

## February 2019 Newsletter

**Quote:** *I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.* Edward Hale, as quoted by the Lord Mayor, Rt Hon Sally Capp.

### From the President, Elisabeth Newman:

Welcome, I wish you well for 2019 and I trust you have been able to relax and re-charge the batteries over the Festive season/New Year break ready for the challenges of the year ahead. The year has started well for NCWV with the Australia Day Pioneer Women’s Ceremony, the February Council meeting, also Executive meeting at which we discussed plans for the year.

For sometime in Australia and world-wide, there has been much focus on gender equality and empowerment of women. Many Australians mistakenly believe there is equality in Australia. Look, e.g. at the gender pay gap; if greater equality, would there be less discrimination and violence against women? On Feb 12<sup>th</sup> VicHealth held a symposium “Behavioural Insights and Gender Equality” which examined why behavioural insights are very important. Cultural change and attitude are required before equality can be achieved. Women need to hold senior positions – empowerment of women. Companies and large organisations are required to report on their gender equality policies; as these improve so does the workplace environment and general mental health of employees. Guest speakers included Iris Bohnet, Albert Pratt Prof. of business and government, Harvard Kennedy School, and the Hon. Julia Gillard AC.

### 58<sup>th</sup> Australia Day Pioneer Women’s Ceremony:

This event on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January in the Women’s Peace Garden Kensington, was a great success with 55 members and friends attending including Paul Webster Chairman of the Australia Day Council Vic and Norman Kennedy past Chair. Girl Guides Victoria provided the Colour Party.

The Lord Mayor of Melbourne, the Right Honourable Sally Capp, guest of honour, was the speaker. She focussed on women who have been ‘first’, particularly in State and local government, including Joan Kirner and Lady Millie Peacock - the first woman elected to the Victorian Parliament, Leckie Ord and Winsome McCaughey, previous Lord Mayors and Patrons of NCWV. “These women campaigned publicly and paved the way for others through their example. These women broke through the hard, stony ground of politics to create the richer soil in which we are flourishing today. They had an enduring impact on Victorian public life. Their careers were often catalysts for reform and greater respect for women’s intellects and achievements. Times didn’t just change – they helped change the times.”

Sally also stated the need for women to stand up and take on leadership roles at all levels within their organisations and communities and support those willing to have a go. “Through this we will see a manifest change in how we shape our communities going forward.” She also acknowledged Barbara Abley, AM, who was the first female mayor of the City of Geelong in 2002 and Gracia Baylor, AM, who was one of the first two women elected to the Victorian Legislative Council in 1979. This was after she became Healesville Shire Council president in 1977 – the first female shire president in Victoria.

“The roll call of pioneering women is a proud one for Victoria, in so many fields, and I take heart from the achievements of women in our past, and the extraordinary opportunities that lie ahead of us. Today is also about looking to the future and anticipating the wonderful achievements of coming generations of women.” To read the full speech, go to our website: <http://www.ncwvic.org.au/news-events.html>



Janet Park, Paul Webster, Sally Capp, Elisabeth Newman



NCWV Executive with Sally Capp.

## Speaker at February Council Meeting: Ms Lesley Podesta, CEO Allannah and Madeline Foundation



Lesley briefly spoke about their founder Walter Mikac, who lost his wife and two daughters in the Port Arthur tragedy and the profound effect the tragedy had on the Australian people. The Foundation exists because Walter refused to give into anger and hatred, instead he felt love.

The Foundation's beliefs are:-

- No child should feel unsafe or threatened with violence
- All children should have a safe and happy childhood
- Confident, secure, resilient and inspired young people are our hope for the future.

More information at: <https://www.amf.org.au/>

The Foundation has made a difference in the first 20 years and has assisted more than 2 million children. BUT: they can and will do more. The Foundation promises to create a safer world for children both on and offline. Physical violence to children is abhorrent. The message has to be "You can recover from this!" (No-one should be stuck for ever after trauma). The Foundation cares for children who have experienced or witnessed serious violence. "Buddy Bags" have provided essential items to 90,000 children who are in emergency accommodation. Some arrive with only the clothes they are wearing. The bags are a back pack containing new items such as a hairbrush, face washer, toothbrush, toothpaste, pillowcase, pyjamas, socks and underwear as well as a book, photo frame, activity kit and a teddy bear or soft toy.

The 'gun' agreement after Port Arthur was excellent, but sadly it is threatened today. In some states children as young as 10 can use a gun. In Tasmania there have been calls to withdraw from the Gun Safety Alliance. It is time for the 'silent majority' to speak out against anyone 'walking down the street with a concealed weapon'.

Children now live in the digital age and 'cyber bullying' is prevalent. While the Foundation loves and supports the Internet, we have NOT been prepared for it. Often parents no longer read to their children, rather they go to bed and read using a device. In some cases, it allows an absent parent to read a bedtime story online. The content of digital devices needs parent supervision. Evidence is overwhelming that children don't understand the scope of the digital age even though 'they think they know'. "Bullying is a child's problem but a parent's responsibility."

The Foundation has two programs addressing this, with all programs are aligned to appropriate National curriculum:

- a. "eSmart Schools" – a cultural-change framework that guides the introduction of policies, practices and whole school change processes to support the creation of a cyber safe or 'eSmart' environment.
- b. "eSmart Digital Licence" – teaming with the 'Dolly Foundation' to develop an interactive and educational on-line cyber safety resource that teaches school aged children critical digital skills and promotes discussion about on-line safety between young people and their parents, carers and teachers.

### ATTENTION – NEW INITIATIVE

**March Meeting: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March at new time: 5:15 – 7:15pm, Room 4.1 Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane**

This time is to enable students and members who are working to attend. If successful, two more meetings will be schedule at this time.

On the eve of International Women's Day, the focus is on women of achievement. We are delighted to have as our guest speaker:

**Dr Marissa Parrott, the Reproductive Biologist in the Wildlife Conservation & Science Department at Zoos Victoria.**

**Topic: Zoos Victoria, Fighting Extinction.** The major focus of Marissa's research is captive breeding, reintroduction and conservation of some of Australia's most critically endangered species. **All members and any guests you may wish to bring are welcome! Spread the word!**

As always, there is no charge for our Council meetings, but donations to cover room and AV costs are welcomed. There will be tea/coffee and nibbles beforehand.



## Other News

### ROSS HOUSE EVENT: Welcome Back Brunch 2019

Come and enjoy a lovely brunch with the Ross House community on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

We kick off at 11am sharp with our *Ross House Story* screening, followed by the launch of the Esther Harris Room.

The food on the day will be catered by *Heartbaker Bun Mee*, as well as a selection of delicious sweets.

**Where?** Hayden Raysmith Room, Level 4, Ross House, @ 11am until 12:30pm

**FREE LEGAL HELP FOR ROSS HOUSE MEMBERS AND TENANTS:** Another free legal session with Justice Connect for members and tenants on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019, Meeting Room 1 Level 1**. Justice Connect can help you with questions regarding: Rules/Constitutions; NFP tax concessions; Employees and volunteers; IP and privacy. In some instances they may not be able to provide assistance on the day regarding a certain topic, but will discuss your options and other sources of help should this be the case. **RSVP required.**

**The Royal Historical Society, Vic** is delighted that distinguished historian, Professor Marilyn Lake AO, will deliver the RHSV's inaugural Women's History Lecture, *Vida Goldstein and Maud Wood Park: the political significance of Australian-American women's friendships*. **MARCH 19, 5:15 PM-7:00 PM** **Fee – \$10**

Drinks 5:15pm, Lecture 6pm, Books will be available for sale and signing.



**Marilyn Lake AO**, Former President of the Australian Historical Association and Professorial Fellow, University of Melbourne, will talk on the meeting of Vida Goldstein with American suffragist Maud Wood Park when on a lecturing tour after attending the first International Woman Suffrage Conference in Washington DC, in early 1902. Seven years later, Park travelled to Melbourne, where Goldstein, President of the Women's Political Association and editor of the *Woman Voter*, introduced her to local women activists and future Prime Minister, Andrew Fisher. Park came to Australia to investigate Australian women's use of the vote post-suffrage. In 1920 Park became inaugural President of the non-party National League of Women Voters.

The [Gender Balance on Australian Government Boards Report 2017-2018](#) is now available— reporting on the Australian Government's performance against the 50% gender diversity target, as well as providing statistical gender analysis for the 2017-18 financial year. The Australian Government is also expanding its BoardLinks program to allow any woman who is interested in being considered for a government board appointment to register on the database. The BoardLinks database is used by the government to source candidates for appointment to government boards. Previously, inclusion on the BoardLinks database has been limited to individuals personally endorsed by a BoardLinks Champion, government Minister, or departmental Secretary. Self-nominations will now be encouraged to expand the diversity of candidates with a range of skills and expertise.

Anyone interested in nominating to the BoardLinks database is encouraged to [register](#).

**COTA Victoria's** monthly newsletter, COTA Connects, contained information about Super Pharmacies, an initiative supported by the Victorian Government. A number of pharmacies in Metropolitan Melbourne and major rural towns, such as Geelong, Mildura and Morwell, are being funded to open 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week. The aim is to provide advice and to supply medications out of hours when other health care providers, such as GP clinics are closed. There is a private consulting room with a nurse in attendance from 6 pm till 10 pm who is able to treat minor ailments. The service is free. For further information Google: Victorian Super Pharmacies.

### Shrine of Remembrance: Fearless in Serbia, Friday 8 March, midday, Auditorium



Approaching International Women's Day, be inspired by the remarkable story of Melburnian surgeon Dr Mary de Garis. Mary was the Chief Medical Officer of a tent hospital for two years on the Eastern Front during the First World War. Discover Mary's reasons for joining the Scottish Women's Hospitals in 1916 — an organisation formed to contribute all-women, mobile medical units to the Imperial war effort — and why her courageous service remains unknown in Australia. Dr Ruth Lee tells her story.

National Council of Women of Victoria Inc. Regd. No.: A0004465H ABN: 18227073059  
PO Box 18186 Collins Street East, MELBOURNE, 8003; Ph: 0447 351 234; Email: [info@ncwvic.org.au](mailto:info@ncwvic.org.au)  
Registered office: Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne.  
Patron in Chief: Her Excellency the Honorable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria



### 2019 UNAA Study Tours - program released

We are thrilled to release our program for our 2019 small group tours to the UN. After our successful inaugural tours to the UN in Geneva and New York City in 2018, we will again visit these centres in 2019. We are also gauging interest for a tour to UN and other international organisations in Vienna. Tours are planned as follows:

19-25 May: Geneva; 26 May to 1 June: Vienna; 20-26 October: New York City

[Click here](#) to access all the details of the tours.

**Our mission statement:** *National Council of Women of Victoria Inc. -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 motto:** *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 have them do unto you."*

### NCWV Dates up to May 2019

**January: Monday 21<sup>st</sup>:** 58<sup>th</sup> Australia Day Pioneer Women's Ceremony, Women's Peace Garden, Kensington.  
The Rt Hon Sally Capp, Lord Mayor of Melbourne spoke.

**February: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>:** Individual Members 10:15am, Room 4.1 Ross House

Council meeting 12:15pm. Speaker: Ms Lesley Podesta, CEO Alannah and Madeline Foundation

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup>:** Standing Committee meeting, Room 2.1 Ross House, 4:30-6:00pm

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>:** Executive meeting, RHSV ground floor meeting room, 10:00am-12:00pm

**March: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>:** Council meeting Room 4.1 Ross House, **5:15-7:15pm. NOTE new time.**

Speaker: Dr Marissa Parrott, Zoos Victoria

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>:** Executive meeting, RHSV ground floor meeting room, 10:00am-12:00pm

**April: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>:** Individual Members 10:15am, Room 4.1 Ross House

Council meeting Room 4.1, 12:15pm. Speaker: Dr Ros Otzen, Chair Hesta Hornbook Academy

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup>:** Standing Committee meeting, Room 2.1 Ross House, 4:30-6:00pm

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>:** Executive meeting, RHSV ground floor meeting room, 10:00am-12:00pm

**May: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>:** **May Forum, 'Safe Streets', with panel members to be announced shortly.**

#### Note

- Council meetings held at Level 4 Ross House, Room 4.1, Flinders Lane, Melbourne
- Individual Members' meetings every 2<sup>nd</sup> month begin at 10.15 – 11.30am in the same room
- Trading Table – please bring items for sale. All food items to have all ingredients listed.
- Executive meetings held at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, A'Beckett St Melbourne
- Standing Committee meetings, 4:30pm, Room 2.1, Level 2 Ross House.