

Newsletter

February 2020

Quote: "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller (with thanks to Pam Robinson's article)

From President, Elisabeth Newman AM 30th January, 2020

I hope you have had a pleasant and restful Festive Season and are ready to support NCWV in the second part of the year's work leading up to the AGM on Sept. 3rd, which will include two important events: the May forum on 7th May; My Vote My Voice in August, date yet to be finalised.

Despite the threat of rain, it was pleasing to see at least 45 members and quite a few guests at the 59th Australia Day Pioneer Women's Ceremony which was most successful. Pam Robinson OAM gave a most interesting address about women's involvement in the environment and conservation, she herself being a pioneer in this field. Apart from climate change and its effect on the environment being a leading topic world-wide, the event was made even more pertinent by the horrific fires. In my introduction I said "I wish to acknowledge all who have undergone losses in the devastating fires, those who have died, five in Victoria, the loss of property and livelihood and the huge loss of fauna and flora. I request you to bow your heads for a minute's silent contemplation as a mark of respect". (Report below)

Following lunch at 'Local Folks', Pam Robinson accompanied Pam Hammond and myself to the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden to lay the sheath of flowers by the grotto. Just over another month and it will be International Women's Day. Although NCWV does not have its own specific event, members participate as representatives of the Council at a number of events. Melbourne City Council is organising walks in the City to point out places of particular interest to women. NCWV has committed to participate as some of you expressed interest in them. Those wishing to participate please let Pam or myself know. I express my gratitude to all, some who sadly are no longer with us, who have supported me in my work, over some 38 years, for NCWV, mostly advocating to improve the health outcomes for women and children, and for similar work for NCWA and ICW-CIF. I consider the honour of receiving an Honorary Member (AM) of the Order of Australia (General Division) as an honour to all who have supported me.

Australia Day Honours 2020:

Elisabeth Margaret Newman has been made an honorary Member of the Order of Australia - in the General Division (AM), *for significant service to women at the national and international level.*



Elisabeth has been a member for over 40 years, Committee member in 1981, then Vice President, Public Officer and Individual Member Rep. When Vice President in May 2017, she became Interim President and at the AGM was elected President. As Health Adviser she informed and educated members on PAP smears, Breast Screen Victoria, Why Women's Health and more. She was NCWA Health Adviser 1994-2000.

Elisabeth has regularly attended ICW-CIF General assemblies, becoming a Life Member in 1997. She served on ICW-CIF Board as Board Member and Vice President, and as Joint Coordinator Standing Committees. On retiring was co-opted back onto the ICW-CIF Board.

Dr Judith Beryl Smart, Member of the Order of Australia - in the General Division (AM), *for significant service to education, to social research and to women* (below left).



Dr Desiree Swei-Lien Yap, Member of the Order of Australia - in the General Division (AM), *for significant service to women's health and to medicine* (above right).

NCWV February 6th Meetings: RMIT Building 8, Level 8, Room 47, Swanston Street, near cnr La Trobe St, 5 minutes from Melbourne Central Station and RMIT tram stop.

Individual Members (10:15am), Speaker: Beverley Kannegiesser, Austral Salon of Music on its 130th Anniversary (this is available to all members)

Council Meeting (12:15pm), Speaker: Dr Nadine Richings, Biologist, Educator, Science Communicator, Advocate for Environment Conservation & Animal Reproduction Development an appropriate follow-up to Pam Robinson's speech.

Please consider bringing other members from your Organisation and friends. Both speakers will be most interesting.

Trading Table at meeting – so consider bringing contributions and extra money for purchases.

59th Australia Day Pioneer Women's Ceremony,
 January 20th 2020, **Women's Peace Garden.**

This event was a great success with 45 members and quite a few guests. Girl Guides Victoria provided the Colour Party and all sang the National Anthem. The focus this year was on Pioneer Women in the Environment and Conservation. We were privileged to have Pam Robinson OAM as speaker, a founding member of Landcare.

Pam said we can consider 'Pioneer' in the historical sense - relating to a person in a bygone time. Whilst not untrue, it encompasses the fact that a Pioneer is one of the first people to do something: the first person/organisation to start work in a new area, introduce a new idea etc, especially in terms of young people coming along. It is important to recognise and respect past Pioneers, strides made by them that have brought us to where we are now, but also important for younger people to see that they can become a Pioneer in "their time" to be able to leave their legacy of endeavour.

Pam acknowledged Indigenous people who have managed the land for millennia, quoting award winners, the Woka Walla Land Management Crew, who have been operating for seven years across northern Victoria where they have done cultural identification and protection, cultural burning, pest plant and animal control. The crew members have an unbroken link to the land through their families and have responsibility for Caring for Country which connects them to their ancestors.

Two Past Pioneers - women often referred to as the 'Mothers of Landcare' came from different backgrounds, had differences politically, but understood in the 1980s that if a new community program was to be established working with natural resources, enhancing environment, delivering sustainable farming practices, it needed to be a bipartisan approach. Joan Kirner AC and Heather Mitchell OBE AM - one a Labor Government Minister (later Premier), the other President of the conservative Victorian Farmers Federation, understood a bipartisan collaborative approach would achieve more, and by taking this approach it would provide the difference required to make this new program first class - Landcare was born. The first Landcare Group was officially announced in 1986 and earlier groups such as Farm Tree Groups joined in. Land Protection and other activities that people were undertaking continued in the Landcare theme. There are nearly 600 Landcare groups and 500 Friends of Groups in Victoria. The Australian Government introduced a National Landcare Program with a bipartisan approach. Also, there is Australian Landcare International, a non-profit organisation.

Landcare has no age barrier and Pam encouraged all to investigate becoming involved with a local group. "We can go from sitting on the sidelines saying 'THEY ORTA' be doing this and that - we can decide that - **We** will take up the leadership position for the future of our environment and conservation by saying in a renewed bipartisan and collective voice 'We Orta **WE WILL** and **WE ARE**.'"

To read the full speech, go to our website:
<http://www.ncwvic.org.au/news-events.html>

Afterwards, many took a very short walk to the 'Local Folk' café for lunch and conversation.

Our thanks to Rod Hammond and Ian Newman who set up (and dismantled) the two pergolas in case the storm came.



Thanks to ADCV for the pergolas



Ian and Rod



Sebastian Wee helping Pam Robinson OAM



Committee with Nadine Richings (back) and Pam Robinson OAM



Elisabeth & Pam at Pioneer Women's Garden laying sheath at plaque

Other News

Austral Salon of Music, 130th Anniversary Celebration, Saturday, 14 March 2020 – Founding member of NCWV

Main Hall, St Peter's, East Melbourne, Concert 2.00 pm followed by a Delicious Afternoon Tea

Featuring Elyane Laussade, Luke Severn and Daniel Tan

Members \$35 Visitors \$40, Bookings and further information at www.australsalon.org

MILITARY WIVES- Complimentary Film Preview Tickets for NCWA

Transmission Films invites you to an advance preview screening of **MILITARY WIVES** at a cinema near you! For more information and to download tickets go to: <https://www.showfilmfirst.com/pin/520402>

In Melbourne: Mon 10/02/20, 18:30 and 20:45 at The Astor Theatre

The Full Monty director Peter Cattaneo recruits Kristin Scott Thomas and Sharon Horgan to lead this inspiring drama about the bravery of the women of war, and the power of the music that saved them. The life of a military wife can be thankless. Separated from loved ones, their suffering and sacrifice go unnoticed while they live with the dread of a fateful knock on the door. But Kate (Scott Thomas), finds freedom in song and persuades a ragtag group of women on the base to form the Military Wives Choir. Inspired by a true-life global phenomenon, *Military Wives* portrays ordinary women in unbelievably testing circumstances, who find courage in the power of singing together. The cast belts out pop hits and rock anthems, empowering everyone to overcome their fears together.

The Royal Historical Society Victoria

Translating European Culture to Colonial Melbourne, James Goold and his Legacies

Monday 17 – Tuesday 18 February 2020, Newman College and University of Melbourne. This international conference celebrates an Australian Research Council Discovery Project on Archbishop Goold. Hosted by the project's research team with keynotes on the cultural visions of the Church in seventeenth-century Spain, nineteenth-century Canada, and Anglicanism in nineteenth-century Melbourne. It will present research on religious orders in Australia, Goold's patronage of artists, and nineteenth century architects of Melbourne. **Free.** [Registration and information click here](#)

John Marshall & Bounty Migration to Port Phillip

Feb 18, Tuesday, 5:15pm - 7pm, Free event, Officers' Mess Upstairs

Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison AO, will launch Dr Liz Rushen's book, *John Marshall: Shipowner, Lloyd's reformer and emigration agent*. Dr Rushen will then explore the role John Marshall played in white settlement of the Port Phillip District. In the three years 1839-1841, he sent 21 ships containing nearly 5000 bounty migrants to the new settlement. Drinks are served in the Gallery Downstairs from 5:15pm, with the launch at 6pm. [Book Liz Rushen's lecture](#)

17 March Women's History Month lecture, details to follow.

A National Gallery of Australia campaign for women artists. <https://nga.gov.au/knowmyname/>

#KnowMyName is a call for equal power, respect and recognition for female creators. The ongoing objective is to recognise and celebrate Australian women artists, through social media, exhibitions, research and creative collaborations. Women represent around 25% of Australian art collection at the National Gallery. In acknowledging this imbalance, the Gallery will unveil a major exhibition of Australian women artists in May 2020, and undertake a display of works by exclusively woman artists in the 20th century Australian art gallery from May to October 2020.

Shrine of Remembrance Exhibitions -Entry by donation. All proceeds support our education programs.

Last Post Ceremony, 16th February: Remembering members of the Australian Army Nursing Service who were massacred on Bangka Island on the 16th February 1942. The service will be held at the Shrine of Remembrance at 4.30pm. Medals are appropriate and visitors are welcome to lay a wreath. No RSVP required - all welcome.

The Korean War, Until March 2020, West Gallery: Over 18,000 Australians fought in the Korean War (1950–53) which claimed three million lives, including 339 Australians. The clash between North and South Korea remains unresolved. Discover the war's origins, why Australia became involved and why it still matters. [More information](#)

Recent Conflicts - Permanent exhibition: Discover the human stories behind the headlines about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Find out what it is like to serve in war in the twenty-first century, and see the war through the eyes of some remarkable Australian service men and women as they fought a ruthless and elusive enemy. [More information](#)

Travellers Aid aims to empower people to connect, engage and participate in the community without discrimination.

Travellers Aid services are available to anyone with mobility challenges and who needs assistance or support, including those with invisible/visible disabilities. These can be MS, Autism, ADHD, mental illnesses, diabetes, chronic pain etc. There is a free service available to anyone travelling to, from or within Melbourne, Seymour and surrounding areas. If travelling to an appointment, trained volunteers provide assistance along the way, meeting and accompanying them to and from their appointment. Travellers Aid lounges at Southern Cross and Flinders Street are available to anyone who needs somewhere to rest, get away from the bustle of the station or use accessible toilets. Travellers Aid Newsletter: <https://travellersaid.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=96c721fec5d06b5f3c0160c54&id=018ecc6b51&e=a44efd2aff>

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 2020

NCWA: Mid-term meeting in Adelaide 15th-16th May 2020. Registration details available via info@ncwvic.org.au

ICW-CIF: Mid-term Executive meeting in Avignon, France, 12th-15th May. Registration details via email above.

February:	Thursday 6th	Individual Members Meeting, 10:15-11:30am	Trading Table.
		Council Meeting, 12:15-2:00pm	RMIT Bld 8, level 8 Room 47
	Monday 17th	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm	Room 2.1 Ross House
	Thursday 20th	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon	RHSV mezzanine
March:	Thursday 3rd	Late Council Meeting, 5:15-7:15pm	Level 4, Room 4.1 Ross House
	Thursday 19th	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon	RHSV mezzanine
April	Thursday 2nd	Individual Members Meeting, 10:15-11:30am	Trading Table.
		Council Meeting, 12:15-2:00pm	Level 4, Room 4.1 Ross House
	Monday 13th	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm	Room 2.1 Ross House
	Thursday 16th	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon	RHSV mezzanine
May	Thursday 7th	May Forum, 9:45-11:30am	Level 4, Room 4.1 Ross House
		Council Meeting, 12:15-2:00pm	Level 4, Room 4.1 Ross House
	Thursday 21st	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon	RHSV mezzanine
June	Thursday 4th	Individual Members Meeting & AGM, 10:15-11:30am	Trading Table
		Council Meeting, 12:15-2:00pm	Level 4, Room 4.1 Ross House
	Monday 15th	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm	Room 2.1 Ross House
	Thursday 18th	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon	RHSV mezzanine
July	Thursday 2nd	Late Council Meeting, 5:15-7:15pm	Level 4, Room 4.1 Ross House
	Thursday 16th	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon	RHSV mezzanine
August	Thursday 6th	Individual Members Meeting, 10:15-11:30am	Trading Table.
		Council Meeting, 12:15-2:00pm	Level 4, Room 4.1 Ross House
	Monday 10th	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm	Room 2.1 Ross House
	Thursday 20th	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon	RHSV mezzanine
Sept.	Thursday 3rd	NCWV AGM, 12:15-2:00pm	Level 4, Room 4.1 Ross House
	Thursday 17th	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon	RHSV mezzanine
October	Thursday 1st	Individual Members Meeting, 10:15-11:30am	Trading Table
		Council Meeting, 12:15-2:00pm	Level 4, Room 4.1 Ross House
	Monday 12th	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm	Room 2.1 Ross House
	Thursday 15th	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon	RHSV mezzanine
Nov.	Thursday 5th	Late Council Meeting, 5:15-7:15pm	Level 4, Room 4.1 Ross House
	Thursday 12th	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon	RHSV mezzanine
	Thursday 19th	End of Year Celebratory Luncheon, 12.00	Angliss Restaurant, 550 Little Lonsdale St Melbourne, near Spencer Street.

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

Patron: The Right Honorable the Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp