

# National Council of Women of Victoria April 2016 Newsletter

# **Ending Violence**

The Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence has completed its task in a year and a month.

The documents in eight volumes, total about 2,000 pages, and the RCFV website warns not to attempt to print the report using home office equipment.

Not surprisingly a number of our affiliates were at the read over provided to stakeholders on Wednesday 30 March. We were pleased to have secured a place at the briefing and that our Gauri Kapoor was able to be our representative.

We understand that the Victorian Government is bringing forward the State Budget to avoid a clash with the Federal Budget, and that a specific Women's section will be part of the Budget, with elements to begin to address the recommendations of the Royal Commission. We also know that Rosie Batty has accepted the role of Chair of the Victorian Advisory Committee to oversee the roll out of Victoria's response to the Royal Commission's recommendations.

The report is a very big read, and we are thankful that <u>Grandparents Victoria</u> has been kind enough to provide for us their two page summary of the matters addressed in the recommendations, and gives one some confidence that the recommendations might go some distance to resolving the complex problem that

is Family Violence. The submission made by NCW Victoria, while recognizing that this type of violence can occur right across the community, stressed our awareness of the difficulties faced by women and children of diverse background, and the RCFV report appears to propose approaches and timeframes to address these issues.

The most hopeful sign is found in the 30 March media release from Georgie Crozier MP, Shadow Minister for Prevention of Family Violence & Shadow Minister for Women - Implementing these recommendations will clearly require significant additional funding. We cannot afford to waste another year. No Victorian should have to live in fear or grow up in an abusive home. The Liberal Nationals Coalition and Labor have a bipartisan approach to dealing with family violence and supporting victims and we are confident that the proper implementation of key recommendations will see improved outcomes.

# Council meeting 12 noon for 12.15start, 7 April 2016 Level 4, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne

Birute Don (Habitat/Environment Adviser) and her colleague Paul Borman, late last year attended the 'Creating Healthy Cities Summit' on behalf of NCW Victoria. Birute and Paul will speak on important ideas presented at the ADC (Australian Davos Connexion) Summit. This also a Trading Table day and the Individual Members Group meets from 10 am.

Affiliate of the month: Grandparents Australia

National Council of Women of Victoria Inc. Regd. No.: AIA: A4465 ABN: 18227073059

PO Box 18186 Collins Street East, MELBOURNE, 8003 Email: <a href="mailto:ncwvic@bigpond.com">ncwvic@bigpond.com</a> Phone 0447 351 234

Registered office: Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne.

Patron in Chief: Her Excellency the Honorable Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria

Patron: Ms Emma Page Campbell, Lady Mayoress, City of Melbourne

Our monthly Council meetings are held at noon on the first Thursday of the month February to November in the Hayden Raysmith Room, Level 4, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne VIC 3000

# April 2016 eNewsletter

# National Council of Women of Victoria

# April 2016 Program.

# 1. NCWV monthly Council meeting:

When: Thursday 7 April 2016, 12 pm for 12.15 pm start,

Where: Level 4, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne.

Main item – Report on the 'Creating Healthy Cities' Summit - Birute Don, Habitat & Environment Adviser. During the meeting we will have a chance to share information about the Royal Commission on Family Violence. We welcome the many expressions of bipartisan support for implementation of its recommendations since the Report was tabled on 30 March. Also at 10.30 am on Thursday 7 April, the bi-monthly meeting for Individual Members will be held, and it is a Trading Table Day.

#### 2. Respectable Radicals – A conversation with the NCW historians:

**When** – Tuesday 19 April 2016, from 6 – 7.30 pm, light refreshments from 5.15 **Where** – Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne, near Flagstaff Station

What – Marian Quartly & Judith Smart will speak about work of NCW in Australia from 1896, through to the 1970s and beyond, when its members politely persisted with the idea women round the world should be equal with men. This is a free event for NCW Victoria members, but please register by COB Thursday 15 April 2016, email ncwvic(@)bigpond.com or Mob:0447 351 234

3. Advance notice: May forum, Thursday 5 May 2016 between 9.30 and 11.30 am. What is happening with the next stage of the NDIS? Panel includes Keran Howe CEO Women With Disabilities Victoria. Flyer available by download from the NCW Victoria website, information via <ncwvic@bigpond.com> or Mob:0447 351 234

Our monthly print newsletter is distributed at the Council meetings, and from our website http://ncwvic.org.au/

We welcome your participation in these events, Sheila Byard, President

(03) 9650 9241

# Forthcoming speakers and events

May 5 Forum: At Ross House, .930- 11.30 May Forum, NIDS – what will this mean for women and families?

Women's Property Initiatives, have rescheduled, and will be with us for the June Council Meeting.

#### From the Executive

## President (Sheila Byard)

How much information do you wish to receive from NCW Victoria? Recent changes in the postal rate highlights for us the question of whether we continuing to print and distribute, including by post the usual 8 page newsletters each month. Are you receiving one page electronic newsletter, and is this enough for you? On page 2 of this printed newsletteryou can see a sample e.newsletter sent using Mailchimp. There has been some very positive feedback on the e.newsletter, included the following message received this week from Fran Henderson, Hon Secretary, <u>Australia Day Council (Victoria) Inc.</u> "Many thanks for your newsletter. I forward it to our committee immediately".

What colours do you most associate with National Council of Women of Victoria? Depending on how long you have been a members you might say purple and gold, these were the colours of the former Australian Women's National League, and were said to be NCWV's colours still featuring the Victoria shaped badges supplied by Geelong Branch and in the table cloth provided by the former Bendigo Branch, still used at Ross House meetings. At one stage it was common to use the NCWA logo and just add the branch or constituent Council name. However the ruling has been that if a Council was to use the national logo the A had to be left off, leading to a set of rather awkward logos used by the different States.

In terms of colours, if you came to the organisation after NCW Victoria's Centenary in 2002, within a few year banner and website went pink and aqua, as shown in brochures and the pull up banner from the mid-decade. More recently about 2010 the constitution and the business cards were reissued a strong green and white. We have now had several occasions when we have talked with larger and smaller groups of members including the pink sheet exercise we did at the February meeting. The reality is that our look is inconsistent and dated, and it makes us look amateurish. The March Executive meeting agreed to accept the proposal from Viola Design to work with us on Stage One of the Brand Refresh process.

At this stage we are using up old printed material, and hope that we will have a couple of design suggestions to help us have a revamped letterhead, business cards etc, and a way of making sure that the website, Facebook, flyers all look well.

The NCWA bi-monthly Board meeting dealt with a variety of matters including the constitutional requirement that affiliation fees and pro-rata share of the Australian membership of International Council of Women fall due on 1 July. Unfortunately this means we will have to face a second payment within the same financial year, owing to the previous invoices not being supplied until just before the Triennial Conference last year. President Barbara Baikie's plans for a June breakfast at the Parliament in honour of 120 years of NCW activity in Australia will be deferred until after the Federal election. A proposal for a structure linking Young NCW members across Australia has been approved, and there will be monthly teleconferences to enable planning for such things as the Canberra Parliamentary breakfast. NCW Queensland President Annette Lourigan has accepted an invitation to be part of team of Senator Glenn Lazarus in the forthcoming Federal election, so she will take leave from her role as President, with Vice President Lynn Buckley becoming Acting President. Of course with AGMs coming up, several of the Councils will be having changes in office bearers.

Over the last month it has been a pleasure to attend on behalf of NCW Victoria many evens including the Victorian Government Women's Honour Roll event, the Geelong Branch gala morning tea on International Women's Day 8 March at the new Geelong Regional Library and Heritage Centre, the Australian Asian Business Women's Association IWD luncheon on 10 March at the Parliament of Victoria hosted by Hong Lim

MP, the celebration of Afghan New Year Nawros on 20 March with the <u>Australian Afghan Development Association</u>, and later on the same day an IWD cultural festival with NACWA National Chinese Australian Women's Association.

## Secretary's Report (Dr Pamela Williams OAM)

Organisational renewals 2015-16 continue to arrive – Soroptimist International (Vic. Region), Retired and Services Nurses Club of Victoria, Girl Guides Victoria, Australasian Centre for Human Rights and Health, and Australian Church Women. Request for membership have been received from the Australian Afghan Development Association, and the Australian Asian Business Women's Association.

<u>Inward and outward mail</u> as per Correspondence Book, including from Liberal Women's Council re changes of delegates (2 new delegates), Ukrainian Women's Association re hunger strike issue, request from NCJWA(V) for letter of support re application for Ending Violence funds, from Georgia Carter Geelong Regional Library re IWD photo from Coco Griffiths, Minister Richardson about Victorian Gender Equality Strategy – extension of time for submissions, to attend the session at which the Royal Commission on Family Violence Report was presented to stakeholders, and to screening of *Girls on Film Festival*, from Georgie Crozier MP, Shadow Minister for Prevention of Family Violence & Shadow Minister for Women

## Invitations received:

April 12 (Tuesday) WCTU Drug-free lifestyles AGM at Traveller's Aid Bourke St Melbourne.

April 14 (Thursday), 6:30-9:30pm, Treasury Theatre, Lower plaza, 1 Macarthur Street, East Melbourne 3002 Panel discussion and screening of the documentary film, *He Named Me Malala*, as part of the *Girls on Film Festival* Please RSVP by Monday, 11 April, by calling 9637 3344.

April 17 (Sunday) 2 pm for 2.30 start, 69<sup>th</sup> <u>Annual ANZAC Commemorative Service</u>, Nurses Memorial Centre, Fawkner Towers, 431 St Kilda Road, followed by a brief address and afternoon tea.

April 19 (Tuesday) 5.15 drinks nibbles preceding the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Respectable Radicals talk by NCWA historians Dr Judith Smart, and Professor Emerita Marian Quartly. No charge to NCW Victoria members

April 28 (Thursday) 7 pm at Cinema Nova Carlton, Victorian Women's Trust screening of 'Hunting Ground'.

April 30 (Saturday) Sigma Beta Phi Founders Day at Savoy VIBE, Cnr Spenser and Little Collins

May 24 (Tuesday) 7.45 - 9:30 pm, Glen Eira College, NCJWA(V) Mina Fink Memorial Lecture, Elana Sztokman, Scholar-in-Residence, Noted author, educator, in the field of Orthodox Jewish feminism, entry \$12

June 24 (Friday) <u>Australian Church Women</u> AGM Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 10.15 am, Chellew Room, VCC Rooms, Fourth Floor, Causeway House, Causeway Lane, between Bourke and Little Collins Sts.

## News & events from NCW Victoria Affiliates:

Please note that items for publication should be received by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month.

# Victorian Medical Women's Society

In 2015, the Australian Federation of Medical Women & the Victorian Medical Women's Society were successful in obtaining a ANZAC grant to support the commemoration of the service of Australian Women Doctors in WW I. Over \$1,300 has been raised towards a memorial which would commemorate the service of the six Melbourne women doctors who served in World War One during the years 1914 to 1919.

Previously unrecognized in Australian official war records, their contribution to Australia's war effort deserves prominent recognition and commemoration. Funds have been acquired through The Anzac Centenary Fund (the office of Adam Bandt MP) and from donations. It is hoped to eventually commemorate the service of all Australian women doctors in WWI.

In December 2015, the VMWS President Deb Colville, Dr Heather Sheard, Historian, and the VMWS representative for undergraduates met with Mary Crooks, CEO of the Victorian Women's Trust. She suggested that the VMWS consider raising further funds to commission a commemorative statue (rather than a plaque) and the possibility of approaching the Welsh Church in Latrobe Street as a possible site. The church was the first site of what was to become the Queen Victoria Hospital and a wall plaque commemorates its founder Dr Constance Stone. We are reviewing the work of Penelope Lee/Susan Hewitt who sculpted The Great Petition work which sits near the top of Collins and Bourke Street. Please contact either the VMWS Secretariat at <a href="mailto:vic@afmw.org.au">vic@afmw.org.au</a> or the AFMW Secretariat at <a href="mailto:afmw@afmw.org.au">afmw@afmw.org.au</a> if you would like to make a contribution.

# **Grandparents Victoria**

May 4 Wednesday 12-2pm, *Children & Families Matter – an urgent forum,* Hayden Raysmith Meeting Room, Level 4, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. Speakers: Coleen Pearce, Victoria's Public Advocate, Anne McLeish, Director, Grandparents Victoria, Susan Arthur, Convenor Reinforce's Powerful Parents Self Advocacy Group. RSVP by 27 April to STAR at (03) 9650 2730 or email <a href="mailto:esther@starvictoria.org.au">esther@starvictoria.org.au</a> (essential for catering purposes). On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 new controversial legislation relating to Children's Court Orders took effect. Many individuals and organisations across the state are concerned about the detrimental effects of this legislation on parents, children and families. This forum will outline the changes and give participants an opportunity for discussion.

# **Regional Reports**

## Central Gippsland Branch (Jan Baxter, President)

The 21 March meeting was held at the Rosedale Neighbourhood House. The NCWV Executive meeting by phone hook-up was held on 17 March. The meeting discussed the Brand Refresh decision about possible changes to NCWV colours and logo, and this was put to the attending members who wrote out their ideas. The main theme from this was that no change is necessary, if retaining the original colours of mauve and gold, and to use the NCWA logo of interlocking initials and add a small State tag but it was a unanimous decision to think about the cost. There was some discussion about the reason for change and why is there not a National logo that could be used.

Mavis Lynch reported on spoke on a comprehensive enquiry addressed at a recent U3A meeting on the Victorian Parliament's Legal and Social Issues Committee into the regulation and operation of the retirement housing sector which covers retirement villages, caravan parks, residential parks and independent living units which will be seeking to ensure fair pricing, management standards and proper consumer protections in place.

Our next meeting is at Centenary House, Traralgon and we will be having a tour of facilities. Centenary House is a community-based, not-for-profit accommodation for patients and families attending the Gippsland Cancer care Centre at Latrobe hospital. (Diana Mc Neill, Hon. Sec., 22 March 2016)

#### <u>Geelong Branch</u> (Janice Latham, President)

The tour of the new Geelong Library and Heritage Centre on International Women's Day, Tuesday 8 March, was most interesting. We were pleased to welcome several guests from Melbourne. Twenty - two people formed the group who toured the new building, ably led by Georgia Carter. It was a privilege to spend a short time with Patti Manolis, CEO, and to congratulate her, as her name had been placed on the Victorian Honour Roll of Women.

The 21 March meeting at Geelong was President's Day, and we were pleased to welcome five Presidents from affiliated organisations. Sharon Gillett, from Sacred Heart College, introduced three students, Ruby,

India and Abby, who spoke of their experiences on a visit they had made to Timor L'este in 2015. They spoke of connecting with girls at the college they visited, and of issues relating to water health for the college. Members reported that:

- the International Women's day breakfast hosted by the Soroptimists was a successful event.
- a fashion styling brunch, and a doll show are planned as fund raisers for Quota
- a trivia night is to hosted by Zonta as a fund raiser
- it was noted that Margaret MacDonald, OAM, speaker at our February meeting, had received a Community Award on International Women's Day. (Helen Rodd, Hon. Secretary, 24 March 2016)

Next meeting will be at the Royal Historical Society not at Ross House on 19 April. The 2016 May forum will be discussed. It will look at implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Victoria.

<u>Legislation Adviser</u>, Nina Richwol, monitors the news from the Parliament of Victoria on behalf of NCWV and forwards relevant information to Standing Committee members, and reminds us that members of the public can sign up to receive regular updates directly<a href="mailto:news=parliament.vic.gov.au@cmail20.com">news=parliament.vic.gov.au@cmail20.com</a>

Prison issues and other matters (Lorna Archer, Adviser Human Rights, NCW Victoria Corrections Victoria stakeholder forum representative) Dr Anita Heiss spoke at the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission Human Rights Day Oration event on 10 December 2015, on Homelessness, Homelands and Human Rights. The VEOHRC is working on a Charter of Aboriginal Rights. Homeless is not a choice. Dr Heiss said "Homeless is one of the most potent examples of disadvantage in the community and one of the most important markers of social exclusion". She referred to Australian Government policies impacting on homelessness especially in W.A. For aborigines 'our land is our life'.

Darebin Council with the support of the City of Whittlesea held an information session at the Inter-culture Centre regarding the settlement of Syrian refugees when they come to Victoria- the majority will be settled in the Northern suburbs as there are many Syrians living here now. Syrians were well educated prior to the revolution but many who come here will possibly be illiterate. Programs are now in place to assist.

Corrections Victoria Research Seminar in February 2016 with Professor Chris Trotter was actually for people working in Corrections and dealt with effective offender supervision. He stressed that studies proved that training & follow up training would result in reduced recidivism. At the 31 March Corrections Victoria Stakeholders Forum it was reported that there are now 6429 prisoners, just 44 more than this time last year. In relation to the Community Corrections program - there are 70 more prisoners added to this every week but there is a shortage of supervisors, thus each supervisors have a very large number to work with. Prisoners who spend a short time in prison (1 -2 years) are usually released onto Community corrections; there are 1600 on this type of order. There are now fewer on parole. In relation to women prisoners, the Dame Phyllis Centre is getting 132 extra beds replacing the 44 Mental Health Centre. There are now 151 un-convicted women in remand; this is a sharp rise in numbers. Educating training services - there is an expansion of on-the-job training in prison including literacy. Aboriginal Art Policy - the Torch's Statewide Indigenous Arts in Prison & Community Program - is operating in all prisons. The program focuses on culture and skills. Aboriginals can now sell their work and the proceeds go into a Trust for them when they are released.

**Individual Members** (Barbara Brown Convenor) – At the April IM meeting, members will discuss possible visit to the Islamic museum in Thornbury.

The views of children & young people in out of home care - From the <u>Australian Institute of Health and Welfare</u> AIHW, catalogue number WEB 116. This bulletin presents an overview of results from a 2015 national pilot data collection on the views of children in out-of-home care. Key findings include:

- 91% of children reporting feeling both safe and settled in their current placement
- 97% reporting that they had an adult who cares about what happens to them now and in the future
- 67% reporting that they usually get to have a say in what happens to them, and that people usually listen

to what they say. March 2016 URL www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129554600

# **Working Together**

National Council of Women of Victoria acknowledges that its meetings are held on the land of the traditional owners the *Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation*, and we pay our respect to the elders past and present.

## Our motto ... The Golden Rule

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 that they should do unto you**".

#### Our mission statement

National Council of Women of Victoria, NCWV, is a non-party-political, non-sectarian, not-for-profit, umbrella organisation with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives. It seeks to raise the awareness of women as to their rights and responsibilities as citizens and encourages their participation in all aspects of community life.

Our website - <a href="http://www.ncwvic.org.au/">http://www.ncwvic.org.au/</a>

#### NCW Victoria - Office bearers & committee 2015-6

President: Sheila Byard Secretary: Dr Pamela Williams OAM

<u>Treasurer:</u> Benjie Perryman

Vice Presidents: Barbara Brown, Bronwyn Badham, Janice Latham (Regional)

#### Five elected members:

Janene Blanchfield-Brown, Guosheng Chen, Freda Kaufman, Gauri Kapour, Elisabeth Newman,

Convenor, Individual Members Group: Barbara Brown.

Geelong Branch: Janice Latham Central Gippsland Branch: Jan Baxter

Non-voting members: Barbara Latham YoungNCWVic Convenor: Sarah Morgan

Hon. Archivist -Janet Galley OAM

Privacy Statement The NCWV is committed to protecting the privacy of all individuals and affiliates and complying with Australia's Privacy Act. Our primary purpose in collecting information is to enable us to operate as a membership organisation whose primary objective is to enhance the status of women. We may use your information to respond to your requests or to contact you via mail, email or phone for support for work we do and to offer events we may hold unless you have advised us in writing that you do not wish to receive this information.

**Our Connections** The NCWV is an affiliate of the **National Council of Women Australia**, established in 1931

Through NCWA we are linked to the **International Council of Women - Conseil International des Femmes**, established in 1888. ICW has category 1 consultative status with the **United Nations Economic and Social Council**. Membership of the NCWV open its doors to a global exchange of views on matters affecting the lives of women, children and families around the world.

# National Council of Women of Victoria



"Caring Women Make a Difference"

#### **PROGRAM FOR 2016**

#### January

15<sup>th</sup> – Office re- opens

21rd (Thursday)- Pioneer Women's event, Pioneer Women's Garden 10.15 for 10.30am - Dr Liz Rushen

#### **February**

4<sup>th</sup> – (Thursday) 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting – About the Festive Baskets!

12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting, including Trading Table. Anna Carlile 'Brand Refresh'

18<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) – Executive meeting, 10 am

29th (Monday) - 9.30 to 12 noon. Launch of My Vote My Voice 2016 program and student awards, Parliament of Victoria

# March

3<sup>rd</sup> (Thursday) - 10.15-11.30 - Conversation about Civics and Citizenship, at Ross House.

12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting – Speaker Dr Merrilyn Murnane,

17th (Thursday) - Executive meeting, 10 am

#### April

7<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) - 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting, 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting, Speaker Birute Don the ADC Healthy Cities Forum, Including Trading table.

21st (Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

#### May

5<sup>th</sup>(Thursday) – 9.30- 11.30 May Forum, NIDS – what will this mean for women and families? followed by 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting

19<sup>th</sup>(Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

#### June

2<sup>th</sup>–(Thursday) 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting,12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting, with Women's Property Initiatives, including Trading Table

16<sup>th</sup>– (Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

20<sup>th</sup> – (Monday) Luncheon NCWV Geelong Branch – Speaker Patti Manolis, CEO

27<sup>th</sup> - (Monday) Late afternoon Founders Day event – details to follow.

#### July

7<sup>th</sup>–(Thursday) 12 noon for 12.15 start, NCWV Council meeting

21st - (Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

#### **August**

4<sup>th</sup>–(Thursday) 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting, 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting, inc. Trading Table 12<sup>th</sup> (Friday) –9.30 for 10 am start *My Vote My Voice* Student Event at the Parliament of Victoria.

15<sup>th</sup>–(Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

#### September

1st -(Thursday) 10.15-NCWV AGM 12 noon for 12.15 start

15<sup>th</sup>–(Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

#### October

6th – (Thursday) 10.15-11.30 Individual Members Meeting, 12 noon for 12.15 start, NCWV Council meeting

20<sup>th</sup>–(Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

#### November

3<sup>rd</sup> –(Thursday) 10.30 am Morning Tea. 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Council meeting,

17<sup>th</sup>–(Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

#### **December**

1st - (Thursday) 12 noon for 12.15 start NCWV Christmas Lunch, TBC 15th-(Thursday) Executive meeting, 10 am

NOTE: Council meetings are on the first Thursday of each month Feb-November at Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane

- Individual Members' meetings begin 10.15am for 10.30 am, Trading Table please bring items for sale
- Council meetings begin at 12.15pm sharp and finish no later than 2.15pm, Executive meetings are held at the Royal Historical Society Building corner William and A'Beckett Sts.