

Newsletter

May 2021

Quote: “There is nothing like staying at home for real comfort” Jane Austen.

From the President, Ronnieta Milliken

The focus of our May Forum was: “Housing: Affordability and Accessibility for Women.” Housing is a human right and critical to health, safety and inclusion in our community. The high cost of housing is leading to increasing inequality in Australia. NCWV is very concerned about the increasing numbers of homeless people in our community.

The report on homelessness in Victoria has been released: https://parliament.vic.gov.au/images/stories/committees/CLSI/Inquiry_into_Homelessness_in_Victoria/Report/LCLSIC_59-06_Homelessness_in_Vic_Final_report.pdf

ALSO: Affordable Housing Strategy 2020 – 2030 <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/sitecollectiondocuments/affordable-housing-strategy.pdf>

Our speakers were:

Jeanette Large, CEO, Women’s Property Initiatives (WPI) a 21 year old not-for-profit organisation which creates new beginnings for women facing homelessness. Her presentation, “Safe, Secure, Affordable Housing for Vulnerable Women Headed Households” explained how WPI houses over 230 women and children around Melbourne through the properties they own and another 200 + people through properties they manage, with rents being 30% of income, or 75% of the market value. They also provide access to support networks and advocacy.

There were 290,000 people who sought housing assistance in 2019/2020, 2/3rd were women, most with children, half of these escaping family violence, and 29% under 18 years. There are around 150 women turned away from services daily. Crisis accommodation is stretched to the limit with around 100,000 people on Victoria’s social housing register. Long-term, affordable, secure housing is needed to free up crisis services. Community housing is desperately needed.

Why is it mainly women in need? Some factors include:

- More women in poverty due to gender pay gap
- Retire with around ½ the superannuation
- Over represented in low paying jobs
- Part-time, casual or interrupted work
- More women are single parents than men.

Every \$1 spent by WPI, returns \$11 in social value, with savings to government and communities by reducing social issues, improved emotional and physical health, independence and safety.

New projects include six new 2 and 3 bedroom homes for women in Pakenham; 10 new apartments in Bundoora; nine new apartments in Brunswick; and a 5 bedroom house in Mt Atkinson. Some local councils waive rates and a few sell land to WPI at reduced price. Some have identified local need and insist that developers provide affordable housing in their build.

WPI also has a trial program for those older women who do not qualify for social housing, but do not have sufficient money to purchase, with savings being depleted in the private rental market. They can invest in WPI housing via a refundable loan, paying minimal rent.

To read more about WPI and their residential sales and property management arm go to: <https://www.wpi.org.au/property-initiatives-real-estate>

Jeanette Large



Kobi Maglen



Kobi Maglen, Manager of the National Advisory Group for the Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG), the only Australian organisation specialised in the housing needs of older people. Kobi’s presentation, “At-Risk Older Women Facing Homelessness in Victoria”, included homelessness trends and what sits behind these, appropriate responses, including HAAG’s advocacy agenda, in central, rural, and regional Victoria and the impacts of COVID-19. HAAG houses over 100 older people per year at risk of homelessness, 70% women. Older women are the fastest growing group at risk of homelessness, with 405,000 over 45 years, 120,00 in Victoria. Factors affecting this include employment status; marital status; living alone; private rental costs; migrants; aboriginal and torres strait islanders (2.5 times more likely); illness; low level of support groups; poverty due to gender pay gap and small superannuation; time out of the workforce and family violence.

Risk of homelessness creeps up on women. Some are ‘in the middle’ with assets above eligibility, but insufficient for private housing. COVID-19 impacted significantly on women with 55% of jobs lost and being over-represented in casual employment; with a significant increase in the risk of family violence. Some women do house/pet sitting which stopped during the pandemic.

What solutions are there? There needs to be an increase in the availability of affordable housing and more support prior to it becoming a crisis. This requires a National program. The Victorian Government has pledged \$5.3 billion for a housing build of 12,000 homes.

There also should be state funding to support organisations like HAAG to expand their programs into regional and rural areas.

NCWV will follow-up on these important issues.

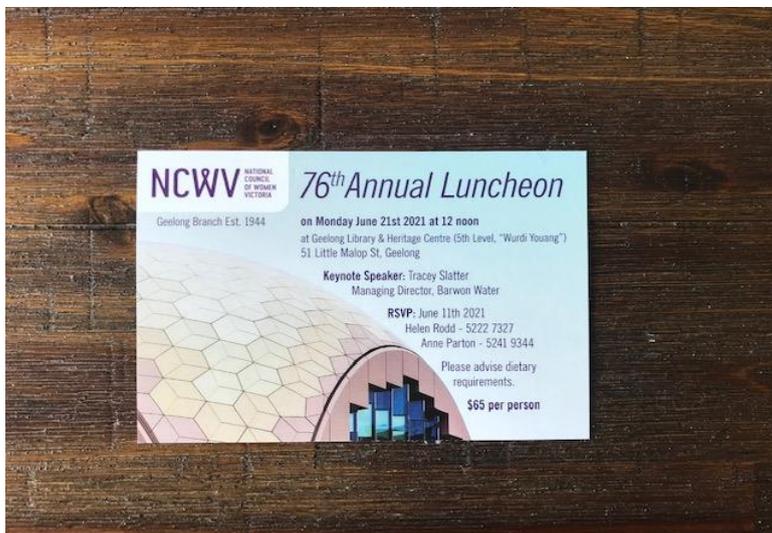
Vinnies CEO Sleepout, Thursday the 17th of June, I will be participating in the sleepout to raise awareness for the homeless this winter. Did you know that over 400,000 women in Australia over the age of 45 are at risk of homelessness? [Click here to support the CEO sleepout.](#)

NCWV Individual Members Tour of Treasury Museum Thursday, May 27 at 10.15am. Cost \$15.

Delegates and Individual Members are invited to join a tour of the Treasury Museum. It will be a guided general tour plus a focus on Yarra: Stories of Melbourne's Rivers, and Women Work for Victory in WW11. Read more at: <https://www.oldtreasurybuilding.org.au/whats-on/exhibitions/>

Notify Elisabeth or Beverley if you wish to attend the tour and further details will be forwarded to you. bjkanner@gmail.com; elisabeth_mn@hotmail.com

NCW Geelong: Annual Lunch June 21st 12:00pm Geelong Library, with Tracey Slatter, Director Barwon Water



'BARWON Water will transform a disused basin site in Wallington into more than 30 hectares of environmental and public open space. The water authority plans to start work on the Bellarine Basin rehabilitation project – located on the corner of Grubb and Swan Bay roads – later this month.

The project will see the removal of the old reservoir, enabling the natural headwaters of Yarram Creek to be restored and wetlands to be established. The pine tree plantation will be replaced with indigenous trees, shrubs and grasses. Managing director Tracey Slatter said Barwon Water was delighted to be working with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, local community and key agencies to significantly improve the environment.

"One of the main aims of this project is to protect and enhance the unique habitats, ecosystems and biodiversity of the Bellarine, including native vegetation and fauna," Barwon Water had received \$650,000 funding under the Victorian Government's Distinctive Areas and Landscapes program and would contribute the same amount to the \$1.3-million project which would be delivered in stages during the next three years, with input from the community sought along the way.' *Ballarine Times*, April 29th 2021

June 1st: Shopping trip to Port Arlington via Ferry.

Contact for both these events:

Helen Rodd- 5222 7327

Anne Parton-5241 9344

League of Women Voters Victoria: Women into Parliament, Celebrating the date in 1924 when women were first able to stand for the Victorian Parliament.

We celebrate Victorian women, past and present, who offer as candidates for election to the Federal and State Parliaments. Most women in Victoria gained the right to vote and stand for Federal Parliament in 1902 but had to wait until 1908 before they could vote in Victorian state elections and until 12 May 1924 before enabling legislation received Royal Assent so that they could stand for the Victorian Parliament. In the election that followed on 26 June 1924 Alicia Katz, standing as the Labor candidate for Barwon, became the first woman candidate for the Legislative Assembly, gaining 30.46% of the vote. *Representative Women: Victorian Women Parliamentarians Since 1923* (AWAP 2007)

<https://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/vp/vp-home.html>

Who was Alicia Katz? See:

<https://www.womenaustralia.info/biogs/AWE3124b.htm>

Joan Alicia Katz: The First Attempt, League of Women Voters of Victoria, Box Hill, Vic, 1988, 13 pp

Join us on Wednesday 12 May 2021, 10.30am to 12pm, as guests of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne, 3000 + 61 3 9326 9288 or by Zoom.

Jillian Hiscock, RHSV Collections Manager, will speak about some of the material in the society's collection.

Register for event to Dr Pam Williams OAM Secretary, or Dr Deborah Towns OAM President on leaguenvoters@gmail.com or ring Sheila Byard OAM on 0439 365 688

Refreshments – Coffee/tea on arrival

Of course, we do not celebrate the flourish of a vice regal fountain pen, but rather the work and personal sacrifice of our foremothers and sisters who strove to achieve this result; and the women candidates and members of parliament since that time. May we remain strong in our conviction and work to achieve equality together with the League of Women Voters. Ronniel Milliken, President NCWV.

Other News

UN Women

The Leadership Film Screening and Panel Discussion, in capital cities across Australia

UN Women Australia invites you to a live screening of Ili Baré's compelling documentary film, *The Leadership*. Following the voyage of 76 female scientists to Antarctica, the film questions what it takes to be a good leader and unearths the profoundly troubling systemic obstacles to women's advancement in science and beyond.

Wednesday 19 May – [Melbourne](#) – Cinema Nova, Lygon Street @ \$27 to \$33 per ticket.

Screenings will be followed by a panel discussion with a line up of experts with deep knowledge and lived experience of the topics raised in the film, exploring the systemic changes necessary for participation and leadership of diverse women in STEM and other male-dominated industries. 100% of ticket revenue be donated to UN Women Australia thanks to the support of Good Pitch Australia, the Documentary Australia Foundation and the Shark Island Institute. [REGISTER](#)

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Women & Leadership Australia (WLA) supports women across all sectors and industries by providing world-class leadership development programs for emerging, middle and senior leaders. These work-integrated programs provide skills and strategies to address real-world leadership challenges, designed to maximise learning outcomes. Scholarships are available to support the development of women leaders. Scholarships of between \$1000 and \$5000 will support participation in one of three leadership development courses designed for emerging through to senior leaders.

Expressions of interest close on 18 June. Find out more and register at: <https://www.wla.edu.au/funding.html>

Royal Historical Society Victoria

<https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/rhsv-events/>

Statuses: Putting Them Up, and Pulling 'Em Down, Tue 18 May, 6pm, FREE, Downstairs, RHSV, Speaker: Jim Davidson

This oration shows how statues rose with the 19th century, and spread with the growth of empires, not least to Australia. The nature of Australian statuary is considered, along with the questions it raises. Statues have become lightning conductors for unresolved tensions, the public culture which sustained them being increasingly subject to segmentation.

[Click to book for Jim Davidson](#)

Early Melbourne Suburbs Seminar, Tue 25 May, 6:30pm - 9:30pm

by ZOOM, \$25

The GSV and RHSV are conducting a Zoom seminar exploring the development of the suburbs of Essendon and Malvern together with the history of Melbourne's extensive tram system.

Warren Doubleday, the Manager of the Melbourne Tram Museum collection, will speak on the establishment of Melbourne's tram system, provide information on researching tramway records and on the Tram Museum website.

Steve Stefanopoulos, local historian and archivist with the Malvern Historical Society and Hayden Williams from the Essendon Historical Society, will talk about the development of their suburbs from approximately 1850 to the early 20th century. Their presentations will highlight the experience, skills and records available at their societies that will assist you to research local and family history in the areas.

[Click to book for Early Suburbs Seminar](#)

Her Place announcements:

Australian Heritage Festival; Her Place is participating in the National Trust [Australian Heritage Festival](#) from April to May 29. No bookings required. 208-210 Clarendon Street, East Melbourne.

Unmasked news: Her Place welcomed over 800 visitors to view Unmasked: Celebrating Nursing and Midwifery, Victoria and beyond throughout March. Following strong public interest, Unmasked has now been extended, with the exhibition open on Saturdays, 10am – 4pm until 29 May, then Saturday 26 and Monday 28 June.

Free entry. Bookings are not required but are encouraged for groups of 6 or more. [To book](#)

Unmasked e-catalogue, *Nurses and midwives making a difference for humanity* by Dr Madonna Grehan, [here](#).

New Her Place resource: Go online to watch the [2021 International Women's Day #ChooseToChallenge: Women's history beyond stereotypes](#) with curators, Dr Madonna Grehan and Professor Odette Best.

Designers urged to listen to women's experiences

Design researchers from Monash University's XYX Lab and CrowdSpot believe that if they can understand what spaces women feel safe and unsafe in, they can start to address the issue of people's safety. Dr Nicole Kalms, co-director of XYX Lab, said designers rarely ask women how they felt about public places. "So one of the things that we're doing in design in the built environment is redesigning and designing places for people. And if we don't know what their experiences are, it's really hard to make those places inclusive and equitable." The team has launched an [interactive map](#) and are asking women and gender-diverse people to share experiences of public places across Victoria, by

pinpointing a location and anonymously share stories and feelings about the space — be it a local street, park or walking trail. Comments will be visible to all users on the site. Information from the map, *YourGround*, will be shared with 18 Victorian councils, who will hopefully take data into account when redesigning public spaces.

NCWA Triennial Conference 25-26 November, 2021, Canberra—Save the Date



Program

Thursday 25 November morning: **NCWA Business – Resolutions**

Thursday 25 November afternoon: **Public Conference**

Thursday 25 November (tbc): **Reception** – 5.30pm

Hosted by Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley at Government House

Friday 26 November 2021 – **Public conference**

Our Purposes: to provide a non-party

political, non-sectarian, not-for-profit, umbrella organisation with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives, empowering women and girls and raising awareness of gender equality; act as a voice on issues and concerns of women and girls at a State level; develop policies and responses on behalf of women and girls on a State-wide basis; maintain and strengthen the Association's relationship with all members; link with women in Australia and the International Council of Women through the National Council of Women of Australia and contribute to the implementation of their plans of action and policies.

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 for 2021 – venue or online to be confirmed

- May** **Tuesday 11th** Standing Committee, , 4:30-6:00pm, Ross House
Thursday 20th Committee Meeting, RHSV, A'Beckett St
Thursday 27th Individual Members' Outing, Tour of Treasury Museum, 10.15am
- June:** **Thursday 3rd:** Individual Members meeting; and Council Meeting 12:15pm
Monday 14th: Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm, Ross House
Thursday 17th: Committee Meeting, RHSV, A'Beckett St
- July:** **Thursday 1st:** Council Meeting, **5:15-7:15pm. NOTE late time**
Monday 12th: Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm, Ross House
Thursday 15th: Committee Meeting, RHSV, A'Beckett St
- August:** **Thursday 5th:** Individual Members Annual meeting; Council Meeting 12:15pm
Monday 9th **My Vote My Voice**, Parliament of Victoria, 9:00am-1:00pm
Monday 9th: Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm, Ross House
Thursday 19th: Committee Meeting, RHSV, A'Beckett St
- September** **Thursday 2nd:** **Council Annual General Meeting**, 12:15am, Room 4.1 Ross House
Monday 14th: Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm, Ross House
Thursday 16th Committee Meeting, RHSV, A'Beckett St
- October:** **Thursday 7th:** Individual Members meeting; Council Meeting 12:15pm
Monday 11th: Standing Committee Meeting, 4:00-6:00pm
Thursday 21st: Committee Meeting, RHSV, A'Beckett St
- November:** **Thursday 4th:** Council Meeting, **5:15-7:15pm. NOTE late time**
Thursday 18th: Committee Meeting, RHSV, A'Beckett St
Tuesday 23rd: **Annual Festive Luncheon**, 12:00pm, William Angliss Restaurant
NCWA Triennial Conference in Canberra Thursday 25 – Friday 26 November 2021