

# National Council of Women of Victoria



*“Caring Women Make a Difference”*



## President's Report February 2012

I wish all members and friends of NCWV a very happy and successful New Year.

Since my last report much has been undertaken behind the scenes to ensure this coming year will run smoothly and be successful for all concerned. I hope you notice the improvements made by the Website Convener, Barbara Brown and her team on the website.

The guest speaker at our most enjoyable annual **Christmas Lunch** on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, Andrew Macleod certainly had the members pondering his vision of Melbourne and the need for improved infrastructure. On presenting our usual small personal item gifts to the Mary Anderson Refuge for Women we learnt the Centre requires simple recipes for their mothers with children. NCWV immediately set about compiling such a recipe book which will be presented to the Refuge at the May Forum.

**51th Anniversary of Australia Day's Pioneer Women's Memorial Ceremony** was held on 19<sup>th</sup> January at the Pioneer Women's Memorial Gardens of the King's Domain. Our guest speaker, Carol Warren, CEO Home Economics, Victoria, President Elect International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE), Chair of IFHE's 2012 World Congress( to be held in Melbourne in July) and Club Melbourne Ambassador gave a wonderful insight into the pioneering work of professionals working within Home Economics worldwide and alluded to her own pioneering work in this area. At the inaugural meeting of NCWV in 1902 Domestic Science/Home Economics professionals were represented and have stayed loyal ever since.

This was a perfect occasion to launch the idea of a new **NCWV Recipe Book** with recipes from all individual and organizational members, the idea has delighted members. (These recipes along with a photo of the dish must be in by mid-April).

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After the completion of Carol’s speech the Deputy Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Ms Susan Riley spoke on behalf of our event sponsor, Melbourne City Council.

The ceremony was followed by a short service the Shine of Remembrance arranged by the Shine Governors and dedicated to all women who served in the two world wars, also seen as pioneers in their own right.

Our first 2012 Council meeting was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February where two new advisors in the areas of Aboriginal Engagement and Women & Employment & Economics were ratified along with a new member welcomed. We welcome our new women warmly.

Preparation for the **101<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of International Women’s Day** at Parliament House to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012 is well underway. Once again we will have Victoria’s exceptional young community leaders speaking at the event. Our organizational affiliates Legacy (Junior Public Speaking Award Finalist’s) and Girl Guides (Queen’s Guides) provide an empowering example for all students present. This year we are fortunate to have the Australian Children’s Choir singing, their voices will sound amazing in the Upper House Council Chambers. We have the State Minister for Health Hon. David Davis MLC opening the proceedings and the Deputy Lord Mayor of Melbourne will be attending.

Preparation is underway within the standing committees for the **May Forum.** This year we concentrate on the “Year of the Cooperatives” This will be an opportune time to investigate the work carried out by voluntary organizations assisting those in need.

The standing committees are currently looking at aspects of “trafficking of persons”, and “tax deductibility of child care” along with other issues which seem to arise constantly.

Please make a point of contacting me should you have any issues you wish to discuss or improvements you see needed.

Jennie Rawther-Russell  
President NCWV

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