

February 2019

President's Welcome

Welcome to the first NCWA Newsletter for 2019. I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas /New Year summer holidays. No doubt this year will be a busy one. While it seems no time since the NCWA Triennial conference held last October in Canberra it is already time to think about the location and date of the NCWA next Mid-Term Conference. I am proposing that the Mid-Term Conference be held in March 2020 and I would like to have a location and venue in place by June this year.



CSW63 is fast approaching – 11-22 March 2019 in New York. I am delighted to report that I will be attending as one of two non-government delegates as a member of the Australian Delegation. It is a terrific privilege and an amazing opportunity for NCWA. CSW is the highest level international forum on gender equality and women's empowerment which meets annually in New York.

CSW63 is an opportunity for NCWA to provide advice to the Australian Government. I will also be a liaison point between both domestic and international civil society organisations and the Australian Government delegation and also have the opportunity to attend meetings and events as an official member of the delegation.



The Triennial Conference report is in the final stages before printing – a terrific document detailing discussion and outcomes from the NCWA Triennial Conference - copies of the report will be available for all State and the ACT NCW Constituent Councils.

My sincere thanks to Barbara Baikie for compiling the report and special thanks to Dolores Cummins who provided extensive notes from the conference.

Presidents welcome: contd....

I had the opportunity to attend the DFAT- NGO Human Rights Forum 2019 recently. As well as hearing from a number of speakers including Chris Sidoti, a member of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar, a number of smaller group discussion sessions were conducted throughout the day. I attended the “Inclusive education for children with disabilities in the Pacific”, “Working with Government: a guide to UN human rights processes” and a very interesting and informative session on “Violence Against Women”.

Barbara Baikie (as NCWA Standing Committee Coordinator) and I recently held a telephone conference call with the National Coordinators. Unfortunately NCWA still needs a coordinator for Social Issues. I hope NCWA will have one in place soon. The NCWA coordinators are as follows:

- **Communications (including Education):** May Hu OAM
- **General Wellbeing:** Wendy Rainbird
- **Sustainable Development:** Elizabeth Re
- **Status of Women:** Suzanne Howarth

Can I also take this opportunity to apologise for the error in the December Newsletter. In acknowledging and thanking former Presidents I inadvertently stated Helen Raymond (NCWQ). As I well know Helen was the former NCW ACT President- my sincere apologies.

Robyn Nolan

President NCWA

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EDITORS NOTE: I am sure all NCW Constituent Council members around Australia join me in congratulating Robyn on becoming one of two non-government members in the official Australian Government delegation to CSW63 in New York.

Merrill Cole

My very best wishes to you all for a great 2019! I hope everyone has had an enjoyable and restful break over the holidays. This year will no doubt will be a busy one and I look forward to the months ahead as NCWA continues to advocate on a range of policy issues that directly affect women and their families around this great nation.



It has been a challenging summer, significant bush fires in some states, extreme drought conditions in others, flooding rains, electricity blackouts and exceptionally hot weather in many parts of Australia. My thoughts and prayers are with many who have been affected.

The new NCWA web-site is up- there is however still much work that needs to be done and to date the members only section still has to be completed. Hopefully further work will be done over the next couple of months.

Congratulations to Annie Kiefer President of NCWNSW and her team on the 2019 Australia Day Awards lunch held on Thursday 24 January. I was delighted to have the opportunity to attend the lunch.

Congratulations also to the fourteen Awardees ranging from a volcanologist to a film maker and their sponsors. It was terrific to see so many members and friends in attendance at the lunch and for me to have the opportunity to discuss with Mrs Linda Hurley taking up the role as NCWA Patron after her husband becomes the Governor General of Australia in June 2019.

I hope that many NCW members will provide a submission to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. Mistreatment in aged care has no place in a civilised, compassionate society. We constantly hear of mistreatment, nursing home residents being doped for years with psychotropic drugs, neglect and substandard care. Many of the revelations emerging are inexcusable and horrify many Australians and underline the need for reforms and stronger safeguards to protect an ageing population.

NCWA was one of a number of organisations and individuals advocating for significant improvements in quality and safety in residential aged care facilities. NCWA in 2017 called for a House of Representatives Standing Committee Inquiry by the Health Aged Care and Sport Committee into quality of care in residential aged care facilities after a resolution was passed at the NCWA mid-term conference from NCWWA. The inquiry was announced in December 2017 and a report was tabled in October 2018. The report contained fourteen much needed recommendations. However the House of Representatives inquiry, along with a number of other inquiries, did not focus on the Aged Care Act 1997. The Royal Commission will cover care for residents in residential aged care. Many are women, in-home care services and care for young Australians with disabilities living in a residential aged care environment.



I attended, representing NCWA, the 2019 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade -NGO Forum on Human Rights which was held on Wednesday 6 February 2019 in Canberra. Barbara Baikie represented NCWA at the eS4W Roundtable held in Canberra on 12 February 2019.

Robyn Nolan
President NCWA

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN ACT

NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 4 February 2019



The National Council of Women ACT have not met since November with our first meeting scheduled for February 14th. Scheduled to speak at that meeting is Nicole Wiggan from Early Morning Centre at Pilgrim House who will give us a better insight into the issues facing homeless women in the ACT.

We continue to lobby our government representatives to seek answers on why a shelter has not been provided for women in the ACT. As a continued focus on this subject, we are currently approaching church groups to see if we can facilitate something in the short term.

Through January the Executive met to further plan the new year. Our expectation to hold a Movie day fundraiser will move ahead for March. A small group of members met to discuss the ICW report on Elder Abuse. It will be suggested that a sub-committee form to look at promoting a positive message about being older and perhaps run an education program on different forms of elder abuse, including physical, nutrition and diets, as well as mental and financial abuse.

We look forward to a positive 2019

Juanita Flett
President NCWACT

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN NEW SOUTH WALES

NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 4 February 2019

Welcome all to 2019 – I trust that this New Year will bring you all much joy and happiness.

In January we held a very successful *“Celebrate being an Australian”* luncheon at Parliament House, Sydney, which was attended by nearly 200 members and guests. Mr Alex Greenwich, MP for Sydney, welcomed us to what he termed as ‘our’ House. It was lovely to welcome our NCW President, Robyn Nolan, from Western Australia, who took time out of her busy schedule to attend. Our guest speaker, Janine Kitson, Environmental Educator and Activist, spoke about Rachel Carson, an American Marine Biologist, who was deeply concerned about the dumping of nuclear waste into our oceans following WWII. In the early 1950s Rachel also raised concerns about the massive aerial spraying of DDT that unleashed dangerous and toxic pollutants on not only insects, but birds, wildlife, fish and people. She was a pioneer of the environment movement and woman before her time in all respects.



Mrs Linda Hurley was present at the luncheon and it was her last NCWNSW function as our Patron. She spoke of her admiration of the work done under our name. She led the singing of our National Anthem (two verses) and a special song she had especially written for NCWNSW. We then all joined in for a rousing rendition of ‘You Are My Sunshine’. Awards were presented to 14 extremely worthwhile women from all walks of life ranging from a Volcanologist to a Film-maker. These women all demonstrated their remarkable capabilities and commitment to their very diverse fields of study. A huge vote of thanks must go to Dr Jane Baker for her tireless work in facilitating these very important Awards and to all our other members who work seamlessly behind the scenes to ensure a well-oiled day.



Awardees with special guests

NCW NSW contd....

This week some of our members attended a special Community day with Syrian and Iranian refugees. We spoke to them of NCWNSW, our aims, our achievements, the benefits of belonging, how these women can become empowered and how they can empower us. Julie Morris covered questions about immigration, housing, where NCW offices are situated in Australia and employment. This beneficial day was capably organised by Michelle Pedersen, through her contact Mrs Mervat Al Taraz.

Michelle Pedersen has recently drawn up an excellent submission on Sexual Harassment to be forwarded to the Commission. We are fortunate to be able to have Skye Saunders from ANU accept our invitation to speak at our 30th May meeting. Skye is Australia's leading expert in the area of sexual harassment in rural communities. If any of you are in Sydney at this time, you would be most welcome to come along.

Our next major function will be our annual '*Jean Arnot Luncheon*' to be held in May at Parliament House, Sydney. This is a very special day to celebrate the work of women over the age of 90 who have dedicated themselves to improving the lives of women, children and families in their respective communities.

Our Council meetings continue to be held on the last Thursday of each month from 4:30pm to 6:30pm on Level 1, Sydney Mechanics School of Arts (SMSA), 280 Pitt Street, Sydney. Our Executive go to great lengths to ensure we have an eclectic group of speakers to pique everyone's interest. Who can forget the interesting and far ranging guest speakers last year, including Mr Justice Richard Cogswell who spoke on matters of mental health and Natalie Er who gave us fascinating details about Native Bees?

If any of our Interstate members and friends are in Sydney on our meeting dates, please call in. You would be most welcome and we would love to meet and greet you.

Annie Kiefer
President NCWNSW



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN QUEENSLAND NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 4 February 2019

7.

Christmas Luncheon

The 2018 NCWQ Christmas Luncheon was held on 6 December at the University of Queensland Women's College. The Christmas Luncheon showcased affiliate member organisation *Catholic Women's League* (CWL). Sandy O'Donohue from CWL spoke of their work and especially of what she does in their Aged Care facilities on the Redcliffe Peninsula, north of Brisbane. With customary generosity, attendees donated a table-load of gifts for Sandy to distribute to those in need, in time for Christmas.

The Christmas Luncheon also had a personal touch, where we heard from Management Committee Member Irene Cayas OAM on her traditions of the Christmas season in her Greek culture. Yvonne Matta, an associate member, spoke of the traditions in her Lebanese culture. It was interesting to hear how both cultures had made some adaptations to the Australian context, whilst maintaining and passing on their traditions.

Bursary Program – Opening Soon!

With applications opening for the 2019 NCWQ Bursary Program on 25 March 2019, preparatory activities have been continuing, the Christmas/New Year lull being somewhat relative. Sponsorships are continuing to be finalised. It is particularly gratifying that bursaries sponsored by NCWQ affiliated organisations have increased from four in 2018 to six in 2019. Other sponsorships continue to represent the three levels of government and individuals.

Team Bursary – the group of about 30 women who coordinate and sit on selection panels, continues its work, with several very welcome new members. Whilst not yet finalised, it is envisaged that the total number of bursaries on offer in 2019 will be similar to the 33 on offer last year.

Update from National Council of Young Women of Queensland (NCYWQ)

NCYWQ's membership has grown over the past few months, where we currently have 17 keen young ladies on board. Although having a slow start to 2019, NCYWQ are looking forward to their events and projects in the pipeline for 2019. Our focus for the year is '*Queensland Young Women and Families in Need*', and our activities will strive to assist in this area.

We are also looking forward to celebrating Queensland Women's Week during 2-10 March 2019, by attending diverse events held across Brisbane, ranging from Fun Runs to High Teas. Undoubtedly other Young National Councils of Women will be doing similar things in their States or Territories.

The next NCYWQ meeting is on 16 February 2019, at QUT Gardens Point Library – just in time for the start of 2019 University year! Open to young women, aged between 18 and 35.

Contact info@ncwq.org.au for further information.

Senator Claire Moore

A strong supporter, (and bursary sponsor), of NCWQ and many other organisations, Senator Claire will be missed on her retirement from the Senate at the next election. In conjunction with Affiliate member organisation Queensland Women's Historical Association, an afternoon tea is being held on 16 February to acknowledge Senator Claire's work, and to hear her speak on her time in the Senate and engagement with community groups.

Erin Cunningham

Acting President NCWQ



NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 4 February 2019

NCWSA is preparing for another busy year. This year our state will celebrate the 125th Anniversary of dual suffrage and our Council and members will be discussing and participating in various ways to mark this milestone in women's rights in the state.

NCWSA is proud to have now launched the Lady Moulden Award, in celebration of 125 years of Women's Suffrage in SA. Details have been shared to schools, universities, local government. The award is open to women resident in South Australia between 18 and 35 years, who are interested in participating in the activities of the National Council of Women (SA). This award, which is aimed to be presented mid-year, will provide the recipient with a 2 year membership, registration to four NCW SA half-day seminars over this period and a cash award of four hundred dollars.

On December 13th, 2018, I participated in the South Australian Government's "preventing Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence partner Network" Meeting. The Network is an initiative under the Government's framework to end violence against women. A range of topics were discussed, including modelling work being completed in creating "Safety Hubs"; the feasibility in the locations proposed and specific safety issues surrounding physical locations for such premises. The National Council of Women SA's participation in this Network is an ongoing opportunity to give a voice to women in our community and, importantly, to represent the collective voices of our affiliated organisations and membership to Government. Membership to this group spans service, government and advocacy organisations.

December 13th was the final Council meeting for the year. A lovely night was had by all! Delegates and Members participated in an Environment Quiz; convened with much appreciation by our Environment Adviser, Sandra Richards. Shared food was enjoyed and a special Christmas Carol was sung by one of our newer and young members, Sanja Jovanovic.

The Advisers and some members of the NCWSA Executive met last week to plan the activities and advocacy work to be undertaken this year. It is the aim of the whole Council and of the Advisers to both share knowledge and information as well as to engage with members and our extended network. We'll be going on a group outing in March, as part of the Adelaide Fringe Festival to hear works convened by the Centre of Democracy and the Muriel Matters Society. These works, a series of monologues, are to commemorate the 125th year of Women's Suffrage in a Speakers' Corner-type format, called "A Suffrage Soapbox". Speeches will be "given" by leading figures of the 1880's and 1890's South Australian suffrage movement Mary Lee, Elizabeth Webb Nicholls and Catherine Helen Spence, who shaped South Australia and inspired generations.

"I am as worthy as any man to contribute and shape my country." - Mary Lee

"Never forget the hardships your sisters faced." - Elizabeth Webb Nicholls

"Fairness in representation, in equality and equity for all." - Catherine Helen Spence

We look forward to presenting a half day seminar on Saturday October 19th, 2019. The topic is to be decided.

Fiona Dorman
President NCW SA

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN TASMANIA

NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 4 February 2019

The National Council of Women of Tasmania (NCWT) is currently celebrating 120 years of outstanding action and is steadily growing as women realize they can achieve little on their own. By working together in strength, they can achieve significant improvement in problems like violence, which are otherwise intractable.

During recent months, members were active in supporting the work of the affiliated organisations and others with similar concerns on issues like gambling, child-care and lack of housing.

In November, members enjoyed a happy Christmas luncheon at Jam-Packed.

We are now looking forward to NCWT being inducted into the Tasmanian Women's Honour Roll for consistent work in uniting and supporting women over the 120 years, throughout Tasmania and beyond.

This year NCWT will meet in the Town Hall Conference Room on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at alternate times - 10 a.m. or 12.30 p.m. If you have an issue which you think other women are concerned about then contact :

Linley Grant

President NCWT

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NCWA historical pics



First Conference of Australian Presidents 1902



NCW Tasmania Life Members 1999

Photos Courtesy of NCWT

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN VICTORIA

NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 4 February 2019

I trust you have all had a pleasant and restful time over the Christmas and New Year season which culminates with the Lunar New Year on 6th Feb. May the year of the Pig bring you and your Councils prosperity.



NCWV Executive members with the Lord Mayor



View over the Women's Peace garden

Monday 21st January NCWV held the 58th Annual Australia Day Pioneer Women's Ceremony, for the second year running, in the magical Women's Peace Garden NCWV was honoured to have the Rt. Hon. Sally Capp, Lord Mayor of Melbourne as the guest speaker. Sally is the 3rd woman to hold the position of Lord Mayor in the city's 176 years and the first to be elected; the previous two were appointed. Sally has also achieved a number of firsts among them being the first female Agent-General for Victoria in the UK, Europe and Israel and was the first female board member of the Collingwood Football Club. In her speech she featured several women achieving a first in all three layers of Government. Some mentioned were NCWV members. Following the Ceremony flowers were laid in the Pioneer Women's Garden where, until last year, the Ceremony had traditionally been held.



Laying flowers in the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden

The first Council meeting for 2019 will be on 7th Feb followed by an Executive meeting a fortnight later. Work has started on updating the Standing orders. The 2018 NCWA and ICW-CIF resolutions have been sent to the Victorian members of Parliament.

I will be attending CSW63 at the request of Dr Jung-Sook Kim, also, as a Director of Project Five-O I need to attend the AGM. which is held in NY during CSW. I am pleased to report Project Five-O has recently filled the position of Executive Officer which had been vacant for a while. Following CSW I will visit my family in Detroit, returning to Melbourne 9th April, thus I will be an apology for the April teleconference.

Elisabeth Newman
President NCWV

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN WESTERN AUSTRALIA NCWA Board Meeting – Monday 4 February 2019



NCWWA members have taken a break during January with the next meeting planned for February 2019. Holly Masters the CEO of the McGrath Foundation will be the guest speaker. Holly has planned a visit to Western Australia around the NCWWA meeting date. As everyone is aware the McGrath Foundation funds breast care nurses who support women and their families experiencing breast cancer. The nurses provide physical, psychological and emotional support from the time of diagnosis throughout treatment. Support is free and is available for those in both the private and public system.

The 2019 NCWWA STEM Bursary is open for applications for a female student studying a STEM course in Western Australia at a year 12, TAFE or University level. Applications are called for annually and in 2019 two Bursaries will be awarded. In awarding the Bursaries NCWWA aims to

- recognise academic excellence
- address financial need
- encourage study in areas non-traditional for women and
- recognise the extent to which studies will benefit women, families and all in the community.

NCWWA held its Christmas lunch in December. The lunch was extremely well-attended. Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds Assistant Minister for Home Affairs was the special guest and guest speaker. The President's Award was introduced in 2017. At the Christmas lunch the 2018 President's Award was presented to Maureen Walkemeyer. Maureen is an Affiliate delegate from Lutheran Women Western Australia and organises the trading table at monthly meetings. Maureen is not a member of the NCWWA Executive however she has made a significant contribution to NCWWA during my Presidency.



At the lunch the Paddy Firstenberg Memorial Award was presented to Caris Collard. Caris is a young Aboriginal woman from Geraldton who initiated and manages a program for young aboriginal girls in the Geraldton region. The program is a platform to assist the girls develop a strong sense of self-esteem and confidence, understand positive self-care, develop positive mindsets and avoid engaging in violence and social media bullying. The Paddy Firstenberg Memorial Award will again be awarded in 2019.

A meeting has been scheduled in February for NCWWA to meet with the Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services, the Hon Simone McGurk MLA to discuss a range of issues including family and domestic violence and the proposed women's health strategy.

The next NCWWA Standing Committee meeting is scheduled for February. Sadly NCWWA recently accepted a resignation from Lorraine Finlay a NCWWA adviser and member of the NCWWA Executive. Lorraine and her family have moved to Jakarta for three years. Lorraine will continue her NCWWA membership during her three years away from Perth.

Robyn Nolan
President NCWWA