



## National Council of Women of Victoria March 2016 Newsletter

On Monday 29 February 2016, students, guests and NCW Vic members came to the Legislative Council Committee Room, Parliament of Victoria, to present awards from the 2015 program and to talk about the 2016 *My Vote My Voice* theme.

Our host the Hon. Bruce Atkinson, President of Legislative Council, spoke to open the event and spoke about struggle for recognition of the right to vote and to stand for local government in Victoria. It was and it is challenging for women standing for local council. However, we can see now that there are more women elected to council and there will be even more in the future.

NCW Victoria Youth Adviser, Sarah Morgan, introduced students who were there to receive *NCWV Civic and Citizenship Awards* as individuals and school teams. Victoria Waid (Academy of Mary Immaculate), Diya John (St Monica's College in 2015, now at Mac.Robertson Girls High School) and Rachel Rockman from Methodist Ladies College were individual awardees; and University High School, Melbourne Girls' Grammar School and Ruyton Girls' College were school awardees.

It was also exciting to hear from a young MP Joshua Bull, Member for Sunbury. He congratulated the 2015

National Council of Women of Victoria Inc. Regd. No.: AIA: A4465 ABN: 18227073059  
PO Box 18186 Collins Street East, MELBOURNE, 8003 Email: [ncwvic@bigpond.com](mailto:ncwvic@bigpond.com) Phone 0447 351 234

Registered office: Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne.

Patron in Chief: Her Excellency the Honorable Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria

Patron: Ms Emma Page Campbell, Lady Mayoress, City of Melbourne

Our monthly Council meetings are held at noon on the first Thursday of the month February to November in the Hayden Raysmith Room, Level 4, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne VIC 3000

Awardees and presented the *Civic and Citizenship Award* certificates and envelopes to the students and schools. Victoria Waid now a law student responded on behalf of the Award recipients.

After refreshments Diya John was part of the panel and talked about how she became a more confident speaker. Diya was a lead speaker at the 2015 'My Vote My Voice' Beijing +20 event. She is now heading to New York for a week for this year's meeting of the UN Commission on Status of Women thanks to the assistance of NCW.

Other speakers on the panel were Cr Coral Ross, President of Australia Local Government Women's Association, Dr Deborah Towns, University of Melbourne, and Pam Hammond, NCW Victoria. The 2016 theme is *Women in Local Government: Past, present, future*.

Report supplied by YoungNCWVic member and media intern, Yvette Wang.

### Council meeting 3 March 2016, 12 noon

Topic: Honourable Healers: Pioneering Women Doctors  
Speaker: Dr Merrilyn Murnane

Affiliate of the month: Grandparents Australia

**Level 4, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne**

## Honourable Healers: Pioneering Women Doctors:

In mid-nineteenth century, women were expected to remain at home, as wives and mothers. In Britain, the United States and Australia, teaching was the only respectable profession for women; even nursing was frowned upon. In this environment, three remarkable women rewrote the history books by becoming doctors in a world where women were not even allowed to vote. Elizabeth Blackwell, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and Constance Stone are three women whose stories are told by Dr Merrilyn Murnane, whose book was published in September 2015, Australian Scholarly Publishing. RRP \$39.95

Dr Merrilyn Murnane AM, MBBS, FRACP, FACLM, DCH, DDU, is a retired paediatrician living in Melbourne. She attended the Presbyterian Ladies' College in Melbourne before graduating from the University of Melbourne in 1960. After completing her residency at Prince Henry's Hospital she trained at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. Upon returning to Melbourne, she was appointed paediatric registrar and later consultant at the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, and subsequently at the Monash Medical Centre, where she established the child protection unit. For her services to paediatrics she was honoured as a member of the Order of Australia in 2003. Upon retirement Merrilyn began working with communities in Papua New Guinea, initially assisting children with disabilities and now also funding scholarships for young women to study nursing, medicine and teaching. With her husband Max Griffiths, she has established a mobile health unit in the East Sepik Province.

## Today as you enjoy the refreshments available, we invite you to make a gold coin contribution to assist NCW Australia to support NCW Vanuatu.

Vanuatu is an archipelagic nation of 83 islands, extending over 1000 kilometres in a north-south direction between the equator and the tropic of Capricorn. It lies some 2000 kilometres to the northeast of Brisbane in the Coral Sea, at similar latitudes to Cairns in North Queensland. The population of Vanuatu is approximately 263,000. Port Vila, on the island of Efate, is the capital. Formerly known as the New Hebrides, Vanuatu was jointly governed by British and French administrations before attaining independence on 30 July 1980. Australia has a close relationship with Vanuatu and is an important economic partner, providing the country with the majority of its tourists, foreign direct investment and aid. Australia is Vanuatu's largest bilateral aid donor. The estimated Australian aid budget for Vanuatu for financial year 2015-16 is \$60.5 million.

Violence against women and children is widespread in Vanuatu with 60 per cent<sup>1</sup> of women experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their life time. Through Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (*Pacific Women*), Australia has provided \$800,000 to the Vanuatu Women's Centre (VWC) to prevent violence against women through provision of safe-house costs, expansion of services and research on violence against women. Support is also provided to the Centre to work with the Division of Women's Affairs to implement and monitor the Family Protection Act. Source <http://dfat.gov.au/news/news/Pages/vanuatu-womens-centre-works-in-partnership-with-policy-to-eliminate-vaw.aspx> accessed 27 February 2016

Merylin Tah, Coordinator of the Vanuatu Women's Centre and Kathy Solomon, Executive Director, Vanuatu National Council of Women, talked recently about the situation for women in Vanuatu on ABC Radio. Merrilyn said *I'd like to see men and women have equal footing in decisions at home, the workplace and government. In Vanuatu, boys are preferred over women for education. I'd like to see that stop.* Kathy responded *We are now including men as much as possible in workshops that we think are relevant to them. It's tricky because only targeting men would be a problem also. We haven't addressed gender issues seriously in Vanuatu but we are looking at addressing it more seriously in the future. Also we need to include an approach that includes the whole family - mothers, fathers and children.* <http://www.abc.net.au/ra/carvingout/issues/women.htm>

**Next Council Meeting 7 April 2016:** Birute Don (Habitat/Environment Adviser) and her colleague Paul Borman, earlier this year attended the 'Healthy Cities Summit' on behalf of NCW Victoria. They will be presenting on aspects of this Summit. April affiliate presentation is from Women's Property Initiatives. This also a trading table day and the Individual Members Group meets from 10 am.



### **From the Executive (Sheila Byard)**

The February Executive meeting began with some ideas on the need for succession planning. NCWA matters dealt with including a report on the bi-monthly Board & February meeting, changes to NCWA website, President Barbara Baikie's media appearances, and plans for a June breakfast at the Parliament in honour of 120 years of NCW activity in Australia. It is hoped some Young NCWV members will be able to get to the Canberra event. Following the meeting the President and Secretary represented NCWA at the Melbourne hearing of Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee Inquiry.

### **Secretary's Report (Dr Pamela Williams OAM)**

Inward Correspondence - From Government House about certain protocols changes, from State Library of Victoria about archiving NCWV website, Minister for Women and for Ending Family Violence, the Hon.Fiona Richardson's call for proposals for gender equity initiative, the request from NCWA to supply submission for current hearing of the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee on the Family Tax Benefit B Amendment Bill. Membership – Renewals included the Retired and Services Army Nurses Club (RSL), and Malvina Malinek OAM; Individual Membership, Birute Don.

Invitations received: From Minister the Hon Fiona Richardson, to attend the Victorian Women's Honour Roll/ IWD event on 7 March; from Woman's Christian Temperance Union to attend the National Convention 1-4 March; Australasian Centre for Human Rights and Health (ACHRH) Drama project launch 25 February; the first session of the 'Childrens Matters' Forum Series at the Royal Children's Hospital on 29 February (Berry Street, LIV etc), invitation to speak at the Australian Asian Business Women's Association, IWD event on 10 March at Parliament.

#### **News & events from NCW Victoria Affiliates:**

Please note that items for publication should be received by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month.

Australasian Centre for Human Rights and Health: ACHRH's new project called 'Natak Vihar'(Sanskrit for Theater space) was officially launched on 26 February at the Victorian Parliament. Dr Manjula O'Connor said *We welcome all communities to join us, all they need is a small amount of English.Drama will be acted mostly in mime. Our last theater project was in 2010- 2011 with women only. It explored the nature and barriers to domestic violence in Australian-Indian communities. This time it is both, men and women. So it will be very powerful. Please come and join workshops at Crossways restaurant 123 Swanston Street, Melbourne City, on Sundays 6 March, 20 March, 3 April 2016 we will go from 10am - 4pm . For more information please send an email to [natakvihar@gmail.com](mailto:natakvihar@gmail.com) OR [manjula@achrh.org](mailto:manjula@achrh.org)*

March 1 (Tuesday) through to 4 (Thursday) WCTU Australia 41<sup>st</sup> National Convention, Foothills Conference Centre, Mooroolbark further information about accommodation, registration including day booking email [drug-free@bigpond.com](mailto:drug-free@bigpond.com) or ring 9791 8490.

March 3, (Thursday) Last day of the Methodist Ladies College's exhibition on the MLC students who became World War 1 nurses and went off to war, Nurses Memorial Centre, Suite 11-431 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Victoria 3004.

March 4 (Friday), World Day of Prayer services will be held in Christian churches in every community across Australia — and the world. We invite you to join us as we pray for the people of Cuba. Further information available on our website at [www.worlddavofdraveraustralia.org](http://www.worlddavofdraveraustralia.org)

March 8 (Tuesday) WIZO Victoria International Women's Day Morning Tea 10.30 -12.30

March 8 (Tuesday) 12:30pm-2:00pm Panel discussion Why Victoria needs a Women's Heritage Centre, Public Record Office, 99 Shiel Street, North Melbourne, VIC 3051 with members of the planning committee of Women's Heritage Victoria. A free event: all welcome. Further details and registration (by 7/3):<https://register.eventarc.com/32982/australian-womens-archives-project-inte>

March 12 (Saturday) Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Coalition are attending the Premiers Gala Dinner for Cultural Diversity Week, Contact [melba.marginson@virwc.org.au](mailto:melba.marginson@virwc.org.au) Ph: (03) 9654 1243

March 20 (Sunday) National Australian Chinese Women Association (NACWA): NCW Victoria members are invited to join NACWA for their IWD celebration on Sunday 20 March from 1.30- 4 pm at Happy Receptions, 199-203 Union Rd, Ascot Vale, (Melway 28G9). Dance items, display of traditional cheongsam (Qipao).RSVP by Friday 11 March to the President, May Hu, [mayh@optusnet.com.au](mailto:mayh@optusnet.com.au) or 0433 665 430.

April 4 (Monday) National Council of Jewish Women of Australia Victoria: An invitation to women for the Annual Interfaith Model Seder, Monday 4 April, 6 pm Eva Besen Centre, Caulfield, with Rabbi Allison Conyer, Etz Chayim Progressive Synagogue (Bentleigh) \$25 to cover vegetarian Kosher meal. Registration on line or ring 9044 5401

April 4 (Monday) – Lady Day Service Anglican Mothers Union, 10.30am St Peter's Eastern Hill April 13 (Wednesday) St Paul's Geelong.

## Regional Reports

Central Gippsland Branch (Diana McNeill Hon. Sec.) The meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016 was at the Rosedale Neighbourhood House. President, Jan Baxter, welcomed visitor Rhonda Keady, and members to the first meeting for the year. Mavis Lynch gave a report on the NCW Christmas lunch and how our Branch baskets were appreciated. She also bought the book "Respectable Radicals" back for us and it has been lent out along with the glossy pamphlet "Change Makers" about young professional Victorian women looking for change in career paths. The meeting decided to add our name to the list of organisations in the local paper we donate to and to look into the possibility of a listing in the Heyfield Resource Centre newsletter. The members congratulated Mavis Lynch on her 60 years of membership of National Council of Women of Victoria. We discussed ideas of a competition for the silk scarves that were donated by NCWV, prices for tickets and whether we could hold it on the day of our meeting at Centenary House with a suggestion that we could donate the money raised to Centenary House in some way. Jan Baxter spoke about a discussion that she had with the President of the Stratford CWA and they agreed on the possibility of liaising on topics of mutual interest.

Geelong Branch Geelong (Janice Latham) - ICW scarves are being used as a silent auction where proceeds will go to St Henry House. Four schools are possible participants in the *My Vote, My Voice 2016* event. The special International Women's Day Tour for NCW members of Geelong Library and Heritage Centre (51 Little Malop Street Geelong. Melways 401 F3, is scheduled for Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March starting at 11.30 am. Refreshments provided at Library and Heritage Centre, Lunch afterwards (optional) at nearby location. RSVP 1st March, Contact: Phone: Helen 52227327, [hrodd@bigpond.net.au](mailto:hrodd@bigpond.net.au))

Shepparton Festival - Artist in Residence - Shepp Train Project (Report from Barbara Brown)

'Be Consumed' by this amazing three-week practice based arts residency that creates a transient space for participating artists to document the shifting terrain on the service from Shepparton to Southern Cross Station daily. Local artists including the Textile Collective will explore social and cultural conditions of place through their chosen medium, individual memory and personal experience. The Textile Collective, a group of 15 local women, will be rostered in 2's or 3's on the scheduled Shepparton trains from March 5 - March 19 demonstrating their craft. After arriving at Southern Cross they will set up a temporary studio on or near Platform 1 or 2. This will give other travellers the opportunity to view their work and have a chat.

This is an amazing project and I hope some of our rural regional members coming in or out of the city or for any members that use the Southern Cross Station between March 5 - March 19 will find time to look around for studio. There may be other artists as well but I don't have their details. Nor do I have the exact details of the time they will spend each day at Southern Cross so please keep an eye out for them and say 'hello'. They will be only too delighted with your support and the opportunity to have a chat about the group and their work.

**Standing Committees/Advisers** (May Hu, Coordinator)

The 15 February SC/Advisers meeting was held as part of visit to the office of Ellen Sandell MP (Member for Melbourne). Thirteen attended and were briefed by senior adviser, Alice Bleby, on role of a local member, and the work of the office. Next meeting is at Ross House on 19 April.

The 2016 May forum was discussed. One question is how best to arrange access for members to the forum: possibly hold the forum twice, once in the CBD and again somewhere else in the suburbs, or repeat at a late afternoon time; feed-back from some member organizations is that cannot attend daytime meetings The 2016 forum will look at implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Victoria.

Legislation Adviser, Nina Richwol, monitors the news from the Parliament of Victoria on behalf of NCWV and forwards relevant information to Standing Committee members, and reminds us that members of the public can sign up to receive regular updates directly <[news=parliament.vic.gov.au@cmail20.com](mailto:news=parliament.vic.gov.au@cmail20.com)>

Among the reports received recently is one from Health Adviser, Freda Kaufman. Freda proposes that NCWV should examine 'gender inequality in terms of heart disease'. Adviser/Convenor Arts, Letters Eva Court's

recent report has the following information about the future of [The Young Performer of the Year awards](#): [Limelight Magazine reports that it obtained email correspondence from Symphony Australia which states that the annual awards will “not be continuing into the future”](#). *Symphony Australia, which provides support services to Australia’s six state symphony orchestras, runs Young Performer Awards in partnership with the ABC, which inaugurated the competition in 1944. ...No official announcement about YPA’s future has been made. Nevertheless, this is seriously concerning news because YPA has occupied a prime position in young artist development in this country ever since it started seven decades ago. It has been the backbone in launching the careers of many of Australia’s most outstanding musicians such as Brett Dean, Julian Smiles, Duncan Gifford, Howard Penny and Roger Woodward ... More recent winners include Amy Dickson, Kristian Winther and Sophie Rowell.*

### **NCW Victoria new working group ‘Conversations about Civics and Citizenship’**

First session Thursday 3 March, from 10 to 11.30 a.m. This was an opportunity to review the Australian Government publication, [Australian Citizenship: Our Common Bond](#) and to discuss what new citizens actually know about Australian laws. Since 2007, more than 650,000 people have taken Australia's computer-based citizenship test and most passed. Becoming an Australian Citizen requires an individual to swear or affirm *From this time forward, under God,\* I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people, whose democratic beliefs I share, whose rights and liberties I respect, and whose laws I will uphold and obey.* (\*optional wording, an affirmation is an alternative).

### **Individual Members** (Barbara Brown Convenor)

The excursion to the Ukrainian Museum in North Melbourne was held on 15 February. The talk by Museum founder and curator Father Xenon about the collection, and the display of textiles/embroidery were highlights of the visit, and the warm welcome given by the members of State Executive of the Ukrainian Women’s Association to our group. Donations on the day of \$200 will go to their project working with vulnerable women in Ukraine.

### **Working Together**

National Council of Women of Victoria acknowledges that its meetings are held on the land of the traditional owners the *Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation*, and we pay our respect to the elders past and present.

### **Our motto ... The Golden Rule**

The Preamble to the original ICW Constitution said “We, women of all Nations, in the conviction that the good of humanity will be best advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy and purpose, and that an organised movement will serve to promote the highest good of the family and of the Nation, do hereby band ourselves together in a federation of women of all races, nations and creeds, to further the application of the Golden Rule to society, custom and law: ***Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you***”.

### **Our mission statement**

National Council of Women of Victoria, NCWV, is a non-party-political, non-sectarian, not-for-profit, umbrella organisation with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives. It seeks to raise the awareness of women as to their rights and responsibilities as citizens and encourages their participation in all aspects of community life.

**Our website - <http://www.ncwvic.org.au/>**

## NCW Victoria - Office bearers & committee 2015-6

President: Sheila Byard    Secretary: Dr Pamela Williams OAM

Treasurer: Benjie Perryman

Vice Presidents: Barbara Brown, Bronwyn Badham, Janice Latham (Regional)

### Five elected members:

Janene Blanchfield-Brown, Guosheng Chen, Freda Kaufman, Gauri Kapour, Elisabeth Newman,

Convenor, Individual Members Group: Barbara Brown.

Geelong Branch: Janice Latham    Central Gippsland Branch: Jan Baxter

Non-voting members: Barbara Latham    YoungNCWVic Convenor: Sarah Morgan

Archivist -Janet Galley OAM

## The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released a new report on 25 February 2016:

### *Health status and risk factors of Australians with disability 2007-08 and 2011-12*

This report examines how health-related factors affect the health status of Australians with disability at the national population level.

- In 2011-12, half (51%) of people aged 15-64 with severe or profound disability reported poor or fair health, compared with 6% for those without disability.
- Half (50%) of people aged under 65 with severe or profound disability had mental health conditions, compared with 8% for those without disability.
- Higher proportions of people aged 15-64 with severe or profound disability compared with those without disability were obese (43% versus 25%), doing no physical exercise (46% versus 31%), daily smokers (31% versus 15%) and having a very high level of psychological distress (22% versus 1%).

AIHW catalogue number DIS 65 Available to order at the AIHW website for **\$10** (<http://www.aihw.gov.au>)

**Privacy Statement**    The NCWV is committed to protecting the privacy of all individuals and affiliates and complying with Australia's Privacy Act. Our primary purpose in collecting information is to enable us to operate as a membership organisation whose primary objective is to enhance the status of women. We may use your information to respond to your requests or to contact you via mail, email or phone for support for work we do and to offer events we may hold unless you have advised us in writing that you do not wish to receive this information.

**Our Connections**    The NCWV is an affiliate of the **National Council of Women Australia**, established in 1931

Through NCWA we are linked to the **International Council of Women - Conseil International des Femmes**, established in 1888. ICW has category 1 consultative status with the **United Nations Economic and Social Council**. Membership of the NCWV open its doors to a global exchange of views on matters affecting the lives of women, children and families around the world

**If you or someone you know is impacted by sexual assault or family violence, call 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732 or visit [www.1800RESPECT.org.au](http://www.1800RESPECT.org.au). In an emergency, call 000.**

## PROGRAM FOR 2016

### January

15<sup>th</sup> – Office re- opens

21<sup>st</sup> (Thursday)- Pioneer Women’s event, Pioneer Women’s Garden 10.15 for 10.30am – Dr Liz Rushen

### February

4<sup>th</sup> – (Thursday) 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting – About the Festive Baskets!

12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting, including Trading Table. Anna Carlile ‘Brand Refresh’

18<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) – Executive meeting, 10 am

29<sup>th</sup> (Monday) - 9.30 to 12 noon. Launch of *My Vote My Voice 2016* program and student awards, Parliament of Victoria

### March

3<sup>rd</sup> (Thursday) - 10.15-11.30 - Conversation about Civics and Citizenship, at Ross House.

12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting – Speaker Dr Merrilyn Murnane,

17<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) - Executive meeting, 10 am

### April

7<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) - 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting, followed by 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting, Including Trading table, **Healthy Cities Summit with Birute Don and Paul Borman, +update from Women’s Property Initiatives**

21<sup>st</sup> (Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

### May

5<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) - 10 am **May Forum Focus on the NDIS Roll-Out**, followed by 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting

19<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

### June

2<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting, 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting, including Trading Table

16<sup>th</sup> – (Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

20<sup>th</sup> – (Monday) Luncheon NCWV Geelong Branch

27<sup>th</sup> - (Monday) Late afternoon Founders Day event – details to follow.

### July

7<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) 12 noon for 12.15 start, NCWV Council meeting

21<sup>st</sup> - (Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

### August

4<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting, 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting, inc. Trading Table

**12<sup>th</sup> (Friday) –9.30 for 10 am start *My Vote My Voice Student Event at the Parliament of Victoria.***

15<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

### September

1<sup>st</sup> (Thursday) 10.15–NCWV AGM 12 noon for 12.15 start

15<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

### October

6<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting, 12 noon for 12.15 start, NCWV Council meeting

20<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

### November

3<sup>rd</sup> (Thursday) 10.30 am Morning Tea. 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting,

17<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

### December

1<sup>st</sup> - (Thursday) 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Christmas Lunch,

15<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

### NOTE:

- Council meetings are on the first Thursday of each month Feb-November at Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane
- Individual Members’ meetings begin 10.15am for 10.30 am, Trading Table – please bring items for sale
- Council meetings begin at 12.15pm sharp and finish no later than 2.15pm
- Executive meetings are held at the Royal Historical Society Building corner William and A’Beckett Sts.

# National Council of Women of Victoria

*“Caring Women Make a Difference”*

