

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: *Cut the umbilical cords behind and before. Let no tugs pull or push this liner as she makes her way under her own steam, forging her own path through waves and storms.*
Jean M. Sietzema-Dickson, in *The Whirling Spindle*, NCWV 1992

From the President, Ronniet Milliken



Vice Regal Patronage

The Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Linda Dessau AM, is nearing the end of her eight-year term on 30 June 2023.

NCWV thanks Her Excellency for the eight years of patronage to our organisation and to many others.

President Ronniet Milliken and Civic & Citizenship Convenor and Editor Pam Hammond represented NCWV at the Reception by the Governor to mark the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla. The Governor spoke of the continuing deep interest of the King in the people and environment of Victoria unabated since his education here some 50 years ago, and of Queen Camilla's interests including prevention of family violence, an issue of keen interest to the Governor given her judicial experience in the Family Court. She also spoke of the involvement of the Government House team in Victoria, volunteering for FareShare, and in the UK packing books for children in families involved in the prison system to continue familial connection.

We caught up with representatives of Girl Guides Victoria, ALGWA Victoria (celebrating 60 years this year), and members of the Bhutanese and Colombian communities.



Pam & Ronniet

Oration on the contributions of Governors' spouses

President Ronniet Milliken, Vice President Elida Brereton, and Standing Committee Convenor Dr Deborah Towns OAM, represented NCWV at the Governor's Oration delivered by Her Excellency at Government House Victoria. The Governor highlighted that, although she is the first female in the role, the influence of many women has been felt at Government House, and throughout the wider Victorian community, over the last 170 years. Following research undertaken during COVID, Her Excellency touched on hardships experienced in colonial times, the intense scrutiny they endured and some of their finest initiatives – including initiatives involving organisations and past Governor's spouses, many present at this event.

We caught up with Dr Judith Smart of RHSV, Coral Ross OAM of Australian Gender Equity Council and ALGWA, and two representatives of the Bendigo Children's Choir that has performed at Carnegie Hall!

We have been informed by the Office of the Governor of Victoria, that it is customary for patronage to end with the end of the Governor's term and of the process to apply for such vice regal patronage in future.



Ronniet & Elida

ALGWA (Australian Local Government Women's Association)

I attended the ALGWA 2023 National Conference in May at the RACV Cape Schank. Attending the conference provided an opportunity to strengthen our network with stakeholder ALGWA Victoria, (and nationally). Of particular relevance to NCWV was information about the support and mentoring ALGWA provides to new women council candidates and elected councillors, the drive to increase women candidates in the 2024 Local Government elections, variable terms of office for councillors depending on local government rules with or without maximum terms, the practice of ALGWA to provide an honorarium to the President, as a contribution to costs involved in fulfilment of that role, the benefits and issues of diversity in Councils/ Councillors and Officers, lead by Tasneem Chopra. Discussions with participants on the sidelines included NSW library policy regarding children's literature and the work of the Victorian Gender Equality Commissioner Nikki Vincent. Two highlights were the keynote speakers.

- Friday night [How Kath Koschel was inspired to start the Kindness Factory | The Canberra Times | Canberra, ACT](#)

- Saturday morning – the Hon Julie Bishop MP Ret about early family influences on her choice of the calling to be a politician after working as a commercial lawyer, her decision-making practices, relishing her role as ambassador for the Australia fashion industry, with exports valued at more than wine and beer sectors combined!

NCWV Geelong Branch 77th Annual Luncheon

Monday 26th June, 12 noon; St Mary's Sporting Pavilion Kardinia Park, LaTrobe Tce, Newtown (parking on site)

Speaker: Prof Cassandra Szoeki Phd FRACP MBBS BSc University of Melbourne. Author of "Secrets of Women's Healthy Ageing"

Cost: \$70 per person (advise on dietary requirements)

RSVP June 16: Helen Rodd – 5222 7327;

Anne Parton – 5241 9344



Pledge your support.

Donating to WIRE always has a big impact - but you can double it when you donate during **WIRE Giving Week from Monday 5 - Friday 9 June 2023.**

Pledge to donate now so they can remind you on a day that suits you, in a way that suits you, during WIRE Giving Week. Every dollar raised during WIRE Giving Week will be doubled by their generous supporters at Nicholes Family Lawyers and fey futures. Every donation to WIRE is tax deductible - and with the end of financial year is right around the corner, everyone's a winner.

NCWV Individual Members' Excursion: Minnie Peden at the Jewish Museum of Australia and Synagogue, May 25, was well received by all. Elisabeth Newman AM:

Beverley Kannegiesser arranged the visit and Malvina Malinek organised a luncheon afterwards at Glicks Cakes and Bagels in Carlisle Street, ably assisted by Rysia Rozen OAM, "to complete the Jewish experience". Our Guide at the Museum literally walked us through a timeline of history of the Jewish people from the middle east in antiquity to migration to Melbourne/Sydney Australia in the 20th century. We went to the Synagogue, learning something of the religion and culture of the Jewish people. It was wonderful to meet Lisa Ezekiel, CEO of NCJW Victoria after many months of email contact.



Pam Hammond & Nina Richol at Glicks



FOR OUR ELDERS

NATIONAL NAIDOC WEEK 2-9 JULY 2023

2 – 9 July 2023

National NAIDOC Week theme 2023 is For Our Elders.

"Across every generation, Elders have played, and continue to play, an important role and hold a prominent place in our communities and families. They are cultural knowledge holders, trailblazers, nurturers, advocates, teachers, survivors, leaders, and our loved ones who pick us up in our low moments and celebrate us in our high ones. Who cook us a feed to comfort us and pull us into line, when we need them too. They guide our generations and pave the way for us to take the paths we can take today. Guidance, not only through generations of advocacy and activism, but in everyday life and how to place ourselves in the world."

"We draw strength from their knowledge and experience, in everything from land management, cultural knowledge to justice, human rights, health, education, politics, the arts, they have set the many courses we follow."

"Equality we continue to fight for is found in their fight. Their tenacity and strength has carried the survival of our people. Their influence and learnings ensure that when it comes to future decision making for our people, there is nothing about us - without us. We pay our respects to the Elders we've lost and to those who continue fighting for us across all our Nations and we pay homage to them.

In 2023, how will you celebrate For Our Elders?"



Pauline Neil, Director, MH Training

Pauline Neil is a dedicated professional with over 30 years of experience in mental health and suicide prevention. She has provided training to schools, communities, and workplaces for more than a decade.

As Co-Founder and board director of Youth Live4Life, an acclaimed organisation for mental health education and youth suicide prevention in rural and regional communities, Pauline spoke on ***The role of community in youth mental health and suicide prevention - How a model to address this was born.***

Pauline initially showed a short video: [What is Live4Life? — Live4Life](#)

Youth Live4Life is a registered health promotion charity, bringing together rural and regional communities to improve youth mental health and wellbeing. We do this by empowering communities to implement Live4Life, the only mental health education and youth suicide prevention model designed specifically for rural and regional communities.

Live4Life communities deliver Teen and accredited Youth Mental Health First Aid training in schools and the wider community, create local partnerships to lead conversations about mental health that reduce stigma, and promote young leaders as mental health ambassadors. There are four key components of the Live4Life model:

1. [Support, coordination and mentoring from Youth Live4Life's staff](#): Youth Live4Life staff provide guidance, support and problem-solving assistance on a regular basis. This includes:

Providing expertise in implementing the Live4Life model; Support on the ground in each community (usually every 1-2 months) and weekly-fortnightly help desk support; Relationship management and partnership brokerage skills; Networking opportunities with other Live4Life Partnership Groups and Crews; Guidance and mentoring, specifically in the youth participation and peer-to-peer components of the model.

2. [School and community partnerships](#): The local School and Community Partnership Group is an essential component of the Live4Life model. It requires representation and commitment from senior personnel from local secondary schools, local government, community and health services. This includes partnerships with Aboriginal Elders.

This group drives the implementation of Live4Life in the community, and is key to achieving collective impact. The partnership group meets at least quarterly and requires administration and coordination support.

3. [Mental health training](#): Through the delivery of evidence-based suicide prevention and mental health education in the community, the Live4Life model ensures consistent, research-based messages, knowledge and language circulates within the community. This is essential to reducing stigma, increasing mental health literacy and encouraging positive help-seeking behaviours. This component includes:

Identifying and training local community members, enabling them to become accredited Youth and Teen Mental Health First Aid instructors; Delivering Youth Mental Health First Aid courses to teachers, parents, carers and community leaders; Delivering teen Mental Health First Aid courses to all year 8 and year 10-11 students across all schools in the community, tailored for each age group.

By investing in the recruitment and training of local instructors to deliver Mental Health First Aid training in their community, the Live4Life model enables communities to build capacity and ensure long-lasting impact by up-skilling locals, and ensuring they can maintain the mental health education of young people and community at little to no cost.

4. ["The Crew" - Live4Life's youth leadership and participation program](#): Student representatives from years 9 and 10 from each participating local school can express interest in joining a local Live4Life Crew. The role of The Crew is to assist in the delivery of events and drive key Live4Life messages at their school and in their community. The Crew is supported by the local council. Crew members are engaged, active and invested in the mental health education and literacy of their peers and wider community. They become mental health advocates and Live4Life ambassadors. The Crew provides young people with the opportunity to be leaders in their local area, and to advocate for mental health support and education in an ongoing and empowering way.



The Live4Life youth suicide prevention and mental health education model, operating in the Macedon Ranges since 2010 was the first program developed as a result of the increased youth suicides particularly in rural areas. Youth Live4Life was established in 2015 to independently facilitate and govern the expansion of this. There were 600 young people from four regional schools who met for a day to introduce the program – run by young people for young people. In 2017, Youth Live4Life piloted the Live4Life model in the Rural City of Benalla and in the Glenelg Shire. The Youth Live4Life model is now being implemented in nine rural communities with more than 20 rural communities keen to become involved.

Pauline stressed that the training gives people a dialogue to use when discussing and sharing mental health issues. People are more aware of mental health signs and are speaking to the young people. The program is launched at the beginning of Year 8, then celebrated at a gathering at the end of the year. Students volunteer to be part of the 'crew' and can continue for one, two or three years after that. An Alumni has now been formed as many of the youth leaders wanted to stay in the program. Having boys as part of each 'crew' encourages them to talk about their issues and they can then speak with other boys. To encourage men to take on the Mental Health First Aid, Pauline has been holding the men only training at the local pub!

Pauline quoted data, including that 75% of people with mental health issues had their first episode in their adolescence. It is also the leading cause of death in Australian young people.

Further upskilling is needed within communities to support young people who are struggling and have limited professional support. The first 'crew' members are now 27 years old and some have been incentivised to move into this profession.

On the question of KPIs or other measures, the program has been evaluated by Ludowyk Evaluation, and Orygen the National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health in Benalla Rural City and Glenelg Shire. Macedon Ranges Shire Council have also evaluated Live4Life with the support of Dr Krystal Bowers, Clinical Psychologist. [Evaluations – Live4Life](#)

Live4Life is highlighted as a case study in the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System's Final Report illustrating "an example of a local organisation driving change in young people's lives".



NCVV members participating in the June Council Meeting by ZOOM, with Pauline Neil speaking on the left.

ADVISER NEWS

Education Adviser – Pam Hammond

The outstanding annual student event *My Vote My Voice*, conducted by NCWV, is again being held in the Legislative Council Chamber of Parliament House. **Monday 7th August, 9:00am - 12:30pm. Details on p.11**

Early Years Assessments

The Government has introduced a new initiative to assess early literacy skills, including phonics, for Grade 1 students, through an enhanced one-on-one assessment interview with teachers. It is pleasing to see that the Interview has maintained the assessment of the range of strategies that students use in developing their literacy skills.

The English Online Interview is an important resource for teachers, providing them with a point-in-time overview of student achievement, supporting student learning by informing teachers of the strengths and gaps in strategies students are using.

Backed by an investment of \$11.3 million, the new initiative further supports Grade 1 government school students in learning to read and communicate effectively. As in previous years, all Prep students are also assessed.

Schools and teachers have been provided with support like funded time release for teachers to learn to implement the new assessment, analyse results and design appropriate responses. This is an essential part of effective implementation.

The other vital assessment in the early years is the Maths On-line Interview which was developed as part of the Early Numeracy Research Project, in collaboration with Australian Catholic University, Monash and University of Melbourne. As with the English Online Interview, this requires teacher release to conduct the interview with each student, analyse the data to determine strengths and gaps, which then informs planning. This takes time but is highly effective in focussing planning and teaching, which long-term saves time.

NCWV complements the Government for funding the implementation of the English Online Interview, particularly the teacher release to conduct interviews, but would recommend that similar support is given to implement the Maths On-line Interview to ensure teachers have the data needed to most effectively move their students forward in their maths learning.

Nominations Open for Victorian Early Years Awards – A reminder

It's time for Victorians to nominate their most innovative, inspiring and dedicated early childhood teachers, educators, organisations and programs. In 2023, the awards will celebrate the leadership, outstanding achievement, dedication and innovation of early childhood professionals in a range of categories. The importance of Aboriginal inclusion and perspectives in ensuring all early childhood services are accessible to Koorie children and families will also be recognised, with a newly dedicated award commemorating the life and legacy of Yorta Yorta, Wiradjuri woman Auntie Rose Bamblett (1947 to 2022). Outstanding individual contributions will be recognised through the Early Childhood Teacher of the Year award and a new award – Educator of the Year – recognising the contribution educators make to early childhood services and children. All award winners will receive \$15,000 to support their professional development or further develop their program/initiative. All finalists will be considered for the Minister's Award, selected by Minister for Early Childhood and Pre-Prep Ingrid Stitt.

Nominations for the Victorian Early Years Awards close on 14 June, with finalists announced in September. For more information or to submit a nomination, visit vic.gov.au/victorian-early-years-awards.

Victoria's Longest-Serving Teachers Recognised

More than 300 Victorians have been recognised for their extraordinary contribution to education, with their dedication to schools, students and families earning them a Recognition of Service to Victorian Education honour. Minister for Education Natalie Hutchins has congratulated 304 staff on being honoured for 40, 45, 50 and 55 years of service to education in Victoria, highlighting the profound impact they've had on the lives of thousands of young Victorians during their careers.

Among those being honoured, Beverly Hansen who has served for 40 years – now the Principal at Dandenong West Primary School, Beverly was one of the final cohorts to begin their careers through the Studentship Teacher Colleges program.

After arriving in Victoria from Egypt, Farid Anawati used his engineering qualifications to teach physics and maths and has been a celebrated and continued part of Western Heights Secondary College for an astonishing 55 years.

English and history teacher at Camberwell High School Richard Geddes was also recognised for serving 55 years.

Some schools celebrating multiple recipients include:

- Ballarat High School with two 50 year recipients
- University High School with one 40 year recipient and one 50 year recipient
- Balwyn Primary School with one 40 year recipient, one 45 year recipient and one 50 year recipient.

The 2023 Recognition of Service ceremony took place on 21 May at the Pullman Melbourne on the Park.

Fellowships to Transform Teacher Practice and Student Learning

Media Release

Minister for Education Natalie Hutchins recently announced that 30 teachers from 26 government and non-government schools have been awarded Teaching Innovation Fellowships, sharing in more than \$770,000 as part of the Teaching Excellence program from the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership.

The Fellowships include funding, professional learning and mentoring for recipients to design and implement a 12-month innovation project to address an identified critical challenge in their classrooms or schools.

Fellowships will enable and support excellent teachers to be agents of change in their schools and across the education system, while the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership will ensure their key learnings and experiences are shared with teachers and school leaders across the state. The Fellowships are funded through the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership in which the State Government has invested \$148.2 million over four years, enabling exceptional teachers to design professional learning solutions for teachers led by teachers.

Natalie Hutchins said *“The Academy’s Teaching Innovation Fellowships present a wonderful opportunity for recipients to implement an innovation project that transforms teacher practice and student learning in their classrooms or schools.”*

World-Class Educator Learning Centre Opens in Moe

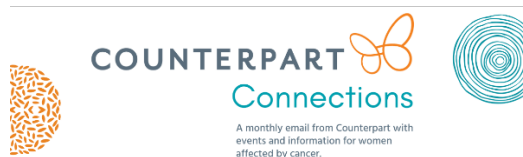
Media Release

Teachers and school leaders across Gippsland and Latrobe Valley will have access to world-class professional learning resources, with the state-wide expansion of the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership. Seven new centres will open across the state after a \$33.8 million investment by the State Government to deliver the Academy to regional locations, with Moe the third centre to open after Geelong and Ballarat. The initiative supports local teachers and school leaders across Gippsland and Latrobe Valley with a new hub now open to engage in development and training, offering a range of learning initiatives, programs and events dedicated to leadership and teaching excellence.

Establishment of the seven regional centres is an important new service for rural and regional schools, offering local teachers the opportunity to collaborate, learn and develop new skills and educational approaches that translate to better learning outcomes for regional and rural kids. Backing the needs of local school communities, each Academy will be supported by local teams and provide the same high quality professional learning as Academy’s metropolitan counterpart. The Academy is an Australian-first and dedicated to delivering teaching excellence and advanced professional learning for high-performing teachers and school leaders in government, Catholic and Independent schools.

For more information visit academy.vic.gov.au.

OTHER NEWS



Counterpart has a range of in-person and online sessions coming up. Including a [morning tea for women with metastatic/advanced cancer](#) in their Resource Centre on **the 7 June**. They now have the full program finalised for the [Bendigo wellbeing day](#) they are organising in partnership with the Cancer Wellness program at Bendigo Health on the **22 June**. [Bendigo wellbeing day for women with cancer - Counterpart](#)

Counterpart asks that you share the program of events with the women with cancer that you see, and hope they find them helpful. You can download a printable program from the [events page](#) on their website.

Free events for women affected by cancer.

- **What’s On** sessions are open to all women with cancer.
- **Making Connections** sessions are only open to women with advanced/metastatic cancer.

Counterpart runs two types of events online: webinars and online workshops.

Read their [Joining an event online fact sheet](#) for more information on attending sessions online. Counterpart also runs in-person events when safe to do so.

New Equipment Helping the Fight against Cervical Cancer

Media Release

Victoria is now home to world-leading technology that is making it easier and faster for Victorian women to screen for cervical cancer. Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas recently visited the Australian Centre for the Prevention of Cervical Cancer (ACPCC) to unveil its new BD COR Machine - which is making sure we can screen more women across Victoria for cervical cancer. The first of its type in the Southern Hemisphere, the new machine means Victoria can now process a much higher volume of self-collected tests for human papillomavirus (HPV) - a common infection that can cause cervical cancer.

Allowing more women to self-test, in the comfort of their own home will reduce barriers and ensure women who otherwise would have gone without a test are more likely to screen for cervical cancer – potentially saving lives.

The State Government invested more than \$400,000 to purchase the machine, which will help the ACPCC meet the growing demand for self-collected samples, following the introduction of self-collection as an option.

More than 70 per cent of cervical cancers occur in those who have never screened or are overdue and self-collection will play a key role in our efforts toward the elimination of cervical cancer.

Australia's world-leading screening program, combined with its HPV vaccination program, means we are on track to be the first country in the world to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health concern. Cervical cancer screening is recommended every five years for women and people with a cervix aged between 25 and 74.

The *Victorian Cancer Plan 2020-2024* sets the ambitious target for Victoria to reach this goal by 2030 – and this new technology, and partnerships with organisations like the ACPCC, is crucial to achieving this goal.

Building Reforms to Protect Victorians

Media Release

The State Government has stepped in to support customers affected by the recent liquidation of Porter Davis Homes, with support payments for those who were left without insurance through no fault of their own. After the liquidation of Porter Davis exposed a concerning practice of builders not taking out the required insurance when accepting deposits, the Government will reform the Domestic Building Contracts Act 1995 and strengthen domestic building insurance requirements. Victoria's building regulators will have more powers to monitor whether builders are meeting their obligations under the law to take out domestic building insurance prior to taking a deposit, with tough new penalties for failing to comply. The Victorian Building Authority (VBA) will audit builders regarding collection of deposit and purchase of domestic building insurance.

Builders are currently experiencing significant global economic challenges, including rising supply chain costs – and after consultation with the sector, the Government will consider providing an extended transition for some new National Construction Code requirements that are currently scheduled to commence in October. The reform package will also provide opportunities to review the role of all regulators and improve the information provided to consumers about a builder's obligation to take out domestic building insurance.

These initiatives will form part of the ongoing building reform program that is reshaping the Victorian building system and helping deliver safe, compliant and durable buildings. The VBA board has appointed Anna Cronin as the new CEO to help the agency deliver on these reforms, driving practice and culture Victorians can trust.

The Government is already delivering on foundational recommendations of the Building System Review, including establishing a Building Monitor to represent consumer interests, widening the range of building industry participants who will need to be registered and strengthening oversight of building surveyors.

The introduction of any further reforms will be staged to allow strong consultation with the building industry.

Boost for Aboriginal Housing Services

Media Release

The State Government is investing more than \$5.4 million to create better outcomes for First Nations Victorians, with expanded access to public housing and private rental properties. From July, the Aboriginal Private Rental Assistance Program (APRAP) will be expanded into four additional areas identified by the Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework. The existing five APRAP sites across Victoria have delivered many positive outcomes, helping Aboriginal Victorians secure and maintain homes in the private rental market.

Now more Aboriginal Victorians will have access to this essential support with APRAP services expanded to Goulburn, Outer Gippsland, Brimbank, Melton and Bayside Peninsula. Under the Government's landmark \$5.3 billion Big Housing Build, 10% of all new social housing will be built for Aboriginal Victorians. Over 200 homes have been funded to be managed by the Aboriginal housing sector, with more under evaluation.

The Government has also approved in principle the Aboriginal Public Housing Transfer Management Pilot starting in targeted areas. Aboriginal public housing renters will have the option to transfer housing tenancy management from Homes Victoria to a registered Aboriginal community housing provider.

Investing In Multicultural Small Businesswomen

Media Release

Multicultural women who own a small business can now connect with experts from across Australia to accelerate their success via a dedicated online marketplace, thanks to support from the State Government. Minister for Small Business Natalie Suleyman joined more than 50 migrant businesswomen at an expo hosted by Migrant Women in Business, to learn about *Made by Many Minds*. This is a one-stop digital platform that provides Migrant Women in Business members with a range of services including legal, finance, marketing and merchandising. The platform was developed with a \$150,000 grant from the Government, with most of the services offered owned and run by migrant women.

Mexican-born Laura Alicia who runs her own photography business *Fotografa AU* is also on *Made by Many Minds*. A hearing-impaired photographer, Laura has established a successful business, learnt to lip-read in English and is now sharing her expertise and creativity with other migrant businesswomen through the platform.

Migrant women can face particular challenges when starting or running a small business. For Lara resident Damalie Tryan, having financial assistance through the vouchers to access services on the platform means she can invest in things like marketing and bookkeeping to help her business. Damalie came to Australia from Uganda in 2015, and when she developed alopecia, couldn't find an affordable wig. Damalie started her wig-making business after teaching herself by watching YouTube and now handmakes each wig, keeping them affordable for those who need them.

Migrant Women in Business is a growing social enterprise with branches in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. The *Made by Many Minds* platform was developed with We Push Buttons based in regional Victoria.

For information or to become a business expert on the platform, visit madebymanyminds.com.au.

Kick Off Time for New Sport Facilities In Wendouree

Media Releases

The State Government is backing more locals to get involved in community sport at Wendouree West Recreation Reserve and nearby Victoria Park, with new facilities boosting sports from skateboarding to soccer. Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence was joined by Member for Wendouree Juliana Addison, Wendouree's Forest Rangers and Victoria Park Vultures soccer clubs to open the new infrastructure at both venues, made possible by a \$7.5 million investment from the Government through the *Local Sports Grants* initiative and \$500,000 from the *World Games Facilities Fund* for the new Victoria Park pavilion. With around 1,200 participants playing soccer in the Ballarat area, community sport is booming at popular local sport hubs like these.

At Wendouree West Recreation Reserve, the new facilities include a female friendly pavilion, a new community hub for the Wendouree Neighbourhood Centre and Ballarat YMCA Youth Programs and a community kitchen. The facilities also include a Men's Shed, a ReCranked Youth Shed, Skate and BMX facilities and a street soccer zone. The three new soccer pitches are a welcome boost for the Forest Rangers Soccer Club, which will now have more room to train and host big games and tournaments with larger crowds. A new synthetic cricket wicket will provide a home competition and training venue for the growing local cricket side, the North Ballarat Cricket Club.

At Victoria Park, the new pavilion features home and away female friendly change rooms as well as an office space, storage, community kitchen and canteen, umpires change rooms, publicly accessible toilets, spectator seating, walking paths and landscaping. The pavilion is the home base for the 140 players of the Victoria Park Soccer Club, and available to the Lucas Cricket Club over summer, as well as community groups and nearby schools.

Ballarat City Council also contributed funding to these projects. For more information go to sport.vic.gov.au.

Truganina Scores New Sport Precinct for soccer, cricket, tennis and more with the completion of the new multisport precinct at Alcock Road Reserve. Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence joined Wyndham City Council Mayor Cr Susan McIntyre and local club members to open the reserve, made possible by \$3 million investment from the State Government *Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program*, supporting the increased demand for sport facilities.

The new 10-hectare multi-sports precinct, adjacent to the Garrang Wilam Primary School, features three soccer fields with an overlaid cricket oval, three-wicket practice nets, an informal use oval, six tennis courts, and a female friendly sports pavilion including 10 player and umpire change rooms. This precinct is now the perfect base for local clubs including Truganina Lions Soccer Club, Tennis Club, and United Cricket Club to boost community participation, conduct programs and activities. It also includes a new playground, BBQ and picnic areas, carparking and circuit paths for the community.



Inquiries and advocacy opportunities

THRIVE BY FIVE



“Treasurer Jim Chalmers handed down the 2023 Federal Budget earlier this month. For our Thrive by Five community, **there’s some good news and some bad news in there.**

The good news is, the Government has allocated funds for making early learning more affordable and delivering their reforms to the Child Care Subsidy. But, the bad news? The Activity Test has not been abolished... YET!”

“At least 126,000 Australian children are missing out on early childhood education and care because of the Activity Test. Evidence has shown again and again that scrapping the Activity Test is crucial to ensure that every child can thrive by five through access to high quality early learning.”

[In this video, SNAICC CEO Catherine Liddle talks about how abolishing the test during the pandemic for First Nations children boosted their participation in early learning centres and preschools. Click here to watch it and then help spread the word by sharing it.](#) [Don’t have Facebook? You can share it via this YouTube link instead.](#)

“Last year, an Impact Economics and Policy report found that abolishing the Activity Test would yield long-term benefits by improving women’s participation in the workforce, supporting single parent families and closing the gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. The children and families missing out have the right to access high quality, culturally appropriate early learning as much as anyone else.”

“But right now, the odds are stacked against thousands of vulnerable families because of the flawed Activity Test.

We’re not going to give up the fight until children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, are no longer held back and this Test is abolished for good.”

[You can help by sharing this video far and wide in your networks to show them how the Activity Test stops children from getting the early learning they need and prevents parents from working.](#)

“Thank you for your support in making a positive difference in the lives of children and families.”

Warmly, Jay Weatherill, Director of Thrive by Five

Parliament of Victoria: State education inquiry investigates support for students and teachers

An inquiry into Victoria’s state education system is calling for public submissions. The Legislative Council’s Legal and Social Issues Committee will consider trends in student learning outcomes and student wellbeing in Victoria’s state education system following the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee will also be investigating conditions in the teaching profession in Victoria and how new technology can be used to alleviate the administrative burden on teachers.

Upper House MP Trung Luu, Chair of the Legal and Social Issues Committee, said that Victoria should always aim to lead the nation in education. “This inquiry will also examine how we recruit and retain teachers and the type of support we provide them through their careers.” The Committee is accepting written submissions **until 13 October 2023** and will also hold public hearings. For the full terms of reference and other information go to the [website](#).

Mission Australia Survey: The 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.**

SugarByHalf is a not-for-profit, independent organisation, led by a team of health experts and business professionals who are also concerned parents. They are passionate about a future for Australia where people live better, stronger and healthier lives through the reduction of [sugar-related diseases](#). See website. They have a petition for the Minister for Health.

https://www.sugarbyhalf.com/who_we_are

Alert from Robyn Byrne OAM

Be Part of History

Another reminder:

A world-first study tracking the health and wellbeing of Victorians, from birth to old age, has delivered a recruitment milestone of more than 90,000 participants. Murdoch Children's Research Institute's GenV, one of the world's largest-ever birth and parent cohort studies, has seen 35,000 babies (90,000 newborns, mothers and fathers) sign up. GenV is recruiting across every birthing hospital in Victoria.



GenV Scientific Director Professor Melissa Wake, GenV family: mother Saada, son Ali, baby Mya, Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas

GenV Scientific Director Professor Melissa Wake said the project aimed to better understand and treat the causes of modern health problems such as obesity, asthma, autism, food allergies and mental illness. *"Families that take part in GenV will make a difference to the future health of generations to come,"* she said. GenV aims to help solve the complex problems facing children and adults and provide the opportunity to better predict, treat and prevent many different conditions. *"Even in its start-up recruitment stage, GenV is already meeting this goal at a speed and scale that might not otherwise have been possible. Collaborators are already testing out new screens that could detect infections and syndromes in the newborn period, providing data on the long-term safety of vaccines in pregnancy and supporting a new registry for children born with hip problems."*

Every baby born **from October 4, 2021 to October 3, 2023** is invited to join, along with their parents, no matter where they live in Victoria or what language they speak. Participants can sign up to the study in person during their birthing hospital stay or at any time thereafter via a simple, guided online process. <https://www.genv.org.au>

The recruitment team has recorded 70 languages, including Auslan, during the opt-in process. More than 6700 families in GenV do not primarily speak English at home.



We need your help to provide life changing support to children with mums in prison.

Children with a mum in prison are often a hidden and forgotten group. But they are not forgotten by Prison Network, who are on a mission to raise \$70,000 this **Mid-Year Appeal** to keep kids connected to their mums and provide wrap around support.

From as little as **\$25** you will be transporting a child into prison to see their mum, and for as much as \$2,400 you will provide wrap around support for a teenager for a whole year. Prison Network understands that experiencing your mum go to jail can trigger a grief comparable to the death of a parent. But unlike bereavement, children whose mums are incarcerated often do not receive the same support, empathy, and practical assistance. For many years Prison Network has stepped in to provide that support and help children remain connected to their mums. This support helps improve life outcomes for children and also gives hope and courage to mums as they seek to create change. This Mid-Year Appeal, funds raised will go to the *Keeping Kids Connected* program so Prison Network can extend their support in ways they previously haven't had the resources to do. They are supporting more and more teenagers and want to create social opportunities for teenagers to support each other. Transport can be a big barrier stopping children visiting their mum in prison. And outside carers and guardians can feel overwhelmed. With your support Prison Network can overcome these barriers, and can continue to grow and strengthen their *Fun With Mum* program with meaningful and positive experiences for mums and children to share.

Please Give Today [Prison Network Mid Year Appeal \(raisely.com\)](https://raisely.com)



Events



Thursday 15 June, 5:30-9:00pm for a fun evening of trivia, when Travellers

Aid collaborates with the students at William Angliss Institute, to host their Annual Trivia Night while supporting the work of Travellers Aid. Venue: **Batman's Hill on Collins, The Burke and Wills Suite. 623 Collins Street, Melbourne**

Tickets are \$70 per person or book a table of 10 at the discounted rate of \$650 per table. Canapes will be served throughout and soft drinks provided. Alcoholic beverages are available at bar prices.

Students Take Over Parliament! Let schools know. Expressions of interest: June 24th to info@ncwvic.org.au



Monday 7th August, 2023; 9:00am for 9:15am start, finishing at 12:30pm

The outstanding annual student event ***My Vote My Voice***, conducted by the National Council of Women of Victoria, is again being held in the Legislative Council Chamber of Parliament House Melbourne.

Students from government and independent schools, covering the spread of multicultural backgrounds in our Victorian community, will address the topic: ***What are the barriers to Human Rights in Australia? How can we begin to overcome them.***

Students may carry out research, and gain insights from their peers and others to inform their views on the theme. Students are invited to make a **group presentation** of their findings. Part of their research could include investigating jurisdictions who have, or are in the process of developing, a Human Rights Charter and how appropriate they are. The United Nations and Victoria already have a Human Rights Charter and there are moves to create an Australian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.

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

June	1 st	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meeting	12:15	Zoom
June	19 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
June	15 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
June	26 th	Monday	Geelong Branch Annual Luncheon	12:00	Kardinia Park
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	17 th	Tuesday	NCWA AGM & Conference		Sydney
October	17 th	Tuesday	NCWA Governor's Reception	18:00	Admiralty Hse
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