

August 2019 Newsletter

Quote: *“The empowerment of girls and women starts on the benches of school with quality education and access to culture and information...It means genuine possibilities for girls to become everything they wish for and to make their own informed choices.”* Irina Bokova, Former Director-General of UNESCO

From the President, Elisabeth Newman

This is a perfect segue to our Annual student event in the Parliament of Victoria on 19 August 9:15am-12:30pm: **My Vote My Voice – Male and Female Youth as Future Voters**. See below for details and application form.

In Canberra recently, I met the President of NCW ACT, Juanita Flet, to talk about homeless older women and shelters, an issue of great concern to NCWV and the ACT Council. Juinita asked me to look into portable housing.

Having been invited to take part in the preparations for the Beijing+25 review to take place at CSW64 next March, I will be joining preparatory teleconferences, when able. Asia Pacific Women’s Watch (APWW), a large voluntary activism network based in the Asia and Pacific Region, which monitors and collaborates with the United Nations, national governments and NGOs in empowering women and advancing their human rights, is coordinating the preparations in the Asia Pacific region. Headed by Carole Shaw, Australian NGOs are encouraged to assist with the response to the Federal Government’s report looking at the gains, challenges and suggested actions for each of the 12 critical areas contained within Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA). I have taken a small part in the five yearly reviews - 2000, 2005, 2010 & 2015 since the 1995 declaration of the BPfA. The United Nations NGO CSW has guidelines to follow in preparing the parallel Reports. Planning is taking place around the world. ECICW (ICW-CIF’s European Council) members, following their meeting, will be attending the UNECE Conference focusing on Beijing +25 to be held (October 29-30) in Geneva.

September will be the A.G.M. Notices will be circulated shortly with all relevant paperwork such as nomination forms for the Committee. All positions will be declared vacant. I look forward to seeing you and please encourage the President of your respective organisation to attend. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

The Asia-Pacific Regional Council (APRC): Hean Bee Wee, President of APRC, with the NCW of India and the Pune National Council, has been organising the next meeting of the Regional Council which is to be held in Pune on 9th Nov with the General Assembly of NCW India on Nov.10th. The Council in Delhi is celebrating its 100th anniversary on 13th November. All members of NCWV are welcome to attend. Contact Hean Bee Wee; email: hbwee@bigpond.net.au

My Vote My Voice – Male and Female Youth as Future Voters

**Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament of Vic.
Mon. 19th August 2019; 9:15am for 9:30-12:30pm**

This event encourages students to investigate why some young people are not engaged in the democratic processes and ways in which this can be addressed. Students may carry out research, and/or collect data from surveys of peers and others to determine both male and female attitudes towards voting and strategies to encourage future engagement in voting. Students are to make a group presentation of findings to an audience of students, community members and panel of eminent people. A wonderful opportunity to sit in this impressive Chamber and hear from inspiring young people.

- 9:15 Photos, welcome in the Queen’s Hall
- 9:35 Welcome to speakers in Council Chamber
- 9:40 Guest Speaker: Amy Carpenter, Education Team, Victorian Electoral Commission
- 9:50 Student presentations begin
- 10:30 Refreshments in the Queen’s Hall
- 11:00 Student presentations continue
- 12:10 Panel responses and plenary.
- 12:25 Thanks and close.

Pre-payment is required for adult participants.

Cost for adults attending – \$35.

Students are free thanks to League of Women Voters of Victoria Bessie M. Rischbieth Trust grant.

RSVP by noon, Wednesday 14th August

Clip and post to NCW Victoria, PO Box 18186, Collins St East 8003 or email: info@ncwvic.org.au

Yes, I/we plan to attend the *My Voice My Vote* event at the Parliament of Vic. Monday 19th August, 9:15 - 12:30pm

Cost: \$35 per adult.

A cheque for \$..... enclosed

Or TryBooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/BEICD>

Name(s):

Tel. No: email:



2018

AGM September NCWV meeting: Thursday 5th September 12.00 for 12.15 start, Ross House 247 Flinders Lane Melbourne, Room 4.1. We are delighted that a representative of the Office of Women will be speaking at our AGM. This is a great opportunity to hear about the current policies and activities of the Office of Women and what future plans are being considered. There will also be time for your questions.

This will be most informative which would appeal to many, not just delegates, but other members of your organisation, particularly your President, all of whom are welcome to join us. Please spread the word.

Vale



It is with sadness that we report the death of **Beryl Frances Campbell Foster, OAM**, a long-time member of NCWV. A gracious, smartly dressed lady, always had smile and, with a social conscience, was always willing to assist NCWV. Elisabeth came to know Beryl, when in the late 1980s/early 90s the Associates (Individual Members) commissioned her, daughter Robyn and Elisabeth to research the plight of Outworkers. In 1995 Elisabeth was questioned about their findings by a Federal Senate Select Committee. Beryl was born in Burwood NSW in 1926. She served in the WAF - Women's Air Force 1944-1946, then married Tom Campbell and had six children including twins and a stillborn. Their son (twin) was tragically killed in his teens. They moved to Swan Hill and conducted a family business.

Beryl joined as a member of NCWV Murray Valley (Swan Hill) Branch c.1967. The branch supported her nomination for City of Swan Hill Council and she was elected as the first woman councillor for City of Swan Hill 1969-1972. She moved to Strathmore in Melbourne and married Eric Foster. She reconnected with NCWV as an Associate member in 1986, attending associate and council meetings up until 2015. Her NCWV positions - 1990 Voting Associate Proxy; 1991 Voting Associate 1991-1992-1993; Associate Delegate to NCWV Executive 1994-1995; Note Taker Associate Meetings 1996; Proxy for Associates Convenor 1997 - 2003/04; First proxy for Associates. Whilst on NCWV EXECUTIVE, Beryl was a member Finance Comm. 1993; member Functions/Fundraising Comm. 1993. In 1994 Beryl with NCWV member the late Alice Teague accompanied the then NCWV President Janet Galley OAM to Swan Hill to reactivate the Branch. At the Swan Hill City Council Civic Reception Beryl and Alice knew most guests and the admiration and respect for them was evidence that their time in Swan Hill had been valued and appreciated. She was a member of the League of Women Voters and the Penguin Club. She will be long remembered and missed.



We also acknowledged the death of **Heather Jean Low** - former Delegate for Graduate Association Institute of Early Childhood Education from 1976 to 1994. She was a Member of the Education Standing Committee, 1978-1987. Heather was appointed Life Governor in 1983 for more than 60 years of service to Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School and was a life member of Ivanhoe Girls' Old Grammarians Association.

Honours

Dr Patricia Phair OAM: Here with NCWV Hon Secretary Pam Hammond, the other FOGA Delegate



Patricia became a NCWV delegate of Firkbank Old Grammarians Association in 1996 and is still a delegate for FOGA, attending and contributing to Council meetings regularly. She joined the Executive in 2009 and has held many positions in NCWV. These include as Adviser on Youth, Child and Family 2003-2005, Adviser on Habitat 2006-2007 and Adviser on the Environment 2008-2011, 2019-. In this role she was diligent in research, informing members monthly about the state of the environment and actions that could be taken to improve the situation. Pat held the role of National Adviser on the Environment 2003 - 2010.

These roles required regular reports to the Standing Committee, as well as Annual reports to NCWV and to National Council of Women of Australia (NCWA). She has also sent submissions to the Parliament of Vic. on environmental issues, one being an expose on energy options and their ramifications. Patricia is an active and passionate member of the Bayside Friends of the Environment and St Andrew's Anglican Church, Brighton, roles she shared with her husband George, now deceased.

Dr Deborah Towns OAM



Dr Deborah Towns is the NCWV delegate for and President of the League of Women Voters. She is the National and NCWV Employment and Economic Adviser. Deborah is a sociologist, historian, author, researcher and Associate, Centre for Workplace Leadership, Business & Economics, University of Melbourne. She has a range of experience in consulting, project management, professional development, and teaching in workplaces, universities and schools. She has expertise in the analysis of gender and leadership in workplaces and schools.

She was joint author with Dr John Andrews (2018) *'A Secondary Education For All?' A History of State Secondary Schooling in Victoria*. Other publications included women and leadership, sexism in schools, diversity and work

At the July late afternoon meeting the speaker was Lucy Skelton, Melbourne Girls' College, Richmond.



Lucy was a speaker at the My Vote My Voice event in 2018. She spoke well on the theme of Diversity in Community Workplaces. She is the 17 year old founder of the Student Voice Network (www.svn-au.com), which is a free platform for Australian students to share resources, meet like-minded youth and come together to take collective action on issues that are important to them. She is best known for her work as a One Girl Ambassador on Earth Echo International's Youth Leadership Council, and for her commitment to sustainability. She is looking forward to seeing how SVN can support the amazing work that NCWV is doing.

She spoke about a World Vision Conference that she attended and was inspired to create a platform for young people to connect and share issues for which they wanted to take action, including climate change, refugee issues and homelessness. Her mantra was "If you feel passionate about an issue, don't wait for others to act – do it!" The reflection time at the end enabled her to encourage others to join her. Many did! This enabled emails to be collected and create the Network. These were used to spread the word by forwarding to others. People were encouraged to share issues for which they were passionate and determine action that could occur. They hold video conferences on a weekly basis to discuss issues that are important to members. They have an Advisory Council, the members of whom mentor Lucy and others; they have community support; and coordinate with World Vision and other organisations. Lucy would like to know the best way of linking with NCWV to encourage young participation.

Other News

Alannah & Madeline Foundation: For the past seven years, we have proudly partnered with Richmond Football Club, together raising awareness about childhood violence, bullying and cyber bullying – and helping create safer environments for kids. Richmond's Match Day – dedicated to the Foundation – is on Sunday 11 August (V Carlton at the MCG), with your help, we can all shine a light on cyber bullying and help to change the way we think about it.

Victorian Women's Trust (VWT) - Economic Justice, Strengthening our Economy by Doing Better by Australian Women: Thursday 15 August, 5:30-7:30pm (Doors open 5:30pm for a 6pm start), Northcote Town Hall, 189 High St, Northcote. **Tickets:** Full \$25 ([Book tickets](#)); Conces \$15 ([Book tickets](#)) Hear feminist economist **Dr Marilyn Waring** and investigative journalist **Michael West** talk economic justice and bold solutions. The event will be moderated by author and journalist **Kerry-Anne Walsh** with an introduction from VWT Executive Director **Mary Crooks AO**.

Women's Health Week, September 2-6, supporting women to improve health and wellbeing. Sign up to receive an email each day with information, tools and tips to help you unlock your own powers for good health. [Sign up](#)

Women's Health Week Comedy Gala, Saturday 31 August - 7.30pm, The National Theatre. Starring Kitty Flanagan, Anne Edmonds, Bev Killick, Geraldine Hickey, Susie Youssef, Geraldine Quinn, Cassie Workman! Host: Rachel Berger. **Tickets:** A-Reserve \$85.00, B-Reserve \$75.00. Tickets include a free Women's Health Week gift bag. [Book now](#)

WCTU Drug-Free Lifestyles Invites you and your friends to their FREE outreach event “Be the Change - Your Choice” To be held at Robert White Hall (Scot’s Church) 156 Collins Street Melbourne

Friday 6th September 2019, 10 am - 12.30 pm **RSVP by Monday 26th August**

Guest Speaker: Sergeant Deb Rowe. Prior to her recent retirement, Deb was the longest-serving front-line woman in the NSW Police Force. She has an amazing story of transformation in her own life and of her continuing work helping to change the lives of Ice addicts in Newcastle. In conjunction with the morning we are holding a Party Drink Competition for groups of students to make an original non-alcoholic party drink. The final 5 will be invited to make their drink on the morning of our event. **Phone 9791 8496; Email: drugfree@bigpond.com**

The Royal Historical Society Victoria

To celebrate Melbourne Day Professor Tim Entwisle, Director and Chief Executive, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria will talk about the history of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, about what makes a modern botanic garden and about his plans for the Melbourne Gardens which centre on the three pillars of culture, nature and science.

FRI 30 AUG, 12noon tea /coffee followed by the lecture, 12:30pm - 1:30pm; \$20 General public

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

Our motto: *The Preamble to the original ICW Constitution said “We, women of all Nations, in the conviction that the good of humanity will be best advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy and purpose, and that an organised movement will serve to promote the highest good of the family and of the Nation, do hereby band ourselves together in a federation of women of all races, nations and creeds, to further the application of the Golden Rule to society, custom and law: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”*

NCWV Dates for rest of 2019

- July: Thursday 4th** Council meeting Room 4.1 Ross House, **5:15-7:15pm. NOTE later time.**
One of the My Vote My Voice 2018 speakers from Melbourne Girls’ College will address us.
- August: Thursday 1st AGM Individual Members** 10:15am, Room 4.1 Ross House. Trading Table.
Council meeting Room 4.1, 12:15pm. Workshop on submissions.
Monday 12th Standing Committee meeting 4:30 – 6:00 Ross House Room 2.1
Thursday 15th Committee Meeting, RHSV ground floor meeting room, 10:00pm
- September: Thursday 5th AGM NCWV** Room 4.1 Ross House, **12:00 for 12:15pm start.**
Speaker from the Office of Women, which works across government to deliver policies and programmes to advance gender equality and improve the lives of Australian women.
Thursday 19th Committee Meeting, RHSV ground floor meeting room, 10:00pm
- October: Thursday 3rd** Council meeting Room 4.1, 12:15pm. Workshop on submissions.
Monday 14th Standing Committee meeting 4:30 – 6:00 Ross House Room 2.1
Thursday 17th Committee Meeting, RHSV ground floor meeting room, 10:00pm
- November: Thursday 7th Individual Members** 10:15am, Room 4.1 Ross House. Trading Table.
Council meeting Room 4.1, 12:15pm.
Monday 18th Standing Committee meeting 4:30 – 6:00 Ross House Room 2.1
Thursday 21st Committee Meeting, RHSV ground floor meeting room, 10:00pm
Monday 25th End of Year Celebratory Luncheon, 12.00 – Angliss Restaurant, 550 Little Lonsdale St Melbourne, near Spencer Street.