

Acknowledgement

National Council of Women of Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Victoria and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. NCWV pays its respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past, present and emerging.



QUOTE: *Every Victorian should be able to live their life free from discrimination. The Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission's role is to protect human rights, promote fair treatment for all Victorians, and advocate for a diverse and inclusive state. We work with government, the public sector, the community and individuals to create a fairer, safer Victoria.* <https://www.humanrights.vic.gov.au/>

From the President, Ronnieta Milliken



It was interesting to hear from VEOHRC Commissioner and inspiring to hear from secondary school students what they think about Human Rights in Australia, at the Annual My Vote My Voice in Parliament. See article pages 5 & 6.

Way forward: As an incorporated association NCWV was invited to attend the Associations Forum meeting. Attendees were *inspired* by the presentation about the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) strategic plan since 2019 to address Gender Equity and Equality - after a review showed the relatively large proportion of female trainees compared to the numbers of male fellows, board/ council members. CEO Vase Jovanovska, a woman with accounting qualifications had reviewed and justified financial and non-financial merits of the necessary changes achieved to date. These include a broad culture change program throughout the College, including trainers, trainees and staff regarding language used to identify, and in attending to patients, use of language/interactions with one another and patients. Vase highlighted the definitions used for Gender, Gender Identity, Equality and Equity; and the rollout of gender equity, inclusion and diversity policies and resources.

For example, the availability of part-time study for fellowships from commencement and childcare at conferences, engagement with WGEA and reporting of metrics annually – internally. Vase was proud to say RANZCOG was involved in the instigation of the national Women's Health Advisory Council. RANZCOG also initiated a desk top review of gendered language used in health practice and publications. This review could be an important resource for health professionals more broadly.

Health Week - Wednesday 6 September from 12 until 2pm at the Melbourne Town Hall Yarra Room
Join Professor Casandra Szoek as she shares the ***Secrets of Women's Health Ageing*** - the wisdom revealed in the unique 30-year study on the health of more than 400 women from Greater Melbourne - to raise awareness of modifiable risk factors in women's health. Cassandra is Professor of Medicine, Doctor, Scientist, and Clinical researcher, an expert in women's health, an **AMA Councillor and Health Adviser to the National Council of Women Victoria**, is director of the Healthy Ageing Program and Project at the University of Melbourne. The study is a world first and rare in the level of detail it collects biologically, mentally, and emotionally. It is also the longest running study of Women's Health in Australia.

Melbourne women made an exceptional commitment to further medical knowledge of women's health in midlife and beyond, giving now 30 years of voluntary service to the University of Melbourne. Several hundred researchers and health professionals have come from all over the world. In just the last decade, more than 60 health professionals have completed higher degree. The commitment of these Melbourne women to participate in the study was seen internationally and inspired sister studies – bringing something wonderful to the vision of women's health. They gave their time and knowledge to improve women's health and the university is committed to sharing the knowledge as widely as possible.

Women living and working in the CBD who participate in this event will benefit - becoming aware of the key ingredients for living a long and healthy life.

Our Patron will be represented by **Councillor Dr Olivia Ball - City of Melbourne**. Originally a psychologist, Olivia is portfolio lead for Health, Wellbeing & Belonging and deputy portfolio lead for Aboriginal Melbourne and Deputy Chair of Council's Disability Advisory Committee

NCWV AGM Thursday 7 September 12 noon sharp.

We look forward to you joining us at the 120th AGM. Our Speaker is Helen Dalley- Fisher, Convenor of Equality Rights Alliance, the peak body with which we are involved in advocating with the Federal government.

Helen will reflect on the achievements since the 2022 Federal election and the program for the year ahead.

The Notice and invitations to participate as an Adviser or Committee Member will be circulated shortly.

Think about how you might be more involved.

NCWV Individual Members (IM) General Meeting, 3 August, 10:45am

Individual Members Convenor's Report: Elisabeth Newman AM, August 2023, highlights:

In presenting her last report as Convenor of the Individual Members, Elisabeth thanked all who have supported her in the role, especially Carol Robertson as Notetaker and Beverley Kannegiesser as Bookkeeper. She went on to say *"During the year we have welcomed four new Individual Members: Tracey Ahern, Dr Cheryl Day, Mathilda Nicholls and Barbara Latham who was a former delegate. We were saddened to learn of the deaths of Mary Allinson and Eleanor Sumner who were Hon. Life Members and both had served as NCWV presidents. We welcome back Barb Joyce who renewed her membership."*

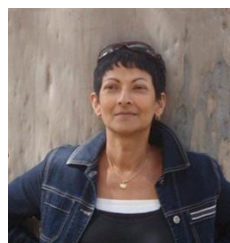
In ending her report, Elisabeth quoted Dame Ada Noris who wrote in *Champions of the Impossible* (page 150):

"As well as delegates from organisations the Council had always had individual women members — associates — women with a special interest in NCW ideas and activities. In the 'sixties the associates as a body wanted to become progressively more involved in NCW affairs. They formed themselves into an organisation, Associates of the National Council of Women, which became affiliated to the Council, electing two voting delegates like other organisations. One of these delegates was to be their direct representative on the Executive Committee and Mrs M. Peden was that representative from 1960-74 and joint representative with Mrs P. deWolf since 1976."

Since then, there have been changes to the Associates — the name change to Individual Members came about after the Associates were granted the right to vote individually. The Individual Members form an important part of NCWV.



"I wish my successor as Convenor of the Individual Members well; I am sure you will support her. Your support and assistance to me in my many roles over many years has been much appreciated."



Speaker: IM Constance de Silva
'The prison systems - a stakeholder update on Corrections Victoria activities & related events 2019 to 2023'.

Constance was elected as the new IM Convenor at this meeting prior to her presentation. Connie completed her PhD (Linguistics) in 2020 at Monash University. Work-in-progress and published work are in her blog [C19stories](#). She has long had an interest in women prisoners and is a stakeholder in Corrections Victoria (CV). Connie outlined CV direct communications to stakeholders over the past few years and the outcomes, including:

Stakeholder Forum Department of Justice & Corrections Victoria (DJCV) September 2022 hosted by Commissioner Larissa Strong; *LETTER Building a Better Future Investment*: DJCV ministerial advice The Hon. Enver Erdogan MLC March 2023; Stakeholder Presentation DJCV: *Adult Custodial Corrections System, Safer Prisons, Safer People, Safer Communities*, March 2023 hosted by Commissioner Larissa Strong; Final report from the Cultural Review of Adult Custodial Corrections System, *Safer Prisons, Safer People, Safer Communities* (March 2023); Stakeholder Forum DJCV April 2023. Commissioner **Related document 2022: DoJ Corporate Plan 2022–26**, sets out DoJ strategic initiatives and projects.

<https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/corporate-plan-2022-26>

Related event: 54th Aboriginal Justice Forum July 2019.

<https://www.aboriginaljustice.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-justice-forum-54-eastern-metropolitan-region>

From the DJCV Ministerial advice: Loddon–Middleton Prison Castlemaine, VET Centre of Excellence program, provides prisoners with employment opportunity. Victorian Budget 2022/23 allocated \$37m over 3 years for prisoner access to VET programs. Program delivered with Bendigo Kangan Institute and key employers in civil construction. Program offers: pre-release meetings with employers; employment Hubs & Employment Specialists established in prisons; Five VET Centres of Excellence, Civil Construction, one VET Centre of Excellence in Welding. Budget. \$7m over 4 years to support return to work. *Cultural Review of the Adult Custodial Corrections System, Safer Prisons, Safer People, Safer Communities* Report www.vic.gov.au/victorian-government-response-cultural-review-adult-custodial-corrections-system

Recommendations include: dedicated transitional centre for women leaving custody; training for staff; consult with IBAC and VEOHRC on integrity and disciplinary training; continue to reduce strip searching; open the Aboriginal Healing Unit at Dame Phylis Frost Women's Centre (DPFC); open a new closed supervision unit in 2023. CV provides Education programs with VET/TAFE Institutes. Living-with-Mum program is available at DPFC and Tarrengowan with full-time support workers, Maternal & Child Health Nurse as a regular service.



Nadia Mattiazzo, CEO, WDV.



Tathra Street

Ronniel introduced our guest speakers Tathra Street and Stephanie Sawyer. **Tathra** is the Gender and Disability Training Coordinator and is a seasoned facilitator and a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Adviser. Her work with marginalised communities across various sectors has taught her the value of genuine inclusion. As a Leadership Futurist she is committed to empowering people to act from a place of care to create a sustainable and inclusive future. **Stephanie** identifies as a woman with a physical disability. Steph works as the prevention resource development officer at Women with Disabilities Victoria. She is passionate about the rights for women and girls to have independence, agency and to hold leadership and decision-making positions within society. Since completing her Bachelor of Business (Sports Management and Development) majoring in Public Health, she has worked in gender equity, violence prevention and disability advocacy. Violence against women with disabilities is a widespread issue in Australia and worldwide. While the research and evidence indicate that gender and disability inequality does drive violence against women with disabilities, the research and evidence also show that this violence is preventable.

WDV is the peak organisation for women with disabilities in Victoria and staff are made up of women who identify with disabilities. There are three main goals; empower women with disabilities, influence policy and influencing services; educating and building service capacity.

The Gender and Disability Workforce Development Team from WDV presented PVAWD 101 and showcased the latest resources. PVAWD 101 raises awareness around the prevention of violence against women with disabilities. This session highlighted a co-facilitation model that centres lived experience. It included information on:

- The intersection of gender and disability from a lived experience perspective
- The six keystones WDV uses to guide their work
- An introduction to the fundamentals of preventing violence against women with disabilities
- The essential actions for inclusive and accessible practice

65% of women with disabilities report at least one experience of violence since the age of 15 compared to 45% of women without disabilities as sourced from a personal safety survey and ABS. The key message conveyed is that this is something that we can all take responsibility for, and it is preventable. The primary prevention approach is a social change strategy aiming to stop violence against women before it begins in the first place by addressing the 'primary' or underlying drivers of a problem to prevent it from occurring.

Six Keystone WDV uses to guide work:

1. Human Rights Model
2. Social Model which focuses on what is wrong with society
3. Gender Equality, understanding the gender equality approach and understanding how people are treated differently based on gender and disability
4. Intersectional model which recognises that there are social hierarchies on the type of disability
5. Centring on lived experience model that people with disabilities are responsible for their own life and should be given the information to make decisions on what is best for them
6. Disability pride promotes dignity and pride and upholds belonging of people in society.

Drivers of violence against women with disabilities:

1. Negative stereotypes about people with disabilities
2. Accepting or normalising violence, disrespect, and discrimination against people with disabilities
3. Controlling people with disabilities' decision-making and limiting independence
4. Social segregation and exclusion of people with disabilities.

Six essential actions to prevent violence:

1. Address the underlying social context that gives rise to violence against women and girls with disabilities.
2. Challenge acceptance of violence against women and girls with disabilities
3. Improve attitudes towards women and girls with disabilities by challenging ableist and sexist stereotypes
4. Promote the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all aspects of life
5. Promote women and girls with disabilities independence, agency and participation in leadership and decision-making
6. Engage men and boys to challenge controlling, dominant and aggressive forms of masculinity.

Change is possible; we can create change by actively addressing gender and disability inequality by what we do, what we say and how we behave and interact with others. We can all prevent violence.

A number of resources are available including:

Taking Action Guide

A collection of Women with Disabilities Victoria resources to showcase an intersectional perspective of prevention of violence against women - specifically focusing on gender and disability. It focuses on the ableist drivers of violence against women with disabilities and the 6 essential actions to preventing it. [Download in PDF](#) [Download in Word](#)

Micro-webinars

Two-part self-paced online course, each module taking between 10-15 minutes. The first module increases awareness of the impact of violence against women with disabilities and the second module introduces prevention of violence against women with disabilities. To access module 1 & 2 click [here](#)

Resistance and Backlash to Gender and Disability Inclusive Practice

Describes the 'spectrum' of forms of resistance and helps identify how it can take place in the workplace when implementing prevention initiatives. The tool will help you to better identify and challenge barriers of ableism and gender inequality in workplaces to prevent violence against women with disabilities. [Download in PDF](#)

Understanding Disability Video

Animated video with accompanying image description document introducing viewers to 6 keystones for how we understand disability and how we want others to understand disability including; the social model of disability, the human rights model of disability, gender equality, Intersectionality, centering lived experience, disability pride. When these 6 keystones are in place, we can work together for a more inclusive and equitable society. [To watch](#)

Understanding Disability Guide

This guide is based on the Understanding Disability video (above). It explores 6 keystones, co-designed by women with disabilities, to provide understanding of respectful engagement and planning with women with disabilities. [Download in PDF](#) [Download in Word](#) . For other WDV prevention resources click



**AUSTRALIAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION**
VICTORIAN BRANCH

ALGWA Victoria invites NCWV members to join the ALGWA Victoria Bursary Awards Night on **30th August 2023**, at the beautiful SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium.

ALGWA Vic is committed to promoting career advancement for women in the local government sector through study. This award is open to all women officers studying to further their careers in local government, and their council is a paid member of ALGWA Vic for 2023/2024.

Here is the link to book <https://www.trybooking.com/CIMRO>

ADVISER NEWS

Education Adviser – Pam Hammond

Students Took Over Parliament - inspiring!!



Monday 7th August, 2023; 9:15am - 12:45pm

The outstanding annual student event ***My Vote My Voice***, conducted by the National Council of Women of Victoria, was being held in the Legislative Council Chamber of Parliament House Melb. Students from government and independent schools, covering many cultural backgrounds in Melbourne, addressed the topic: ***What are the barriers to Human Rights in Australia? How can we begin to overcome them.*** Secondary students from 10 schools made **group presentations** of their findings from research and, in one case, a survey.

Prior to these student presentations, our Keynote speaker was Lauren Matthews, Director of Programs at the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission. She leads the policy, legal, education, consulting and information functions of the Commission - focused on addressing discrimination, human rights, racial and religious vilification, and change and suppression practices. Lauren leads the Education and Engagement Branch which is focused on providing clear, accessible legal information and helping individuals and organisations to understand their rights and responsibilities, via training sessions, consultancy and their Enquiry Line. Previously, Lauren practiced law as a solicitor within Australia, including human rights law, discrimination, refugee, criminal law, family law, child protection, and family violence. For 10 years, Lauren served internationally, primarily with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva, as well as in field operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Nepal. She served as an International Legal Adviser in Sri Lanka for the International Independent Group of Eminent Persons monitoring the national Commission of Inquiry into serious human rights violations.

Lauren started by recalling WWII and the aftermath that resulted in the formation of the United Nations by 51 countries, including Australia. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was developed by 8 people, one an Australian, one a Chinese man who wanted to ensure that it was 'universal' and a woman, Jessie Street who campaigned successfully for inclusion of women's rights in the ADHR which led to the intro words changing from "*all men and brothers...*" – to "*all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights*". Doc Herbert Evatt, Australian Ambassador to the UN became the first President of the UN General Assembly, 1948 – 1949.

"What are the barriers? I asked ChatGPT".

1. Fear courts become too powerful: Every other comparable country manages these tensions.
2. Conflicts between Rights: it's an opportunity help resolve conflicts in a measure and orderly way.
3. Existing protections are sufficient: Gaps on the protections; people surprised don't have rights.
4. Political resistance due to differing ideologies: all ideologies can gather around human rights. Seems not to be a real barrier in Australia. Human rights will serve all political parties because it builds trust in leadership.

There are sensitivities to certain issues, especially treatment of First Nations people and asylum seekers.

States and territories leading the way, setting out rights and duties: ACT 2004; Victoria 2006; Queensland 2019. However, there is not the same structure at Federal level which can create tension.

Lauren spoke enthusiastically about the Victorian Human Rights Charter and the difference it is making. One way is that any legislation needs to be assessed against the Charter to consider rights when every law is drafted as a bill.

The real heavy lifting is behind the scenes with public authorities required to consider human rights in all decision making – including in policy and programs. In the courts the need to interpret laws as compatible with human rights; and the empowerment of people – educate people that they have rights and can demand their rights.

"Only positive outcomes are coming from Victoria's Charter of Human Rights. It is a vehicle to promote and protect the values of Victoria for a diverse, equal, respectful and justice state."

Student presentations followed this most appropriate and informative start to the morning. There were students from 10 schools: Bayside P-12 College Williamstown Campus, Al Siraat College Epping, Kingswood College, MacRobertson Girls High School, Elwood College, Western English Language School, Footscray High School, Rosehill Secondary College, Firbank Grammar, Melbourne Girls Grammar. A group from each school addressed the topic: ***What are the barriers to Human Rights in Australia? How can we begin to overcome them.***

The students presented brilliantly, showing how well they had researched the topic, speaking clearly and with passion. This was a challenging topic which was presented by all groups from different perspectives, including ATSI issues; Refugee and Asylum seekers experiences e.g., barriers to gaining visas as well as detention living conditions; Islamophobia; minimum age of incarceration and prisoner rights; those with disabilities; harassment /bullying reducing rights; homelessness; and inequalities in education. Many included reference to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and UN reports on violations in Australia; surveys and opinion polls on need for a Human Rights Charter, one even conducting their own survey. All concluded that a Federal Human Rights Charter was essential and urgent.

These were of great interest to those attending and to the other groups as well. The panel members, Fiona Patten, past MLC, Cr Kylie Spears, past Mayor and President of the Australian Local Government Women's Association, and keynote speaker Lauren Matthews were extremely impressed, suggesting that the students consider local government and/or State government positions in the future! The official photographer has uploaded his photos to Dropbox. These can be accessed using the link: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/0td62ih9v3662kvzku76/h?rlkey=b5iz5qde7ix9dscngy27evzqv&dl=0>



Bayside P-12 College, Williamstown



Al Siraat College, Epping



Kingswood College Box Hill



MacRobertson Girls High School



Western English Language School



Elwood College



Footscray High School



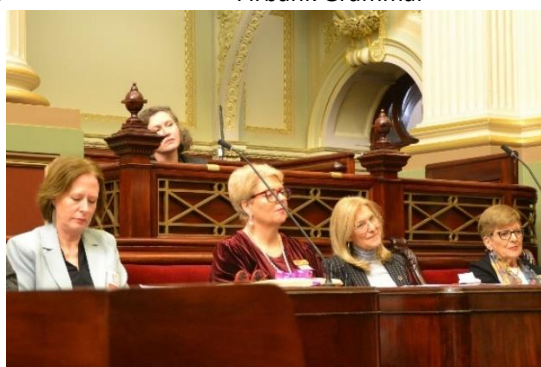
Rosehill Secondary College



Firbank Grammar



Melbourne Girls Grammar

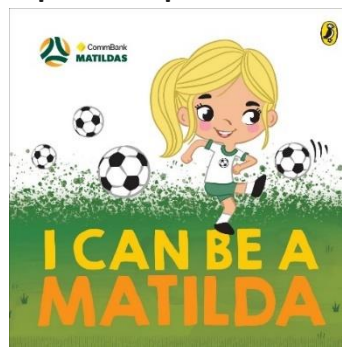
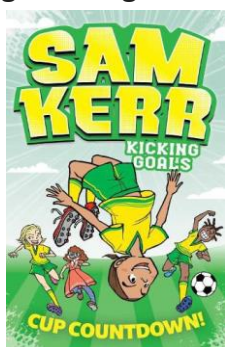


Panel

The Women's World Cup is here, and the Matildas were magic on Monday, beating Canada 4-0, and Sam Kerr got another six days' recovery! The stars were Hayley Raso and Mary Fowler. How wonderful it is that these brilliant women are now household names that [we're talking about, constantly](#). And Saturday beating France in a nail-biter!

To celebrate the World Cup, Readings is sharing [some great books](#) for readers of all ages – including picture books, nonfiction, graphic novels, and more.

NCWV is supportive of this focus on girls being seen as capable in sport and encouraging participation.



To celebrate the Women's World Cup in Australia, Nike and Rebel Girls have come together to develop a limited-edition book, *Rebel Girls Kick It*. Full of inspiring stories, real-life heroes and fun activities, *Rebel Girls Kick It* is available free for young readers at all Readings shops and online when you purchase a book. To receive your free copy of *Rebel Girls Kick It*, just leave a message saying "REBEL GIRL BOOK" in the comments section during checkout.

OTHER NEWS



Nominations for 2023 Australian Human Rights Awards are open

providing an opportunity to honour and celebrate individuals and organisations striving to defend and protect the human rights of people in Australia. This year's Awards form a key part of Australia's celebration and commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Presented by the Australian Human Rights Commission, the Awards provide national recognition to human rights champions from all walks of life and from right across the country, as well as to significant achievements in protecting and promoting human rights in Australia.

Nominations can be submitted in five (5) categories: Human Rights Medal; Law Award; Media & Creative Industries Award; Community Award; and Young People's Award. Four (4) finalists will be selected in each category. Nominations close on **Monday 4 September**. Nominations are free and can be submitted at: www.humanrights.gov.au/aus-human-rights-awards



Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission

Change and suppression practices info session

Change and suppression practices are any practices directed at an individual that attempt to change or hide their sexual orientation or gender identity, Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021. These practices are harmful and unlawful. **When:** 12 pm, Tuesday 29 August; **Book:** [Register online](#)

In this briefing, you will:

- understand the context of this Act in our laws
- be briefed on the foundations of the Act and its objectives
- learn what change and suppression practices are under the Act, and what you can and can't do
- understand the harm caused by these practices
- understand the consequences for doing these practices
- consider how to prevent harm and minimise vicarious liability.

education@veohrc.vic.gov.au Level 3, 204 Lygon Street, Carlton Victoria 3053

From Women's Agenda



Australian Not-for-profit Global Sisters will support 100 women with disabilities to create sustainable self employment and economic security, thanks to a AU\$736,000 grant from Google.org. Launched in 2016 by Australian social entrepreneur [Mandy Richards](#), Global Sisters supports women to achieve financial independence through a scalable and efficient model, creating income streams via self-employment when mainstream employment is inaccessible. The organisation has so far supported over 5,500 women and facilitated more than \$7.6 million in pro bono business support to emerging women-led micro businesses.

The grant money from Google.org will enable [Global Sisters](#) to further their impact by rolling out a *three-year pilot program designed to create flexible and sustainable jobs for women with disabilities who face barriers to employment*. Richards said the funding “will enable more women living with a disability to participate in our [lifecycle of business support](#), to access all they need to start and grow their micro business, and embark on the path to financial independence. Women with a disability and those who are permanent carers for them are frequently marginalised from mainstream employment due to structural, systemic barriers or are in low-paid employment. The aim is for these women to establish a micro business that generates a sustainable income.”

One in six Australians are reported to have a disability, according to the Australian Institute's [2022 Health and Wellness report](#). Out of this population, [research](#) from the University of New South Wales shows that women make up half of the people but represent just over a third of the NDIS recipients.

Where were you on Saturday!!



It's a question that Australians will reflect on for years to come, regarding the nail-biting quarter final between The Matildas and France on Saturday night. Another sell-out crowd, historic engagement figures and countless, *countless* celebrations going well into the night. As **Angela Priestley** noted, “never has a truer example of resilience, grit, unity and courage been witnessed in sport. The Matildas never lost their nerve in an excruciating 17-minute penalty shootout; the longest ever recorded in World Cup history”.

And, because we're still basking in every glorious moment, **Madeline Hislop** and **Alli Ho** [have compiled these excellent highlights in a feature and reel](#) which is sure to brighten your week. Roll on Wednesday!



Level 31, 121 Exhibition St, Melb.

Be part of Melbourne International Games Week 2023

Melbourne International Games Week (MIGW) returns from **30 September to 8 October 2023**, and the people who power up the industry – developers, publishers, educators, studios and businesses – are invited to be part of the action. Expressions of interest are now open to join this year's program of satellite events, spanning workshops, exhibitions, live demos, talks and everything in between. [Read more](#)

Triennial to bring a world of art and design to NGV:

From a 100-metre-long artwork woven by artists in Arnhem Land to robot dogs trained to paint, a world of contemporary art and design is coming to NGV this summer for the third NGV Triennial.

Opening on 3 December and running throughout summer, Triennial will take over all floors of NGV International on St Kilda Road, featuring works by 100 artists and designers from 30 countries and regions. [Read more](#)

Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation

\$1.7 billion transformation of the Melbourne Arts Precinct has reached a milestone with major works now underway on Arts Centre Melbourne Theatre's Building and the first steps toward the new \$18,000-square-metre urban garden.



Charlie Kinross Photography

An expanded underground loading dock will open up opportunities for more productions to be staged and a new rehearsal space and studio, same size as the State Theatre stage, will allow performers to rehearse and warm up on site. Over the life of the build, the Transformation project, which also includes the construction of Australia's biggest contemporary art and design gallery *The Fox: NGV Contemporary*, will create over 11,000 direct jobs with hundreds of ongoing creative sector jobs also created when the project is complete. [Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation](#)

Construction will breathe new life into Arts Centre Melbourne's Theatres Building, upgrading the State Theatre and creating new places to drink and dine before or after a show. 80 workers are currently on site with the number due to grow to 300 in the next 6 months. The project will bring the State Theatre's sound and staging technology up to contemporary world-class standards, and vastly improve accessibility with wider aisles, new accessible lifts, and adding wheelchair positions to the stalls for the first time

Broken Hill nurse Vivian Bullwinkel first woman to be honoured with Australian War Memorial statue



Kylie Ward, the CEO of the Australian College of Nursing. (centre) at the unveiling of the statue of Vivian Bullwinkel, which she commissioned. (ABC News: Greg Nelson).

"I hope seeing her as grand and as tall as we've made sure she is, that it's symbolic for the nursing profession of the recognition they deserve, but also for women and their contribution to society," Ms Ward said.

More than 20 years after her death, Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Bullwinkel is the first woman honoured with a statue at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. She was the sole survivor of the 1942 Banka Island massacre perpetrated by the Japanese Imperial Army. Sister Bullwinkel was a nurse who served during World War II before returning home and becoming the nursing director at the Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital. The sculpture was commissioned by the memorial council and funded by the Australian College of Nursing.

Research by advocacy group *A Monument of One's Own* indicates that less than 4% of Australia's statues represent historical female figures. It is hoped this is just the first step of many to properly recognise their contributions.

New Commission campaign encourages Australians to plan for later life



[See the resources](#)

The Commission's *'Have You Thought About Later Life'* campaign delivers a range of educational resources to raise awareness about the importance of planning ahead. Future planning empowers older people to have choice and control over their senior years. This campaign forms part of the Commission's suite of resources for preventing elder abuse. See the resources, in six languages, and share them with your communities:



Inquiries and advocacy opportunities

VCOSS News “

It's time to end homelessness. Last week, 7-13 August, was National Homelessness Week. This year's theme calls for the forthcoming [10-year National Housing and Homelessness Plan](#) to be **ambitious** and to include the reforms needed outside the homelessness service system that are critical to ending homelessness. To end homelessness we need to ensure people have adequate incomes, have access to affordable housing and are free from violence.

How is the community sector responding to climate change?

The community sector contributes to, and is affected by, the impacts of climate change. Community sector organisations have the opportunity to contribute towards mitigating climate change impacts, and must also adapt their operations to cope with these impacts. Help **VCOSS** understand how your organisation is responding by [completing our short survey](#).

NDIS Review have announced that they will [continue to take online submissions](#) until Friday 18 August. The [NDIS Review News](#) is a good space to keep up to date and understand how the Review is progressing.

Victoria's bushfire management strategy

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action wants your feedback on the draft of [Victoria's Bushfire Management Strategy](#), which will set the vision for bushfire management in Victoria for the next 10 years. [You can provide your feedback by written submission and/or survey.](#)

Be Part of History

Another reminder:

Murdoch Children's Research Institute's [GenV](#), one of the world's largest-ever birth and parent cohort studies, has seen 35,000 babies (90,000 newborns, mothers and fathers) sign up. GenV is recruiting across every birthing hospital in Victoria. Every baby born **from October 4, 2021 to October 3, 2023** is invited to join. Participants can sign up to the study in person during their birthing hospital stay or at any time thereafter via a simple, guided online process. <https://www.genv.org.au>

“Families that take part in GenV will make a difference to the future health of generations to come,” GenV aims to help solve the complex problems facing children and adults and provide the opportunity to better predict, treat and prevent many different conditions. The recruitment team has recorded 70 languages, including Auslan, during the opt-in process. More than 6700 families in GenV do not primarily speak English at home.



Events



WCTU Drug-Free Lifestyle Luncheon on **Friday 8th September at 11:00am** with pre-lunch drinks.

To be held at The Salvation Army, 53 Wantirna Rd, Ringwood. This is a free event.

Speaker: Anna Bardsley, Voices for Gambling Reform

Anne Bergen, President WCTU Drug-Free Lifestyles



On 13 August, VWT issued an Open Letter to all Australians — [Women For Yes](#) — stating our reasons for voting Yes in the upcoming referendum. Australians are invited to join with **Women For Yes**.

[Sign the Open Letter >](#)

Show your support. [Sign today!](#)



VICTORIAN
WOMEN'S TRUST

Angela Saini: The Patriarchs, Tuesday 15 Aug 2023, 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Join award-winning science journalist Angela Saini in search of the true roots of gendered oppression, as she untangles the complex history of patriarchal systems embedded in societies across the globe. In her latest book *The Patriarchs: How Men Came to Rule* Angela explores the science and history of male dominance, arguing that patriarchy is neither natural nor inevitable, but rather a fragile system that is constantly remade and reasserted.

Tickets Full Price \$22, Concession \$18



BOOK NOW >

**National Science Week 2023, 12 - 20 August: <https://www.scienceweek.net.au/>
In-person and online events, virtual tours, DIY science and more, all across Australia.**



National Science Week is Australia's annual celebration of science and technology. It features more than 1000 events around Australia, including those delivered by universities, schools, research institutions, libraries, museums and science centres. These events attract a wide audience from children to adults, and science amateurs to professionals. Over one million people participate in science events across the nation. Established in 1997, National Science Week provides an opportunity to encourage an interest in science pursuits among the general public, and encourage younger people to be fascinated by the world we live in. The Australian Science Teachers Association's (ASTA) coordinates school involvement, producing and distributing an annual themed teaching resource book.

The school theme for National Science Week in 2023 is *Innovation: Powering Future Industries*. The theme incorporates the advancement in technology in all industries, especially using artificial intelligence (AI).

https://www.scienceweek.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Innovation_Resource_Book_Web.pdf



Book Launch and Panel Discussion: A Her Place Museum & Together Yes Event We invite you to *Fighting with Our Tongues: Remembering Auntie Rita and the leadership of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Mothers and Daughters in the struggle for self-determination*. Dr Jackie Huggins AM, author, activist & The Drum commentator will celebrate the 30 Year Anniversary Reprint of her award winning book, *Auntie Rita*, a historic account of the extraordinary life of her mother.

A panel discussion with First Nations Women Leaders; Amelia Telford Director, Australian Progress; Belinda Duarte, CEO, Culture is Life; Banok Rind, Director, First Nations Futures & FYA.

Date and time: Fri, 8 Sep 2023, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM;

Location: Her Place Women's Museum - Wurundjeri Country - 210 Clarendon Street East Melbourne, VIC 3002

Cost: \$35 or FREE for First Nations people; **Bookings: Limited Places** - Book through [Eventbrite](#)

NCWA
NATIONAL
COUNCIL
OF WOMEN
AUSTRALIA

National Council of Women Australia is holding its Annual General Meeting and Conference on: **Tuesday October 17 in Sydney**. There will be the Governor's Reception at Admiralty House that evening. More details to follow.

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."*

National Council of Women of Victoria Meeting dates for 2023

August	17 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
September	7 th	Thursday	AGM	12:15	Zoom and RH
September	11 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
September	21 st	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
October	5 th	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Mtgs	11:00, 12:15	Zoom and RH
October	9 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
October	17 th	Tuesday	NCWA AGM & Conference		Sydney
October	17 th	Tuesday	NCWA Governor's Reception	18:00	Admiralty Hse
October	19 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom and RH
November	2 nd	Thursday	Council Meeting	17:15	Zoom and RH
November	13 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
November	16 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
November	14 th	Tuesday	Annual Luncheon, William Angliss Restaurant, 550 Lt. Lonsdale St	12:00	In person
December	7 th	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meets	11:00, 12:15	Zoom and RH