

October 2019 Newsletter

Quote: *"The 2019 International Day of Peace theme, "Climate Action for Peace", draws attention to the importance of combatting climate change as one way to contribute to the promotion of international peace and security throughout the world ... Climate action needs women. Women are often the first victims of natural disasters and the strongest contributors to post-recovery community building. Therefore, it is essential that proposed solutions to combat the climate crisis include women."* ICW-CIF Statement to Mark International Day of Peace, September 21, 2019

From the President, Elisabeth Newman 30th Sept. 2019

Welcome to you all, particularly the Committee of 2019-20 voted in at the AGM in September and I thank you for having faith in me as President for a third year. I look forward to working with you all for what will definitely be my last year. Not only do you need to look for a President for next year but also a Secretary, Treasurer and Convener of Standing Committees as Pam Hammond, Hean Bee Wee and May Hu complete their terms. I thank you all for granting me Honorary Life Membership which was a lovely surprise and a great honour; thank you. It is unfortunate that we have no YoungNCWVic member on the Committee, but we are able to appoint a young member who is interested and has the time. We do have five or six members who need encouragement and mentoring.

This year I would like to see more advocacy work undertaken with the Respect programme. The brochure needs updating; there is some money that was transferred from the Bendigo bank to pay for this. The plight of older homeless women needs addressing. Anti-Poverty week is being observed during 13th-19th October. A letter has gone to the Manager of the Social Investment Dept. and her Team Leader at the Melbourne Town Hall saying we are interested in participating in projects they had suggested.

Last week I prepared two submissions based on the material collected from the July workshops and elsewhere. I was granted an extension of time for the submission to the Victorian Royal Commission into Mental Health. The 2nd submission was to the Federal Government's Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

11th Sept. Pat Phair OAM and I attended an Environmental Science Lecture: Victoria's Environment – Adapting to the New Normal, at Government House. It was a panel discussion on what Victoria should be doing in agriculture. Acoustics in the ballroom were not good so difficult to hear.

18th Sept. I attended Grandparents Victoria's A.G.M. and on 20th Sept. I was among the 150,000 or so people who attended the rally and march on climate change.

The Australian parallel report for the Beijing +25 Review should be completed shortly. Carole Shaw, who is overseeing the review for the Asia Pacific Region, will be addressing the Council in November. Hean Bee Wee and I will miss the November Council meeting. We will be in Pune, India for the ICW-CIF Board and APRC meetings. We than travel to Delhi to attend the 100th anniversary celebrations of the Delhi State Council of Women.

NCWV AGM was on 5th September with the following people elected to Committee:

President: Elisabeth Newman;

Vice President A: Freda Kaufman;

Vice President B: Ronniet Milliken

Hon Secretary: Pam Hammond;

Hon Treasurer: Hean Bee Wee AM;

Coordinator of Standing Committees May Hu OAM JP;

General members: Beverley Kannegieser (Individual Members' Representative);

Marita Fitzpatrick (Regional Branch Representative);

Elida Brereton;

June Anderson.



Back: May, Freda, Ronniet, Elida, June, Beverley, Marita

Front: Hean Bee, Elisabeth, Pam

Also at the AGM, Elisabeth Newman was made an Honorary Life Member of NCWV, nominated by Janet Galley OAM and endorsed by the Committee. She has been a member for over 40 years, then joined the Executive/Committee in 1981 holding positions of Vice President, Public Officer and Individual Member Representative. During her term as Vice President in 2017, she took the role of Interim President from May to the AGM in September when she was elected as President. To quote Janet, "her dedication to Health and Well Being Standing Committees has been outstanding". She undertook to support, inform, educate and encourage members to understand PAP smears, Breast Screen Victoria, and Why Women's Health, attending meetings and reporting to Council. She was NCWA Health Convener and Adviser 1994-2000. "There is no doubt that Elisabeth Margaret Newman would be a well-deserved appointee as an Honorary Life Member of NCWV."

October NCWV meeting: Thursday 3rd October 12.00 for 12.15 start, Ross House 247 Flinders Lane Melb, Room 4.1. Speaker: Fiona Armstrong, Founder, Climate & Health Alliance, a coalition of health care stakeholders who wish to see the threat to human health from climate change addressed through prompt policy action.

November NCWV meeting: Thursday 5th November 5.00 for 5.15 start, Ross House 247 Flinders Lane Melbourne, Room 4.1. Speaker is **Carole Shaw, Asia Pacific Watch, on Review of Beijing +25. This will be another most informative speaker who would appeal to many, not just delegates, but other members of your organisation and friends, all of whom are welcome to join us. Please spread the word. NOTE the LATE TIME.**

The Annual 'My Vote My Voice' Student Event 2019

'My Vote My Voice' was held in the Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament of Victoria, 19 August. This year's theme was: *Male and Female Youth as Future Voters*, drawing on NCWV's partnership with Australian Local Government Women's Association, the Victorian Electoral Commission and the League of Women Voters' Bessie Rischbieth Trust. Students made group presentations on the theme to audience of students, community members, and Parliamentarians. Event commenced in Queen's Hall, welcomed by the Hon Gabrielle Williams, Minister for Women, Youth and Prevention of Family Violence. Keynote speaker was Ms Amy Carpenter, Education Coordinator, Victorian Electoral Commission. She stated how annoyed she gets when hearing that young people are apathetic and not interested in what is going on beyond their world. There is passionate action occurring, but attitudes towards political processes is reducing.



Legislative Council Chamber



Ms Amy Carpenter

We then had speakers from Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar, Melbourne Girls' College; Oberon HS; Al Siraat College; Fintona Girls' School; Nth Geelong Sec College; Kingswood College; Westall Sec College; Genazzano College; Coburg HS and University HS. All speakers had researched peer attitudes and spoke confidently on the topic, with different perspectives taken by each school. There were personal anecdotes, passion and humour in the presentations. One common element was that there needs to be more 'Civics and Citizenship' content in the core curriculum. Schools also brought students as observers and some parents attended, as well as some Parliamentarians and many NCWV members and their guests. An evaluation sheet was completed by panel members (and others). Panel members were Cr Coral Ross OAM, Mayor Boroondara and President of MAV; Cr Sandra Wilson, past Mayor of Hobsons Bay; Cr Trent McCarthy, Darebin Council, with Dr Deborah Towns OAM chairing. In addition to this feedback, we have audio of the event provided by the Hansard staff at the Parliament. It was an inspiring morning.



Al Siraat College



Westall Sec. College



Methodist Ladies College



Fintona Girls' Grammar



Coburg HS



Oberon HS

Report: Pam Hammond, Hon Secretary, Convener NCWV Civics and Citizenship Program, and Education Adviser.

National Council of Women of Victoria is pleased to have a number of organisational members aiming to provide a voice for Chinese speaking women. Australian Asian Business Women's Association (AABWA) held a forum on 28th August at the Parliament of Victoria. The topic was "Balance for Better" with four panellists discussing the experience of migrant women in reaching life balance, career success and issues of cultural adaptation. MC was Guosheng Chen, RMIT Honorary Fellow. Panel members included Dr Manjula O'Connor, founder of the Australasian Center for Human Rights and Health. AABWA President, June Anderson, concluded a stimulating evening by inviting VIP guests including Past-President of Legislative Council the Hon. Bruce Atkinson MP and Elisabeth Newman, President NCWV to comment on their idea of what made a 'great lady'.

In the 2016 census, 62% of Melbournians speak only English at home, Mandarin 4.1%, Greek 2.4%, Italian 2.3%, Vietnamese 2.3%, and Cantonese 1.7%, are most common foreign languages spoken at home by Melbournians.



Vale



It is with sadness that we report the death of CORAL HEATHER SUNDBLOM - 14.3.1935- 26.8.2019. Coral was a member who attended council meetings of NCWV as well as being an Individual Member c. 2013/14 to 2016. She regularly attended the Annual Christmas luncheon with members of the Home Economics Institute of Australia (Victoria) during her time as a member of NCWV.

Other News

Victorian Seniors Festival: October 6th this 'kicks off' with a Celebration Day in Federation Square. The theme is 'Get Into It' with more than 2500 festival events across the State. See: seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/festivalsandawards

Allannah & Madeline Foundation: Buddy Run the anti-bullying Fun Run

This is a family-friendly event, which includes a 1km run for children, at Yarra Park on Sunday 20th October, which aims to promote inclusion, respect and encouraging everyone to say no to bullying. The event will raise awareness and much needed funds to help protect our children against bullying and cyber bullying. After the run, visit the Event Village where kids and families will be entertained with loads of fun-filled activities. Click [here](#) to find out more.

Victorian Women's Trust (VWT) have joined with the Sydney Peace Prize for an event with US founder of the #metoo movement, Tarana Burke, on November 18, 2019 6:30 - 8:00 pm at Collingwood Town Hall. Tickets at: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/metoo-founder-tarana-burke-melbourne-one-night-only-tickets-71316119433>

The Royal Historical Society Victoria

Book Fair: Members' only Preview, Thu 3 Oct 5pm - 7pm; Public, Sat 5 Oct 10am - 4pm - huge number of books!

History Week 13 - 20 October, Lecture: George Higinbotham: The most loved and most hated man of his day.

TUE 15 OCT, 5:15pm, Drinks followed by lecture, 6pm - 7pm, \$10 / \$20; Officers' Mess Upstairs. As the grandson of an aide-de-camp of George Washington who had fought in the American War of Independence, he was inspired by democratic principles. He became convinced that reform of the system of government was essential in Victoria.

Batmania Walking Tours: Tue 15 Oct, 10am - 11:30am; Thu 17 Oct 10am - 11:30am

For History Week RHSV researcher, Fiona Graham, has put together a new guided walking tour of the south-western corner of the CBD – today it is a slightly raffish part of town but in 1835 it was where everything was unfolding. Come and learn something new about your city. [Book tickets to Batmania Walking Tours](#)

Medical Women's Historical Tour of Melbourne by the Victorian Medical Women's Society

Time 1 h 28 m; Length 5.87 km; Easy walking. Follow in the footsteps of our trailblazing medical women of the past. This will introduce you to some of the women who lived and worked here. <http://walkingmaps.com.au/walk/3720>

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 +

October: Thursday 3rd Individual Members 10:15am, Room 4.1 Ross House. Trading Table Council meeting Room 4.1, 12:15pm.

Monday 14th Standing Committee meeting 4:30 – 6:00pm Ross House Room 2.1

Thursday 17th Committee Meeting, RHSV ground floor meeting room, 10:00am

November: Thursday 7th Council Meeting 5:15pm, Room 4.1 Ross House. NOTE LATE TIME.

Monday 18th Standing Committee meeting 4:30 – 6:00pm Ross House Room 2.1

Thursday 21st Committee Meeting, RHSV ground floor meeting room, 10:00pm

Monday 25th End of Year Celebratory Luncheon, 12.00pm – Angliss Restaurant, 550 Little Lonsdale St Melbourne, near Spencer Street.

January: Monday 19th Australia Day Pioneer Women's Ceremony, at Women's Peace Garden, Kensington