

### **Newsletter**

### February 2022

In the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of NCWV, we acknowledge and embrace the Australia Day theme - Reflect, Respect and Celebrate – as our underpinning them for the year, to reflect, respect and celebrate all communities and their significant occasions.

The Story of Australia
This is the Story of Australia - the story of an
extraordinary nation.
The Story begins over 60,000 years ago.
New chapters are written every day.
We reflect on our history, its highs and its lows.
We respect the stories of others.
And we celebrate our nation, its achievements and
most of all, its people.
We're all part of the story.

### From the President, Ronniet Milliken

As I sat down to write a few words I was distracted by the National Press Club addresses by Grace Tame and Brittany Higgins – both passionate advocates demanding action.

**Are we there yet?** 120 years after achieving national voting rights and the foundation of NCWV – clearly NOT YET in gender equality, violence against women and children, affordable housing and aged care.

At the Council forum in 2021 we heard about the need for action in response to backsliding regarding gender equity, the Victoria Gender Equality Commissioner addressing the loss of momentum in the Victorian public service, the inequity in children's school literature – a building block of education and culture - and from the Workplace Gender Equality Agency - complacency, box ticking, and apathy that required to be addressed. Later in the year we heard about the recommendations in the Aged Care Royal Commission yet to be addressed and the ongoing need for affordable housing particularly by older single women in the context of the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement that expires in June 2023.

Outside, as part of the public discourse we heard about the Sex Discrimination Commissioner's 'Respect@ Work Report' and the recommendations languishing for want of action; and Grace Tame as Australian of the Year bringing a focus to prevention of child sexual assault. Also, the March4Justice - tens of thousands of women of all ages marched to say they'd had "enough", and the Summit on Women's Safety considering revisions to the 'National Plan to reduce violence against Women and their Children' expiring in 2022. And last but by no means least - the Report on the 'Independent Review of Parliamentary Workplace'. One 'positive' outcome, sadly but necessarily, was a broader awareness, particularly amongst young women, of the reality and risk of workplace discrimination and harassment - a generation after federal equal opportunity and sex discrimination legislation. Another was galvanising like-minded individuals to advocacy and action.

**Actions** speak louder than words. Like Grace and Brittany, we await action on the part of our state and federal representatives to comprehensively and consistently legislate, fund and implement *all of the expert recommendations* provided by respective commissioners.

For our part we *should* expect that the behaviour of individuals and organisations will change and become consistent with these legislated 'norms'. But after 120 years we are not naïve.

Hopefully addressing the gaps in the existing regimes will be an indicator to perpetrators and underperformers to lift their game to meet or exceed the raised bar.

**Advocacy:** In 2022 our political calendar includes a Federal election and Victoria State election. As we plan *My Vote My Voice* and advocacy action during 2022 we call on the assistance of interested and motived members.

Another matter that has been part of NCWV's advocacy work was recently highlighted by an article written by:

Helen Clarke, Administrator, United Nations

Development Programme in an article wrote:

NGO's research found that between March and December 2020, child marriages more than doubled in many communities in which they work, compared with 2019, while another NGO reported that 2020 saw the largest increase in child marriage rates in 25 years. Before the pandemic, great progress was being made in this critical area, ... the number of young women globally married as children decreased by 15 per cent. That equated to 25 million child marriages being averted. Now, the pandemic is threatening to undo years of advances. World Vision cites rising hunger levels and loss of education opportunities brought on by the global pandemic as the key driving factors for the increase in child marriage. 130 million girls are currently not in school. A startling 11 million girls are predicted not to return to education as a result of COVID-19. For the prevention of child marriage, it is important for girls to complete their education.

### February Council Meeting - Thursday 3 February,

Our speaker at the first Council Meeting for 2022, was the outstanding Coral Ross OAM, honoured in 2021 for her service to local government and to 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 representing over 500,000 women, have come together to form the AGEC, a national not-for-profit organisation. 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 Melbourne for more than 18 years and served as Mayor 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. She has also served as a Director of the National Rural Women's Coalition.

Coral spoke about the Winston Churchill Trust, and how their Fellowship has enabled her to work on a project to improve gender equality in local government by increasing the number of elected women. When Coral was awarded her fellowship in September 2018 and commenced her project, less than one third of Australian councillors were women and less than 11% of Council CEOs or GMS were women. It was calculated that without intervention, there would not be equity in Australian councils until 2063 and new initiatives were needed. Local government is a pipeline to state and federal politics, with 5 former prime ministers starting their political careers as councillors, including Theresa May, the former UK Prime Minister. Coral wanted to understand why women are not standing and launched her unique comparative international study to answer this question. Coral gave an overview of the numbers of women councillors in the world, with Sweden the highest at 43% (where preselection ensures female candidates). She spoke about how each country has adopted programs with varying success - such as Canada's \$100 million investment each year over 5 years, the UK's extensive research program and Germany's local government mentoring programs. Coral researched what was happening in each country (and over 50 organisations) to gain a deep understanding of what worked, what didn't work and more importantly, why programs were successful.

Coral noted it became apparent that there wasn't a silver bullet that worked, but rather the best representation is happening in countries where a dedicated system has been put in place to deal with both sexual harassment, bullying and on-line abuse <u>and</u> the underlying structure and culture in Parliaments and Local Governments has been addressed.

The most successful schemes included a suite of measures and dedicated support made available to empower women and encourage them to stand for office.

Coral gave an overview of more than 70 programs, 50 initiatives and 33 recommendations covered in her report to encourage systemic change. Key themes of programs include engaging with girls and young women to demystify politics, create repositories of information and best practice, mentoring programs and women's networks. Successful programs include face to face and online forums, Boot Camps during election years and funding of Gender Equality Officers. Coral observed that women's groups, networks, and caucus are as important now as they were 10 years ago. Social media campaigns (such as #AskHerToStand and #WomenToWin) have also demonstrated success in encouraging women to nominate as candidates.

Coral stressed that significant funding is needed to create pathways for women standing for office. Initiatives include lobbying for on-going Federal or State Government funding, allowing councillors leave from work for council duties, introduction of a code of conduct and policies for sexual harassment and school campaign programs.

There are established, award-winning Australian mentoring programs for women, with opportunities for Australia to lead. Coral's report makes multiple recommendations for Federal, State and local councils to adopt.

Coral closed her presentation with a positive statement around the uplift of women councillors in Australia – now increased to 38.27%, with Victoria leading the country (where a commitment has been made for 50% women councillors by 2025).

There was discussion around the volume of activity occurring worldwide and consideration around intersections between our organisation and potential alignment into the future, particularly in the Asia Pacific area and regarding equity in children's literature in local government libraries Updates on this will be developed for a future newsletter.

Nominations for the 2022 Churchill Fellowship are open, and Coral encouraged all to apply, or support others to apply: <a href="https://www.churchilltrust.com.au/">https://www.churchilltrust.com.au/</a> Report:

https://www.churchilltrust.com.au/fellow/coral-ross-

vic-2018/



**Coral Ross OAM** 

### **March Council Meeting:**

# Date - Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 4.30-6.00pm

Location – Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne.



### **Speaker - Professor Marilyn Lake AO**

We are delighted that the highly distinguished historian Professor Marilyn Lake AO, has graciously agreed to speak about the history of voting in Victoria, when women were able to vote, when voting became compulsory and the part League of Women Voters Victoria (LWVV) played. (Prof Lake was to be keynote speaker at the 2021 MVMV - reimagined due to covid.)

We will also celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> + 1 Anniversary of the Australian Federation of Women Voters (AFWV) and the 75<sup>th</sup>+2 anniversary of the League of Women Voters Victoria (LWVV).

The AFWV's first president in 1921 was Bessie Rischbieth, a national and international leader in women's rights activities during the last century. Her financial legacy is administered by the League of Women Voters Victoria today and it assists with the funding of the NCWV's annual event, *My Vote My Voice*. In this photograph, Bessie Rischbieth, is seated in the middle, at the AFWV meeting in Melbourne, 1930.



This is a COVID safe event, with distancing and sanitising included. Please notify NCWV of your attendance on info@ncwvic.org.au

### 61st Annual Pioneer Women's Ceremony,

Saturday. March 26<sup>th</sup> 2022, 10:00-12:00pm

Given the surge in covid omicron infections - NCWV have rescheduled the Pioneer Women's Ceremony to Saturday 26 March 2022 from 10 am to 12 noon, relocated from Kensington to the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden in the Kings Domain, Melbourne.

This once again will celebrate Victorian Pioneer Women, conducted annually by the NCWV to acknowledge past and present women pioneers.

As 2022 is the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NCWV, the focus will be on pioneering women who established Victorian women organisations and those who have continued these organisations up until today. Dr Judith Smart AM, co-author of the history of the NCW Australia, *Stirrers with Style* will give an overview of the history of women's organisations, then a panel of speakers from some of the founding groups of NCWV will talk about their beginnings and where they are today.

The Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden is a garden of remembrance created in Kings Domain as part of the 1934 celebration of the Centenary of Melbourne. A variety of fundraising ventures occurred, including producing and selling a commemorative book, and receiving public subscriptions to have a particular woman's name inscribed on a "sheet of remembrance", buried beneath the sundial in the garden. The garden was designed by <a href="Hugh Linaker">Hugh Linaker</a> and is a formal, symmetrical garden traversed by a watercourse. This flows into a grotto which contains a <a href="bronze">bronze</a> statue of a woman by the sculptor <a href="Charles Web Gilbert">Charles Web Gilbert</a>.

This is a COVID safe event, with distancing and sanitising.. Please notify NCWV of your attendance on info@ncwvic.org.au



**NCWV – 120**<sup>th</sup> **Anniversary Celebrations in** 2022 promises to be a special year celebrating the 120<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### Janet, Lady Clarke,

Janet was an active member of the newly formed Austral Salon, working beside founding Austral women to achieve improvements to women's and families' lives, and promote young artists. Her achievements and leadership skills were widely recognised during her lifetime.' Thesis, Annette Lewis, Deakin University, Oct, 2010. After attending the Women's Quinquennial International Conference in June 1899, chaired by Lady Aberdeen, she was personally requested to found a National Council of Women (NCW) when she returned to Australia.

On 19 March 1902, Lady Clark called a meeting of women's societies at the Austral Salon for the purpose of "considering the advisability of forming a National Council of Women". She was the first NCWV President.

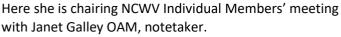
Beverley Kannegiesser, NCWV & Austral Salon



#### VALE: (Janet) Eleanor Holden. Decd. 20.1.2022

We are very sad to learn of the death of Eleanor. She was very committed to NCWV, Beta Sigma Phi Vic, LWVV.







At LWVV event held at Graduate House in 2018.

NCWV Membership:

Delegate - Beta Sigma Phi Victoria

Individual Member - elected - 2009-2010/2010-2011/2011-2012; 2016-2017/2018.

Acting Convenor, Individual Members - April 2017 – August 2017.

Elected Convenor, Individual Members - August 2017-2018/2018-2019;

Represented Individual Members on NCWV Executive Committee – 2017-2019.

She put her IT skills into creating flyers and little booklets for LWVV's events and took many wonderful photos at NCWV and LWVV events. She regularly attended Individual and Council Meetings and undertook the task of ensuring the public address system was operational. When Ross House installed a public address system for meeting rooms Eleanor continued to ensure the system worked and when it did not immediately found a Ross House staff member to rectify the difficulty. She contributed significantly to discussions and reports. Janet Galley OAM, NCWV Archivist I cannot recall when Eleanor first came to NCWV, nothing stands out to remember the occasion, but that was Eleanor's way. Throughout her membership of NCWV she would appear at the right place at the right time in her quiet unassuming manner. She would quickly assess what assistance was needed at a meeting or function and, without any fuss, attended to whatever was required. This is how she came to be in charge of the sound system at meetings, also the main photographer for NCWV, a task she loved. As Convener of the Individual Members, she paid great attention to detail, making sure all was in order for meetings. Although quiet and unassuming, Eleanor had definite ideas on the way things should be undertaken. It was a pleasure to work with her and an honour to have known her.

Dear Eleanor will be fondly remembered.

Elisabeth Newman AM, Convenor Individual Members.

#### **OTHER NEWS**

### **Child Wellbeing and COVID National Survey**

If you are the parent, grandparent, or carer of a child between the ages of nine and seventeen, we want to hear from you and your child. As Australia's National Children's Commissioner, I'm inviting children and their families to do a survey about how living through the past two years' of COVID-19 has affected children's mental health and wellbeing. **Your story is important!** There are two separate surveys – one for <u>children and young people</u>, and one for <u>parents</u>, <u>grandparents or carers</u>. Your insights and experiences will help to inform the support services that children and their families need as we continue to deal with the impacts of COVID and as we emerge from it.

Both surveys are completely confidential, and children need parental consent to complete the survey. The utmost care will be taken to protect the privacy of children and their families. If you don't have a child in this age range, perhaps you know someone who does. Please pass this invitation on to them. The surveys are designed to find out more about the unique challenges children and young people have faced over the past two years, and the social, emotional, educational, and other impacts they have experienced. You can find more information about the surveys on the <u>Commission's website</u>.

Hearing your experiences and insights will help us advocate for better services and supports. Each survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. I hope you and your child will take the time to share your experiences and help guide and inform better public policy.

Thank you for your support.

Anne Hollonds, National Children's Commissioner

### Women's Agenda



Gina Cass-Gottlieb will chair the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission from March 2022, replacing the outgoing Rod Simms in the high-profile role leading the regulator. She'll be the first woman to serve as chair, following her work as a partner with Gilbert + Tobin for more than two decades. Cass-Gottlieb's also previously contributed to the ACCC's enforcement and regulatory investigations in the past, including as a lead partner on the ACCC's investigation into criminal cartel conduct at ANZ, Deutsche and Citi bank.

## **Australians Investing in Women in f** report from Julie Reilly OAM, CEO:

Research report from Equity Economics – Changing the Trajectory: Investing in Women for a Fairer Future reveals the disproportionate impact COVID-19 has had on women's employment and education opportunities, particularly for young women. In fact, women shouldered 3 out of 5 job losses across Australia in 2020. In Victoria, 4 out of 5 job losses were women. The stark reality is that the pandemic could stall the entry and/or ongoing participation of women in the workforce by one year and could widen the gender pay gap by at least one percentage point. We need focused investments and initiatives that strengthen young women's education and training pathways; support women's transition into and sustained attachment to employment; and foster women's business opportunities. Key findings of the report include:

- There was a 28 per cent increase in the number of young women not in education or employment, compared to a 20 per cent increase in the number of young men. This is particularly concerning because we know that young people who experience more than six months not in education, employment or training are three to five times more likely to experience persistent periods of unemployment in adulthood.
- While young people aged 15-24 account for 15 per cent of the labour force, they accounted for 55 per cent of the job losses. Of those who lost their job, 68 per cent were young women.
- Female enrolments in post-school education fell in net terms by around 85,600 in May 2020, relative to May 2019. Men's enrolments, by comparison, fell by around 24,400 in other words, women comprised 78 per cent, or close to four times as many, of this decrease.
- Around 34,000 women are now unlikely to complete a Certificate III or IV as a result of the pandemic. As a consequence, they face a 10 per cent reduction in their employment prospects, from 78 per cent down to 68 per cent, a fall in full-time earnings of almost \$3000 a year.

The media release and report are available for download at <a href="https://www.aiiw.org.au/news/young-womens-futures-at-greatest-risk-from-impact-of-covid-19-new-research-reveals">https://www.aiiw.org.au/news/young-womens-futures-at-greatest-risk-from-impact-of-covid-19-new-research-reveals</a>

**Victoria PPEP** - During 2021 the Pelvic Pain Foundation of Australia had written to Premier Andrews and Ministers Merlino and Foley seeking some \$80,000 in state government funding per annum to support the program rollout in state schools, jointly funded by the federal government. Pending approval of this funding for state schools, PPFA had decided to rollout the program to interested independent schools during December. PPFA is committed to supporting teenagers who suffer severe period pain, pelvic pain, and endometriosis to allow them to fulfill their potential and live the best life possible. To do this, they are committed to bringing medically responsible, positive, and interactive education to schools in Australia.

NCWV wrote letters to independent schools with which we have contacts encouraging take up of the program in 2022. Members and friends may also contact schools with which they have links. If so, they should contact Kirsty at <a href="mailto:peptalkvic@pelvicpain.org.au">peptalkvic@pelvicpain.org.au</a> or phone 08 8291 7923 for more details, if they would like their college students to have PPEP Talk® in 2022.

#### **Victorian Women's Trust**

Throughout 2021, we have released ten episodes of a podcast series called <u>The Trap</u>, in collaboration with Jess Hill. This series takes a fresh look at dynamics of abuse and coercive control. The first half of the series explores abuse within family and intimate partner settings. The second half of the series looks at how those same abusive and controlling dynamics exist in our criminal justice system, our workplaces and national institutions.

The final episode was released on 25 November and draws direct links between domestic abuse and coercive control, and the domineering behaviour, bullying, intimidation, sexism and misogyny that are portrayed as part of the rough and tumble of politics in our country. <u>You can access all episodes of The Trap here</u>

#### **ROSS HOUSE - STAY CONNECTED**

Changes to Charity Size and Reporting Thresholds webinar (Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February). This upcoming ACNC webinar will examine in detail recently announced changes to charity size and reporting thresholds which will come into effect in coming months. To find out more information, or to register, please click here.

Power in Culture and Ethnicity (PCE), a subsidiary of the Self Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU), want to hear from you! They are running a series of sessions aimed at people with disabilities from multicultural backgrounds to join them in their mission for equality for all and self-advocacy. The first session is being held over zoom on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 11am and can be accessed with the following Zoom link > <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81021969492">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81021969492</a>. For more information, please click <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81021969492">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81021969492</a>.

#### **Justice Connect - Updated resources:**

- Notifiable data breach scheme (Cth) fact sheet
- Cybersecurity (Cth) fact sheet

Upcoming webinars: Our webinar program provides practical, easy to understand overviews on areas of law relevant to not-for-profits. Webinars are open to all to attend and do book out, so register today.



Top Legal Tips for Not-for-profit Organisations

## Tuesday 22 February, 12.45pm AEDT

Looking for a simple, practical overview of the top legal issues faced by not-for-profits? This **free webinar** is a one-stop shop based on the questions we get asked most often by not-for-profit organisations. Our presenters will equip you with further guides, checklists and resources to help you apply your knowledge in your not-for-profit organisation. **Register here** 



**Drafting a Great Volunteer Agreement** 

#### Available now

Having a well thought out and drafted volunteer agreement is the best way to be clear about the relationship between your organisation and a volunteer. It also helps to manage certain legal risks that could come up in your volunteer program. Watch our 30-minute webinar where we explore the ins and outs of this important document.

Access the recording here.

**CMY Youth Leadership team** are on the lookout for passionate and energetic youth volunteers to be involved in a number of their programs. If you know of any young people who are seeking the opportunity to build their skills, have their voices heard or be involved in program design and delivery, pass on these opportunities. More information can be found by visiting their website.

Applications will be open for a few weeks longer, so disregard deadline of the 16th of January. application form.

**Friday March 4, is World Day of Prayer:** <a href="www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org/">www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org/</a> The theme for the World Day of Prayer 2021 is "Build on a Strong Foundation", host country is England, Wales and Nth Ireland. Every year, there is a worship service prepared that focuses on a different country and a specific theme. World Day of Prayer National/Regional Committees prepare the order of worship on the theme to be used on the first Friday of March, in services all over the world. Through the service, women worldwide learn of the concerns and needs of women from host country to empathise and feel solidarity. To find a service to attend near you, go to the website.

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 polices 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 2022. v	venue/ZOOM to be notified for each meeting
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	NCVV V Date:	s for 2022, vende/200W to be notified for each meeting
February	Thursday 3 Monday 14 Thursday 17	Individual Members and Council Meeting, 12:15pm – 2:15pm, ZOOM Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30pm – 6:00pm, ZOOM Committee Meeting, 10am – 12:00pm, RHSV
March	Thursday 3	Council Meeting, 4:15-6:30pm. RHSV Gallery, Prof Marilyn Lake AO
	Monday 21:	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30pm – 6:00pm
	Thursday 17:	Committee Meeting, 10:00am-12:00pm
	Saturday 26	Pioneer Women's Ceremony – 10:00-12:00pm, Dr Judith Smart AM FRHSV Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden, Kings Domain
March 31-April 1 NCWA Triennial Conference by ZOOM.		
April	Thursday 7	Individual Members and Council Meeting 12:15 – 2:15
	Monday 11	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm
	Thursday 21	Committee Meeting, 10:00am-12:00pm
May	Thursday 5	May Forum: 10:00am,
		Council Meeting, 12:15pm
	Monday 9	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30pm – 6:00pm
	Thursday 19	Committee Meeting, 10:00am-12:00pm
June	Thursday 2	Individual Members and Council meeting, 12:15-2:00pm
	Monday 20	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm
	Thursday 16	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon
July	Thursday 7	Council Meeting, 5:15-7:15pm
	Monday 11	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30pm – 6:00pm
	Thursday 21	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon
August	Thursday 4	Individual Members Meeting, 10:15-11:30am,
		Council Meeting, 12:15-2:00pm
	Monday 8	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm
	Thursday 18	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon
September	Thursday 1	NCWV AGM, 12:15-2:00pm
	Monday 12	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30pm – 6:00pm
	Thursday 15	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon
October	Thursday 6	Individual Members Meeting, 10:15-11:30am,
		Council Meeting, 12:15-2:00pm
	Monday 10	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm
	Thursday 20	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon
November	Thursday 3	Council Meeting, 5:15-7:15pm
	Monday 14	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30pm – 6:00pm
	Thursday 17	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon
	Thursday 24	End of Year Celebratory Luncheon, 12.00, Angliss Restaurant, 550 Little

Lonsdale St Melbourne, nr Spencer Street.