of the Resolution outcomes in light of the Council’s recommendations for voting.

As mentioned in previous meetings, in celebration of 125 years of Women’s Suffrage, National Council of Women South Australia Inc. will invite applications in late 2018 for the Lady Hackett-Moulden Award.

After its announcement at the *HERSTORY: Celebrating Centuries of Women's Achievements* convened by The Lady Mayoress of Adelaide, Genevieve Theseira-Haese, at Adelaide Town Hall, a dedicated team have worked towards the finer details and criteria for the award. In the coming months, NCW SA will be contacting organisations in our network to advertise the Award. We look forward to hearing from women aged between 18 and 35 years, who are interested in participating in the activities of the National Council Of Women SA.

Council Meetings:

Thursday 8th November 2018: Council Meeting and Annual General Meeting

Monday 26th November 2018: Executive Meeting

On Thursday December 13th 2018, I will be representing NCW SA at a meeting of the South Australian Government’s “*Preventing Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Partner Network*”. The Network is a key initiative under the Government’s new framework to end violence against women. The framework currently being developed by the Office for Women will support the implementation of the Government’s election commitments outlined at the March 2018 election <https://strongplan.com.au/policy/addressing-domestic-family-violence/>

The Network:

- is being established in order to ensure that the South Australian Government continues to put the voices of the violence against women sector front and centre in everything that we do
- will be co-chaired by the Office for Women and the Coalition of Women’s Domestic and Aboriginal Family Violence Services as the funded peak body
- will provide a channel for information about the work of the Chief Executives Group, which has leadership of the Framework, and the wider work of Government generally, allowing it to be communicated to relevant non-government agencies and for information to be shared between members about their own organisational initiatives
- will actively progress work through members’ own workplaces and networks that achieves the outcome of reducing the prevalence of violence against women.

Fiona Dorman
President NCWSA

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN TASMANIA

NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 3 December 2018

Our Council continues to operate effectively, although average attendance at 10 a.m. meetings is currently 6. However, attendance at the lunch time forums and seminars has been encouraging with between 20 to 30 attending. We will try to book the Town Hall for lunch time meetings in 2019.

The October Forum – Protecting Women Over 60 - was particularly successful owing to the quality of the guest speakers, including - Doctorial Student Gina Zappia, (UTAS) Sarah Campbell (Legal Aid) Debra Lewis (COTA) and the conversations they engendered. NCWT has various resolutions arising from this,

We finished the year with a happy luncheon at Jam-Packed and meet again in February 2019.

Our thanks to NCWA, and in particular, Barbara Baikie, Sheila Byard and Elisabeth Newman for their encouragement during this difficult year.

Our best wishes to all Board members for an enjoyable Christmas and year ahead

Linley Grant
President NCWT



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN VICTORIA

NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 3 December 2018



PO Box 18186, Collins Street East,
Melbourne VIC8003
M 0432 263 381 | W www.ncwvic.org.au
E info@ncwvic.org.au

Reg. Number A004465H ABN: 18227073059

I am sorry I cannot participate in the teleconference, however, I am pleased Hean Bee Wee, NCWV Treasurer can deputise for me.

I received an invitation from the International Engagement Team at the Office for Women to participate, on 7th Nov, in the 1st web conference *organised* by the Office for Women on gender-based violence. Unfortunately, the process of signing in was beyond me, however, I have received a summary of the proceedings. It is planned to hold more web conferences, hopefully I will be able to master the sign in process next time.

Following on from the My Vote My Voice event held in August we have commenced visiting the participating schools to hand out certificates. The schools like us to attend their Assembly or a special event as happened at Al Siraat School; we were invited to present the certificates at the opening of their Technology Building which is an amazing place and an honour to have participated in the opening. We also learnt something about the school which is described as an Australian School in the Muslim Tradition. Pam Hammond, NCWV Secretary, and I came away very impressed.

We have also been busy attending a.g.ms. of affiliated organisation and agencies we support.

Phyll Williams, chairperson of HAAG, who spoke at the NCWA Conference, is in the process of joining NCWV, i.e. HAAG as well as herself as an Individual Member. We look forward to welcoming HAAG as a member and working with members on issues of mutual interest.

Monday of this week, 26th Nov., we held the annual end of year Festive Luncheon which was a pleasant event. Guest speaker was Roslyn Rogers, founder of KOGO (Knit One Give One). She has a team of skilled knitters who knit garments and blankets for the those who have nothing. KOGO supports the financially disadvantaged including the homeless in many ways. The proceeds of our raffle went to KOGO.

On behalf of NCWV, I wish all NCWA Board members a happy and safe Festive Season with the wishes extending to all Constituent Council members. May 2019 be kind to you all.

Elisabeth Newman
President NCWV

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 3 December 2018

The recent NCWA Triennial Conference “Finding Solutions” held in Canberra in October was, in my view, a very successful conference. The conference included the NCWA AGM and Barbara Baikie stood down after completing her three year term. I would like to place on record my thanks and the thanks from all NCWWA members to Barbara for the great contribution she made to NCWA as President. Barbara will remain a member of the NCWA Board as the National Standing Committee coordinator, my thanks also to Margaret Finlater-Smith who stood down at the AGM after nine years in various positions on the National Board.

Delegates attended the conference from each state and the ACT and I would like to take this opportunity thank all delegates for attending and supporting the conference especially the large delegation from NCWWA. I was also delighted that two young NCWWA delegates attended – an opportunity provided to them by sponsorship from Curtin University. On behalf of NCWWA I thank Curtin University for their generous sponsorship.



NCWWA held its AGM at the end of October and invited the Shadow Minister for Education and Training; Women's Interests the Hon Donna Faragher MLC to be the special guest and guest speaker. NCWWA has also held an Executive meeting, a Standing Committee meeting and a General Council meeting in November. The guest speaker at the November Council meeting was Liz Dutton Coordinator Women with Disabilities WA.



The NCWWA Christmas lunch will be held in early December and plans are in place for the NCWWA 2019 STEM Bursary. Rather than announcing a winner and runner-up early in 2019 as has happened in previous years, 2019 will see two Bursaries awarded provided that the number of applications and quality support the new initiative. This has been made possible because of an increase in the size of donation activity.

As NCWWA President I have continued to attend where possible a number of Affiliate members meetings and events and recently I was invited to attend the Women in Technology WA “20 in 20” Gala Awards Night rewarding twenty two women in STEM and Innovation. I also recently attended the launch of the Workforce Gender Equality Agency Scorecard with key findings from the 2017-2018 data in Perth.

NCWWA continues to advocate on a range of issues concerning women and family in WA. NCWWA members were pleased to see a number of positive initiatives in the Women's Economic Security Statement especially the announcement that the government will provide funding to the Australian Bureau of Statistics to re-instate of the Time Use Survey- however a time line has yet to be announced.

Robyn Nolan
President NCWWA