

December 2019 Newsletter

Quote: "Women have been shaping Australian culture for more than 60,000 years and it is through the voices of artists we can define a country of acceptance, kindness and inclusion." Alison Wright, Assistant Director National Gallery of Australia, 2019

From the President, Elisabeth Newman 30th Nov. 2019

Season's greetings to you all. I wish you a happy and safe Festive Season and may 2020 be kind to you.

The Festive Luncheon on 25th Nov, held at the William Angliss Institute, was a lovely event to end 2019. Selba Gondoza Luca gave a most informative presentation about Afri-Aus Care, the organisation she founded to support African and other CALD youth, male and female, to better integrate into Australian Society. Selba is undertaking some amazing and much needed work. It was also pleasing to welcome two talented flautists, Mai and Emily, from Westall Secondary College who delighted us with carols on arrival and a musical interlude during lunch.

While I was in India, I learnt that the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp had accepted the invitation to be the NCWV Patron; this is great news. A letter of thanks has been sent to the Lord Mayor. Also, while away I learnt of the death of Mavis Lynch, a wonderful lady who was a most dedicated member of NCWV. She was a founding member of the Central Gippsland Branch and an Hon. Life Member of NCWV. She died peacefully on 4th November. I attended her funeral in Morwell on 20th November. Seven members of the former Branch were there and met for a Christmas lunch after the service, asking me to join them. They send greetings to NCWV including the Geelong Branch. October: Pam and I visited Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg, to present Alicia Ranasinghe with her 2016 My Vote My Voice award. 2019 presentations are occurring this month and early next year. Sarah Morgan and I attended the final assembly of Melbourne Girls' College to present the My Vote MY Voice award. This was a special evening held at the Plaza Ballroom in Collins Street.

Terri Dry and I attended the Victorian & Tasmanian Uniting Church Adult Fellowship AGM. Necia Morton was installed as the new President of the UCAF. Traveller's Aid held its AGM in the Melbourne Town Hall, with a presentation on the use of mobility aids on buses. I also attended the AGM of the UAW. Next year is the 70th anniversary of its founding.

The Ukrainian Women's Association Victoria held a festive afternoon in November to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the UWA and to support the Ukrainian Crisis Appeal. Pam accompanied me to NCW Geelong for the end of year afternoon tea in November which was most pleasant. I thank the Organisational members who have sent invitations to events; it is a great way to learn more about you. Unfortunately, I have not been able to attend all.

NCWA: The Mid-term meeting will be in Adelaide 15th-16th May 2020. Unfortunately, it clashes with the ICW-CIF Mid-term Executive meeting in Avignon, France, 12th-15th May. The AGM was held via teleconference on 13th Nov. May Hu OAM and Ronniel Milliken joined this with me.

ICW-CIF: Hean Bee Wee and I attended the Board meeting in Pune, India followed by the Asia Pacific Regional Council (APRC) annual meeting and seminar which June Anderson (NCWV Committee) also attended. The program was excellent and included some Indian folk dancing. The interesting seminar was based on the ICW-CIF 2018-2021 triennial theme "Social protection for all women and girls: Sustainable development for the world". NCW India held its AGM in Pune. We flew to Delhi for the 100th anniversary celebrations of the Delhi State Council of Women. All meetings went very well and Hean Bee, as President of APRC, made some excellent presentations. In Pune and Delhi we were taken around schools the Councils run. All the Indian Councils do some amazing work helping the disadvantaged, mostly girls, in the field of education. Dancing and other cultural activities were put on for us.



Indian delegate, Elisabeth; Hean Bee, Rakhi S., Dr Jung-Sook Kim



Agar Khan Palace, Pune, India

NCWV Meetings



Dr Pat Phair OAM with Fiona

October Speaker: Fiona Armstrong, Founder, Climate & Health Alliance, a coalition of health care stakeholders who aim to see the threat to human health from climate change addressed through prompt policy action.

Fiona is the lead author of many CAHA's reports and is the architect of the *Framework for a National Strategy on Climate Health and Well-being for Australia*. She is recipient of Tony McMichael Ecology and Environment Award, the Frank Fisher Award, and was named as one of Australia's 100 Women of Influence, 2016. She is also the co-founder and a director of CLIMARTE: Arts for a Safe Climate.

The Alliance reviewed published research on health issues related to climate change, finding that there are many links. They find that if people hear about climate change in the context of health they listen more. There is also need for the health sector to reduce its environmental footprint, e.g., power/water/ chemical use in hospitals. The Alliance has a Sustainable Health Care Program aimed at health providers networking to share ideas on this endeavour. This is linked to the Global Greener Healthcare Network with over 30,000 members, case studies recorded and shared. International level work aims to create a Global Agreement; the World Health Organisation has declared Climate Change a health emergency. The EPA is meeting State ministers to update safe levels of certain chemicals in the atmosphere. There is a campaign 'Cleaning the Air' with a website.

November Twilight Meeting Speaker: Carole Shaw, Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW), large non-government network of women's groups that monitors and collaborates with the UN, national governments and non-government organisations to empower and advance human rights. Carole spoke of the Beijing 'Declaration and Platform for Action on Equality, Development and Peace' developed in Beijing September 1995. 26,500 women attended the conference, 700 Australian, 100 from Victoria. There have been reviews since.



Freda Kaufman, Pam Hammond, Carol Shaw.

The Beijing +25 review has been occurring, with Asia Pacific Watch working with groups around this part of the world to develop a report to go to the meeting of Civil Society in Bangkok. The report, 158 pages, including data and statistical analysis, is online at APWW website has been circulated to partners for endorsement.

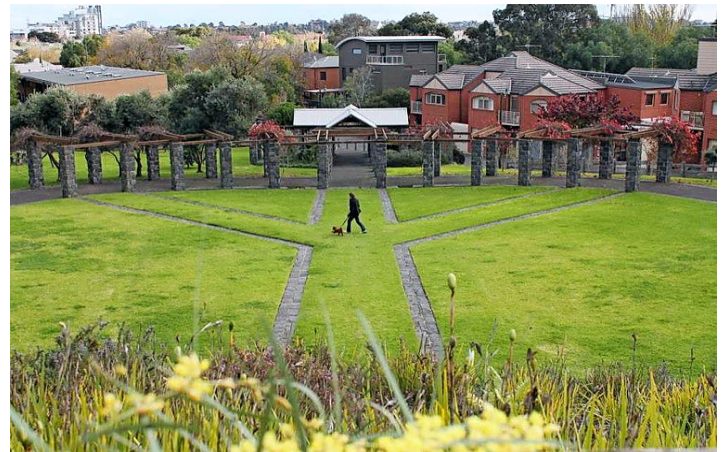
Recommendations relate to government agreed actions:

- Intersectional lens on equal opportunity, especially the disadvantaged;
- Reproductive health and cohesion;
- Broaden focus on Violence against Women;
- Increase in poverty of women to be addressed;
- Education opportunities for all;
- Need for intersectional data, quantitative & qualitative.

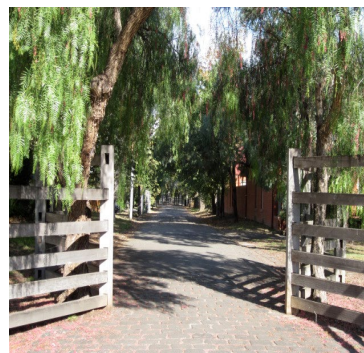
Refinements will result in the Declaration to be presented at the Inter-Governmental meeting.

Australia Day Pioneer Women's Ceremony, Monday January 20th 2020, 10:15am – 11:30 am.

Women's Peace Garden, Epsom Road Kensington (between Westbourne Rd & Coopers Lane); street parking available in Market St and Woodruff St; also Kensington & Newmarket train stations and Flemington Rd tramline.



View from Epsom Rd Entrances (one with ramp, one with steps)



Entrance from Coopers Lane (flat)



Epsom Rd Entrance

All those in the neighbourhood and others are most welcome to join those from NCWV.

The focus will be on Pioneer Women in the Environment and Conservation. Afterwards, we will take a very short walk to the local café for lunch, coffee/tea and conversation.

NCWV End of Year Festive Luncheon, 25th November

No one in the room could fail to be moved by the words of our speaker Selba Gondonza Luka. Her organisation, Afri-Aus Care is such a boon to her community, contending with the many problems, particularly of young people, encountered when beginning life in a new country. Malawian-born, Selba Gondoza Luka is a Mental Health Clinician specialising in at-risk Youth within the African and CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) communities. Selba, inspired by her own experiences of domestic abuse and the long process of repairing a fractured relationship with her daughter, came out of the darkness and founded Afri-Aus Care in 2015. The incorporated community organisation is located in Dandenong, Springvale and Pakenham offering biopsychosocial and well being risk assessment and counselling. Their volunteers are qualified case workers, social workers and psychologists, along with representatives from CALD communities who are able to engage with their clients in a culturally appropriate way. Passionate about breaking the Youth-Prison cycle for many, and closing the gap of Inter-generational Conflict, Selba has been a pivotal foundation for many troubled and fractured families to stabilize on as they take major steps along the path of recovery. Her experience in understanding Youth needs, led to her turning to sport as a Primary Intervention tool and in 2016, along with Jamy Alex, founded the Men's and Women's Black Rhinos Peregrine Falcons Basketball and Soccer Clubs. Since their creation the Clubs have worked both inside and outside of prisons to help many more Youth repair the impact of their missteps. This has ensured they forge stronger, positive relationships with their families, broader communities, government and private organisations. Afri-Aus Care also offers cooking, gardening, sewing, drug and alcohol diversion programs and education support, also referrals to specific health organisations. NCWV donated \$500 to this charity at the end of lunch.

Selba was awarded the Phonse Tobin Award and Meritorious Service to the Community (Voluntary Work) by Victorian Multicultural Commission and shortlisted as one of the 50 Most inspiring African Australians in 2019. Well deserved!

We also had the pleasure of two flautists from Westall Sec College, Emily and Mai, playing carols as people arrived, then 'In an English Country Garden' between Entrée and Main course. Absolutely delightful. Overall a very enjoyable day.



Selba Gondonza Luka



Emily and Mai



May Hu, Nyanom, Selba, Veronica, June Anderson



James, Lloyd (Royal Com Soc), Pam secretary.



Sarah Morgan, Ms Morgan, Sheila



Sue W., Freda K., Yanina D., Nadia S.

The Annual 'My Vote My Voice' Student Event, held in Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament of Victoria, 19/8. This year's theme was: *Male and Female Youth as Future Voters*. Students were invited to make group presentations on this theme to an audience of students, community members, Parliamentarians and a panel of eminent people. An evaluation sheet was completed by panel members (and others). In addition to this feedback, we had audio provided by the Hansard staff at the Parliament. The following schools have received awards:

- Pat Goble Individual Award, donated by Ann C Jackson, Mai Kassis, Coburg HS
- Marie Kirk Group Award, donated by WCTU-Drug-FreeLifestyles, Methodist Ladies College.
- Beryle Foster OAM Group Award, donated by NCWV Individual Members and NCWA, shared between Fintona GGS and Kingswood College
- Marion Lau OAM Group Award, donated by AABCA, shared between Westall SC and Nth Geelong HS
- Elva Carland Group Award, donated by NCWV Geelong Branch, Oberon HS, Geelong
- Sylvia Gelman Group Award, donated by Eleanor Sumner, Melbourne Girls College, Richmond



Westall Sec. College



Methodist Ladies College



Fintona GGS



Oberon High School



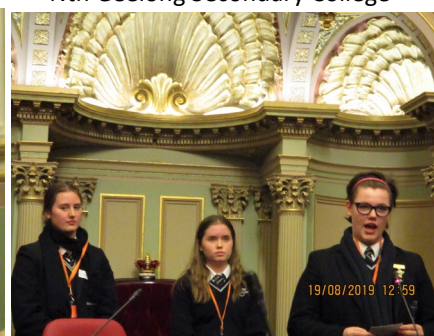
Nth Geelong Secondary College



Mai Kassis, Coburg HS



Kingswood College



Melbourne Girls College

Government House Ballroom dancing event 31 October 2019

Beverley Kannegeisser, Biruta Don, Marita Fitzpatrick and May Hu attended Ballroom DanceSport event at Government House on 31 October 2019. What a pleasure it was to attend the performances as part of the Governor's Performance Series. It was very colourful with the vivid colours of the ladies' and girls' dresses. The graceful, fluid movements of the dancers were beautiful and energetic despite it being 34°. As a potential Olympic sport, we saw the athleticism of these dancers who are at the elite level. We were all rapt and amazed by one junior pair of about 8 years of age and another pair in their 60s. A delicious afternoon tea and visit to the Governor's State Apartments finished off a most enjoyable afternoon. The Government House Ballroom is bigger than the ballroom at Buckingham Palace. It's part of the 'State Apartments' which also includes the State Hall, State Drawing Room, State Dining Room and Billiard Room. The dining room has paintings of important women, including Dame Nellie Melba. The Australian Dancing Society's 74th Australian DanceSport Championship will be held at Melbourne's Margaret Court Arena on 6th–8th December 2019, a key event on the international dancing circuit, providing our athletes with the opportunity to compete against some of the world's best on home soil and for Australian audiences to witness the skill, glamour and athleticism of World Class DanceSport.

Garden lovers can enjoy a free tour of the Government House gardens on the third Thursday of the month, starting at 11am. Tours for this year are booked out. You can also enjoy family activities at the annual Government House Open Days on Australia Day and in July. Visit the house, historic stables and enjoy a garden picnic.

Biruta Don at Government House Melbourne



Governor & Mr Howard with dancers after the event



Ballroom dancers in action



Biruta and May in dining room at Government House



Vale



It is with sadness that we report the death of Mavis Lynch, Inaugural and Foundation Member of NCWV Central Gippsland Branch; also:
 President - March 1989-March 1992; 1999-2002; Sept. 2006 - Sep. 2007.
 Honorary Secretary – 1986-1989; 1993, 1996-1998.
 Honorary Treasurer - 1984 and part 1985.
 Delegate to NCWV Council – 1987-1998.
 Central Gippsland Rep to NCWV Executive 1989-1990; 2003-2005; 2009-2010.
 Regional VICE PRESIDENT NCWV 1991 and 2005-2006.
 NCWV ASSOCIATE MEMBER (Individual Member). 1993-2000.
 NCWV Member of Sub Committee - Constitution - late 1999-2000.
 NCWV Standing Committee, Youth SC. 1992-1999. - 8 years.

I first met Mavis when she came to represent NCWV Central Gippsland Branch in the mid 1980s when I was NCWV Hon. Secretary and was invited to attend their Annual General Meetings. As well Mavis was involved in organising a lunch in Traralgon 1990 for a formal visit by the then President of National Council of Women of Australia. Mavis always contributed to NCWV Executive and Council Meetings with comprehensive reports and comment, always reporting back to Branch members. Her lasting voluntary contribution would be the sorting of Central Gippsland Branch records for safe storage - these records are now in the safe keeping of Stratford Historical Society. She was an excellent cook and when Executive provided food for a meeting Mavis always brought her wonderful home cooking. Mavis regularly attended Individual Member meetings and annual events: Christmas Lunch, May Forum, Annual General Meeting. At times she must have been on the Melbourne train several times a week as she also represented other organisations who had regular member meetings in Melbourne. *Janet Galley OAM. NCWV Honorary Archivist.*

Dr Beatrice Faust: Founder of Women’s Electoral Lobby in 1972, feminist, journalist, academic died October 30, 2019. She was one of the first women to campaign for civil liberties, abortion law reform and sex education. She also campaigned for women to apply for public service and influenced both State and Federal governments to include policies for women. She authored: *Women, Sex and Pornography* (1980); *Apprenticeship in Liberty* (1991); *Benzo Junkie: More than a case history* (1993); *Backlash? Balderdash! Where Feminism is going Right* (1994). Later in life Bea became a lecturer at RMIT, then Monash Uni Gippsland campus. She was inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women; in 2004 appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO); in 2005 awarded degree of LLD at Monash Uni. Bea was courageous and inspired a generation through her work for civil liberties and for women. *Sheila Byard OAM*

Other News

The Royal Historical Society Victoria

Wed 4 December, 12 noon for 12:30 lecture, finishes by 1:30pm, FREE

Catherine Gill who, as part of her Masters in Cultural Materials Conservation, studied the portrait of Jack Wetherly in the RHSV collection, will present a talk about her work. The original artwork was painted in 1840 by Thomas Napier. The talk will focus on the two areas of the research findings as well as the process undertaken to conserve the portrait. Thomas Napier migrated to Melbourne from Hobart and purchased land at the first land sale. He established a cattle station near Dandenong and likely met the Boonwurrung man, Jack Wetherly. Information about Jack Wetherly was found in the journals of William Thomas who was appointed as one of four assistant protectors under the Port Phillip Protectorate (1839-1849). Attendees welcome to eat their lunch whilst listening to Catherine and we'll have tea / coffee available from 12 noon onwards. *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are warned that the event and booking site will exhibit images of deceased persons.*

Her Place Women's Museum Australia, 208–210 Clarendon St East Melbourne, Thursday 5th Dec 2019, 6:00pm

Please join [Her Place Women's Museum Australia](#) and [The Women's Mural Documentation Project](#), and artists Eve Glenn and Megan Evans in celebrating the launch of *Re-imagining the Women's Mural-a virtual tour. The Women's Mural: Bomboniere to Barbed Wire*, originally located at the Gas and Fuel site in Smith Street, Fitzroy, was created and painted by Megan and Eve in 1986. In September 2019 the wall was demolished and the mural no longer exists, but *Re-imagining the Women's Mural-a virtual tour*, now allows viewers to digitally experience and discover the history of one of Australia's most significant feminist murals via mobile and electronic devices. [TO BOOK](#)

The vision for Her Place is to create a public space that honours the achievements of women, through exhibitions, public programs, education resources and an archive. email: herplace@herplacemuseum.com

INTERNATIONAL GIRLS' DAY - "THE GIRLS' VOICE"

The International Girls' Day took place on 11 October 2018. Testimonials were collected from worldwide girls (cf 2015-2019 Activities Report- July 2018), revealing how much girls suffer from all kinds of violence (rape, incest, forced marriage, early pregnancy, excision etc.), whereas going to school is a priority for them, so as "to find their rightful place in society and become citizens aware of their responsibilities and rights". In order to transmit the rich information collected, the working group developed a "Manifesto" which is preceded by a declaration of Mme Audrey Azoulay, Directeur General of UNESCO, about Education as the challenge of the century. This is why it was decided to follow up this reflection on Girls' life, with a focus on Education. So we are now working on the celebration of the International Day of Education on 24 January 2020, which we subtitled "Girls'Voice".

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 early 2020

January: Monday 20th Australia Day Pioneer Women's Ceremony, at Women's Peace Garden, Kensington

February: Thursday 6th Individual Members Meeting, 10:15-11:30am

Trading Table.

Council Meeting, 12:15-2:00pm

Venue to be advised

A safe and happy holiday time from NCWV, wishing for a healthy, satisfying and rewarding 2020.



Patron in Chief: Her Excellency the Honorable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria
Patron: The Right Honorable the Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp