



# NCWA March 2022 Newsletter



## NCWA President Report

Welcome to the first edition of the 2022 NCWA Newsletter where we bring you stories from all NCW state and territory Presidents as well as a message from ICW. March 8th is International Women's Day, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members much success as they work to continue to bring equality to both their workplaces and homes. Events unfolding in Ukraine remind us that peace is not something we can take for granted and on this IWD, I would like all of us to pray for the women and children of Ukraine as they flee their homes into neighbouring countries without their fathers, husbands and brothers.

The NCWA's **new** website went live in early February 2022. We will be posting all events held by each constituent council and have included a new section on the International Council of Women. National membership applications for affiliate and state membership applications for associates can now be made via the website with

associate applications automatically sent to the respective state or territory council.

Thanks to Past President Margaret Findlater-Smith, most NCWA submissions are now available to all members via a **members only login**. Please contact your local President for access.

In January, NCWA migrated to Google Workspace which is provided free-of-charge for all NFP organisations. Using this platform, I have been able to assign all NCWA board members their own unique NCWA email addresses which can be passed on to the next Constituent President or office holder at the end of each term. This in turn will help preserve and ensure legacy of communication and experience.

At the NCWA Board Strategic Planning session in January, we agreed to hold monthly, instead of bi-monthly board meetings. In addition, at every second board meeting, we will have a guest speaker to speak to all NCWA members. The speaker series will be held in March, May, July, September and November this year on the third Monday starting at 7pm AEST. Zoom registration details will be made available on the NCWA website.

NCWA has now established LinkedIn and Instagram accounts in addition to our Facebook page. I encourage all members to connect/follow/like these digital platforms.

With the easing of the travel restrictions, I have been able to move more frequently between my homes in Sydney and Brisbane. I have attended a couple of NCWNSW events over the past month and I am really enjoying the friendship of the NSW members.

Via zoom, I have been able to attend both NCWV and NCWSA council meetings and I look forward to attending your special events in person.

The 36th International Council of Women General Assembly will be held in Avignon, France from May 16th to 21st, 2022. I will be attending on behalf of NCWA. Both Julie Morris (NCWNSW) and Fiona Dorman (NCWSA) may attend with me.

I have also agreed to be nominated for both the ICW Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer positions.

ICW Newsletter 74 is now available on the NCWA website.

Lorraine Hardgrave has been busy compiling letters to send to Federal Members of Parliament, NCWA Members and Governor General advising new NCWA board. Given the pending federal elections, it looks like we may be doing this again shortly!

As I write this report, I am thinking of all our members in Queensland and NSW who have been affected by the recent floods. The level of destruction is beyond comprehension, and I visited towns which looked like a war zone – brown, deserted, with piles of rubbish everywhere. Unfortunately, the Queensland flood event of 2011 is still very fresh in my mind and I am saddened by the amount of loss and grief I witnessed.

National Council of Women of Australia Conference  
**Improving Safety and Economic Security for Women**  
Friday April 1 2022  
9:00am – 1:00pm (Canberra Time)

> **About the event**

The NCWA Conference 'Improving Safety and Security for Women' is an opportunity for members to meet the new NCWA board and to attend a number of presentations made by Members and Ministers of the Australian Parliament.

> **About the guest speakers**

- Senator the Hon Anne Ruston  
Minister for Families and Social Services; Minister for Women's Safety.
- Senator the Hon Jane Hume  
Minister for Superannuation, Financial Services and the Digital Economy; Minister for Women's Economic Security.
- Senator the Hon Amanda Stoker  
Assistant Minister to the Attorney-General, Assistant Minister for Women, Assistant Minister for Industrial Relations
- Louis Markus  
Board Chair Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

> **About the registration**

Attendance is complimentary. Bookings are essential to obtain zoom link

> **About the booking**

Can be made through the NCWA TryBooking link below:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BWUSL>

For further information please contact:  
Lorraine Hardgrave  
NCWA Secretary  
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The NCWA Board had to cancel both triennial conferences scheduled in Oct 2021 and March 2022 as many of our members were unable to travel to Canberra. We have now scheduled a video conference for April 1st and details of this conference is above. We would also like to issue a date claimer for October 20-21, 2022 for all member and delegates to meet in Canberra. Hopefully, we will be able to hold our NCWA AGM at this time.

There are currently several vacancies for National Advisors/Coordinators. If you know of suitable candidates within your network, please get in touch with me.

Chiou See Anderson  
NCWA President



**ICW  
President  
Update  
February 2022**

Dear NCW presidents and sisters,

Different people have different understanding of the justification, or lack thereof, for the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The causes of war are always complex. My focus here is not to join what appears to be essentially the global condemnation of Russia's aggression, but to emphasize the growing number of those who suffer.

We cannot help but feel enormous sympathy for all the casualties, particularly for all the innocent women and children whose lives have been turned upside down if not destroyed. As members of the International Council of Women, our hearts ache for them. When we see clips of fleeing moms with babies in arms, it hurts us deeply. We can literally feel their fear and anguish. When we see women hand in hand with their young family, walking mile after mile to safety in tears, we cry with them. Regarding neighboring countries which have graciously taken in hundreds of thousands of refugees, potentially millions, we express our gratitude and appreciation for their kindness.

Our strongest hope is that there can be a peaceful, just and speedy resolution of the conflict. But as we move toward that goal, it is

imperative that we remain vigilant to the plight of women and children. They need and deserve our strongest support.

Humanitarian action, we believe, is an important role that national councils of women can play in influencing policy. As members of the global community, we at the International Council of Women will redouble our efforts to enforce the various international humanitarian and human rights laws and conventions that protect the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts. We will also do our best to stop the war and take the lead in establishing permanent peace with the power of women's cooperation and unity.

**ICW Statement to mark International Women's Day 2022**

The International Council of Women, a Non-Governmental Organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, has worked diligently to advance equal rights for women since its establishment in 1888. The Council is steadfastly committed to full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, advancing the status of women, and the removal of all forms of discrimination against women and girls. The International Council of Women's objectives are definitely in line with the theme chosen by UN WOMEN to mark the International Women's Day 2022: "Gender Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow"; a topic of primary importance for the building of a more sustainable future for all.

Gender inequalities still remain deep-rooted in many societies. Structural barriers in the economic, social, political and environmental spheres produce and reinforce these inequalities,

resulting in a lack of equal access to the workforce, as well as occupational segregation and gender wage gaps. Very often, women and girls are still widely denied access to basic education and health care, are victims of domestic violence and discrimination, and are under-represented in relevant important political and economic decision-making processes. Despite the many formidable challenges, women have a critical role to play in all the Sustainable Development Goals; and the need to recognize gender equality is especially represented in Goal 5. This goal, known as “the stand-alone gender goal”, is dedicated to achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, and detailing within the single goal a full range of issues of general concern. It is true that effective actions have brought some positive change. However, all too often the hard-earned achievements in the field of Gender Equality have suffered from a serious backlash; particularly in the last two years of a worldwide pandemic and an increase of violence and unrest in certain parts of the globe, as the case of Afghanistan has shown, and now the crisis in Ukraine.

Sustainable development is tightly interlinked with both gender equality and peace; without peace there will not be a sustainable tomorrow. Sadly, there are too many places of conflicts around the world to mention one by one and the most recent news

are filled with heartbreaking images of many women and children trying to flee from Ukraine in search of safety and survival. Women and girls suffer inordinately during and after armed conflicts, losing their fundamental human right to live in safety and peace. They have to face the overwhelming tasks of holding their families

together after displacement, of providing food, clothing and shelter in destroyed areas, and the heightened risks of becoming widowed, as well as being victims of sexual violence and diseases. Security Council Resolution 1325 clearly acknowledged that women’s participation and empowerment are critical components for the maintenance of peace and security. Yet the gender gap in these peace mechanisms still persists. As such, members of the global community must hasten their implementation of this important Security Resolution through enforcing the various international humanitarian and human rights laws and conventions that protect the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts, taking special measures to protect them from all forms of violence, protecting the needs of women and girls in refugee camps and settlements and including women as full and equal participants in peace processes, including disarmament and rebuilding mechanisms.

The International Council of Women’s affiliates diligently continue to struggle for women to gain opportunities to play a decisive role in addressing the challenges in the fields of politics, economics, and climate change. Clearly, women are indispensable in this process and must be included as strategic partners. The building of solid partnerships is unquestionably a key component of ensuring a positive sustainable future for all. Thus, there is a fundamental necessity to bring together a whole range of relevant participants: institutions, international and regional organizations, governments and even members of local communities, in order to form alliances and direct efforts towards achieving gender equality.

Long-term advocacy and actions, in conjunction with specially designed policies and measures to promote the inclusion of women in the economy and polity, continue to be an urgent necessity that will contribute for a sustainable tomorrow. We need to ensure that women and girls are at the very heart of this matter, because the inequities and inequalities impacting on their health, opportunities and wellbeing are so persistent. This is, unfortunately, a much unfinished business and this should be the world's greatest challenge as we chart the path ahead.

To work towards meeting such challenge, one must recognize that good education is certainly a prerequisite for the fulfillment of human gender equality potentiality. However, although the gender gap in education is gradually closing, far too many girls are still denied schooling or have to drop out prematurely with few skills and even fewer future opportunities. With two thirds of the world's illiterate being women, overall gender equality cannot be achieved.

Therefore, overcoming the gender inequalities and critical barriers, which prevent women and girls from exercising their rights and empowering themselves, must be at the heart of our efforts to create sustainable and resilient societies in order to build a sustainable future for us and our future generations. The International Council of Women joins UN WOMEN in stressing the belief that "Without gender equality today, a sustainable future, and an equal future, remains beyond our reach". We at the International Council of Women recognize the supreme challenge of the times. Our hearts go out to those of you who have lost loved ones, those of you who have felt economic decline, those of you who have been denied a good education, those of you who

have lost security and safety, those of you who have felt deterioration of equal rights and all the other despicable baggage that has come along with this pandemic and the increase in climate disasters, gender-based violence and armed conflicts around the globe. We feel with you, but don't let this defeat you. Rather than despair, we believe it is time to redouble our efforts to help build a just, peaceful and sustainable future. It is time to dig deep to help create what we know to be a better world.

Jungsook Kim  
ICW President



## NCWQ February 2022 Report

The NCWQ kicked off the year with a strategic planning session mid January to set out 2022 objectives and key dates. We decided to adopt the women economic security theme and will be focusing on non-traditional career pathways for women, namely construction, professionally paid sport, politics and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

We started the year with a series of health and wellbeing sessions conducted by committee member Saalihah Seedat. Designed to be delivered online over three sessions, the “My

Health for Life” program is funded by the Queensland government. It would be interesting to see if this program is also funded by the other state governments. Check out <https://ncwq.org.au/events/my-health-for-life-online-program-with-saalihah-seedat/>



### Women's economic security through non-traditional pathways

International Women's Day 2022

This year for International Women's Day, NCWQ has teamed up with Sorooptimist International Inc (Logan) to hold a dinner at Elements Retirement Village @ Springwood. Our guest speaker is Senator Amanda Stoker, target audience will be senior school students and she will be speaking non-traditional careers.

## GET YOUR HEALTH BACK ON TRACK

*My health  
for life*

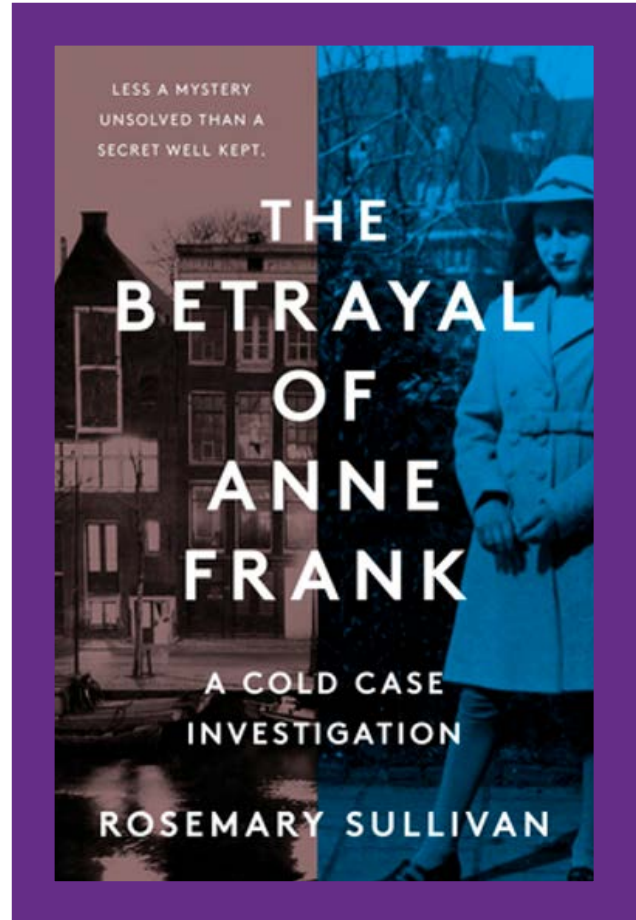
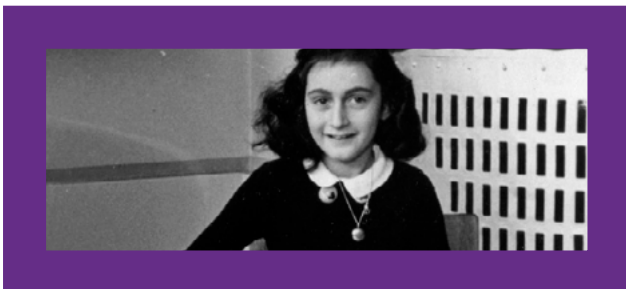
Online Program  
NCWQ Exclusive Offer

The 2022 NCWQ Bursaries will be opened in early April and preparations are already underway.



Two NCWQ associate members were appointed Magistrates at the Southport Courts this week. Dzenita Balic, a Bosnian refugee who came to Australia as a child with her parents and siblings, was from the Office of Public Prosecutions and Veena Jattan Goverdhan, a commercial lawyer, who migrated to Australia from Fiji when she was 14. Their welcome ceremony was streamed live on YouTube and both gave wonderful, humble speeches. Interestingly, all 3 Magistrates appointed are women.

Since attending the NCW council meetings from NSW, Vic and SA, I discussed the format of these meetings with NCWQ and we have now agreed to invite our affiliates and members to join us for our monthly council meetings, too. This will now enable us to invite past NCWQ Presidents and committee members to be a part of our future.



My partner, Brendan Rook, was one of the two Investigators in the book titled "The Betrayal of Ann Frank". This book was recently released in Australia by Harper Collins and has attracted a significant amount of media attention nationally. NCWQ will be hosting a morning tea with Brendan as a Guest Speaker.

Chiou See Anderson  
NCWQ President



## NCWACT February 2022 Report

The National Council of Women of ACT met for the first time in February 2022 with guest speaker Kirsty Mead from Pelvic Pain Australia. Kirsty is very keen to involve ACT schools in their program to raise awareness of pelvic pain in all its manifestations but is experiencing difficulty in gaining co-operation from the ACT government as they already have their own much smaller program run out of the major hospital. One of our members has contacts within the ACT government and has undertaken to raise this issue with the Minister for Women in the hope of achieving some degree of co-operation and of course funding.

In November 2021 the NCWACT made a submission to the Justice and Community Directorate regarding a number of issues surrounding the prison in the ACT. We have previously been involved in issues surrounding women in the prison and our submission this time focussed on the intensive corrective orders which are used as an alternative to sentencing and their success/failure. Our submission was accepted along with 28 others. I was able to watch the live video stream of the hearings over two days and there are a number of major issues which need to be addressed to make sure that the intensive corrective orders are effective and serve their purpose.

We will continue to engage with the Justice and Community Directorate regarding issues within the prison and participate in further enquiries when they arise. There have been a large number of enquiries into the running of the prison during its existence (13 years) which seem to raise more issues than solutions.

Our focus for this coming year will continue to be homelessness and further engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander Women in the ACT.

Margaret Findlater-Smith  
Secretary NCWACT  
On behalf of Lynne Thomson - President



## NCWNSW February 2022 Report

**Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee held its first meeting for 2022 on the 16th February and we did get through a fair bit of work. A **sub-committee has been formed** to work on a process for Strategic Planning/ Business Planning – an email to members will go out next week with further detail and request for information.

**Advisers** – recruitment of Advisers is still an issue for us.



Council meetings will resume face-to-face in March 2022 at Green Square Library (above Green Square Station).

**Office:** Negotiations are ongoing with 107 Projects re: lease to enable certainty for the remainder of 2022. We have a community networking event at the site on 26th March 2022 which will allow some.

**“Celebrate Being Australian – We are all part of the story” Australia Day Awards 24 January, 2022 at Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney** Tricia Blombery and Jane Baker did a wonderful job with the ten Awardees (\$1,000 bursaries) and numerous Sponsors. We ‘held the line’ and despite some considerable pressure caused by COVID19 hesitancy pressed on with the event. The Australian Girls Choir really got our hearts racing with their singing. Dorothy Hoddinott AO, Champion of Refugee

Education was an inspirational speaker and we are following up about a couple of items she raised about the refugee children and secondary education. Our Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC gave an impromptu speech. We received funding from the National Australia Day Council. Thank you to Chiou See Anderson, President, NCWA for her attendance at the event.

**125th (+) Anniversary Celebration, 24 February 2022 at QVB Tea Room:** This event is going ahead and with numbers getting up near 120 we are sure it too will be a success. Starting at 11.30am with plenty of time for chat and greetings before the arrival of Her Excellency and Mr Dennis Wilson. Geraldine Doogue AO is the Guest Speaker, our Patron is also going to speak and we will have some music items from Clare McCallum,

cabaret artist and yes, we will all be able to sing the National Anthem (both verses).

**KWOOP (Keeping Women Out Of Prison Coalition):** Confirmed Parliamentary Breakfast with Robert Tickner, Chair, Justice Reform Initiative is to go ahead on March 2022. The program deliverers are still active, although have been under reduced operations due to COVID19.

**NCOSS:** NCW NSW supported the NCOSS Pre-Budget Submission as it aligned with NCW NSW aims.

**Affiliated Organisations:** It was great to see so many of our Affiliated Organisations at our **“Celebrate Being Australian – We are all part of the story”** in January. Positive feedback has been received and I hope that it will give a big boost in their own efforts and activities to launch them into a very successful 2022.

Our thoughts are with our Ukrainian diaspora as they deal with the uncertainty for their families and friends in Ukraine. I am wondering how the ICW-CIF is going to deal with the Ukraine situation at the GA in Avignon in May? Both Russia and Ukraine have Affiliated organisations to ICW-CIF. If you get a chance watch – Atlantic Crossing (SBS On Demand) - I feel like we are living in a replay of the lead up to WWII!

Part of the planning sub-committee work will be to look at how we can engage with more of the migrant diaspora and increase the number of our Affiliated Organisations.

Congratulations, NCW SA on the great documentary.

*Julie Morris*  
President NCWNSW



## NCWV February 2022 Report

### 1. NCWV – 120th Anniversary Celebrations in 2022

2022 promises to be a special year celebrating the 120th anniversary of NCWV inauguration in 1902. The four original affiliates who met on 19 March 1902 were:

- the Austral Salon of Music, Literature, and the Arts.
- the Melbourne Jewish Women's Guild.
- the Young Women's Christian Association – Y.W.C.A; and
- the Women's Christian Temperance Union – WCTU.

Our 61st Annual Australia Day Pioneer Women's Ceremony to celebrate our founders and the women who continue their work today, has been rescheduled due to the pandemic from January to Saturday 26 March 2022 Our keynote speaker, Dr Judith Smart AM (co-author of the history of the National Council of Women of Australia, *Stirrers with Style*), will give an overview of the history of Victorian women's organisations. Then a panel of speakers will talk about the founders of NCWV (Janet Lady Clarke, Women's Christian Temperance Union, YWCA, the Melbourne Jewish

Women's Guild and the Austral Salon of Music Literature and the Arts).

We have approached the ALGWA Victoria about the possibility of tree planting – 120 trees as green memorial regarding suffrage and our anniversary.

### 2. Anniversaries

- 19 March 1902 – foundation of NCWV
- 12 June 1902 - [white] women's suffrage in the Commonwealth of Australia under the Franchise Act
- 21 May 1962 - all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people granted the option to enrol and vote in federal elections. On 21 May 2022 it will be the 60 years anniversary.

Might NCWA make a similar approach to ALGWA on a 'whole of Australia basis' regarding 120th anniversary of suffrage? Or other states join this initiative?

Should we be contacting other peak alliances about how to commemorate the 120th of white women's suffrage?

### 3. Return to virtual meetings

Thursday 3 February Council Meeting featured Coral Ross OAM

Coral spoke about her 2020 Churchill Fellowship research and recommendations to improve gender equality. Coral has had an esteemed career in local government and was previously the National President of the Australian Local Government Women's Association and ALGWA Victorian President – she is currently the National Treasurer.

Coral a founding Director of Australian Gender Equality Council (AGEC), was appointed Chair in November 2020. Responding to the unacceptably slow pace of change towards gender equality in Australia, leading organisations, which represent over 500,000 women in the workplace, have come together to form the AGECEC, a national not-for-profit organization.

#### 4. At planning sessions in November/ December

We considered activities of other NFPs and public organisations with programs relating to gender equity for women and girls in Victoria to discern alignment and therefore alliances, and areas of differentiation that require our focus.

Ronniet Milliken  
President NCWA



### NCWSA February 2022 Report

In 2022, we still face challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic – but this should not dampen our energy to advocate. To start the year, the Executive have met to plan and discuss the major events, issues and activity for 2022. We look forward to enacting a wide range of advocacy activities and consultations and submissions throughout the year.

This year sees all three levels of government going to the polls; with our State election in March, Federal elections in May and local government elections in November. As a non-political, non-sectarian organization, our collective voice is as important as ever to share and advocate on issues that affect women in our State and we aim to bring our collective voices to all levels of government in the lead-up to the elections.

As we know, National Council of Women SA are committed to the elimination of violence against women and children and a future free of all gender-based violence. On Saturday 29th January 2022, a number of members of National Council of Women SA participated in the commemoration of women lost to gender-based violence on the steps of Parliament House.

Thank you to the organisers, Stacey and Gillian from Pay Our Respects 2022, for your commitment to honouring women lost to domestic and family violence in 2021. Your work to shine a light on violence against women ensures that the wider community can be a part of the change. Sadly, we know that we will meet again next year to remember all of the women lost already in 2022.

I thank Helena Kyriazopoulos, CEO of the Multicultural Communities Council of SA and Lena Gasparan for inviting me to attend the MCCSA's Women's Council meeting on February 23rd 2022 and also for the honour of being on the judging panel of the MCCSA Women's Bi-annual Community Leadership Award 2022. The MCCSA awards are to recognize leadership within their respective community and or the wider South Australian community sector, have shown examples where their leadership has

led to a more inclusive society and has inspired others to follow in their footsteps and have not been recognised previously by any other agency or their community. A real quiet achiever, or have continued serving the community beyond their recognition. Awards will be presented on International Women’s Day at the Town Hall.

In 2021, the National Council of Women SA was successful in our application for the Community Voices Program. A collaboration between the SA Government Department of Human Services and Flinders University Screen Production, the Community Voices Program partners

Flinders filmmaking students and community organisations in the production of short documentaries and online video ads that recruit, promote and celebrate volunteers in South Australia.

The program sees students working independently and collaborating with real-life clients to deliver videos to help make a difference. Community organisations use the videos to promote their business, fundraise, recruit volunteers and raise general awareness about the work they do in the wider community.

# Pay Our Respects

**SATURDAY 29TH JANUARY 2022**



**Thank you to Stacey Nelan and Gillian Lewis for your commitment to honouring women lost to domestic and family violence through "Pay Our Respects" commemoration events.**

**National Council of Women SA representatives are proud to have participated in this event in memory of too many women lost.**



South Australian Women's Memorial Playing Fields Trust Inc.  
Shepherd's Hill Rd, St Marys

**Bangka Day 80th Anniversary  
and  
Inauguration of the New Memorial**

It was an emotional and reflective morning to attend the service in honour of the South Australian Army Nursing Sisters massacred at Bangka Island on 16th February 2022. Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC Governor of South Australia and His Excellency, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) led commemorations to the brave 22 Nurses and the dedication of the new and largest memorial dedicated to women in the Southern Hemisphere.

Books were laid in tribute by President Dorman to be donated to children in SA.

National Council of Women SA acknowledges these nursing sisters who made the supreme sacrifice for our country .

**SUNDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2022**



Helen Fischer, President South Australian Women's Memorial Playing Fields Trust Inc.

His Excellency, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)

22 poles erected as a memorial to the nurses massacred on Bangka Island in 1942

His Excellency, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Mrs Hurley with attendees. Below: Soroptimists attending included Susan Newton, Pam Lacey, Ann Berry, Fiona Wirth and Betty Khor



Alina and Kris interviewed members, learned about our incredible affiliated organisations and their community work, reviewed historical items and reports on decades past as well as taken a strong interest in the current advocacy work of the Council in order to bring our story to life. We have received the finished 5-minute documentary and you can watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNb1ZjdEzSo>

I thank all members, delegates and organisations for your support, advice and look forward to continuing to speak up and make change together in 2022.

Fiona Dorman  
President NCWSA



## NCWT February 2022 Report

Happy New Year for 2022 the Year of the Tiger.

NCWT finished 2021 with a luncheon which was a pleasant sociable way to end the year.

Tasmanian opened its borders just prior to Christmas. The check in app was made redundant as notification of cases except to the person concerned was discontinued. This caused many people not to venture out to restaurants or other indoor settings. The effect was, Hobart has become very quiet and many businesses have been struggling to stay afloat.

Our February meeting was cancelled partly due to added restrictions placed on our meeting room at the Hobart Town Hall and member's reluctance to meet indoors. Hopefully the HCC will reduce these restrictions soon. For example those taking rubbish to the Hobart tip had to prove they had been vaccinated and cash was no longer accepted. After ratepayers pointed out they pay through their rates to use the tip proof of vaccination was discontinued.

We have been pushing for Endometriosis awareness through the state school system. This has been agreed to however it is slow progress due to changes in Ministers. We are hopeful it will commence in the second term.

The request for 5 key areas of interest should be finalised by our March meeting.

Dorothy Kelly  
President NCWT



## NCWWA February 2022 Report

The 2022 year has well and truly begun. Finally Western Australians have received some good news with the Western Australian hard border finally coming down on 3 March 2022. For many it has not come soon enough – Australia is one country and as such many Western Australians have been severely disadvantaged for many months (or should I say two years) during the COVID-19 pandemic and more recently with the Omicron variant.

The Western Australia economy has suffered predominately with a severe staff shortage, city workers have not returned from working from home and many people remaining hesitant about going out and continuing their normal routine because of fear promoted well by the Western Australian Premier and many in his government. Distinguishing between double vaccinated people and those un-vaccinated (some of those people waiting for Novavax which has finally become available) employees have suffered all kinds of abuse for just trying to implement government

rules and regulations. Most of us strongly support vaccination and many have also had a booster shot however mandating who can and cannot step into a shop is no way to govern a State.

The removal of the border restrictions will finally allow families to reunite and to travel to other states and overseas. Many of us have already booked flights to see family and travel interstate or overseas.

NCWWA held its AGM in December and its next Council meeting is scheduled for early March while the NCWWA Executive has continued to meet on a more regular basis. Congratulations to Laura Ives Hicks who received the President's Award for 2021. Applications for the 2022 NCWWA STEM Bursary are now being received.



As a Committee member of the WAWHOF and a judging panel member it has also been a very busy time. The 2022 award winners in eight categories have now been finalised. They will be announced on 4 March 2022 as part of the 2022 International Women's Day celebrations. This year a large number of nominations were received.

NCWWA is very pleased to see the removal of the Superannuation Guarantee \$450 threshold legislation pass the Federal Parliament in its final sittings before the 2022 Budget in late March. The resolution regarding the removal of the threshold was an NCWWA resolution and it is always terrific to see government act on policy from individuals in the community. The requirement to earn at least

\$450 per month from one employer to receive superannuation payments will be scrapped from 1 July 2022. Low income earners, estimated to be about 300,000 will benefit from the scrapping of the \$450 threshold, with 63% of those believed to be women.

Robyn Nolan  
President NCWWA