

Newsletter

November 2021

Quote: "After years of survivor-advocates campaigning for change by bravely sharing their experiences of abuse and sexual violence, respectful relationships education is finally getting the attention it deserves. With the Australian national curriculum up for review for the first time in five years, media attention has focused on whether consent education should be mandatory in schools. While necessary, this is only one element. The evidence shows that consent education must be contextualised within a broader program of teaching and learning gender equality and respectful relationships. To be effective, respectful relationships education needs to address gendered drivers of violence, be intersectional, and have every part of the school community involved, from the principal, to staff, students and parents. If we want to take this issue seriously, we must ensure children and young people have access to a curriculum and a school system that builds the knowledge and skills needed to have healthy and equal relationships. This means the continued commitment to roll out respectful relationships education across the country. We must listen to young people and make sure they are centred in every action we take and adults are accountable and play their part." Patty Kinnersly, Our Watch CEO

From the President, Ronniel Milliken

We are seeking your input!

The NCWV Standing Committee is interested to receive input from *individual and organisational members and delegates* to make a submission to **Victorian government's inquiry regarding Support for older Victorian migrants and refugees**. We have received an invitation to make a submission from the Chair of the Committee, Natalie Suleyman. Submissions close 30 November 2021. As we have a membership with *diverse backgrounds and experiences* – this is an opportunity to share your views, issues and examples and seek a resolution.

[Legal and Social Issues \(parliament.vic.gov.au\)](https://parliament.vic.gov.au/); and [Inquiries \(parliament.vic.gov.au\)](https://parliament.vic.gov.au/)

ALSO

The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) invites submissions to inform **National Anti-Racism Framework**. [National Anti-Racism Framework | Australian Human Rights Commission](#) The Framework will be a long-term, central reference point to guide actions on anti-racism and equality by government, NGOs, business, communities, and other sectors. AHRC is interested to hear from those with knowledge of anti-racism initiatives and in responding to racism at structural, institutional,

and inter-personal levels. Commission's [Concept Paper](#) provides an initial overview of key principles, outcomes and strategies. The Commission is accepting public submissions up to **15 December 2021**. [Have your say page](#) for guided form or upload your submission in writing, video or audio formats, in any language.

Inquiry into Gender Responsive Budgeting reopened in October, after being cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Submissions accepted up until 30 November 2021:

<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec/inquiries/inquiry/980>

Student Voice Network (SVN) One of our Young NCWV members, Lucy Skelton, CEO and founder of SVN, now at ANU in Canberra, is continuing her strong and passionate advocacy. The SVN is student founded, free, virtual platform that supports young people to lead, participate in and amplify projects that take action on social justice and environmental issues. Over the last few months, SVN has run the Target 2035 Climate Conference, made up of both conventional climate groups and others, to equip as many people as possible to understand the impending climate crisis and provide the tools for meaningful action! Lucy is appealing: "Together we can amplify our impact and get Target 2035 into the public conversation, we're all impacted! If you have advice, are interested in getting your group involved or help get other groups involved, please contact me by email netzero2035@gmail.com. We can do more together than we ever could alone! Time is of the essence." See: www.target2035.com

Annual Luncheon – Tuesday 23 November by ZOOM at 12:00 for 12:30- Speaker - Elida Brereton – 'Adventures in the South Atlantic and what COVID did to our cruise'.

The highly acclaimed and entertaining Elida Brereton will speak, beginning with a catch-up conversation and then presentation by Elida at 12:30pm. Elida is our Vice-President and was a teacher and principal in government schools for over 43 years. To a legion of fans Elida was "Miss Margaret Murray in ABC's Summer Heights High" the no-nonsense principal in the mockumentary television series starring Chris Lilley.

But Summer Heights High is only a footnote to a long and distinguished career in education, including 15 years at the helm of Camberwell High, retiring in 2009. Elida is now working with new Victorian principals. Elida was awarded a Silver Jubilee medal for services to education and was involved in shaping the Australian curriculum. Parents and colleagues told of a warm caring principal who came dressed in school uniform on muck-up days, is a dogged Geelong fan with a wicked sense of humour and is a passionate advocate of public education.

Booking will be by TryBooking with a modest fee, link to be sent out shortly.

Assistance needed by NCWV Committee

We are so pleased to have such competent, young, new Executive members, the Hon Treasurer, Sheridan Ingram and Hon. Secretary, Mary Mulhearn. They have many ideas about enhancing our communication strategy and would really value having input, in relation to social media and technology changes, from members, delegates or friends. This would need to be on a voluntary basis.

If you have some time to offer ideas and assistance please contact our President, Ronniet Milliken, via the NCWV email: info@ncwvic.org.au 0478783489

Congratulations to Selba-Gondoza Luka, Founder of Aus-Afri Care, NCWV Organisational member, as a 2021 inductee to Victorian Honour Roll of Women.



VMC-CALD

Communities

**Briefing Session,
Nurcihan Ozturk,
Multicultural &
Migration Adviser.**

I attended the VMC (Vic. Multicultural Commission) online

meeting ongoing commitment to inform CALD communities through multicultural briefings regarding COVID-19. The meeting was chaired by Vivienne Nguyen AM Chairperson of VMC The meeting was largely centred on the work of the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), on Victoria's current COVID-19 support services for women/parents with children who cannot look after their children due to COVID-19 hospitalisation or isolation. The information session was to keep the community informed of latest developments relating to:

- COVID Family Finding service, Sharni Marsh reported on how if families tested positive and were in isolation what types of assistance the Department is able to offer. Hotel accommodation and other accommodation is available to those who are in large families, have no place to go or are a primary contact. There is also assistance given to Complex Support cases, this is generally a co-ordinated approach based on needs of the individual such as mental health needs, autistic, ... They have assisted over 11,000 people since July 2021 and also provided telephone interpreter services to those in need.
- Relief support (food relief). There was discussion on rapid isolation where a person tested positive and had no means to get to shops to purchase supplies and medication. There are food relief programs such as fresh food, precooked food that is culturally sensitive to the needs of the community, health care items and medicine. This work is generally done in partnership with local councils, Red Cross and other means.

Anyone living in Victoria at the time of testing positive is eligible for these services. The number is the COVID-19 hotline number 1800 365 100.

November Council Meeting



Speaker: Shirley Reynolds, President Soroptimist International Melbourne Inc (SI) and Chair, United Nations Association of Australia (Vic) Status of Women Committee, spoke on how UNAA champions the work of the United Nations, and advocacy and outreach programs of SI since 1921.

Following decades of lobbying and gaining support of both UNESCO and UNICEF to speak on behalf of SI, in 1984 SI became one of only five women's organisations to have Category 1 status with a voice at the United Nations and permanent members working at UN centres in New York, Paris, Geneva, Vienna, Rome, Bangkok and Nairobi who can put forward views and advocate for change. With five federations, and over 72,000 members in 121 countries, SI has successfully launched projects, supported financially by all clubs. Shirley gave an overview of a number of projects, such as Project Sierra (in Sierra Leone) which makes a sustainable difference to women and girls in remote areas. This includes helping pregnant teenage girls who have become homeless and society outcasts. Their health, housing, education and well-being of the child are supported. They learn skills such as sewing to help them become economically independent.

Shirley spoke of the 'Road to Equality' project, focused on advocacy for migration, female genital mutilation, child enforced marriage, domestic violence, and older women's safety. Through this project, SI have helped the economic empowerment and education of women and advocated the justice system at the local level to change laws and help to bring about gender equality. The 'Willing Hearts' project has helped 250 girls across Kenya the opportunity to learn about Human Rights, self defence and education that they have the right to say no to child marriage. 'Project Migration' assists many women and children fleeing war zones to have shelter, friendship, and support to learn what is needed to be accepted as citizens in another country and provide training, education, support to access work.

Shirley spoke passionately about the Africa SI Female Genital Mutilation project which has helped 5 countries in Africa collaborate with local support to help activists learn how to use media and make videos to get relevant and targeted messages into communities. Videos are taken into schools and the wider community to educate both boys and girls that old cultural ways were not necessary or need to be accepted in the modern world. Older women were engaged that stopping the practice of FGM does not need to affect their overall culture. Shirley stressed how important that activity at the local level must be decided by local people.

Shirley also spoke about the ongoing work between SI and the Children of Peace Organisation's shelter in Vietnam, where the Government would only educate male orphans and not the girls. This project helps to buy and supply books for a library so that girls can access education, resulting in their first female Doctor. Just \$200 can educate a girl child to become a Doctor!

Shirley explained the many members of SI identify opportunities for action and lobbying at a local level and not through Government, both in Australia and across the globe. The Melbourne Club organised the Logo Garden near the Shrine of Remembrance on St. Kilda Road to celebrate the 100 years of Women working to help women throughout the world. Shirley stated: "The beautiful garden honours, acknowledges, and pays tribute to all those SI Women, both past and present who have worked tirelessly over the 100 years. The women of the next 100 years will inherit a wonderful legacy of work done, but it is the next generation of SI Women who need to create the future of Soroptimist International as it travels into this next 100 years. All Soroptimists will continue to work towards a healthier, equitable and more sustainable world where all people, especially women and children, may live in peace without *fear of violence and injustice.*" To donate to a project or contribute please go to: <https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/>

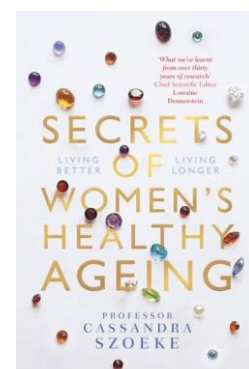


UN Women Australia announced the appointment of new Chief Executive, Ms Simone Clarke, taking over from Ms Janelle Weissman, who made such a positive difference in her six years as CEO. Simone has most recently been CEO of World Animal Protection ANZ, and has also worked in senior executive roles in the corporate sector, in international NGOs and in the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF. UN Women Australia is one of 12 national committees that support UN Women in its mission towards gender equality and the empowerment of women globally. It raises funds for UN Women's projects around the world, and generates awareness in Australia of UN Women and the work it does. Ms Clarke said she was excited by the opportunity to lead UN Women Australia at a time when women and girls around the world must continue to fight for equality and empowerment. "UN Women Australia plays a vital role in empowering women and girls globally. I am delighted and proud the Board has entrusted me to lead the organisation over this important phase, as we work together to accelerate progress towards gender equality".



A wonderful new book on women's health. This book is by Professor Cassandra Szoek, and is available at:

<https://melbourne-university-publishing.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/55c/581/374/55c5813743252956060618adb919c23f36768f57/secrets-of-womens-healthy-ageing-paperback-softback20210630-4-1lqnpjx.jpeg>



ROSS HOUSE - STAY CONNECTED

Ross House member, Non Profit Training provides training for organisations around Australia. Schedule:

- Online Governance Training Melbourne - Thursday 18th November 2021 (11am- 4:30pm) \$280 per person
- Online Planning and Project Management Training Melbourne - Thursday 2nd December (11am - 4:30pm) \$280 per person. Ross House members are still able to receive a discount of 10% on all sessions by using the discount code "ROSS". Information visit [click here.](#)

[African Music and Cultural Festival 2021](#) This three-day celebration of African culture at Federation Square is the only place to see over 35 African countries and organisations represented through music, food, fashion, film, dance, art and culture. **Friday 19th November 2021**

To find out more information, please [click here.](#)

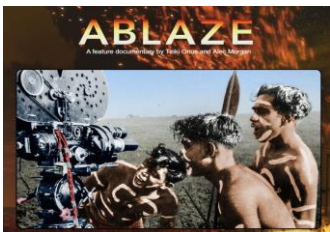
OTHER NEWS

New campaign on the warning signs of elder abuse

A new campaign to raise awareness of elder abuse has been launched by the Australian Human Rights Commission to mark the International Day of Older Persons (1 October 2021). The [video campaign raises](#) awareness among people who interact with older Australians about the warning signs of elder abuse and where to get support. Calls to the National Elder Abuse phone line increased by 87% between January 2021 and June 2021 compared to the previous six months. "Elder abuse can happen to any older person, regardless of their background, and anyone who comes into contact with older people – be it friends, family, health professionals, hairdressers, librarians and many others – may be in a position to notice signs of elder abuse," Age Discrimination Commissioner the Hon Dr Kay Patterson AO said. "Social isolation is a driver of elder abuse, and the COVID-19 pandemic has increased social isolation for many older people. It has provided ripe conditions for elder abuse to flourish, while also making it harder to identify hidden abuse." Prior to the pandemic, the [Australian Institute of Family Studies](#) estimated between 2% and 14% of older Australians were experiencing elder abuse annually, with financial abuse the most prevalent form. Call the National Elder Abuse phone line on 1800 353 374 for information, support and referrals. [You can watch the video here](#).

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

CONGRATULATIONS VCHA WINNERS



The winners of the Victorian Community History Awards was made on the 27th of October, History Month. It was a breathtakingly good line-up. Congratulations go to all entrants, winners and commended entrants but especially to Alec Morgan and Tiriki Onus, writer/directors and Tom Zubrycki, producer of *Ablaze*, the film that won the Victorian Premier's History Award 2021.

[Click for winners of the VCHA](#)

"This superbly researched and charmingly narrated film makes an important contribution to Victorian history because it retrieves the voice and the resilience of Bill Onus, and deserves a wide audience, whether at home, in the cinema, or at school. This film prompts reflection. This is history at its best: as fuel for informed conversation."

Adrift in Melbourne; Seven walks with Robyn Annear.

This book will be released on 30th November, 2021 and we are taking orders prior to its release. Melbourne's streets have always been marvellous — but the proud facades of the nineteenth-century boom aren't the half of it. What about the stories behind them? This book contains a series of walks created by Robyn Annear to showcase the hidden histories we might past every day, buildings now gone and the characters who inhabited them.



[ZOOM](#), Join from anywhere in the world: **December 9 @ 10:30 am-12:00 pm**, Free 36 spots left. [RSVP Now!](#)

London, 1913: A wealthy young woman from a stately country home falls in love with and secretly marries a handsome young diplomat from the Turkish Embassy. It sounds like a plot line from British period drama *Downton Abbey* ... but it is the real-life story of Melbourne socialite Florence Winter-Irving.

Champions of Change launches program to boost female technology leaders

The group plans to work with the CEOs of Telstra and Microsoft to engineer programs that aim to reduce gender discrimination in the digital economy. The [Coalition](#) released [12 commitments](#) to promote female leadership, including the incorporation of gender equality into the development and use of Digital Technologies, applying gender equality expectations on contractors supplying labour, allocating funds for female entrepreneurs in angel and seed investment schemes and creating a talent pool for females in digital roles. Rachel Bondi, chief partner officer of Microsoft Australia, announced a new "returnship" program, which is currently seeking partners. The program provides a six-month vocational education course in either cyber/data analytics or cloud computing, with employment opportunities available during training and post-graduation. The program will begin early 2022, providing a pathway for women.

Respect Victoria partners with Domestic Violence Victoria and the Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria for this year's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence. DV Vic will partner with the Municipal Association of Victoria, Victorian Council of Social Services, No to Violence, Gender Equity Victoria which supports Health Services Council on the project. They also partner with Safe Steps to support the Walk Against Family Violence on the first day of the 16 Days of Activism against family violence and the importance of prevention. **16 Days of Activism: November 25, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, until December 10, Human Rights Day.**



This image of mostly male world leaders at the COP26 climate summit Glasgow is a stark reminder of just how far away we are from gender equity globally. The lack of women in senior leadership in world climate negotiations is frightening, considering it is women and girls who will suffer most from the many impacts of climate change.

Jo Dodds [is putting Australia on the COP26 map for all the right reasons](#). Named as Women's Agenda's Emerging Leader in Climate earlier this year, Jo is using her position as head of the Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action to highlight the impact of climate change on Australians. She's getting plenty of international media attention.

My Vote My Voice: Democracy - Past; Present; Future. Is politics structured to benefit society in the future? – was designed to encourage students to consider what the future political system may look like in order to benefit society in the future.

We also celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Australian Federation of Women Voters and the 75th+1 anniversary of the League of Women Voters Victoria (LWVV). The keynote speaker, historian Dr Deborah Towns OAM, President of LWVV and NCWV Standing Committee Coordinator shared the history of voting in Victoria, when women were able to vote, when voting became compulsory and the part LWVV and others played. Deborah then introduced the film "100 Years of Women's Vote" the digitised film on women gaining the vote re-enacted in 2001 by students from Melbourne Girls College, Richmond. She outlined how it came about and explained the significance of the characters that are depicted, including Miles Franklin and Vida Goldstein. She also spoke about the second movie, digitised 1988 video about "Women in Parliament", shown later in the program, explaining roles and achievements of the sitting and past parliamentarians she interviewed.

COVID-19 was cruel in that schools were not functioning as usual for months and students were not able to go to school let alone organise and prepare for joint projects and team debates. So the number of schools finally participating fell to three from around 14 schools.

Bayside P-12 College, Williamstown Campus, presented with a team of three Year 9s and one from Year 7. All girls shared aspects of the topic between them and stressed via examples how democracy starts at school, that women have lagged behind men in voting rights etc and that local government can play a part in demonstrating how democratic processes can be used to protect rights of individuals and groups. They stressed that future government should be gender-balanced, as well as include ATSIC and multicultural parliamentarians. These young students shared facts and figures to support their arguments and felt that students have a part to play in extending their own rights as future citizens.

Melbourne Girls' Grammar School's team were four experienced and mature Year 11 students who belonged to the school's Politics and Citizenship Society set up by and for interested students to meet at lunchtimes to discuss aspects of politics at various levels, from school-based issues about democracy, up to Federal and international politics. The presentation was led by the best speaker in the event, who then conducted the panel discussion with great skill. They informed us that politics and democratic principles and practices are studied in the curriculum via 'Civics and Citizenship' units. Points made by the MGGS students included that politics can bring about valuable social change but politicians should be controlled to avoid corruption and self-serving actions.

Vital aspects such as climate change should not be politicised as “we need a range of views and less misinformation”. Also, the truly diverse society that is Australia should be fully represented in politics.

Emmanuelle College Point Cook's presenters were a Year 8 girl and boy who presented their ideas through a well-constructed and fact-based PowerPoint presentation which included a list of ages at which teenagers can exercise their rights such as gain a learner's permit at 17, driver's licence at 18, marry with parental permission at 16, drink in a hotel, join the Army or other defence services etc at 18. They made their point that teenagers can't vote until they turn 18 when these two students believe that they should be allowed to vote at 16 years of age. The young speakers showed us a chart of pros and cons for young people voting from the age of 16 and did their best to make the pros more convincing!

The three panellists were: Sandra Wilson, member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and on the Executive of Australian Local Government Women Association; Cr Trent McCarthy, Darebin Council and CEO of the Central Ranges Local Learning & Employment Network; Elida Brereton, Vice-Principal NCWV and past principal in government schools. Their feedback was extremely positive about the speakers. The speakers, preparing under challenging circumstances, were all passionate about their democratic rights, the need for the vote and the value of educated citizens supporting vital causes through their voting power. We heard opinions and we heard facts, but all arguments had their merit thanks to solid research by students and their carefully thought-through opinions.

The following comments were in the ZOOM 'chat' during the event:

From Guosheng Chen: The students' presentations are impressive!

From Cr Janet Pearce ALGWA Vic: The video was fabulous. Thanks to everyone. I hope to be able to watch the recording of the presentations.

From AABWA Jane Wei: Thanks to all from NCWV for organising the event. Big thumb up for all girls who made wonderful speeches.

From Deb Colville Wurundjeri land VMedWomen'sSoc VMWS: Can I thank you for a wonderful session. The videos were great and the young people fantastic. I have thoroughly enjoyed the whole session and feel we are in the hands of some great young people for the future. Thank you very much !!!

From Cr Denise Massoud: Thank you for a wonderful morning!!! Congratulations to the students and thank you to the judges.

From Nolene Symons: On behalf of Bayside College, I thank you all for the opportunity today for our students to participate in such an enriching and educational morning. Our students have enjoyed themselves very much.

These screen grabs are some of the 60 participants at this event, including NCW members from NSW and the ACT, James Newbury MP, members and delegates from some of NCWV Affiliated Organisations and our friends.





In 2001, NCWV participated in A NATION ON PARADE held to Celebrate the Centenary of Australia 1901-2001. Three Banners were commissioned to be designed and made for the Parade. The Banners depict Dame Ada Norris DBE, Vida Goldstein and Muriel Heagney.

Currently in metal cylinders at the Royal Historical Society, ongoing preservation is being considered as they need preserving for display/exhibitions to show future generations our women's history.

NCWV – 120th Anniversary Celebrations in 2022

2022 promises to be a special year celebrating the 120th anniversary of our inauguration in 1902.

The four original affiliates who met on 19 March 1902 were:

- the Austral Salon of Music, Literature and the Arts;
- the Melbourne Jewish Women's Guild;
- the Young Women's Christian Association – Y.W.C.A; and
- the Women's Christian Temperance Union – WCTU.

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

November:

Monday 15th **Standing Committee Meeting 4:30 to 6:00pm by ZOOM**

Thursday 18th: **Committee meeting 10am to 12 noon by ZOOM**

Tuesday 23rd: **Annual Festive Luncheon, 12:00 noon by ZOOM**

December: Thursday 2nd Committee Meeting, 1 to 3pm RHSV

NCWV Dates for 2022

2022 February Council Meeting - Thursday 3 February, 12:15-2:00pm – Speaker – Coral Ross OAM.

We are hopeful that this meeting will be in person and by zoom to maximize accessibility and participation

Our speaker at the first Council Meeting for 2022, will be the outstanding Coral Ross OAM, honoured in 2021 for her service to local government and to gender equality. Coral will speak about her 2020 Churchill Fellowship research and recommendations to improve gender equality.

Coral, a founding Director of **Australian Gender Equality Council (AGEC)**, was appointed Chair in November 2020. **Responding to the unacceptably slow pace of change towards gender equality in Australia, leading organisations, which represent over 500,000 women in the workplace, have come together to form the AGEC, a national not-for-profit organization.**

Coral has had an esteemed career in local government and was previously the National President of the Australian Local Government Women's Association and ALGWA Victorian President – she is currently the National Vice President. A professional journalist with more than 20 years' experience, Coral was a local government councillor at the City of Boroondara, in Metropolitan Melbourne for more than 18 years and served as Mayor of the City of Boroondara three times. Until October 2020 Coral was the President of the Municipal Association of Victoria – Victoria's peak body for local government - and is on the Board of the Australian Local Government Association, the peak body for local government in Australia. She has also served as a Director of the National Rural Women's Coalition. This will be a most interesting session.

NCWA Triennial Conference Due to COVID restrictions has been postponed until March 31-April 1, 2022