

Acknowledgement

National Council of Women of Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Victoria and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. NCWV pays its respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past, present and emerging.



QUOTE: What do we want? Equality! When do we want it? NOW quote unattributed.....

From the President, Ronniet Milliken



Can the mind set in our community be changed so that EQUALITY for all is accepted as the BASE CASE - not something to aspire toward in 300 years! The strategy could be to end harassment and discrimination by the end of the decade.

In 2024 the Australia Equal Opportunity legislation enacted in 1984 will have been in place for 40 years.

And the Racial Discrimination legislation will have been in place 50 years in 2025. Other legislation, codes etc followed to set the standard for other demographics, and other perpetrators of discrimination and harassment. We are cautiously optimistic that the state and federal budgets will see further public investment in equality – most likely to address the outcomes of inequality and lack of respect. But we have seen the closure of the Office of the Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor, ahead of successful culture change across our community.

Should the various Human Rights/Equal Opportunity/Racial Discrimination/Consumer Affairs and Trade Practices Commissions, WorkSafe, and WGEA actively take the message the EQUALITY and RESPECT message into the community – that this is the BASE case – not a ‘nice to have’.

A change of approach is required to increase awareness and prevention. It is not a matter of improving websites for the community to find and expecting small and medium businesses to take up expensive eLearning. What if our leaders and these public institutions ramp up awareness and advocacy? Might that reduce the incidence of harassment and discrimination? As a non-party political organisation, it was inspiring to hear from Senator Judith Troeth about what can be achieved by women leading our nation together across political party lines to achieve change.

Another inspiring speaker will be presented by the Afghan Australian Development Association on Sunday 30 April - former Afghan Judge and Prosecutor, Mahtab Fazl. Details of the AADO event on the link below.

**Afghan Gallery, 327 Brunswick St Fitzroy
Route 11 Tram, Stop No. 16 (Johnston St)**

Join us to celebrate: **Sunday 30 April, 2023**

Afghan New Year 2023 - Nowroz 1402

Afghan Afternoon Tea 2:30pm – 5pm

\$40 pp (Children under 12 free) Drinks at bar prices

Our event will also include:

Special Guest Mahtab Fazl, former judge and prosecutor, Herat Province, now in Australia with the assistance of the International Association of Women Judges.

Mahtab will speak on “Experiences of a Female Judge Protecting Women’s Rights in Afghanistan”

Traditional Afghan sweets, savouries and music.

Multiple raffle prizes to be won (by cash or card)

Bookings via: Trybooking:

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

Bookings required by Thursday 27 April, 2023.



ALGWA: Collaborating to thrive, connect and excel in Local Government, invites people to join them for the 2023 National Conference hosted by ALGWA and the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council from **17-20 May 2023 at RACV Cape Schanck Resort** in Victoria.

The Conference brings councillors and officers together from across Australia, to advance female participation in Local Government and put a spotlight on issues facing women in the sector. Delegates will draw inspiration from thought-provoking presenters, network with other attendees and benefit from the tremendous peer support offered by ALGWA.

For all information and to book: [ALGWA 2023 National Conference – Cape Schanck, Mornington Peninsula, Victoria \(mornpen.vic.gov.au\)](http://ALGWA 2023 National Conference – Cape Schanck, Mornington Peninsula, Victoria (mornpen.vic.gov.au))

Bronze statue of Stella Young by sculptor Danny Fraser



Two months before she died, Stella Young, comedian, writer, disability activist, self-described “crip”, wrote on Facebook *“I am not a snowflake. I am not a sweet, infantilising symbol of fragility and life,” she said. “I am a strong, fierce, flawed adult woman. I plan to remain that way, in life and in death.”* Young, died in 2014 aged 32, called for achievements of disabled people to be valued, but insisted her disability – osteogenesis imperfecta or, as she described it, [“this dicky bone thing”](#) – did not automatically make her exceptional.

On Thursday, 30th March 2023 a bronze statue of Young in her wheelchair was unveiled in the disability activist’s home town of Stawell, as part of the Remembering Stella Young project. The project aims to continue her legacy of challenging society’s perceptions of disability and striving for [“a world where disability is not the exception, but the norm”](#). Young’s parents, Lynne and Greg Young, were involved in the design of the monument, which is located in Cato Park. “She’s right in front of the accessible playground so she’ll be letting the kids know that disability is OK,” says Lynne. The statue features a porcelain QR code on sandstone plinth for visitors with low vision, which takes people through to a website about Stella, and audio that is triggered via motion.

From Women’s Agenda

Employers with 100+ workers will be required to publish gender pay gap data from early 2024, by Brianna Boecker

Australia’s national gender pay gap was reported at 13.3% in 2023, and the average weekly full-time earnings of a woman in Australia as \$253.50 lower than their male counterparts.

When the Bill passed Parliament, Senator Katy Gallagher said “Closing the Gender Pay Gap Bill is a critical step toward achieving women’s economic equality. On current projections it will take another 26 years to close the gender pay gap. Women have waited long enough for the pay gap to close – this government will not let them wait another quarter of a century,”

Going forward, gender pay gaps will be published on the Workplace Gender Equality Agency website.

WGEA Director, Mary Wooldridge, takes a look at the history of women securing equal pay for equal work, and why we must continue to [keep the pressure on when it comes to closing the gender pay gap](#).

VALE



Lt. Colonel Patricia Betty Spikin

Patricia Betty Spikin died Feb. 2023, aged 69+1 mth, spent many years serving, with her husband, in Tasmania, Singapore, Malaysia, India and Jamaica.

She was a long-time active member of NCWV, first with NCWV Bendigo Branch in 1987 when as a Salvation Army Officer she was appointed to the Salvation Army Corps. She was Delegate for the Salvation Army in Bendigo, and later as delegate for Soroptimist International of Bendigo. After her transfer to Melbourne in 1991, she became active with NCWV as Delegate for Salvation Army’s Home League, later for Salvation Army Social Welfare Section in 1996; the Salvation Army Victoria State Council (2001-02); in all for a further 10 years. She also served as a Delegate for Soroptimist International Ringwood and Foothills from 1996 – 2004.

It is recalled that in the 1990s she arranged a NCWV Information Table at an Expo on Ageing conducted at the Royal Exhibition Building. During her years as a delegate she was elected to the NCWV Executive and served several terms 1994 - 96, 2001-02 and 2003-04. She was elected Junior Vice President in 1997 and Senior Vice President in 1998-2000. Betty acted for a time as the NCWV contact with the outside appointed NCWV Public Officer. She became NCWV Public Officer in 2000 (March-May), serving again as Public Officer for 2006-08. Betty’s great organisational experience led to her being asked to serve as a member of the Constitution sub-committee early in the 2000s for the March 2002 amendments, and again for the August 2010 Constitutional Review.

Above all Betty Spikin’s many decades of professional experience in the Social Welfare field meant that she made significant contributions to the NCWV Standing Committees particularly in relation to welfare, housing and ageing issues. Even after the Salvation Army discontinued membership of NCWV, Betty continued her involvement as an Individual member.

She was appointed a Life Member of NCWV in 2016. At her funeral she was remembered as a caring, humble, gentle lady, always cheerful with a good sense of humour.



Beverley K with Betty



Eleanor Sumner: 31.5.1934 - 19.3.2023. Eleanor was born in Epping the second of three daughters. Her father worked at farming and was an early captain of the Epping Country Fire Brigade Unit. While living at Eltham, Eleanor was pleased to be asked back each year to take part in the CFA Anzac Day ceremony and to read the ode.

At 18 she enlisted with the Australian Navy for a four-year term, being discharged to Matrimony in late 1954. While with the Women's Royal Australian Navy Service, she had several postings. After marriage to Ern, the family lived in Watsonia and in other places according to Ern's postings, including Hong Kong and Singapore.

Beginning with the Young Women's Christian Association YWCA Victoria asking Eleanor to be their delegate to the monthly meetings of the National Council of Women Victoria, Eleanor gradually became an active participant, drafting and presenting submission, taking up elected roles with NCWV in Victoria and nationally, and travelling with NCWA delegations to international meetings:

Delegate YWCA, Victorian State Council: 1976 – 2001/2002; NCWV Associate Member - c. 1976; 1984; 1989 - 2000

NCWV Executive:

1978 – Hon. Minute Secretary – Executive Meetings.

1979 – 1980 Exec. Committee, as Delegate YWCA VSC

1981 – 1982 - Vice President; 1983 - 1985 – President; 1986 – Immediate. Past President

1991 – 1992 Exec. Committee; 1993 – Co-option onto Exec. Committee.

1995 – Senior Vice President

NCWV Honorary Life Member: appointed: 2001-2002

NCW Australia - National Convenor – Women & Employment SC. 1993 - 1997.

International Council of Women:

Attended ICW General Assembly prior to 1991; Voting Member of Board – 1991 - 1997

Vice President: 1997 - 2003

In 1995 she was one of the Australian delegates to the United Nations Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen.

As Elisabeth noted The National Council of Women from the State and National levels through to the international body International Council of Women (especially after becoming a member of the ICW Board) was very important to Eleanor. She took her various responsibilities seriously working tirelessly for successful outcomes. She was particularly interested in Sustainable Development and Peace within a Human Rights framework.

Eleanor participated regularly in annual commemorations, at the Pioneer Women's Garden in the Domain, planting commemorative trees, and oversight of sites of significance.

At the same time as she made regular overseas trips to ICW meetings, she continued to work very effectively back in Victoria. Eleanor's involvement with community advocacy groups had included at the Health Issues Centre as a Member of the Board; with UNAA (Victoria) Status of Women Committee; with Women's Information Referral Exchange (WIRE) as a founding member; as delegate to Standards Australia (AS 1462 Barrier free design) for Consumer's Federation of Australia, and a term as a member of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Senior Victorians. In 2006 she was invited to join Northern Health's Consumer network, which met at Plenty Rd, Bundoora, next door to Vasey House in Tower Rd.

She was NCWV Representative to Freedom from Hunger – 1985/1986; and to the International Year of Peace - Women's Peace Garden (Newmarket) 1987 – 1990. Eleanor had a leading role for a community celebration in the Women's Peace Garden, the culmination of a City of Melbourne program arranged to celebrate the refurbishment of the garden and the 20th anniversary of its opening. Also an Urban Forest on Kororoit Creek at Altona in which NCWV was involved.

Nurcihan Ozturk remembered: *I first met Eleanor Sumner at a NCWV meeting. She asked who I was and where I was from, I told her my name and she said 'Well it's so nice to meet you, I have heard so many good things about you'. Later in a break Eleanor came up to me again and asked where I lived and I said in the Northern suburbs. Well! She said 'You will be my replacement on the Northern Health Consumer Advisory Committee'. 'From your experience and coming from a culturally diverse background you will give the Committee a run for their money. At the moment there are mainly men on the committee but there is a new chap coming on board David who is going to change that and the structure of the committee'... 8 years later I'm still on the Consumer Advisory Committee thanks to Eleanor. ...Eleanor was a huge inspiration to me she was a woman who would go out of her way to help others and she always made sure that people who were disadvantaged got looked after.* Contributed by Janet Galley OAM, Hon Archivist and Sheila Byard OAM



The Hon Judith Troeth AM, a Liberal member of the Australian Senate from 1993 to 2011, representing the State of Victoria,

was the keynote speaker. A trailblazer for rural women in politics, social justice and human rights, then Senator Troeth also achieved significant gains for women in health reform. The drug RU486 (the abortion pill) which induces abortion in the early stages of pregnancy, was under the control of the Therapeutic Drugs Administration (TGA) to approve its use.

The mid-1990s saw the Howard Government in power in Australia, with conservative Tasmanian Senator Brian Harradine holding the balance of power in the Senate. As a result of a political deal, Harradine pledged his support for Government bills, including the privatisation of Telstra, in return for the introduction of restrictions on women's reproductive rights. One of these restrictions was a ministerial veto on the importation of RU486 (mifepristone) and other medication abortion drugs.

In June 1996, the Therapeutic Goods Act was amended to introduce special procedures for drugs such as RU486, which are intended for use in medication abortion. Under this amendment the Health Minister was required to approve the importation, evaluation, registration and listing of these drugs, and any such ministerial approval had to be tabled in both houses of Federal Parliament within five sitting days. Lack of access to this drug greatly impacted on rural women.

In 2005 Senator Troeth assembled a working party across Party lines to develop a Private Members Bill to hand back decision making to the TGA. The *four* women in the Australian Parliament, who worked together were: Senator Claire Moore (ALP QLD), Senator Fiona Nash (NAT NSW), Senator Lyn Allison (Dems VIC), Senator Judith Troeth (LIB VIC).

These senators worked very hard promoting the importance to Australian women of the Bill with each enlisting their Senate and House of Representatives colleagues' support. Conscience votes were requested, to which Prime Minister Howard agreed. The Bill passed in a conscience vote in the Senate and was then moved to the House of Representatives. The senators wrote individual letters to the MPs on the morning of the vote. It was easily passed in February 2006. The drug then became available on the PBS with doctors permission and script.

Judith made the point that Party collaboration is most unusual, but it can work, as in this case. She voted against refugees being sent to Nauru, contrary to the Government Bill and was considered a traitor, but the legislation was withdrawn, only to be re-introduced a year later and passed.

See Children by Choice website for more information and articles. <https://www.childrenbychoice.org.au/>

ADVISER NEWS

Education Adviser – Pam Hammond - some recent Media Releases:

Virtual Author Program Gets Underway

Thousands of Victorian school students will be able to hear from their favourite authors and illustrators as this year's Virtual Author Program gets underway. Minister for Education Natalie Hutchins said the number of students participating in the program had increased significantly in recent years. Now in its seventh year, the Virtual Author Program involves well-known writers and illustrators holding online sessions where they read and talk to students across the state about their work and the importance of reading. The nine sessions will take place over the school year and are set to feature authors Morris Gleitzman, Kirli Saunders and Adrian Beck, plus many more. The funding support enables thousands of Victorian government school students to take part, with an estimated 50,000 students from all over the state participating in 2022.

Students can engage with books as part of this year's Premiers' Reading Challenge. The Challenge asks children below school age to experience 40 books with their parents or carers; children from Prep to Year 2 to read 30 books with or without assistance; and students in Years 3 to 10 to read 15 books. More than 15,000 books feature on the Challenge list. Children can read picture books, short stories, poems or non-fiction books in any language as part of the Challenge. Since the Challenge began in 2005, more than 4 million students in Victoria have read 57 million books. For more information, visit:

www.vic.gov.au/premiers-reading-challenge.

New Partnership to Deliver More Kinder Places in Latrobe

Minister for Early Childhood and Pre-Prep Ingrid Stitt today announced the \$3.68 million partnership, which will fund two kindergarten projects and create more than 100 new places for local kids to attend Three-Year-Old Kindergarten. The partnership includes \$680,000 to upgrade and expand Parklane Preschool, increasing the kindergarten's capacity to provide up to 48 places for three-year-old children. Work will start this year, with the renovated kindergarten to open in 2024.

A further \$3 million will fund a new three-room modular kindergarten accommodating more than 100 places as part of the Pax Hill Kindergarten in Traralgon. The new facility is scheduled to open in 2025. With more than 150 kindergarten places available at both services, increased capacity will help more young families in Traralgon access a quality local kindergarten. Families across the Latrobe Valley will also benefit from this Building Blocks Partnership, with planning under way for future kindergarten expansion projects in the region. This latest Building Blocks Partnership brings the total number to 10, after the first agreement was signed with the City of Wyndham in 2021.

Through the \$14 billion Best Start, Best Life reform, the Victorian Government is delivering an ambitious transformation of early childhood education over the next decade to help children thrive, save families money and support parents, especially women, return to work if they choose. With 30 locations already announced, including Yallourn North–Glengarry, growing families can look forward to more kindergarten and childcare options in their local area by 2028.

Early Childhood Education <https://www.vic.gov.au/early-childhood-update-march-2023>

Kim Little, Deputy Secretary, announced the following initiatives – **repeated from March Newsletter:**

Support for culturally and linguistically diverse families



The Department has funded 22 local councils to employ culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) outreach workers, and provided funding to support these councils across Victoria to engage (CALD) outreach workers for early childhood education. CALD outreach workers help address barriers to kindergarten access and participation for children and families from CALD backgrounds. The outreach workers in these communities will also support families and children transition to school and support ongoing participation in education.

Free interpreting services for funded early childhood services

Language Loop provides free interpreting services for funded early childhood education services, including telephone, video and onsite interpreters. All interpreters are qualified and accredited. If you need support from an interpreter to engage with people in your community from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, Language Loop can help.

These services support our equity and diversity goals outlined in the [Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework](#), in particular our focus on recognising multilingualism as an asset and supporting children to maintain their first language, learn English as an additional language, and learn languages other than English.

Access translated information resources to support CALD families

The Department's new webpage provides a range of audio, video and text resources for cultural and linguistically diverse families. The Department has launched a new [webpage](#) for services to support cultural and linguistically diverse (CALD) families to enrol and participate in kindergarten programs, including information on programs relevant to CALD families, as well as translated resources for services and providers to communicate with families about the benefits of kindergarten.

Time To Apply For 2024 School Places

The Government is making it easier, clearer and fairer for young families enrolling kids into Prep, with a new process providing standardised dates and forms for all government schools. Minister for Education Natalie Hutchins said the new approach to enrolling children into Prep will streamline the process for families, with applications now accepted **from the start of Term 2 until July 28**. Parents and carers will receive offer letters back by August 11, while applications received after July 28 will be considered by schools as they are received.

Families with children in Year 6 will receive a Placement Information Pack at the start of Term 2 which includes an Application for **Year 7 Placement Form, to be submitted by May 12**, with students across Victoria receiving offer letters on July 19.

Families applying for places at their local government school can now also access the updated *Find my School* website, which gives parents and carers the latest information on school zones. First launched four years ago, the *Find my School* website allows families to find their designated neighbourhood government school and other nearby government schools, giving them clarity on what their options are for their children. It now includes 14 new schools and campuses set to open in 2024, along with small changes to existing school zones to reflect changes in school provision and adjustments to improve accessibility for all students. Schools can be found by typing in a residential address or searching by school name or categories such as primary, secondary, or specialist school. Families can search their school zone by visiting findmyschool.vic.gov.au, and more information on the enrolment process is available at vic.gov.au/starting-school.

30 Million Breakfast Club Meals and Counting

The Government has supported millions of Victorian kids to start the day right, with the 30 millionth breakfast served and further funding announced to deliver even more healthy meals for kids across the state. Benefiting Victorian students who need a helping hand, the School Breakfast Club supports thousands of kids to start their school day with a nutritious breakfast and help them get the most out of their education.

Visiting St Albans Secondary College, Minister for Education Natalie Hutchins highlighted the success of the initiative and announced that participating schools will receive a \$2,000 grant towards kitchen appliances, available to schools in coming weeks. The Government's \$2.18 million investment will provide participating schools with the opportunity to order kitchen appliances (fridges, freezers, microwaves, toasters, sandwich presses, blenders, rice cookers) **until the end of Term 2, 2023.**

The program provides free healthy food for students and includes:

- delivery of healthy breakfasts in 1,000 primary, secondary, P-12 and specialist schools
- nutritious lunches and home food supplies for students in need
- practical cooking classes for families at 100 disadvantaged schools

The program has also played a vital role in providing food relief to school communities during periods of emergency and natural disaster, such as bushfires and recent flood events.

Making Kids Sport More Affordable for Families In 2023

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence has announced that applications for the *Get Active Kids Voucher Program* are open. Eligible families can apply for vouchers of up to \$200 and use them at their registered Get Active Kids Voucher Activity Provider without having to worry about upfront costs. The vouchers can help pay for sporting equipment, uniforms and memberships in a range of activities – even learn to swim classes for toddlers. Almost 80,000 vouchers have been snapped up in previous rounds. To be eligible, kids must be aged 18 and under, a Victorian resident, named on a valid Commonwealth Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card and named on a valid Medicare Card. Applications **close on 10 May.**

A special consideration stream is available to support children residing in Victorian Care Services, temporary or provisional visa holders, undocumented migrants and international students aged 18 and under. Clubs, associations and organisations can register as a *Get Active Kids Voucher Activity Provider* to be able to redeem vouchers. They must be affiliated with a recognised state sporting association or equivalent governing body. For more information: getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers.

Adviser Robyn Byrne: Ged Kearney MP *Single women without children and navigating the medical sector*

Robyn attended this meeting and found it was a good discussion about women and the medical sector. One issue the Assistant Minister for Health and Age Care, Ged Kearney, talked about was women being over medicated because most drug testing is done on men until 2019 and designed for men not women.



Robyn spoke to Ged about the issue surrounding identification and treatment of cancer of the uterus. She was already aware of this and has given a speech to the Ovarian Cancer Foundation: <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-ged-kearney-mp/media/speech-to-the-ovarian-cancer-foundations-teal-ribbon-breakfast-7-february-2023?language=en> Here are key points from her press release with the Assistant Minister saying the government was committed to funding:

- implementing TRACEBACK Project that aims to prevent ovarian and other cancers by identifying Australian families at significant genetic risk of cancer.
- Working through the Action Plan for Ovarian Cancer research, and our commitment to increase cancer survival rates, decrease the incidence of the disease, and assist those living with the disease and their families.
- Improve timely diagnosis by enhancing health professionals' awareness that the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer are vague, but persistent, and early investigation is essential.
- Treatments of ovarian cancer In the last five years have changed, including: how chemotherapy is given, individualised treatment, trials in targeted biological therapies (immunotherapies), advances in surgical treatments for small tumours.
- Early detection: population screening tests (e.g. for breast, cervical and bowel cancer) are associated with significant improvements in early diagnosis as well as better survival rates overall. There is no reliable test for early ovarian cancer, but research is underway to try to develop screening tests to detect ovarian cancer at earlier stages and improve outcomes for women with ovarian cancer. Current research is looking into new ways to screen for ovarian cancer by investigating blood and tissue samples from women with ovarian cancer.

SHEILA BYARD OAM: NCWV Convenor Status of Women at the meeting of Friends of Royal Park, & Royal Park Protection Group, March 18: "National Council of Women (Victoria) Affiliates 1988 Bicentennial Planting in Royal Park"

The 'Grove of Honour' was a 1988 Bicentennial Authority project where the National Council of Women (Victoria) Affiliates, undertook a large planting of 2000 native trees and shrubs in Royal Park, along the Flemington Road side of the park, west of the earlier Royal Children's Hospital building. The idea for the project echoed the creation of a 'garden of remembrance' in the King's Domain, part of the 1934-35 Melbourne Centenary and supported by the Victorian Women's Centenary Council. By the 1980s, environmental awareness was rising, along with appreciation of Australian native plants. This led to the statement by the National Council of Women of Victoria Affiliates:

“Trees ... used and abused throughout history, are at last regaining their rightful place in our environmentally conscious society, in which National Council of Women of Victoria’s Affiliates, Associates, friends and supporters are active participants.” Additionally, there was a move away from formal plantings of memorial and civic tree avenues.

Sheila traced the background history and involvement of many women in the project, often through schools, such as University High School, in building a coalition of interest in enhancing and protecting parkland. Notable figures included Sylvia Gelman, former Head Girl from University HS Marjorie Oke, Alice Hoy, Morna Sturrock, Annette Ogden, Ruth Crow. Part of the aim of the project was production of a Grove of Honour Memorial Volume with the names of the participating women’s organisations and the erection of a plaque commemorating the event.

The ‘Grove of Honour’ was based on the Melbourne City Council’s Parks Department 1985 Landscape Development Plan, one of the main aspects of which was landscape character and planting design. Thus, the planting plan was prepared for a site along the Flemington Road side of the park – on rising ground around two sports fields, one each side of the tramline.



A planting list of native trees and shrubs was prepared with plants supplied by the City of Melbourne. On Sunday, 13 November, 1988, *“people came with gardening tools and buckets in their hundreds, from the city, from the country ... in three hot dry windy hours, two thousand native trees and shrubs planted in memory of those who were gone before us, to honour the living and in the hope of a safeguarded future for those who will follow.”*

Photographs of the day showed Lord Mayor Winsome McCaughey (left) with Sylvia Gelman MBE, President of the National Council of Women of Victoria (right) and the memorial plaque fixed on a stone base.

Sheila searched for information about this significant event in Royal Park, identifying the site, any trees from the 1988 Bicentennial planting, searching for the plaque, contacting people involved at the time, and tracking down the Memorial Volume. The new Royal Children’s Hospital was built on the eastern section of the Grove of Honour. Supposedly the plaque was lodged with the RCH, but finding it is proving a protracted task. A presentation copy of the Memorial Volume is held by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and proved to be a key source of information.

“Could this be a tree planted in 1988?”

Sheila finished with lessons from the Grove of Honour story: plantings have all but disappeared from the park record; any records within Council are hard to find ... calling into question Council’s trusteeship of Royal Park; and the plaque taken for safekeeping, with no record of whereabouts. Fortunately, the Memorial Volume allows the project, its participants and meaning to be revisited. The 1988 Bicentennial Grove of Honour project demonstrated how wide public engagement could be built – “can this be applied today in the Voice referendum” Sheila asked.



Grove of Honour Plaque: Sylvia G, Annette Sweeney, Dr Morna Sturrock

OTHER NEWS

Supporting Future Women Councillors and Mayors

Applications have opened for the second round of the Labor Government’s Women Leading Locally Program, which aims to build gender equality on local government councils by 2025.

Program is equipping 125 local leaders with connections and tools to campaign as candidates in the 2024 council elections.

At the last local government elections in 2020, Victoria set a new national record for female representation with women making up 43.8 per cent of elected councillors. The Women Leading Locally Program is delivered by the Institute of Community Directors Australia in partnership with Women for Election – the first round has provided training and mentoring to 60 women from local government areas with low female representation.

Hume resident Emily Greco began the program in 2022. The Youth Voice Manager at YMCA Victoria is looking forward to combining the training she is receiving with her passion for inspiring and empowering young people to create the change they want to see in the world. Ms Greco is supported by Frankston City Councillor Sue Baker, drawing on her experience working in corporate, not-for-profit, and local government organisations to help more women make their voices heard.

Round two applications for the Women Leading Locally Program **are open until Friday, 14 April.** localgovernment.vic.gov.au.

New Scholarships Build Expertise in Crime Prevention

University scholarships for a ground-breaking graduate certificate are elevating crime prevention in the community. Minister for Crime Prevention Anthony Carbines recently awarded three scholarships for Australia's first Graduate Certificate in Crime Prevention to recipients at a ceremony at Victoria University's city campus. The Government is providing the scholarships as part of its Crime Prevention Strategy, supporting the community to upskill in key crime prevention practice and knowledge. Designed by Victoria University in partnership with the Department of Justice and Community Safety, the four-unit course will allow students to gain an understanding of key research and effective, evidence-based crime prevention strategies, as well as developing expertise in planning, implementation and evaluation. The course is the first of its kind to be offered in Australia and is designed to build the skills of people working in the community and strengthen the impact of crime prevention initiatives across the state. <https://www.vu.edu.au/courses/graduate-certificate-in-crime-prevention-ltcp> The program will provide flexibility to accommodate students' employment and other commitments, with part-time and hybrid online and class-based learning options available. Students who complete the course can also choose to continue their studies to gain a Master of Criminology qualification.

NCWV welcomes this course and the scholarships awarded and the Government's investment in crime prevention initiatives, supporting almost 950 projects that increase community safety and confidence across Victoria.

Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinics

The Federal Government is delivering Australia's first of these clinics across all states and territories. The 20 Clinics will provide expert, multidisciplinary services and care for women with endometriosis and pelvic pain, making specialised care available to more women with at least one clinic in every state and territory in regional and metropolitan locations.

Endometriosis affects at least 1 in 9 Australian women and can have an extensive, devastating impact on the daily lives of sufferers. Pelvic pain can be similarly complex and debilitating, with the impact being felt beyond individuals as it is estimated to cost the Australian economy \$6 billion a year.

The Clinics will each receive more than \$700,000 over four years to support hiring specialised staff, including nurse practitioners and allied health professionals, investment in equipment or fit-outs such as pelvic physiotherapy areas, as well as resources, training and development.

Working in existing general practice, the clinics will strengthen what is often the first point of contact in the health system to reduce diagnostic delays and promote early access to multi-disciplinary intervention, care and treatment.

As well as directly helping patients, the clinics will raise awareness of endometriosis and pelvic pain, build professional knowledge and skills in this area, and improve access to information and care pathways.

Patients will be able to access the clinics by booking an appointment at one of the 20 clinics.

In Victoria:	EACH Practice	Ringwood East, VIC	Eastern Melbourne PHN
	Bendigo Community Health Services	Bendigo, VIC	Murray PHN
	Kardinia Health	Belmont, VIC	Western Victoria PHN
	Lyndoch Medical Hub	Warrnambool, VIC	Western Victoria PHN

The Hon Ged Kearney MP, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care said "These Clinics are about providing women with an accessible front door to the care that they need. Gathering expertise under one roof, fostering that knowledge to improve diagnosis and services, having referral pathways in place – these are all crucial elements to getting the support that women need right. The recognition of endometriosis and pelvic pain as serious conditions has been a long and hard-fought battle from advocates in the sector and communities. I want to say to those people – thank you and we're listening.

NCWV applauds this initiative, but also recognises the work being done by the Pelvic Pain Foundation of Australia. PPFA is committed to supporting teenagers who suffer severe period pain, pelvic pain, and endometriosis to allow them to fulfill their potential and live the best life possible. To do this, they are committed to bringing medically responsible, positive, and interactive education to schools in Australia.

NCWV Members and friends may contact schools with which they have links if they would like their students to have a PPEP Talk®. They can contact Kirsty at ppeptalkvic@pelvicpain.org.au or phone 08 8291 7923 for details. Janet Hailes Michelmores AO daughter of Jean Hailes stated at a recent meeting that amongst other issues JHWH had advocated for Endometriosis Clinics to be established across Australia. While this now has been successful the new challenge was finding highly skilled workforce to establish these clinics. See: <https://www.jeanhailes.org.au/>

Five Years of Free Sexual and Reproductive Health Advice

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas has celebrated the fifth anniversary of *1800 My Options* - a free, judgment-free and confidential statewide service available to all Victorian women, providing information on contraception, pregnancy options including abortion and sexual health. Hosted by Women's Health Victoria, *1800 My Options* operates a telephone and online information service that includes a database of more than 600 sexual and reproductive health service providers in the state.

Since launching in 2018, the number of people using the service has steadily grown with more than 200,000 Victorians accessing their services online, and the phoneline receiving on an average of 600 callers per month - cementing its role as an integral part of the Victoria's sexual and reproductive healthcare system.

The State Government invested more than \$2.7 million to develop, maintain and grow **1800 My Options – 1800 696 784** which has expanded its call-taking hours, with the ability to scale up and down to meet the increasing demand.

The Government is working to deliver a comprehensive package that ensures all women – no matter where they live or how much they earn – can access the dedicated health services they need.

The network of sexual and reproductive health hubs will be expanded, creating nine additional locations – giving more women access to services and advice on contraception, pregnancy options and sexual health. As part of this package, the Government will double the number of surgeries for endometriosis and associated conditions, with an estimated 10,800 extra laparoscopies over the next four years – as well as \$20,000 scholarships for 100 more women's healthcare specialists - giving Victorian women more specialist options.

Planning is underway now on each phase of these reforms, and we will continue to work closely with the health sector and community, making sure Victorian women and gender diverse people get the care they need.

Cheaper Bills and Money In Your Pocket: Power Saving Bonus Is Back

Acting Minister for Energy and Resources Ingrid Stitt has launched the fourth round of the Government's Power Saving Bonus, with every Victorian household eligible to receive \$250 when they access the Victorian Energy Compare website – even those who received payments under previous rounds. Applications for the payment can be made through the Victorian Energy Compare website, which gives customers access to the best energy offers in their areas – potentially saving hundreds of dollars. Households needing help to apply can call the Victorian Energy Compare helpline on 1800 000 832 to apply over the phone or be connected by an outreach partner in their community.

The Program is a \$3.75 million initiative that will help Victorians struggling with power bills to navigate the energy market, apply for eligible grants and concessions, find and switch to better offers and address billing errors.

For those without internet access, phone and in-person support is available through the Community Outreach Partners – including Anglicare Victoria, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Community Information and Support Victoria, Ethnic Community Council Victoria, Good Shepherd, State Trustees and Neighbourhood Houses across Victoria.

To apply, visit compare.energy.vic.gov.au. To speak to an Energy Assistance Program advocate, call 1800 161 215.

From VCOSS:



New Changing Places grants Changing Places make Victoria more inclusive and accessible for people with disability who have higher support requirements by providing suitable facilities for people who cannot use standard accessible toilets. A new Victorian Government grant round is now open to build more Changing Places across the state. Grants of up to \$180,000 are now available, including for not-for-profit organisations to build a Changing Place in their local community.

Priority will be given to applications:

- which do not have a Changing Places in their municipality
- that are able to demonstrate an identified need from people with disability, their families, friends, and carers for a Changing Places facility in their local community
- that can provide evidence of the extent of local support for the proposed Changing Places facility.

Eligible organisations are invited to **apply before 14 April 2023**. Find out more: [Changing Places grant funding round webpage](#)



Inquiries and advocacy opportunities

Australian Bureau of Statistics

The **ABS** is undertaking a review of topics for the 2026 Census. Public consultation helps to inform recommendations to the Australian Government on the topics that could be included in the Census. The ABS wants to understand what information is needed but not currently collected. Phase one of the consultation is **open until 28 April 2023**. Take part [here](#).

Postal services modernisation

The Federal **Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts** wants to hear from the Australian community about the postal services you want and need now and into the future. Your input will help modernise postal and related services. Get more information and participate [here, until 27 April](#).

Mission Australia Survey

Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2023 is now open. Now in its 22nd year, it's the largest online survey of its kind in Australia and provides an important annual snapshot into the experiences and views of young people aged 15-19.

Take the survey, [or share it with a young person](#) so that their views are heard. **Open from March – August.**



Celebrating International Women and Girls on Science Day – repeated from March Newsletter:

Marking the eighth annual UN International Women and Girls in Science Day, Minister for Education Natalie Hutchins said the upcoming Trades Fit Expo represents an excellent opportunity for female and non-binary students to explore career opportunities in STEM fields. The Trades Fit is an expo hosted by the Department of Education for female and non-binary students in years 9-12. **Held over 10-11 May** at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, the expo allows students to experience exciting career opportunities in traditionally male-dominated fields through interactive experiences and conversation with industry, in a way that focuses on their perspectives.

Community Housing Industry Assoc Victoria's 2023 conference; **26 & 27 April**

CHIA Victoria's hallmark community housing conference, '*Vision & Practice: Leading the way*', Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, offers two days of learning, insights, inspiration and practical advice. The first in-person CHIA Vic conference in five years, the event offers more than 50 speakers across 19 sessions, plus plenty of networking opportunities.

[Book tickets.](#)

Humanitech Summit

This is Australia's flagship event at the intersection of technology, social innovation, and humanitarian action. Led by Humanitech, an initiative of Red Cross, the 2023 Summit will explore how technology can be used in ways that benefit people and society. A full day of thought-provoking and insightful sessions from leading thinkers at the forefront of change.

Wednesday 17 May 2023, State Library Victoria, [Register Now](#)

ZONTA Melbourne on Yarra: JANE M KLAUSMAN WOMEN IN BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Zonta Melbourne on Yarra Club encourages and welcomes applications from aspiring students who plan to become the business leaders of the future. Women of any age pursuing a business program are eligible to apply. Candidates must be enrolled in an accredited business program in a bachelor's or master's degree in accounting, finance, business management, marketing, operations management, human resource management, international business or entrepreneurship.

The program is designed to encourage women to enter careers and seek leadership positions in business related fields in their communities and throughout the world. The JMK Women in Business Scholarships look to women of today to be leaders of tomorrow. The Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra will award AU\$1000 to the successful applicant, who will then go on to be considered for District/International award of US\$5000 each. Further information and application form at:

<https://zontamelbourneonyarra.org.au/wp1/jane-m-klausman-women-in-business-award/> **Closes on Friday May 26th**



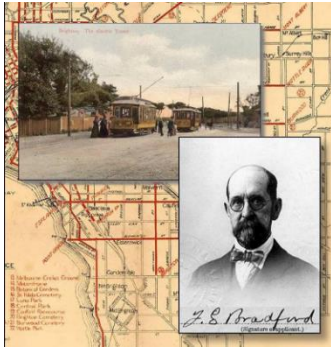
LAW AND ORDER UNDER LA TROBE: THE FIRST PRISONS OF PORT PHILLIP, **Tuesday APRIL 18 @ 5:30 PM-7:00 PM**



The RHSV, in partnership with the C J La Trobe Society, presents the annual A. G. L. Shaw lecture delivered by Dr Ashleigh Green, the La Trobe Society Fellow at State Library of Victoria. Dr Green has investigated the planning and construction of the first purpose-built penal and psychiatric institutions in the Port Phillip District and Colony of Victoria during the La Trobe administration (1839-1854). Her project provides an in-depth history of the construction and early administration of four of these key institutions, and how they set the precedent for the design and construction of gaols, prisons, and asylums in the colony that came after.

Ashleigh is currently working on a book that explores the prisons and prisoners of Port Phillip from 1835 to 1857.

There will be catered refreshments served before the lecture from 5:30pm – 6pm; cost: **\$35 – \$50**



THOMAS BENT, FRANCIS BRADFORD & ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS IN MELBOURNE 1904-1909

In our first co-presentation for 2023 with Engineering Heritage Victoria, Ken McInnes will speak about the controversies surrounding the electrification of Melbourne's suburban railway system. In 1904, electrical and mechanical engineer Francis Edwin Bradford (1869-1927), a recognised American electric tramways pioneer, was controversially contracted directly by Thomas Bent, Victorian Minister of Railways, and Premier, to report on and progressively electrify Melbourne's suburban railway system. Bent delayed this, requesting Bradford design and supervise construction of an electric tramway from St.Kilda to Brighton, which did not sit well with the Railway Commissioners. After Bradford completed the work, Bent asked him to operate system and extend it to Brighton Beach. Controversy continued.

A hybrid presentation on **Thursday APRIL 20 @ 5:30 PM-7:00 PM** Cost \$10 <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/>



Historical Walks, Princes Hill in Carlton: **Saturday April 22nd 10:00-12:00pm**

These walks are run by the Princes Hill Community Centre in conjunction with the Carlton Community History Group. To register, contact Princes Hill Community Centre: www.princeshill.org.au

Email: enquiries@princeshill.org.au Phone: 9387 7740.

This tour takes you around an interesting and historic part of Carlton to hear its history and the history of iconic places such as Princes Park and the Carlton Football Ground.

Investing in the Next Generation of Victorian Agriculture

Applications for the 2023 *Upskill and Invest Young Farmers Scholarships* are now open, providing an opportunity for young farmers across the state to gain valuable new skills and invest in their future. Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney has launched this year's *Upskill and Invest Young Farmers Scholarship*, encouraging the next generation of farmers to apply and contribute to the future of Victoria's vibrant agriculture sector. The program offers scholarships of up to \$10,000 with each recipient initially receiving up to \$5,000 to support their training and study, and up to \$5,000 to invest in putting their new skills into practice. Successful applicants can receive training in areas such as business and risk management, genetics and pasture management, digital agriculture or adapting to climate change. When they complete their studies, they can invest in professional development and business planning, on-farm practices or equipment and technology.

Applications are open to farmers aged 35 and under who have been working in farm businesses for at least three days a week for the past three months, with at least two years total experience on-farm. **Applications will close on 8 May.**

To learn more about the program and to apply for a scholarship, visit the [Agriculture Victoria website](https://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au).

For young farmers ready to expand their leadership skills and work with government, expressions of interest are now open for the next Young Farmers Advisory Council.

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; raising awareness of gender equality; act as a voice on issues and concerns of women and girls at 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 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."*

National Council of Women of Victoria Meeting dates for 2023

April	17 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
April	20 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
May	4 th	Thursday	May Forum & Council Meeting	12:00	Zoom and RH
May	8 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
May	18 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
June	1 st	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meetings	11:00, 12:15	Zoom and RH
June	19 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
June	15 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
July	6 th	Thursday	Council Meeting	17:15	Zoom and RH
July	10 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
July	20 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
August	3 rd	Thursday	Individual Members Annual Meeting; & Council Meeting	11:00, 12:15	Zoom and RH
August	14 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
August	17 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
September	7 th	Thursday	AGM	12:15	Zoom and RH
September	11 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
September	21 st	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
October	5 th	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meetings	11:00, 12:15	Zoom and RH
October	9 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
October	19 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom and RH
November	2 nd	Thursday	Council Meeting	17:15	Zoom and RH
November	13 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
November	16 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
November	30 th	Thursday	Annual Luncheon	12:00	In person
December	7 th	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meetings	11:00, 12:15	Zoom and RH