

**June 2018 Newsletter**

Quote: "A smile is happiness you'll find right under your nose." *Tom Wilson*



NCWV Office

**President's Report**

Time is flying by. June marks the end of the NCWV year so our minds need to turn to annual reporting and preparations for the Annual General Meeting. A call for annual membership fees has been sent and I sincerely thank those who have responded. For those who are yet to respond, please do so by the end of June so that you have voting rights at the AGM and at other times.

May was a busy month, events attended including:

- opening of the Soroptimists International South West Pacific Biennial Conference where I spoke with the incoming Regional President and the International President of SI, also with Margaret Findlater-Smith, NCWA's Board Coordinator.
- Hean Bee Wee, Diya John and I attended a Law Week 2018 event "South Sudan Voice – The Law Dialogue" which, through a series of short theatre skits, raised the many issues faced by the Sudanese refugees/migrants which were then discussed.
- 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of the State of Israel.
- AGM of WIZO with awards given to various groups.

On 4<sup>th</sup> June, I travelled to Morwell to formally close the Central Gippsland Regional Branch one week short of its 56th anniversary. After 9 months in recess, there was no alternative. A sad occasion but it was a sunny Winter's day and, with a few apologies, 10 members were present including Mavis Lynch, the only founding member still with us. Mavis read the NCW prayer and I read the minutes of the Inaugural meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> June 1964. Following reminiscing on achievements, resolutions were passed that the Branch be closed and papers be added to those already in the Stratford Historical Society archives.



The Branch can be proud of all that has been accomplished in its 56 years. I presented Mavis with a cyclamen, and Jan Baxter, President, Diana McNeil, Secretary, with flowers. It was a happy occasion, with lunch, which all enjoyed. Mavis is well and in good spirits despite being confined to a wheel chair. She sends greetings to all.

NCWA: The Triennial meeting will be held in Canberra 18th-19th October this year. Standing Committee members have prepared resolutions on International Child Abduction and Ageing, plus Cyberbullying which May Hu has prepared as a National Adviser.

ICW-CIF General Assembly will be in Yogyakarta, Indonesia 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> September. Registration papers have arrived. If interested in attending, please contact NCWV Office and we will register you with NCWA.

*The May Forum*, "Families: Support for Children", was well attended by NCWV members. This was chaired by May Hu OAM, Coordinator NCWV Standing Committee, and moderated by Elida Brereton, Executive NCWV. Anne McLeish OAM, CEO Grandparents/Kindship Carers Victoria spoke on 'Family Rights' saying it's important that grandparents have their voices heard and that in Victoria there is insufficient representation for children. Dr Allison Cox, Berry St Director of Take 2 Program, which provides therapeutic services for traumatised children to achieve physical and emotional safety for them via work on attachment. In 2015/16 in Aus. there were 13,000 children in out of home care. Liana Buchanan, Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People spoke on 'Human Rights in the home: Children's rights to safety, care and protection'. She has an oversight to children's services, including enquiries about individual children and systemic issues. There is a huge underestimation of danger to children in family violence. Anne recommended a statewide symposium, with relevant politicians and organisations included to come up with positive recommendations. This will be linked to other NCWV Respect projects, e.g., Troubled Youth. Full report: [www.ncwvic.org.au](http://www.ncwvic.org.au)



Anne McLeish OAM, Dr Allison Cox, Liana Buchanan



**Speaker at the June Council meeting** was Ms Nadia Soloczynskij, who is a Delegate for the Ukrainian Women's Association in Australia. She gave a short history of the Ukrainian Women's Association. Nadia and her fellow delegate, Yanina Dutka, are our dependable registration volunteers, ensuring members collect papers and record their presence at Council meetings. They also collect moneys and record these meticulously for the treasurer. We thank them for their tireless work.

In September 1949 at the immigration camp in Cowra NSW, on the initiative of idealistic and patriotic Ukrainian women such as the late Irena Pelenska and the late Lydia Hayewska-Denes, and other forthright women, the first Ukrainian women's organisation was formed, namely - The Ukrainian Women's Association of Australia. This was the first Ukrainian organisation founded on Australian soil. Women always take the initiative. Far from their native homeland of Ukraine and in their newly adopted country of Australia, these women, under difficult conditions and circumstances, banded together to form the foundation of this organisation. The Ukrainian Women's Association has contributed strongly over the past 70 years of settlement in Australia to the expansion, preservation and development of Ukrainian cultural and communal life on this green and gold continent.

To commemorate all ethnic groups, who resided in Cowra between 1948 and 1955, the Cowra Rotary Club established a memorial park, now known as Europa Park. The Rotary Club erected a memorial wall of individual bricks, dividing it into sections, where each nationality could place the names of migrants who resided in Cowra. The Ukrainian community have a section on this memorial wall.

Aims and Objectives of our organisation include Community work; Support for the elderly – KALYNA CARE elderly people's home; Promotion of self-growth of women; Various sponsorships; Establishing contacts with other women's groups; Retaining and promoting our culture and traditions.

Structure of our organisation: National Executive Council (for this term situated in Victoria) – President Ganna Helen Kasyan; 3 x State Councils – Victoria, NSW, SA; Victoria - 5 Branches (Geelong, Noble Park, Melbourne, St. Albans, Ardeer); NSW – 7 Branches; SA – State Executive which also runs the cultural Museum in SA. The UWA is a member of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organisations, affiliated with Ukrainian World Congress; Committee on the Status of Women; General Federation of Women's clubs; International Council of Women; International Alliance of women; Committee on the Family. In Victoria, we have been affiliated with the NCWV for many years.

On the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ukrainian Settlement in Australia we pay homage to all Ukrainian women for their initiative, hard work and devotion to duty, establishing a strong bond and close relationship between the Ukrainian and Australian people. However, time does not stand still and the Ukrainian pioneer women are dwindling in numbers departing, like migratory birds searching for a warmer climate, leaving behind a solid foundation for future generations to build on. We salute these women pioneers and pray that their inspirational work and vision will continue for many years to come.

**July NCWV meeting. Please note that Ross House is setting up the room for us, but this is an extra \$30 each time.**

Next Council meeting 12.00 for 12.15 start Thursday 5 July, Ross House 247 Flinders Lane Melbourne, Room 4.1. **The speaker, Jane Frawley, Interim CEO of Prisoner Network Victoria.** They support women who are, or have been, in the Victorian prison system. This includes programs in sport, well-being, craft, cooking, family fun days and more. They provide holistic support to the women and their families and offer hope and encouragement to enable them to reach their full potential. **This will be an inspiring talk which would appeal to many, not just delegates, but other members of your organisations and your friends, all of whom are welcome to join us. Please spread the word.**

**Votes For Women:** After half a century of campaigning and imprisonment of over 1000 women, in February 1918, a government bill was quietly passed that granted some women the right to vote in the UK. To commemorate the centenary of this act, Museum of London is displaying a selection of objects and media highlighting the importance of the Suffragette movement in Britain until 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The National Trust has developed a year-long calendar of celebrations. [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/womenandpower](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/womenandpower) . Elisabeth is attending some UK Celebrations now.

**NCWV's My Vote My Voice** event will take place in the Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament of Victoria, on Friday 31 August 2018. The 2018 theme is *My Vote My Voice: Diversity in Community Organisations*. Our 2018 event is designed to encourage students to investigate the level of diversity (gender, ethnicity, age, disability ...) in community workplaces by making visits and conducting interviews. Workplaces could include local government, community groups, businesses ... The focus could be on diversity of leadership, decision-making and/or composition. Following their research, students are invited to make three-minute presentations in the Legislative Council Chamber, to an audience of students, community members and a panel of eminent women.

We encourage a broad range of students from various year-levels to participate, with the half day program starting with on-arrival refreshments and photographs from 8.30 am in Queen's Hall, then students and guests move to the Legislative Council Chamber speeches, student presentations and panel comments that will conclude at 12 noon.

Young members of NCWV, YoungNCWVic, who are taking a lead in this event, are keen to hear from students who may be interested in joining the group. Some of the YoungNCWVic members are past speakers at this event and will be at the Parliament to support 2018 speakers. They are also available to visit schools. The purpose of this group is to enable the views of young people to be part of NCWV in promoting and achieving diversity and gender equality. They are also part of a network of young people across Australia affiliated with the Young National Council of Women of Australia, a sub-group of National Council of Women of Australia (NCWA). **My Vote My Voice, 2017:**



## News from Other Organisations

**VMC Film Festival 2018 Award Winners:** All shortlisted films screened at VMC Film Festival 2018 will be available shortly on the [Cultural Diversity Week website](#) and the [VMC Youtube channel](#).

**Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA)** report that lawyers and victims/survivors of financial abuse have expressed concern that the current legal framework is insufficient. Financial abuse is "an insidious form of family violence as it strips the victim of the resources to leave the relationship," as explained by Julie Kun, chief executive at [Women's Information](#) and Referral Exchange (WIRE). "When they do leave, they can spend a lifetime rebuilding the financial independence and financial decision-making confidence." To learn about barriers and what can be done to overcome them, see Women's Legal Service Victoria's landmark [Stepping Stones](#) project. One service that can support people trying to rebuild financial independence and safety after family violence is the [National Debt Helpline](#) - a phone and web service that helps with any sort of financial difficulty. Finally, [Penda](#) is Australia's first financial empowerment app for women with a domestic and family violence focus. Developed by Women's Legal Service Queensland, it is a free, simple to use app with national safety, financial and legal information and referrals.

**Run Melbourne 2018: Sign Up to Run or Walk Today!** The Royal Runners are back for 2018 and want you to join their team! By participating in Run Melbourne on 29 July 2018 as a Royal Runner, you have the opportunity to not only have lots of fun but also raise funds to support women's health and projects throughout the Royal Women's hospital. The team had a fantastic turnout in 2017 and want to have an even bigger and better presence this year from staff, patients, friends and family. [Register for the run or walk](#) and create your [fundraising page](#) today!

**Nominations are open for the 2018 Australian Human Rights Awards:** These celebrate the achievements of the many extraordinary Australians who quietly advance human rights in the community,” said Australian Human Rights Commission President, Rosalind Croucher. The Commission has a long and proud history of working with individuals, businesses, community organisations and governments to advance the human rights of all Australians. If you are inspired by an individual or an organisation because of their human rights work, I urge you to nominate them for a 2018 Human Rights Award”. The Commission this year has introduced a new award category to recognise a local, state, territory or federal government body that has contributed to the advancement and protection of human rights. There are nine award categories: Human Rights Medal; Young People’s Human Rights Medal; Business Award; Government Award; Racism-It Stops With Me Award; Media Award; Tony Fitzgerald Memorial Community Individual Award; Community Organisation Award; Law Award. Further details and nomination forms are available on the [Human Rights Awards website: https://hrawards.humanrights.gov.au](https://hrawards.humanrights.gov.au) Nominations close on 5 August 2018

**Her Place participates in Warrnambool Art Gallery Exhibition** *Once Women Won the Vote*, May 5 - September 30, 2018: [www.thewag.com.au/exhibition/once-women-won-vote](http://www.thewag.com.au/exhibition/once-women-won-vote). 30,000 signatures of the 1891 Women’s Suffrage Petition is a testament to everyday women who courageously fought for women’s rights, suffrage as well as social and legislative reform that allowed many Victorians the right to self-determination, agency and justice; a profound legacy that continues today. ‘Once Women Won the Vote’ by Marie Cook and Danielle O’Brien is a colourful wall mural displayed on the Warrnambool Art Gallery façade and an exhibition that celebrates women in Victoria’s South-West who signed this historic petition and their legacy today. The mural includes a dedication to Vida Mary Jane Goldstein, a pioneering feminist and suffragist born in Portland, 1869. The exhibition includes a contribution from Her Place Women’s Museum Australia that features video interviews with 10 Victorian women who have made significant contributions to this State, including a number of women connected to South-West Victoria. These women have been pioneers in their fields and have championed the rights of women regionally as well as nationally.

**National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Day** is to be celebrated at Kensington Town Hall with a casserole lunch on Friday August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12:30pm organised by the Board of GPV/KCV. There will be discussion about the importance of self-determination and what community organisations can do to support Aboriginal communities.

**Nurses Memorial Centre afternoon of entertainment** You are invited to attend and watch the spine-tingling recording of the *Singing to Survive* concert, held in Chichester, England in October 2013. An introduction to the performance will be by Nurses Memorial Centre member, Ms Diane Whitehead, who attended the concert. Sunday 12th August, 2pm. Tickets \$10, with refreshments. **To book email: [admin@nmc.org.au](mailto:admin@nmc.org.au) by Friday 3rd August.**

**\*\*NCWV NEWSFLASH\*\***

**We have just been notified that NCWV has secured funding for our 58<sup>th</sup> Australia Day Pioneer Women’s Ceremony in 2019. Mark the date: MONDAY January 21, 10:30am at the Women’s Peace Garden, Kensington.**



57<sup>th</sup> Ceremony on January 18, 2018: Pam Hammond, Secretary NCWV; Norman Kennedy, Australia Day Council, Victoria; Elisabeth Newman, President NCWV; Speaker: Emma Page Campbell

**Our mission statement:** *National Council of Women of Victoria Inc. -is a non-party-political, non-sectarian, not-for-profit, umbrella organisation with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives. It seeks to raise the awareness of women as to their rights and responsibilities as citizens and encourages their participation in all aspects of community life.*

National Council of Women of Victoria Inc. Regd. No.: AIA: A4465 ABN: 18227073059  
PO Box 18186 Collins Street East, MELBOURNE, 8003; Ph: 0447 351 234; Email: [info@ncwvic.org.au](mailto:info@ncwvic.org.au)  
Registered office: Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A’Beckett St, Melbourne.  
Patron in Chief: Her Excellency the Honorable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria

## NCWV Dates for 2018

### January

18<sup>th</sup> Australia Day Women's Ceremony – Women's Peace Garden, Kensington 10:30 to 11.30am

Speaker: Emma Page Campbell

### February

1<sup>st</sup> Individual Members Meeting 10.15 -11.30am, Speaker: Jacky Douglas, Stroke Victoria

NCWV Council meeting, including Trading Table 12.00 for 12.15pm,

Speaker: Elisabeth Newman, Vice-President, International Council of Women on ICW-ICF projects.

15<sup>th</sup> Executive meeting 12.00 – 2.00pm Royal Historical Society.

### March

1<sup>st</sup> NCWV Council meeting 12.00 for 12.15pm, Speaker: Elida Brereton, Board member Hornbrook Academy

15<sup>th</sup> Executive meeting 12.00 – 2.00pm Royal Historical Society.

### April

5<sup>th</sup> Individual Members Meeting 10.15 -11.30am

NCWV Council meeting, including Trading Table 12.00 for 12.15pm, Speaker Dr Deborah Towns

9<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meeting, 4:30pm, Room 3.2 Ross House

19<sup>th</sup> Executive meeting 12.00 – 2.00pm Royal Historical Society.

### May

3<sup>rd</sup> "May Forum" 10am; Families-Supporting Children

NCWV Council meeting 12.00 for 12.15pm; Speaker: Sharon Granek, Manager, COTA

17<sup>th</sup> Executive meeting 12.00 – 2.00pm Royal Historical Society.

### June

7<sup>th</sup> Individual Members Meeting 10.15 -11.30am; Speaker: Dr Pam Williams

NCWV Council meeting, including Trading Table 12.00 for 12.15pm; Speaker: Nadia Soloczynskij

4<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meeting, 4:30pm, Room 3.2 Ross House

18<sup>th</sup> Geelong Branch Luncheon

21<sup>st</sup> Executive meeting 12.00 – 2.00pm Royal Historical Society.

### July

5<sup>th</sup> NCWV Council meeting 12.00 for 12.15pm

Speaker: Jane Frawley, Interim CEO, Prisoner Network

19<sup>th</sup> Executive meeting 12.00 – 2.00pm Royal Historical Society.

### August

2<sup>nd</sup> Individual Members AGM 10.15 -11.30am

NCWV Council meeting, including Trading Table 12.00 for 12.15pm

13<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee AGM, 4:30pm, Room 3.2 Ross House

16<sup>th</sup> Executive meeting 12.00 – 2.00pm Royal Historical Society.

### September

6<sup>th</sup> NCWV AGM 12.00 for 12.30pm, with light refreshments prior to the meeting.

20<sup>th</sup> Executive meeting 12.00 – 2.00pm Royal Historical Society.

### October

4<sup>th</sup> Individual Members Meeting 10.15 -11.30am

NCWV Council meeting 12.00 for 12.15pm

8<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meeting, 4:30pm, Room 3.2 Ross House

18<sup>th</sup> Executive meeting 12.00 – 2.00pm Royal Historical Society.

### November

1<sup>st</sup> NCWV Council meeting, including Trading Table 12.00 for 12.15pm

15<sup>th</sup> Executive meeting 12.00 – 2.00pm Royal Historical Society.

26<sup>th</sup> Christmas Luncheon 12.00 – Angliss Restaurant 550 Little Lonsdale St Melbourne

### Note

- All Council meetings held at Level 4 Ross House, Room 4.1, Flinders Lane, Melbourne
- Individual Members' meetings begin at 10.15 – 11.30am in the same room
- Council meetings begin sharply at 12.15pm and finish no later than 2.15pm
- Trading Table – please bring items for sale. All food items to have all ingredients listed.
- Executive meetings held at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, A'Beckett St Melbourne.
- Standing Committee meetings, 4:30pm, Room 3.2, Level 3 Ross House.