

## Newsletter

July 2020

**Quote: "I am worried this wholesale retreat into the domestic space will be particularly burdensome for women — not just while it happens, but afterwards — will we be able to regain the independence we have fought for so long? Jane Caro**

**From President, Elisabeth Newman AM 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2020**

We continue to live in a state of great uncertainty. It is impossible to plan anything much more than a day ahead with a guarantee it will happen and even then, changes could occur. The happenings of this last week is an example. The Committee and I are doing all we can to keep you informed of plans for NCWV, also of NCWA and ICW-CIF, but please be understanding as it is impossible to give firm commitments.

I have continued to contact a few NCWV members and friends and will certainly continue to do so now that we are back with level 3 restrictions for 6 weeks with the number of corona virus infections reaching worrying figures. If any of you are in want of anything, feeling lonely and/or depressed, or just want somebody to talk to, please contact me at home ph 9699 9170 or email [elisabeth\\_mn@hotmail.com](mailto:elisabeth_mn@hotmail.com).

The numbers of those requiring welfare assistance will continue to rise. Charities are now asking for their volunteers to return as the requests for help increase. At the June Council meeting we heard how WIRE was experiencing an unprecedented demand on its telephone services. Standing Committee members, at their ZOOM meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June discussed the flow-on effects of the lockdown and economic crisis. As a follow on, two letters have been prepared, one by Sheila Byard in relation to the local government elections due in October and the second, prepared by Pam Hammond, on education. Both letters have been sent to the relevant Ministers and members of the opposition. Also, due to the unfortunate trouble within the Labor Party, a letter of support has been sent to the Hon. Gabrielle Williams; the language used against her was appalling. Nobody deserves such treatment. We continue to prepare briefing papers relating to the effects of the Corona Virus crisis. Freda Kaufman, with a little input from me, has prepared a briefing paper about mental health which has been circulated; Deborah Towns and I are preparing a paper about the effect on women being house bound and Pat Phair is preparing a paper on the relationship of the environment and the corona virus; both will be circulated shortly.

Two weeks ago I was hopeful the A.G.M. would be held as a face to face meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. but now with the alarming spread of the corona virus, this will not be possible. Because of many incidents I have witnessed and heard of with the Wi-Fi being unstable, I am quite apprehensive about holding the A.G.M. via ZOOM. We have until November 2020 to hold it.

However, work on the annual report and preparation of documents for the A.G.M. has begun. Final decision on the date of must be made at the July Committee meeting. All positions on the Committee become vacant at the A.G.M., so give serious consideration as to whom you would like as Committee members. Pam Hammond, Secretary and Hean Bee Wee AM, Treasurer, end their terms but are eligible to remain on the Committee. May Hu OAM, Board Co-ordinator, finishes her term and my term as President also ends as does my time on the Committee.

I thank all who have renewed their NCWV membership. Your ongoing contribution is much appreciated. But, please, when you transfer fees etc., ensure your name is recorded. We cannot identify the senders of some fees received. If you do not receive a receipt, being sent by email, please inform Hean Bee and myself giving the date of the transfer, from which bank and, if you have it, the bank receipt number. Only then can you be recorded as having paid for this year and a receipt issued. Also, please don't forget to return the membership renewal form, it can help with identifying un-named transfers and includes details of delegates. A few generous donations have been gratefully received, other than those for the Silent Auction, which has proved to be a very worthwhile activity, raising over \$500, an initiative of the Individual Members. Thanks to Janet Galley OAM for the idea and Hean Bee Wee AM for organising it.

The NCWA Board meeting was held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, the first via ZOOM. Confirmation is due at the end of July that the Conference scheduled for 15-16 October 2020 will be held. At the ICW-CIF Board meeting, 8 July via ZOOM, the cancellation of the Executive Meeting was formally passed. It was confirmed the General Assembly 2021 will be held in Avignon from 6<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.

Keep well and, above all, don't lose your sense of humour in these very uncertain and worrying times.

### Queen's Birthday Honours



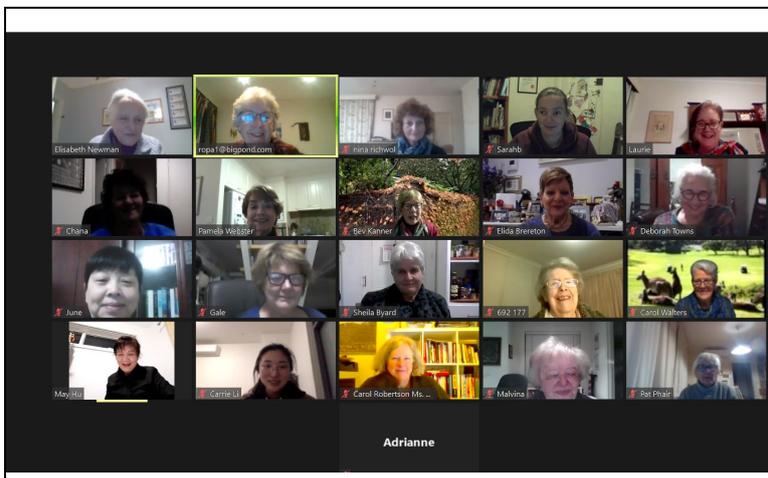
**Former ALP State Minister, Kay Setches**, a co-founder of Emily's list, was awarded an AM. Ms Setches created and chaired Women's Caucus; as Minister for Child Care, introduced mandatory reporting of child abuse; child care places increased from 390 to 15,000;

a welfare based child protection system with 24/7 service was created, family violence prevention increased, supported housing increased from 1,500 to 5,000 and a maternal and child health after hours phone service established. Kay has urged groups to nominate worthy volunteers for awards. Kay was very supportive of NCWV during her time as minister.

**Sarah Brown, CEO of the Purple House**, was awarded an AM for her service to community health, remote area nursing and the Indigenous community. Purple House is an innovative community-led model of care providing remote dialysis across Central Australia, started in Alice Springs in the 2000s.

**Dr Jo Newton**, member of the **Old Tintern Assoc.**, was awarded an OAM for her contribution to agriculture through advocacy and support of young people, volunteering and contribution to dairy science. She was also named on the 2018 Australian Financial Review 100 Women of Influence List, winning the Leadership category of the 2018 Victorian Young Achiever Awards and the Royal Agriculture Society of Victoria's Emerging Leaders in Victorian Agriculture Award.

**June and July Council meetings:** These were conducted via ZOOM due to COVID-19 restrictions.



This shows some of our attendees at July Council meeting.

**June Meeting: Julie Kun, CEO WIRE**, spoke on the impact of COVID-19 on family violence and how WIRE is responding. **Women's Information Referral Exchange (WIRE)** ([www.wire.org.au](http://www.wire.org.au)) is Victoria's only free support referral and information service on issues for women, gender diverse and non-binary people. WIRE is a leader in the gendered financial wellbeing space, taking action on financial abuse and family violence including providing support to individuals, research and training. Julie authored WIRE's submission to the Victorian Government Family Violence Royal Commission; collaborated with employers, unions and peak bodies to achieve the first industrial agreement containing entitlements for women experiencing family violence, available to over 1.8 million women - considered to be world's best practice.

Julie spoke of how they are working remotely to provide supports for those in need who call them, but also endeavour to embolden them. With the COVID-19 lockdown women are constantly close to their abuser, so finding a safe place to make a call is hard. They also don't want children to overhear, which is difficult with home learning. Phone calls and webchats have increased now, after an initial reduction. Some men are using COVID-19 as an abuse mechanism, wrongly saying the woman can't leave the house. There has also been a 30% increase in calls to men's help line 'No to Violence'. Police are doing random checks, a positive, but also can alert abuser to a possible call.

There have been 320,000 women who have lost jobs, increasing financial stress, especially for those who don't qualify for JobKeeper, which makes them more vulnerable. This also applies to those on bridging visa, non-citizens etc. Often the workplace is a sanctuary, so working from home

can add to a threatening situation. There were no deaths in the first weeks of the lockdown, followed by more deaths. To address the violence going forward, Julie stated that we need to focus on prevention at an early age, citing 'Respectful Relationships' program in schools. 'League for Change' program challenges the entitlement attitude of abusers and includes conversations which result in change.

**July Meeting:**



**Tiffany Overall**, Advocacy and Human Rights Officer at Youthlaw, which is a specialist community legal centre in Victoria for young people under 25 years. Tiffany is also Convenor of Smart Justice for Young People (SJFYP).

Youthlaw works to achieve systemic responses to legal issues facing young people, through casework, policy development, advocacy and preventative education programs, within a human rights and social justice framework. The SJFYP is a coalition of more than 50 organisations from the youth, legal and community sectors advocating for smart, evidence-based approaches to youth justice. Launched in November 2011, SJFYP promotes awareness of youth justice issues amongst the community, media and decision makers, to foster discussion, inform debate, encourage involvement of all concerned, and influence decision makers. Tiffany emphasised the focus on preventing young people becoming part of the justice system by supporting families and communities with strategies and practical methods to engage youth.

They also work with government departments and the police when young people do have connection with the justice system. In the Youth Parole Board Annual Report, the Chairman stated that "We need to be recognising and confronting that 60% of those incarcerated are from the disadvantaged especially Aboriginal, Maori and Pasifka, East African; but also child protection and ex-child protection children and young people." Tiffany regrets that the 'law and order' narrative continues to hold, preventing a lot of what they are trying to do. Prison needs to be the last resort, with cautioning and diversion programs a priority. The earlier young people have connection with the justice system, the more likely they are to get into crime. Solutions tailored to, and working together with, each community has shown to be the best way of avoiding this.

School engagement is area in which they collaboratively work with partners, focusing on early intervention suited to specific cultures, with clear commitments and targeted programs. Children being held on remand do not have access to education programs. SJFYP tries to support them back into education or work on release. For those incarcerated, restorative programs are an option for courts, including conferences linking perpetrator with victim.

There is a national campaign to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14 years, as called for by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and implemented by several countries. Children's brains are still developing at 10 years, especially in the part that controls responsibility. Link to the National Campaign: <https://www.raisetheage.org.au/>



**The Sylvia Gelman Scholarship** is provided from the Sylvia Gelman Bequest to NCWV. It aims to encourage and promote talent within the NCWV family, stimulate innovation and strengthening of NCWV and its Organisations.

The Scholarship Program aims to provide recipient with the skills, confidence and network to take on leadership roles and be a change-maker in her organisation and/or community and NCWV, build personal resilience, learn to skilfully negotiate, influence and motivate others to lift performance and reach organisational goals of the NCWV.

**Applications have been sent to all Organisational and Individual Members, completed applications due July 31.**

### **News from some of our Members**

#### **Education Report, Pam Hammond, Education Adviser**

**COVID-19 Effect on Education:** There have been many ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the lockdown of people in their homes has had the most impact. There was the impact on jobs, businesses, hospitality, tourism, family relationships and health, but also on education. School closures have highlighted the vital and multiple roles schools play in students' lives, including being a safe haven for many, subsidising meals, mental health support, counselling and developing wellbeing and resilience. Teachers are educators first, social workers, counsellors, outreach workers and case managers, being committed to their students' learning and welfare.

The disruption to the school year has affected all students, especially Year 12s who look forward to being 'top of the tree' with all that happens in their final year, in addition to the implication on their final results. There also may be long-term effects on those starting school and developing the foundation learning on which future learning depends. Extra support may be needed on return to classrooms.

The requirement for children and youth to stay at home, meant that lessons were delivered online in the majority of cases, with parents and carers assisting/supervising. From personal contact and anecdotal evidence, teachers have risen to this challenge exceedingly well, adapting curriculum materials to online learning and developing structures and processes to maintain student engagement. One school president of a secondary college reported that survey results of 1000 students confirmed the community's confidence in their teachers. The vast majority, while missing friends, agreed that their learning had not been interrupted to any great extent. With their children learning remotely, parents and carers have become very aware of the complex role of teachers and difficulties that can arise in educating children.

Many parents have taken to the print and social media praising teachers and expressing how deeply appreciative they are of their work and how they should be better paid. There is a need to acknowledge the professionalism and dedication of our teachers, so that we can reverse the *Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) 2018* data where 55% of teachers felt undervalued. This reversal can occur through teachers and principals being respected and valued by the community for their knowledge and skills, as are other professions. This is the case in Asian and Scandinavian countries, where they are held in high esteem.

The recently released 2019 Principal Occupational Health, Safety and Wellbeing survey, authored by Professor Phil Riley of Deakin University, has revealed that principals were subject to violence, threats, bullying and conflict at a far greater rate than the general public, with 42.2 per cent of the 2385 principals surveyed experiencing physical violence, with this increasing each year that the survey has been conducted. Professor Riley hoped that an improved respect for educators that has emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic will be a lasting change, with greater awareness of the stresses and challenges that principals regularly face. "One of the things that's happened is people have had their eyes opened about how difficult ... a very complicated job and people do have a new respect." One primary school principal hopes that people will treat her high-pressure profession with more respect after the COVID-19 pandemic. NCWV needs to encourage the Department of Education and the State Government to use this increased awareness of the complex and vital roles of teachers and principals to promote them as true professionals. Hopefully, this will make a lasting, positive difference to community attitude and respect and encourage our top students to consider teaching as a profession.

#### **Turkish Women's Recreational Group**

Nurcihan Ozturk wrote: I just wanted to give you all an update on what I have been up to since we last met on a Zoom meeting. I have been busy assisting some of the councils with checking their translated material which will go out to their constituents. Amongst other things I am checking that the information sent out is in a language that will be understood by their residents and rate payers. These times are difficult for everyone and unfortunately with language differences this compounds the situation. I feel that there has been insufficient information provided to the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities, in particular the elderly. I only hope that from now on the information that goes out to all communities is in plain language and able to be understood by all. I have been contacted by a number of media outlets to obtain information on CALD communities and the difficulties they are facing during this pandemic.

## Other News

**Workplace Gender Equality Agency, an Australian Government statutory agency** released new Australian research establishing proof that companies do better when they appoint more women to leadership positions. The study, based on six years of Australian companies' gender reporting, has established that companies who appointed a female CEO increased market value by 5%, worth nearly \$80 million to an average ASX200 company. Increasing the number of women in other key leadership positions by 10% or more, increases a company's market value by 6.6% or an average \$105 million. The study is a world first because of the causal role it identifies between greater gender diversity and business success. While other studies have concluded that such a connection is likely, data provided by the WGEA allowed real case studies and leadership appointments to be tracked over a number of years to establish direct proof of the link. **Key points:**

- A world-first study shows a link between greater gender diversity and business success
- It found a female CEO increased market value by 5%
- A third of the 11,000 companies WGEA collects gender data from have no woman on their boards.



**AUSTRALIAN LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION**

**VICTORIAN BRANCH**

**Thursday, July 16th 5:30 pm:**

"Cocktails and Campaigning" presented by Cr Janet Pearce, Barb Abley AM CGSJ FACN, Cr Virginia Tachos, Cr Sandra Wilson, Cr Denise Massoud, and Cr Coral Ross. Hosted by president Cr Kylie Spears, this online forum will ask fellow committee members about networking and their 3 best campaign tips. [Book Now](#)

### Royal Historical Society Victoria

**HOLSWORTH LOCAL HERITAGE GRANTS:** Closes 31 July  
The Royal Historical Society of Victoria is currently accepting applications for grants of up to \$2,000 which are available for the publication of any specific or general local or natural history in rural and regional Victoria. Grant is for small organisations interested in publishing works of historical value. Applications close 31 July 2020. [More info on Holsworth Grants](#)

### Aged Care Advocacy Support

Elderly people who have suspended in-home services during COVID-19 can receive welfare checks over the phone. Senior Australians who need support with aged care advocacy can contact **The Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) on 1800 700 600**. OPAN is a national network that delivers advocacy, information and education services to older people in metropolitan, regional, rural and remote Australia. [www.opan.com.au](http://www.opan.com.au)

### Puppy Carer Information Sessions

In need of some extra company? Vision Australia is looking for loving carers for their adorable seeing eye dogs in training. You can now join their free, monthly information sessions online! Your new best friend could be just around the (digital) corner. For more info: [clicking here](#)

### Commercial Passenger Vehicles Victoria:

From 1 July, all unbooked CPVs (including wheelchair accessible) will be classified the same way as cars, which means CityLink taxi toll prices will be the same as private car toll prices. All unbooked CPVs (taxi) that use CityLink should now be fitted with a digital fare calculation device which means as of 1 July 2020:

- drivers won't need to add tolls at the end of each trip
- CityLink tolls will display on fare calculation device, so passengers have visibility about the cost of their trips.

**The City of Melbourne** has drafted its fifth Disability Access Plan, with input from the community and our Disability Advisory Committee. Our goal is to make Melbourne one of the world's most accessible and inclusive cities. We developed our first Disability Action Plan in 1999, and since then we have been working to reduce and eliminate barriers in our physical, informational and social environments. We have undertaken research and asked people with disability for their views on what needs to be done to make the city more inclusive. The findings of this research and the views of community members have informed the [draft Disability Access Plan](#). This draft is open for public consultation from 8 July to 5 August 2020. There are three ways to give your feedback on the draft Plan: complete the online survey; write to us; call us.

### Melbourne Law School, 2-3 December 2020,

**Conference:** Call for papers. 'Beijing Platform for Action at 25: progress, retreat and the future of women's rights'. To mark the occasion of Beijing +25 and consider the influence of the conference and outcome documents, the Institute for International Law and the Humanities, Melbourne Law School and the Australian Human Rights Institute, are co-hosting a conference to consider the advances and retreats, in the situation of women internationally over the past 25 years. It will also identify possible avenues for responding to gender inequality and women's rights now and into the future. We invite abstracts (up to 300 words) that address any aspect of the Beijing Conference, Declaration or Platform for Action. Abstracts submitted to: [humanrights@unsw.edu.au](mailto:humanrights@unsw.edu.au) by **Friday 31 July**.

### Celebrate Cultural Diversity with Arts, Craft, Dance Online

Join the Victorian Multicultural Commission for a series of online workshops celebrating the diverse arts, crafts and culture of Victoria's multicultural communities. Register and learn a range of new skills from silk lei weaving to the beautiful movements of butoh (a Japanese dance), from the comfort of your living room. Full program: [clicking here](#).

**When:** July 2020; **Cost:** Free

**NCWV August 6<sup>th</sup> Meetings: These will be ZOOM meetings.**

**Individual Members General Meeting, 11:15am. Committee members to be elected for 2020/2021 Council Meeting (12:15pm), Speaker: The Honourable Diana Bryant AO, QC, retired Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia**

Diana will update us on the review into the Family Law Court.

If you wish to be part of this meeting, please reply to this email to be included in the invitation.

***Please contact us if there are any issues for you or for your Organisation that we may be able to assist you with, support or advocate on your behalf.***

**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 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> October 2020, tbc. Registration details available via [info@ncwvic.org.au](mailto:info@ncwvic.org.au)

**ICW-CIF:** 2020 Mid-term Executive meeting is cancelled.

General Assembly to be in Avignon, France 6<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021. Registration details to follow.

<b>May</b>	<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Individual Members Meeting part of Council meeting</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
		<b>Council Meeting, 12:15-2:00pm</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
	<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
	<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Late Council Meeting, 5:15-7:15pm</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
	<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Individual Members General Meeting, with election-11:15-11:45am</b>	
		<b>Council Meeting, 12:15-2:00pm</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
	<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
	<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
<b>Sept.</b>	<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>NCWV AGM, 12:15-2:00pm</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>
	<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Individual Members Meeting, 10:15-11:30am</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>
		<b>Council Meeting, 12:15-2:00pm</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>
	<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>
	<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>
<b>Nov.</b>	<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Late Council Meeting, 5:15-7:15pm</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>
	<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>
	<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>End of Year Celebratory Luncheon, 12.00</b>	<b>Angliss Restaurant,</b>
		<b>550 Little Lonsdale St Melbourne, near Spencer Street.</b>	