

June 2019 Newsletter

Quote: *“The empowerment of girls and women starts on the benches of school with quality education and access to culture and information...It means genuine possibilities for girls to become everything they wish for and to make their own informed choices. This is essential for human rights, health, sustainable development, the fabric of societies as a whole.”* Irina Bokova, Former Director-General of UNESCO

From the President, Elisabeth Newman: Précised Report on the 63rd COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW63), New York 11th – 22nd March 2019

Priority Theme: *Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.*

Review Theme: *Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development.*

This Commission was the largest so far, attracting some 5,000 delegates representing a wide variety of NGOs.

UNICEF defines social protection as *“a set of public and private policies and programmes aimed at preventing, reducing and eliminating economic and social vulnerabilities to poverty and deprivation”*. With the CSW themes and this definition in mind, ICW-CIF ran a very well attended and successful side event, sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the UN. The event, entitled *“Equal access to social protection for women’s empowerment”*, with an eminent panel of five speakers, examined interrelationship of social protection, which opens up access to services for women, and gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Council also held a successful parallel event in conjunction with the Korean National Council of Women *“Social protection for women’s empowerment”*, highlighting violence against women, apart from a violation of human rights, as the cause of serious health issues, which in turn has bearing on the outcome of the Sustainable Development Goals. There is still a long way to go to stop war crimes such as rape and trafficking of women and girls. Governments need more pressure put on them to implement SCR 1325 and related resolutions, as well as various conventions they may have ratified, that protect women and girls, also to stop trading in arms. Education and training are an important part of the equation as is universal health coverage. On behalf of ICW-CIF, Elizabeth Carl, ICW-CIF Liaison Officer to UN NY, organised a side event sponsored by the Permanent Missions to the UN of Jamaica and Thailand, with WHO and UN-NY. This event *“Advancing women’s health and wellbeing across the life course: Focus on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and universal health coverage,”* highlighted the increasing burden that NCDs have on the economy of countries.

Mental health is ranked #5 but is estimated to be the most prevalent SDG by 2030. Women and girls are more likely to suffer from NCDs than men due to poor access to health services and inequality. Political will is required to ensure equality in access to services such as health and education which will benefit women and girls. I attended many events and also sat in on the reports by Governments to the Commission on their progress in overcoming violence against women (in light of next year being Beijing +25), since the Beijing Platform of Action was adopted as a major step forward for women’s rights. Various Caucuses met. The Asia Pacific Caucus is focusing on Beijing +25, though there is concern about the shrinking space for women-based NGOs and women’s human rights in general around the world.

Morning briefings were most valuable for learning what is happening, such as progress of the Outcome document (Agreed Conclusions) and issues of concern to NGO/CSW. The shrinking space for women was raised a number of times and a real effort is to be made to counteract this. Denial of visas by the US to would-be participants to CSW is very concerning, especially as the number has increased this year. A petition asking for visas to be issued to women who register to attend CSW was taken to Washington. There is a treaty that allows entry to the US to all women attending the UN, but it is not always honoured. I, with Dr Jung-Sook Kim, Linda Liu and Gloria Shoda (President NCWS Nigeria), had the pleasure of meeting with Yun Fan, Ambassador-at-large, Republic of China (Taiwan) for a conversation about CSW and issues raised.

The Outcome document is the major topic of discussion during the second week. This year the minority were strong, with a real push to weaken language which would cause gains made for women to be weakened. However, no language was lost and gains were made. On the Friday evening, progress was made and all parties came to a consensus. Eventually, we had Agreed Conclusions.

This would please Irina Bokova (see quote above).

During CSW the A.G.M. of Project Five-O was held. ICW-CIF retains the presidency. A seminar was also held in support of SDG 3. *“Agenda 2030: Addressing the global burden of disease through universal health coverage for mental, neurological and substance-use disorders.”*

I thank ICW-CIF for my accreditation for the past 12 years.



NCWV May Forum: Safe Streets for Women & Girls - 2 May 2019

ICW-CIF theme: Social protection for all women and girls: Sustainable development for the world



In Photo: May Hu OAM JP; Elida Brereton, Moderator, Eleanor Holden; Martin Habgood & Phuong Chau VicRoads; Hoa Yang, ARUP Design Consultant. Martin Habgood; Phuong Chau; Hoa Yang; Nancy Pierorazio, Senior Policy Officer City Safety, City of Melbourne.

Focus of the NCWV's May Forum was on what makes a Safe City/Safe Streets, including wide streets, pedestrian malls, good visibility, good lighting and clear signage. The Forum was very well received with positive feed-back, evaluation forms indicated the subject was interesting and topical. An outcome from the Forum for NCWV to pursue, would be the safety of bicycle trailers for children, raised in a question by Janice Latham. There is opportunity for us to monitor the movement and safety of pedestrians and cyclist in the City, also the lighting to give feed back to the Town Hall.

Martin and Phuong, presenters for Safe System Road Infrastructure Program (SSRIP), Regional Roads Vic. (RRV), outlined improvements to accessibility and safety for pedestrians and cyclists being delivered through the SSRIP – Pedestrian Area program, Safer Cycling program and Safe Travel in Local Streets program. On average there are 40 pedestrian deaths and over 500 serious injuries per year, almost half being female. Pedestrians aged 65 and over represent almost one third of the total, with females being just over 50%. There is a lot of work to do.

To help promote walking and cycling, RRV encourages councils to:

- Map out safe routes for walking and cycling to schools and shops in their communities;
- Develop plans for improving the safety and amenity for active transport;
- Improving quality of life; and talk to RRV about how these plans could be implemented.

SSRIP developed a hot spot map to target areas with highest densities of fatal and serious injury crashes, then contacted those councils. There is a budget of \$31 million over 31 councils for this program. Councils were offered access to funding for development and engaging consultants to develop projects. These include:

- Bayside roundabout crossings and Wombat crossings;
- Countdown timers;
- Strategic cycling corridors; also Blind Spot Mirrors for cyclists and drivers to see each other better and reduce risk of trucks turning into cyclist;
- Protected intersections providing a safer passage for cyclists to hook turn, do left turns more easily.

TAC has made grants available to councils to provide better facilities for walking and cycling.

Hoa Yang, ARUP Design Consultant, outlined findings from a research, where lighting was analysed at 80 different sites in City of Melbourne to find practical measures around how we can use lights to make city feel safer. The rate of development in lighting technology allows lighting design to be cost effectively customisable to the individual experience. The Australian standards revolve around the amount of light falling on a surface, and do not consider the perception of brightness and experience of the larger urban context by its users. Safe perceptions of spaces correlate with a higher level of colour rendering, distinguishing shapes and colours more accurately making people perceive spaces as safer. This validates current design principles where people feel more comfortable in warm coloured light.

Nancy Pierorazio, Senior Policy Officer City Safety, shared City of Melbourne's projects: ***Women in the life of the city***, with Victorian Women's Trust developing list of notable women in street names, with three new streets/lanes named: Warrior Woman Lane (Lisa Belleair), Hoff Boulevard (Dr Ursula Hoff), Bale Circuit (Alice Marian Ellen Bale).

Girls Walk, Melbourne CBD, with Plan International to pilot 'Free to Be' campaign in Melbourne: Hosted Girls walk of Melbourne CBD; Free to be digital mapping tool; Design thinking workshop (led by XYX Lab).

Women's Right to Walk Freely with Victoria Police, Victoria Point Owners Corporation and Plan International to understand safety issues and needs of women and girls who live, work and visit the Stadium Precinct and Docklands.

Girls walk Plan: Youth activists and local female residents took decision makers on a walk to share experiences; Safety audit report and recommendations provided to Victoria Point Owners Corporation and Development Victoria.

Safe Nights Out for Women (SNOW) Pilot of a gender and safety audit tool in five licensed venues to help identify design elements and management practices that may facilitate sexual harassment in and around licensed venues.

Equality (Art) Works: CoM commissioned female artists to deliver public artwork by and for women: "Princess" by artist Baby Guerilla, Russell Pl; "Make every place equitable" by Klara, Equitable Pl; "Throw like a girl" by Gert Geyer.

June NCWV meeting: Thursday 6th June 12.00 for 12.15 start, Ross House 247 Flinders Lane Melb., Room 4.1. We are delighted that **the President of National Council of Women of Australia, Robyn Nolan, will be our guest** and will speak at this meeting. This is a great opportunity to hear about what is happening within NCWA and what future plans are being considered. There will also be time for your questions.

This will be most informative 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.

Other News

The Fitted for Work Team is holding an Open House on Thursday the 6th June, 2019, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM. This is an opportunity to tour the Dressing Room and hear directly from their wonderful volunteers and staff about how Fitted for Work helps women to regain their confidence and find work.

Fitted for Work Dressing Room, Ground Floor, 210 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000

Victorian Women's Trust (VWT) has announced a series of book launches for [About Bloody Time: the Menstrual Revolution We Have to Have](#). in June. Each launch will feature co-authors, Karen Pickering (feminist organiser) and Jane Bennett (menstrual educator) in conversation with Mary Crooks AO, Executive Director, VWT.

Wed 5 June, 6pm, Church of All Nations, Carlton, *Introduction from Clementine Ford, (Feminist writer and foreword contributor)*. \$5 entry [Tickets >](#)

Thurs 6 June, 5:30pm, Ballarat Mechanics' Institute, Ballarat, *Introduction from Marianne Hendron, (CEO, Women's Health Grampians)*. \$5 entry [Tickets >](#)

Wed 12 June, 5:30pm, New Northern Art Hotel, Castlemaine, \$5 entry [Tickets >](#)

Thurs 13 June, 6pm, La Trobe Art Institute, Bendigo, \$5 entry [Tickets >](#)

Thurs 20 June, 5:30pm, Wonthaggi Town Hall, Wonthaggi, \$5 entry [Tickets >](#)

Every copy of the book, every book launch and conversation sparked as a consequence of *About Bloody Time* being out in the world will advance ambitious social and cultural reform. That's what it's all about.

The Royal Historical Society Victoria President, Emeritus Professor Richard Broome, and RHSV Councillors, have much pleasure in inviting you to the launch of our exhibition, **Isaac Selby: Lecturer, Historian, Assassin!**

From **5pm, Thursday 13 June 2019**, Gallery Downstairs, RHSV, 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne

To be launched by **Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC FASSA, FAHA FAHS, FRHSV; Curator: Alison Cameron** Isaac Selby joined the (Royal) Historical Society of Victoria at the age of 60. He enjoyed early career success and a happy family life but, in his early forties, committed a crime that made headlines across the globe. This exhibition presents the colourful life and times of Isaac Selby through his own words and pictures.

RSVP: 11 June 2019, <http://bit.ly/2Q3iR0I> Enquiries: 03 9326 9288 or office@historyvictoria.org.au

The RHSV is currently accepting applications for grants of up to \$2,000, for the publication of specific or general local or natural history in rural and regional Victoria. Grant is intended for small organisations with an interest in publishing works of historical value. Applications close 31 July 2019.

[For more info on Holsworth Grants](#)

Each year RHSV runs the Victorian Community History Awards. Applications are now open for projects which will come to fruition between 1 Jul 2019 and 30 Jun 2020. The awards ceremony is held at the Victorian Arts Centre during History Week in October and the peak award is the Premier's History Award. There are 9 different awards covering all aspects of community history. Awards are not just for published history but include podcasts, exhibitions, articles, multi-media presentations etc. Applications close 19 July.

[For more info on VCHA](#)

Her Place Women's Museum Australia, 208–210 Clarendon Street, East Melbourne

Clarendon Terrace, once home to the Menzies Foundation, has been reinvented as Her Place Women's Museum which is a not-for-profit organisation that celebrates the social, civic and entrepreneurial achievements of all Australian women and their role in shaping our nation. Lives and experiences of women have been under-represented in historical narratives, museum collections and the public sphere. <https://herplacemuseum.com/>

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PO Box 18186 Collins Street East, MELBOURNE, 8003; Ph: 0447 351 234; Email: 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

Green Light Theatre: *This Wide Night*, at The Burrow, 83 Brunswick St, Fitzroy, 17 July - 28 July 2019.

Writer **Chloë Moss**, Director **Elias Jamieson Brown**; with **Sancia Robinson and Claire Sara**

'Heartrending... beautifully written: comic, colourful, full of pain and tenderness and truth' – The Times

This Wide Night is a beautiful story about friendship, resilience and the challenges faced by people re-entering society after incarceration. The writer, Chloë Moss, was commissioned by Clean Break, an incredible theatre and education company in the UK that was started by women in prisons and has been running for 40 years.

Tickets Full \$35, Conces. \$25; Previews: Full \$25, Conces. \$15; <https://www.trybooking.com/BCNLN>

greenlighttheatre@melb@gmail.com

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.*

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 up to June 2019

January: Monday 21st 58th Australia Day Pioneer Women's Ceremony, Women's Peace Garden, Kensington. The Rt Hon Sally Capp, Lord Mayor of Melbourne spoke.

February: Thursday 7th Individual Members 10:15am, Room 4.1 Ross House
Council meeting 12:15pm. Speaker: Ms Lesley Podesta, CEO Alannah and Madeline Foundation

Monday 11th: Standing Committee meeting, Room 2.1 Ross House, 4:30-6:00pm

Thursday 21st: Executive meeting, RHSV ground floor meeting room, 10:00am-12:00pm

March: Thursday 7th Council meeting Room 4.1 Ross House, **5:15-7:15pm. NOTE new time.**
Speaker: Dr Marissa Parrott, Zoos Victoria

Thursday 21st: Executive meeting, RHSV ground floor meeting room, 10:00am-12:00pm

April: Thursday 4th Individual Members 10:15am, Room 4.1 Ross House. Speaker Edith Chen
Council meeting Room 4.1, 12:15pm. Speaker: Dr Ros Otzen, Chair Hesta Hornbook Academy

Monday 8th Standing Committee meeting, Room 2.1 Ross House, 4:30-6:00pm

Thursday 18th Executive meeting, RHSV ground floor meeting room, 10:00am-12:00pm

May: Thursday 2nd: May Forum, 'Safe Streets', Room 4.1, see flyer in this newsletter.
Council Meeting, 12:15pm. Speakers: Janice Latham, Rural/Regional Adviser; Dr Pat Phair – Environment.

Thursday 16th Executive meeting, RHSV ground floor meeting room, 12:00pm

June: Thursday 6th Individual Members 10:15am, Room 4.1 Ross House
Council Meeting, 12:15pm, Room 4.1 Ross House. Guest Speaker: Robyn Nolan, President NCWA

Monday 17th Standing Committee meeting 4:30 – 6:00 Ross House Room 2.1

Thursday 20th Executive meeting, RHSV ground floor meeting room, 10:00pm

July: Thursday 4th Council meeting Room 4.1 Ross House, **5:15-7:15pm. NOTE later time.**
One of the My Vote My Voice 2018 speakers from Melbourne Girls' College will address us.