

National Council of Women of Victoria



"Caring Women Make a Difference"



President's Report February 2013

2013 has commenced with great interest and excitement for NCWV's members.

At our Australia Day's Pioneer Women's Memorial Ceremony on 24th January we proudly announced the inaugural, annual NCWV's Ambassadorship. Ms Tania Chapman, the Victorian Rural Woman of the Year and our eloquent Pioneer Women's Day guest speaker is the 2013 NCWV Ambassador. We congratulate Tania on all she has accomplished and hope the year brings her great joy. She will be our guest speaker at the NCWV Annual General meeting on 5th September 2013.

The Australia Day's Pioneer Women's Memorial Ceremony is held in the magnificent Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden situated within the King's Domain.

On this day we honour our female founders and community forerunners. We remember the dreams, aspirations and achievements of all pioneering women as well as those who have followed in their footsteps. We celebrate their contributions both large and small. We uphold their principles with reverence and ensure their endeavours are never forgotten but continue always through each generation. There have been many kinds of pioneers in every field of endeavour and today, there are still women who prepare the way and set an example for others to follow

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This year our Melbourne City Council representative was Cr Beverley Pinder-Mortimer who complemented NCWV for its years of work supporting Victoria's women and families. The Australia Day Council was represented by their President, Anthony Cree and once again the Victorian Girl Guides performed the flag ceremony with grace and dignity.

The NCWV brochure completed in January has received many accolades and applause from community groups and leaders. “Women, their Rights and Responsibilities” prepared for newly arrived migrants and refugees is currently being circulated as widely as possible. The serious issues identified on the brochure have made headlines for many years therefore it is vital to create a stand on these matters. NCWV's Honorary Secretary Malvina Malinek OAM must be congratulated for her insight, passion and drive in ensuring the task was accomplished successfully.

International Women's Day will be celebrated by NCWV on Monday 4th March at Parliament House Melbourne. On this day we celebrate and encourage our young people and promote “Empowerment, Leadership and Involvement”. NCWV are highlighting the students of “The Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award (LJPSA)” and YWCA's “ASISTA” mentoring programme.

Sandie de Wolf AM, CEO of Berry Street will be the lead speaker discussing Berry's Street's work with young people. This will be followed by seven exceptional young people from the Victorian LJPSA who will present their winning speeches from the 2012 award competition. The award is nationwide and aimed at enhancing the oral communication and public speaking skills of secondary students aged 12 to 14 years. It helps young people appreciate the ideals of Legacy: voluntary service, caring, mateship and remembrance. Once again a Victorian won both the state and the national award in 2012. YWCA's “ASISTA” is a new venture to improve avenues of communication and leadership for young people.

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On May 4th 2013 NCWV will hold its annual Forum on this year's United Nations theme of Water Cooperatives. The event will be held at RMIT University in Melbourne to attract greater student interest in the topic. While travelling in Myanmar last December I looked closely for evidence of successful sustainable micro-bank funded water projects designed for rural women. In the central dry zones like Shan there is a huge need for assistance in this area.

Other points of interest:

The members and guests at the NCWV's annual Christmas Luncheon with guest speaker Deputy Lord Mayor, Cr Susan Riley presented all items on a large laden table of small personal gifts to the Salvation Army for women in their refuge.

We sincerely thank The Caulfield Park Community Bendigo Bank for presenting NCWV with a gift of \$250 towards the Recipe Book printing. Rysia Rozen OAM past president NCWV, requested a monetary gift instead of a present from her guests at her recent birthday luncheon. Well over \$800.00 was presented to NCWV to assist with the Recipe Book printing.

Jennie Rawther-Russell
NCWV President

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