

Newsletter

September 2021

Quote: *“Across all the issues, the next National Plan must continue to build on our strong basic primary prevention, to stop violence before it starts and achieve long-term attitudinal, cultural, systemic and behavioural change; be backed by long-term bipartisanism, by all governments, across prevention, intervention response, and recovery. Investment should support both existing services doing good work, as well as build new responses, and should provide a long-term service-level funding for frontline services, including housing and advocacy.”* Statement, Summit on Women’s Safety 2021

From the President, Ronniel Milliken

Women united by the same great ideals.

From time immemorial, women have initiated social reforms. At NCWA we have our ‘Stirrers with Style’. My original member organisation harks back to the golden days of Greece and a wise woman Diotima, said to be a teacher of Socrates.

At our AGM we were privileged to hear from Dr Lois Peeler, who chose to speak about the aboriginal women in her family clan. Her highly professional, multi-media presentation tracked the history of powerful, dedicated Indigenous women, including her grandmother, mother and aunts, in promoting rights and education for Aboriginal people. In her tradition the grandmothers are the wisdom keepers. She went on to say we are all leaders to some extent as we touch the lives of our family, friends, community and nation. The women in her family are synonymous with the pursuit of social justice to empower people to become leaders of the next generation. More than symbolic of their inspiring legacy is Worawa College for Aboriginal Girls and the ‘pathways to womanhood’ program. Lois is committed to the education and preservation of Victorian Aboriginal history and culture. As Principal of Worawa, the pedagogy is based on learning from the land and Aboriginal Ways of Knowing, Doing and Being..

Less than a week later, women from across Australia were coming together virtually and in person, where that was possible during this pandemic, at the National Summit on Women’s Safety and associated roundtables, to share their wisdom, listen and learn. The two-day program forms part of the consultation for the next National Plan to end violence against women and their children. Speakers and panelists included Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner **June Oscar AO**, Sex Discrimination Commissioner **Kate Jenkins**, Australian of the Year **Grace Tame**, and eSafety Commissioner **Julie Inman Grant**.

NCWA was represented by President Robyn Nolan who participated in the roundtables and will provide a report at the NCWA October Board Meeting.

The Victorian contingent included Gabrielle Williams, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Prevention of Family Violence and Minister for Women in the Victorian Government, who said:

“I think we can agree that the time for talking has well past, that is the message I have heard loud and clear, not only over the past few days but over many years. We need action and in Victoria we heard the message loud and clear five years ago when the Royal Commission on family violence handed down its report. Since that time the Victorian government has invested some three and half billion dollars into rebuilding our family violence system. And now it is time for the Commonwealth to step up to meet its responsibility and act on the responsibilities in its jurisdiction; advancing primary prevention and addressing the housing affordability crisis, which is deepening across our country.”

“It would be boosting funding for legal services, supporting women with uncertain visa status, and implementing all Respect@Work recommendations. It would be properly investing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-led responses and giving the dedicated focus they deserve. And it would be formally embedding victim’s voices in the National Plan. It would be legislating family violence leave and providing meaningful and sustainable funding for the sector. We did not need a summit to tell us this, the sector has been consistent, consistent in its message for many years if not decades. Generations in fact.”

“We need the Commonwealth to listen, to take the time to recognise the work that has already been done, to heed the evidence that has been developed, and most importantly to act.”

For our part, at the NCWV Standing Committee meeting on Mon 13 September, it was agreed that advisers and convenors review the Summit aspects relevant to their portfolio, for further attention..

At the 118th AGM of NCWV, on 2nd September the following Committee was elected:

President: Ronniel Milliken

Vice-President: Elida Brereton

Treasurer: Sheridan Ingram

Hon Secretary: Mary Mulhearn

Standing Committee Coord. Dr Deborah Towns
OAM

Individual Members Representative: Beverley Kannegiesser

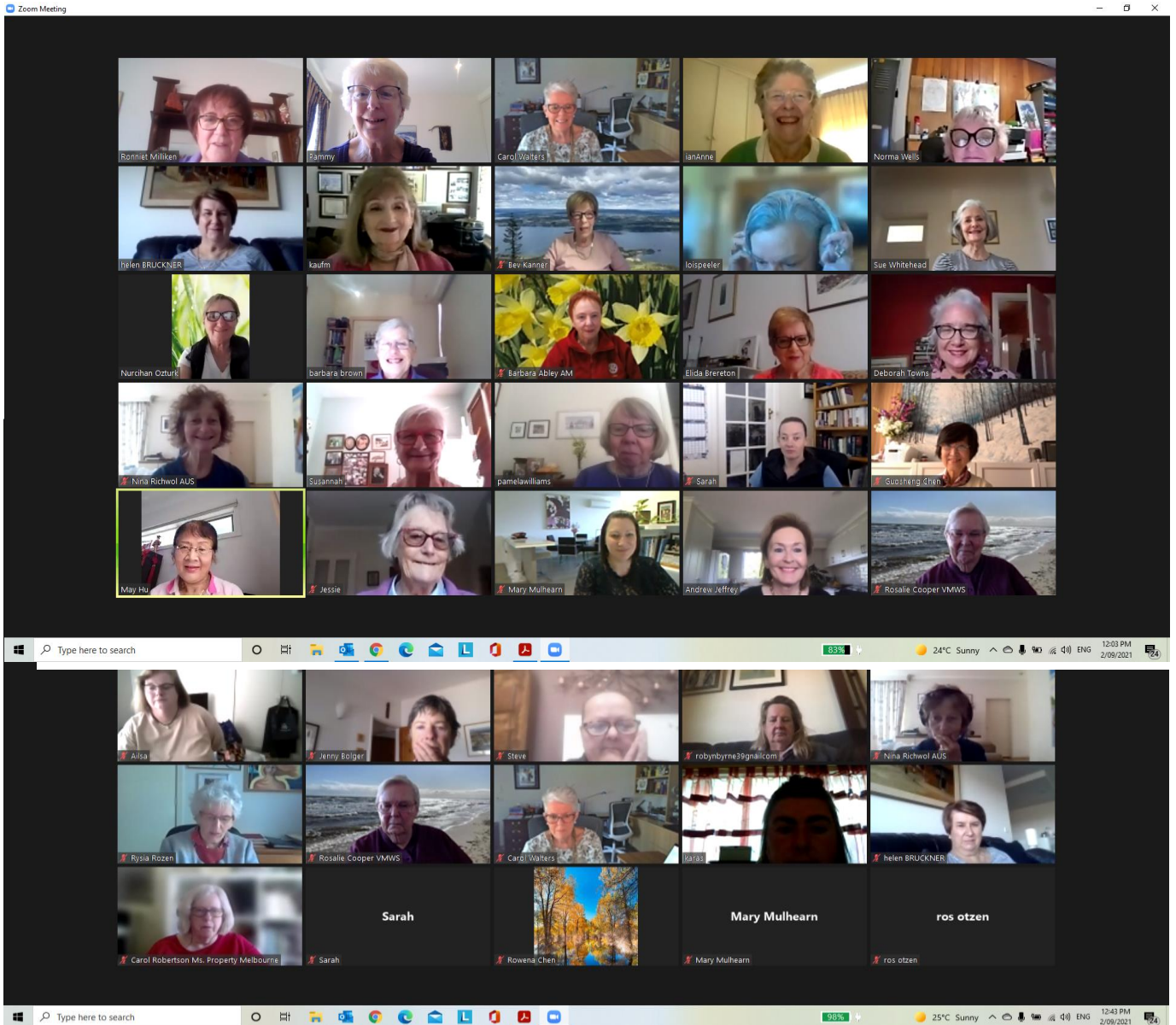
Regional Branch Representative: Alexandra Jeffrey

Ordinary Members: June Anderson; Pam Hammond; Hean Bee Wee AM; Helen Bruckner.



The Aboriginal Flags created by Dr Deborah Towns 3-year old Grandchildren, who know the meanings of each part. Impressive!

Some of the 49 attendees at the 118th AGM



October Council Meeting and Forum: Title: Elder Care, Thursday 7th Oct 12.00hr - 14.00 hr

We will also celebrate Seniors' week. Please note that International Day of Older Persons is on October 1st.

Speakers:

Amanda Kunkler COTA Vic. Topic: Advocacy;

Karen Ivanka COTA Vic. Topic: Support and Services;

Rachel Halse ANMF. Topic: Governance & workforce.

Panel discussion and questions. Some possible pr-reading:

Ageism Awareness Day Launch: https://www.everyagecounts.org.au/register_aad2021_launch

Age Care Watch: www.agedcarewatch.org.au

ALGWA: Networking - Online Forum, Wednesday 15 September 7:00pm - 8:00pm

We all wear many hats. How do we manage them all? Sometimes we are wearing 3 hats at a time. For a bit of fun bring a hat, wear it and chat about how you manage it. Barb has wonderful insight into her experience of wearing many hats whilst serving the community. Barbara Abley AM CGSJ FACN was a City of Greater Geelong Councillor, elected to the council in 2001. Served as Deputy Mayor (one year), and two years as Mayor, the first female to hold this senior position on the City of Greater Geelong Council. Barb will candidly talk about what she would have done differently had she known what she knows now. Hindsight is a wonderful thing, Barb has the experience to share some solutions. [Click link to book](#)



Soroptimist International Centenary Garden Logo on St Kilda Road, constructed by the Melbourne City Council garden team, was launched by the Lord Mayor, Sally Cap on 11th September and will be blooming in the colours of silver, yellow and blue until the end of September.

OTHER NEWS

Ross House Workshops / training / webinars / self-help

- Are you a woman (or you know someone) hoping to re-enter the workforce? Women from diverse backgrounds are often excluded from the workforce due to caring responsibilities, have extended time out of the workforce and are unable to find suitable work for their existing skills **WomenCAN's The Placement Circle** helps women find meaningful work that allows them to use their unique skills and life experience. The program supports women to gain vocational qualifications and employment, along with links to financial literacy training and a supportive community of women. The Placement Circle is now looking for women who want to earn a qualification in Aged Care. To find out more information, please [click here](#).
- It's back! Phillip Island's successful penguin parade livestream is back to help get millions of Australians through lockdown. The penguin parade is streamed every night, from 6pm. More information, please [click here](#).

ANU: [Climate science, women and kindness — connecting the dots](#)

In this conversation Associate Professor Melissa Hart and Dr Angela Maharaj will discuss their experiences as climate scientists, the Kindness in Science movement, and Melissa's experience on the 2018 Homeward Bound women-in-science leadership residential voyage to Antarctica.

Date: 5.30-6.30pm, 14 September, **Location:** virtual event, **Registration:** [Trybooking](#)

Readings **Wednesday 15 Sep 2021 at 7:00pm** using the video conferencing platform Zoom.

Empowering Women is the uplifting behind-the-scenes story of one abortion-providing clinic's fight to protect women from religious extremists. An army of women responded and forced Parliament to enact a women-centred law that saw a 2019 landmark High Court decision to enshrine Australian women's entitlement to reproductive autonomy and respect. *Empowering Women* gives you a front row seat in the courtroom and takes you behind closed doors into the personal, legal and political twists and turns of this long campaign. Interwoven with Susie Allanson's personal narrative are insights from key protagonists and primary source material. Fiona Patten MP, Leader of the Reason Party has agreed to be available for the panel discussion with authors Dr Susie Allanson, Lizzie O'Shea and Gideon Haigh. This event is online and ticket entry is \$5 per person, which is redeemable off purchase of the book in store or online from the Readings website. Attendees will be sent a promo code to claim \$5 off the price of the book when they book their ticket. This code will be valid until 24 hours after the event has ended. [Please book here](#). To book for this event, you must provide your email address.

Royal Historical Society Victoria <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/rhsv-events/>

OCTOBER is HISTORY MONTH, BE INSPIRED TO HOLD VIRTUAL EVENTS / PROJECTS

On the website there are links to resources from organisations like the History Teachers Association of Victoria & the Federation of Australian Historical Society and lists of potential events to inspire you.

The \$3 million Culture, Heritage and Arts Regional Tourism (CHART) program is an Australian Government program that aims to support community cultural, heritage and arts organisations in regional Australia as they recover from the impacts of COVID-19. The Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AMaGA) is implementing the CHART program on behalf of the Office for the Arts. The CHART program promotes participation in, and access to, Australia's arts and culture through developing and supporting cultural expression and sharing stories of community and historical significance. Community museums, galleries and historical societies in regional Australia will benefit from CHART program funding. The program will support these organisations to continue to offer appealing cultural tourism experiences to visitors, which in turn will enhance local expenditure. The intended outcomes of CHART program grants are to:

- **Contribute** to the reactivation and recovery of organisations from COVID-19, and to their ongoing sustainability, by providing grants for eligible activities
- **Promote** regional arts tourism by supporting the development of cultural tourism experiences, including through the preservation of Australia's cultural heritage and the telling of the stories of communities and
- **Support** domestic intra- and inter-state tourism and local economies more broadly.

Grants of up to \$3,000 (plus GST where applicable) are available in the 2021-22 financial year to support organisations to reinvigorate the preservation and presentation of Australia's cultural heritage. CHART grants only support new projects. Activities funded must be delivered by 31 May 2022.

The CHART program opened for applications from 30 August 2021 and closes to applications in September/October. During this period, applications will be assessed in batches. The batch cut-off dates will be published on the AMaGA website. There is no allocated funding amount for each batch. The number of batches will depend on demand and cumulative CHART program funding decisions. AMaGA encourages eligible applicants to submit in the first round. <https://www.amaga.org.au/chart>

grandparents
VICTORIA



- 2001 Formed Grandparents Victoria
- 2002 Formed Grandparents Australia
- 2011 Formed Kinship Carers Victoria
- 2013 Formed Kinship International Network

20th Anniversary - congratulations



ACHRH AustralAsian Centre for Human Rights and Health Inc



NCWV congratulates Manjula O'Connor who has been appointed as an Adjunct Professor in UNSW's School of Social Sciences. She will be working online and will be supervising PhD students who are researching dowry related abuse. "I thank the University of New South Wales for the honour of conferring the title of Adjunct Professor. ACHRH is central to the achievement".



Life starts at sixty: <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/who-does-it-affect/older-people/starts-at-sixty?fbclid=IwAR2HRtapkzTPyV52O95YOT2mRzgEqPNMKJFU3PGIzqDKu-2nXQP9RScX1I>

For many people, life really does begin at 60. You've got more time for the things you've always wanted to do – visit new places, take up hobbies, or see more of friends and family. However, some things can seem a bit harder. We start losing people close to us. Friends and family are often far away. Our bodies can slow down a bit, and we might have more health issues to worry about. These changes can increase the risk of [anxiety](#), [depression](#) and [suicide](#) in older people. But you don't have to put up with doing it tough – [support](#) is available. When it comes to anxiety and depression, it can be hard to spot changes in our thoughts, feelings and behaviour. Knowing what to look for and being able to [recognise the signs and symptoms](#) means you can take action sooner rather than later. Anxiety and depression are not a weakness of character – they are a health issue just like any other. The good news is that effective treatments are available, and with the right support, you can recover. More at link above.

How to support someone with mental health issues

Know someone struggling? Lifeline shares their tips on how to help them. Rolling lockdowns and growing stressors associated with COVID-19 have seen a spike in demand for mental health support service Lifeline Australia. In August, Lifeline responded to a record 3,505 calls in a single day, with the support service experiencing a 40% increase on pre-pandemic call numbers as more and more Australians reach out for help.

[Lifeline Australia](#) offers a range of support services, including online resources, phone support, community hubs, and [Lifeline Text](#) which allows people to text directly with a crisis support worker.

With the text service facing increasing demand from Australians, RACV has pledged \$420,000 for Lifeline to extend its operating hours from midnight to dawn. The funding will support a six-month trial of the overnight text service, beginning in mid-October.

WPI: Womens Property Initiative:

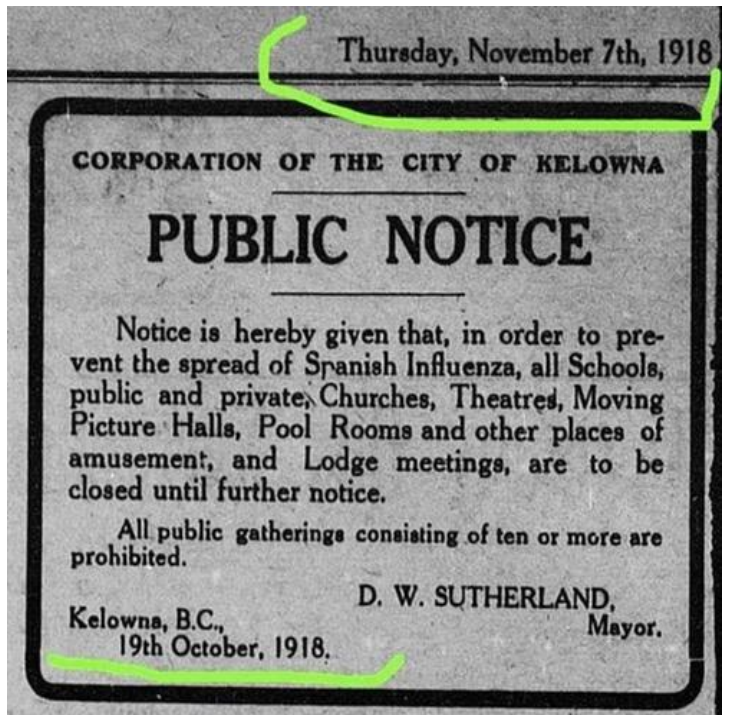
WPI has reached a significant milestone owning 101 homes. They acknowledge the many wonderful individuals and organisations who have played a part in this achievement. This was accomplished with tenants moving into 10 new apartments in Melbourne's north east, despite uncertainty and complication due to the pandemic. The women and families moving in couldn't have been more delighted with their new homes. There is also progress on developments in Brunswick and Beaconsfield, slowed down by COVID, but are moving forward. They continue to advocate for social housing, particularly housing for women, and have participated in sector wide initiatives.

Jeanette Large, WPI CEO said: "Women's Safety Summit has just concluded, with very little focus placed on housing. You simply can't talk about women's safety without talking about safe and affordable homes, so we continue to seek a commitment from the Federal Government on a national plan for housing."

Next year WPI will celebrate 25 years of operation. We look forward to sharing our anniversary plans with you, and we profoundly hope that we can gather with all of you who have been on this journey with us.

History repeats itself 1720,1820,1920 and 2021





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; raising awareness of gender equality; act as a voice on issues and concerns of women and girls at 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 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 2021 – venue or online to be confirmed

September	Thursday 2 nd :	Council Annual General Meeting , 12:15am, Dr Lois Peeler AM to speak
	Monday 14 th :	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm via ZOOM
	Thursday 16 th :	Committee Meeting, via ZOOM
October:	Thursday 7 th :	Mini Forum focusing on Elder Care, chaired by Individual Members after a brief Council Meeting at 12.00 noon, via ZOOM
	Monday 11 th :	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm via ZOOM
	Thursday 21 st :	Committee Meeting, via ZOOM
November:	Thursday 4 th :	Council Meeting, 5:15-7:15pm. NOTE late time
	Monday 8 th :	My Vote My Voice , Parliament of Victoria, 9:00am-12:30pm
	Thursday 18 th :	Committee Meeting, RHSV, A'Beckett St
	Tuesday 23 rd :	Annual Festive Luncheon , 12:00pm, William Angliss Restaurant

NCWA Triennial Conference Due to COVID restrictions and uncertainty, this has been postponed until 2022