

Newsletter

December 2023

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: "ICW-CIF reaffirms its whole-hearted opposition to war as a means of settling international conflicts as well as its longstanding faith in the necessity for international collaboration through dialogue, mediation, and negotiation to arrive at peaceful solutions of the problems. We condemn the crimes committed against humanity and the dignity of the individual before, during and after war and look forward to the restoration of a just and durable peace." ICW-CIF Executive Committee Meeting Manila, November, 2023

From the President, Elida Brereton



The past month has seen some of the best and the worst of the world we live in, but one positive was the **Annual NCWV Festive Luncheon** held at William Angliss Restaurant on November 14th. The Luncheon saw 66 of us in attendance, with a delicious meal, good service and company.

We enjoyed an inspirational and engaging illustrated talk by guest speaker Heather Burge, who rode her pushbike from Beijing to Paris, see report p3. Many thanks to Pam Hammond and those who assisted her, for the success of this face-to-face gathering of members and friends over lunch. At this luncheon I had the honour of receiving the President's badge from outgoing President Ronniet Milliken, and then of thanking her for her valuable and valued three years as President. Ronniet had to negotiate the effects of COVID and the long lockdown as she led NCWV through "uncharted waters". Ronniet worked tirelessly for NCWV and saw our numbers rise.

One tragic negative was the personal impact on some of our members of the evil deeds of Hamas in October, and the resulting conflict and loss of life in Israel and Gaza. We surround and support our members who are experiencing grief and loss, hate speech and racism based on their faith or nationality. NCWV advocates strongly for a peaceful solution, justice and support for the innocent victims of this awful war and of the ongoing war in Ukraine.

My thanks go to Vice-President Pam Hammond and other NCWV members who have been visiting schools to present certificates and Awards to students who participated in this year's "My Vote My Voice" event in Parliament House. These visits allow us to demonstrate that NCWV exists, has a voice, and is interested in young people. Pam and I represented NCWV at an important meeting recently of Associations Victoria and I accompanied Vice-President Guosheng Chen, when she was a finalist in the Victorian 2024 Senior Victorian of the Year, to the dinner and awards held in the Great Hall of the National Gallery of Victoria. Guosheng was nominated by her faculty at RMIT University.

I thank Ronniet Milliken, Pam Hammond, Hean Bee Wee, Tracey Ahern (Hon Secretary), Deanne Baptista (Hon Treasurer), Robyn Byrne (Standing Committee Convenor), and Guosheng Chen for their fine work for NCWV, and I thank all of you who have supported us this year.

As we move now towards Christmas, I wish you all a special time, whatever your faith or non-faith, and a healthy happy New Year. I hope that in 2024, this wonderful 121-years old organisation will become more relevant and more committed to improving the lot of women and girls, as well as addressing other aspects in our ambit, such as the environment, and incarceration of women in Victoria. I value your suggestions for directions NCWV should take in this coming year.

Everyone is invited to the NCWV Annual Pioneer Women's Garden celebration to be held **on Monday January 22nd, 2024, 10:15-12:00pm** so please put this date in your diary (see p.4)

ICW-CIF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TRIP REPORT

NCWV members Elisabeth Newman AM, Hean Bee Wee AM, Prof. Cassandra Szoek and Tracey Ahern joined NCWA President Chiou See Anderson, NCWA Vice President Fiona Dorman and NCWNSW Immediate Past President Julie Morris and her husband James at the ICW-CIF Executive meeting in Manila 6-9 November 2023 promoting triennium theme *Women Empowerment: Peace and Sustainability*.



Fiona Dorman; Chiou See Anderson; Julie Morris; Hean Bee Wee; Tracey Ahern; Elisabeth Newman; Cassandra Szoeki

President of National Council of Women of the Philippines (NCWP) Dr. Cecilia La Madrid, Dy and International Vice-President of the International Council of Women, Dr. Nona Saldana-Ricafort hosted the event together with NCWP affiliates: Global Peace Foundation and the Global Peace Women and included representation from 17 nations: Australia, France, Indonesia, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, US.

During day one and in the opening ceremony we heard from several speakers including Martine Marandel, President, International Council of Women (ICW-CIF) and learnt that this year marks the 135th anniversary of the founding of ICW-CIF. Established in 1888 the Council is the world's first truly global women's NGO and contributed to the birth of UN women. Their concerns are vast and include poverty, education, eradication of violence, training for women and its members as influencers, activists and committed to the cause of women throughout the world.

ICW-CIF members participated in three plenary sessions on peace, global sustainability and digital literacy, then broke out to an ICW-CIF workshop 'Achieving the SDGs with Artificial Intelligence, Promises and Challenges', facilitated by Mohinder Watson, UN Geneva representative.

Together we workshopped how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is used within our local NCW networks and considered how we might integrate AI into our local councils. It was recognised that AI is a tool that is currently not used and whilst AI cannot replace human oversight, we recognised that if we do not inform ourselves and engage with AI, women will be left behind in the AI Revolution! Day one ended with a traditional Filipiniana welcome dinner, with music tributes and dance performances including 'Tinikling,' a traditional Philippine folk dance which originated during the Spanish colonial era. Sisterhood ceremonies with exchange of gifts and tokens with fellow sisters took place.

The ICW-CIF ECM ran across day two and three when reports were presented from all National Councils present. Chiou See Anderson, speaking on behalf of Australia provided an overview on NCWA. NCWA serves as a federation for state councils, states contributing 25% membership fees to NCWA.

Three regional meetings were conducted, and the Asia-Pacific Regional Council (APRC) led by President Hean Bee Wee included receiving, moving, and carrying all reports. Prof. Cassandra Szoeki, APRC's keynote speaker, workshopped the *Secrets of Women's Healthy Ageing* based on surveys results received from all APRC participants who had completed the survey prior to the conference. Cassandra's talk was well received, providing everyone with a deeper insight as to ageing risks and the risk variance for women depending on their country.

On the last evening ICW-CIF members attended a final farewell dinner, which included thank you speeches and presentations, and a special ICW-CIF volunteering trophy was awarded to Elisabeth Newman AM from President Martine Marandel for Elisabeth's contribution to ICW-CIF and the board.



At the closing of the ECM, a resolution was passed calling for the cessation of all armed conflicts and the re-establishment of peace and security in the world, with a request for it to be forwarded to the UN.

Tracey Ahern, Sylvia Gelman Recipient, November 2023

NCWV Annual End-of-the Year Festive Luncheon.



This gathering began at Noon in the William Angliss Restaurant, celebrating the achievements of the year with 66 members and guests, acknowledging the wonderful work of Immediate-past-President, Ronniet Milliken, and welcoming new President, Elida Brereton. Ronniet presented Elida with the NCWV gold badge. There was also the presentation of certificates to two Hon. Life Members, Pam Hammond and, in absentia, Barbara Brown from Shepparton. Elida acknowledged the passing of Janet Galley OAM, NCWV's Hon. Archivist.



Our thanks to Sephanie Liu who donated 50 Calendars for 2024 produced by Australia Post which includes in March photo of the NCWV Floral Garden created for the 120th Anniversary. They are available for \$10 (rrp \$20).

Our speaker was a real dynamo: Heather Burge, is a retired secondary Maths and Science teacher, and a passionate cyclist with a love of long-distance touring. Over the course of two trips, in 2007 and in 2014 (interrupted by the arrival of a string of grandchildren) she completed a (sometimes solo) journey, by bicycle from **Beijing to Paris**, through China, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Iran, Turkey and along the beautiful Danube through Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Austria, Switzerland into France and on to Paris. She told us this story of the countries and people met along the way, with wonderful photos to illustrate the journey.

She spoke of the joys and challenges of cycling in unknown places way beyond one's comfort zone.

A bit of a risk-taker, she took shortcuts on occasions to reduce distances which at times proved very challenging, including steep and narrow, winding tracks more than roads, with spectacular scenery.

Heather took us through the reality of going into the 'great unknown' including dealing with the basics. She shared quirky anecdotes and humorous tales about areas we would probably never explore. Her lasting joy was experiencing the kindness of people in all these countries and seeing the differences in women's lives.



Pam Hammond thanking Heather.

Attendees were requested to donate items for women escaping domestic violence. The response was most generous, and were delivered to *Impact* for distribution.



NCWV congratulates Guosheng Chen, Vice-President NCWV, for being nominated as one of the possible people to be Victorian Senior of the Year. Here with Elida Brereton at the Award ceremony.



ALERT! Medicare Refunds unclaimed

Bill Shorten MP is urging Australians to log into [MyGov](https://my.gov.au) and update bank details with Medicare because there is \$234 million in unclaimed benefits the government wants to return to us.

63rd NCWV Annual Pioneer Women's Ceremony – Celebrating Women in Sport- Monday, January 22, 2024, 10:00–12:00 noon



This annual event, conducted by **National Council of Women of Victoria**, will be held once again at the **Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden in the King's Domain, Melbourne. Melway Map: 2G A10**

As the XXXIII **Olympic Summer Games**, will be held in Paris from 26 July to 11 August, 2024, as well as the significant women sporting events in 2023, including the Matilda's soccer success, the growth of the AFL Women's program, the Australian Women's Cricket Team successes internationally, Ash Barty winning Wimbledon and the Australian Open tennis and the development of girls' and women's sports at local levels, NCWV felt acknowledging the women pioneers in sport who have forged the way for the current positive environment is timely.

The speaker/s will take us through the history of women in sport in Victoria and Australia.

Chairs, canopies and water will be provided, but please bring your own water bottle/cup.

So we have enough chairs, please notify NCWV of your attendance on info@ncwvic.org.au

Ross House Association

Ross House Members and Tenants, please join us in the Ross House Foyer for an End of Year Celebration Event! Join us for drinks, snack and chat on Thursday December 14, 12:30pm - 2:30pm, Ross House Foyer, Ground Level. RSVP by emailing rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au by **Wednesday 6 December 2023**. Please include any dietary requirements and how many are expected to attend from your organisation.



AFMW President's Awards 2023



Congratulations AFMW President's Award Recipients

Awards were delivered by AFMW President Magdalena Simonis during the 2023 AGM held recently in Melbourne. Congratulations to Dr Marjorie Cross OAM, Dr Anne Myers and Dr Katrina Harris [Continue Reading](#)

QVWC-Queen Victoria Women's Centre

WOMEN* NOW is our end of year salon exhibition

WOMEN* NOW is a call to a feminist future and for women to hold space, be seen, heard and valued equally.

Our Birnbeal exhibition space will be bursting with feminist artworks from over 50 artists, makers and designers. Most artwork will be for sale at affordable prices!

The exhibition opens **Thursday 7 December 2023 until Thursday 25 January 2024, Mon-Fri 9AM-5PM.**

Please join us for the **Opening Party Friday 8 December, 5PM-7PM**, RSVP below! QVWC SHOP will offer 15% off on the night and affordable artwork will be available for sale! *when we say 'women' it always includes trans and gender diverse women and sistergirls. Artists work pictured: **Susan Fitzgerald, Joanne Ting Mahon, Emma Stenhouse.**

[QVWC Women* Now Exhibition Opening Launch | Humanitix](#)



Amongst the sea of men in suits, female faces are largely absent despite the well-known fact that women are more vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change. This gender disconnect begs the question of whether female voices will be adequately listened to in the global climate conversation. With [140 world leaders scheduled to speak](#) at this year's COP28, [only 15 of them are women](#). The gender balance of party delegations is also skewed as only 38 per cent of representatives are female, while 62 per cent are male.

Representing women at the summit are a small group of powerful voices, including President of the EU Commission, [Ursula von der Leyen](#); Prime Minister of Barbados [Mia Mottely](#); Prime Minister of Denmark, [Mette Frederiksen](#); President of Honduras Iris [Xiomara Castro](#) Sarmiento and Prime Minister of Iceland, [Katrín Jakobsdóttir](#).

As [COP28 kicked off last week](#), the debate surrounding fossil fuels came to the forefront following comments from the summit's President, Sultan Al Jaber that scientists have said echo the views of climate change deniers. During an on-line event, Al Jaber, CEO of the United Arab Emirates' state oil firm, Adnoc, said there's "no science out there, or no scenario out there, that says that the phase-out of fossil fuel is what's going to achieve 1.5C." The phase-out of fossil fuels would not allow sustainable development "unless you want to take the world back into caves". Climate scientist Joelle Gergis called Al Jaber's comments "disgraceful", saying they dismiss "decades of work by IPCC scientists".

Gender equality in Victorian Parliament by [Licia Heath](#)



Eden Foster's election to the state's Legislative Assembly for Mulgrave marks a watershed moment for gender equality in Victorian state politics: for the first time EVER gender parity has been achieved across the Parliament (averaged across the upper and lower houses). This is a success we should shout from the (metaphorical) rooftops. It's also illustrative of how policy settings that place gender equity at the forefront of decision making provide an environment for women and girls to step into leadership positions, to benefit our communities. What happened in Victoria on the weekend is a hard-won victory – exactly 100 years in the making – since state legislation was enacted enabling women to stand for parliament in Victoria.

ADVISER NEWS

Education Adviser - Pam Hammond

Early Learning

The **Productivity Commission** has released its interim report into early learning and childcare.

NCWV is delighted with the draft recommendations in the report for which we have been advocating:

- 3 days a week of early learning and childcare for every child aged 0-5 years
- 100% free early learning and childcare for lower income families
- Workforce challenges facing the sector be prioritised, including career and recruitment pathways
- A new independent Early Childhood Education and Care Commission to support, advise and monitor governments' progress towards universal access to ECEC
- The removal of the Activity Test for up to 30 hours per week
- Early learning should be inclusive of all children, including children with disability and from diverse cultural backgrounds.

The report does note "workforce challenges" and issues with pay and conditions – noting some staff were leaving for "lower stress" jobs. It also noted this has been a "major concern" for the sector for "many years". It notes vacancies for early childhood education and care positions are at "record highs and vacancy rates are above those of the wider workforce". NCWV has advocated for early educators to have the recognition and support they deserve. For example, the median wage of qualified early educators is about 20% lower than those of primary school teachers.

Before the Productivity Commission delivers its final report to the Federal Government, they are asking for families and educators to give them feedback on their recommendations. NCWV encourages members to consider doing this.

To facilitate this, **Thrive by Five** will collect all feedback and send it in to the Commission as part of one giant submission.

The release of this report from the Commission is very significant. It's an important opportunity to put pressure on the Federal Government to implement the recommendations in the report, which was commissioned by the Federal Government and has been written by economists and researchers.

[Will you take a moment now to share your feedback on the recommendations? Click here to do it now.](#)

This was also endorsed by CEO of *Parenthood*, Jessica Rudd, at the National Press Club, saying there is an overdue need for Australia to implement universal early childhood education and care to support struggling parents and invest in the nation's future leaders.

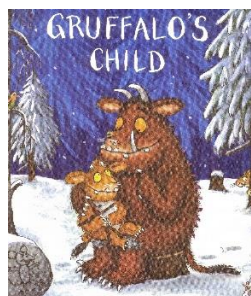
Donna Urquhart Embarking on an Ultra Marathon in Antarctica



Donna Urquhart, who left Firbank Grammar in 1991, is about to embark on a world first, Guinness World Record attempt to complete the longest ultramarathon in a polar region in history. Donna is an ultra-marathon runner and pain scientist, and together with her Run Antarctica team, she is about to embark on the greatest challenge of her life. The attempt will take place at Union Glacier Camp in Antarctica, the coldest, windiest and driest desert on earth, on 4th December 2023. She will run 1,300 Kilometres, and will be pushing through sub-zero temperatures, winds of up to 100km/h winds, isolation and loneliness, and using all her mental and physical strength to discover what humans are capable of.

She has a life passion: showing females what is possible and empowering them with a holistic approach of integrating mental and physical skills to explore their possibilities. In particular, she knows that sport has the power to change lives. That's why she is on a mission to empower young girls and women to love sport, discover what's possible in sport, and to break down the barriers that prevent them from participating. *VINCIT, Firbank Old Grammarians Association Newsletter.*

Books for Christmas and other celebrations



As a result of research and the presentation by Dr Deborah Towns OAM and Pam Hammond, we know that many children's books include characters in stereotypical roles, see: <https://ncwvic.org.au/files/2022%20October%20Newsletter.pdf>. When choosing gifts for special people, check the text and the illustrations for the way genders are represented. We need girls and boys to see characters in non-stereotypical roles (even if fantasy or animal characters). Rather than the girls mainly doing domestic tasks, they should be seen problem-solving, decision making and being leaders, likewise male characters should be seen as nurturers, and caring not only as the aggressors or the 'heroes'.

OTHER NEWS

Girl Guides Victoria is excited to have been accepted as a Community Donation Partner in the Victorian Government [Container Deposit Scheme \(CDS\)](#) which started on November 1. You can now collect eligible drink containers and return them for a 10c refund. You can choose to keep the funds or donate them to a participating charity, like Girl Guides Victoria! You can make your donation at refund points across the state.

There are three different collection zones across Victoria – CDS East, CDS West and CDS North . Girl Guides Victoria is registered in all three zones, which means you donate to Girl Guides Victoria at return points all across Victoria.



Sign up to the
week of action

Human Rights Week returns this year from 10 – 16 December.

Kicking off on International Human Rights Day, throughout the week we will deliver daily actions which will challenge your knowledge of human rights and implement this knowledge in practical ways. [Sign up to the Human Rights Week challenge](#) and to receive a daily action for the week. It's fun, interesting and you always learning something new. So put these days in your diaries, and we'll keep you posted. Until then, [sign up for the daily actions](#).

The Australian Human Rights Awards provides a wonderful opportunity for people across the human rights, humanitarian, legal, government and community sectors as well as supporters of human rights advocacy to gather together for a memorable celebration of human rights heroes. The Australian Human Rights Awards is an inspirational showcase of the best in all of us. Ceremony in Sydney **on Friday 8 December 2023**, or **FREE** live stream of the Awards via Zoom. Registration at: <https://humanrights.gov.au/2023-australian-human-rights-awards> [GET YOUR TICKETS](#)
Read more about the [21 Australian Human Rights Awards finalists](#)

PLAN INTERNATIONAL: <https://www.plan.org.au/>

Some of our Youth Activists spent the week in Canberra, where they met with the Ambassador for Climate Change, and Minister Conroy's office, and presented the youth-led *'For our Futures: Youth Voices on Climate Justice and Education'* report – which looks at the impact on climate change on girls' right and access to education – at a Parliamentary Event chaired by Senator Mehreen Fahrui, Lisa Chester MP and Dr Monique Ryan MP.

Two more Youth Activists, Georgia and Iremide, will be attending COP28 in Dubai, where 198 countries will be brought together to address climate change. They will officially launch the *'For our Futures'* report and are urging the Australian Government to invest in the global loss and damage fund, which will support (our neighbouring) communities facing the irreversible and life-changing impacts of climate change, that cannot be avoided and will go beyond what people and communities can adapt to. A global loss and damage fund will help ensure countries can rebuild schools after disasters and help prevent further non-economic losses such as to cultural life, traditional knowledge, health and wellbeing.



[Women's housing and homelessness experts - YWCA](#)

November 25 is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and the start of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. It's been a horrific year for gender-based violence in Australia. 66 women have been killed. That's more than one per week, and 6 of those have been in the last 2 weeks. We must do better.

This year, we're campaigning for more dedicated affordable housing solutions to protect those at risk of or experiencing gender-based violence and housing insecurity: your support can have an impact.

Gender-based violence is one of the major drivers of homelessness amongst women. While we have made some progress through the *Housing Australia Future Fund* and the *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children*, we need to do more. Add your name to the petition demanding more dedicated affordable housing for women and gender diverse people at risk of or experiencing violence:

[Sign the petition now](#)

During the 16 Days, communities are encouraged to take action to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, this includes International Day of Persons with a Disability (IDPwD) on 3 December. IDPwD aims to promote awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disabilities. The resource to be found using the link below, is what women with disabilities want people to know about preventing violence against women and calls for action to promote gender and disability inclusion. They encourage the display of this poster around office and share widely with colleagues. Pdf: <https://www.wdv.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/GD-16-DaysIDPwD-EBE-resource-.pdf>

You can find out more information about the Gender and Disability Experts by Experience Advocates by clicking this link: [Experts by Experience - Women with Disabilities Victoria \(wdv.org.au\)](https://www.wdv.org.au/experts-by-experience-women-with-disabilities-victoria)

Women's Contributions Celebrated in Enduring Public Art

Media Release

This year's final artwork in the Government's program focused on increasing women's representation in enduring public art has been unveiled in Mildura. First Nations artist Maree Clarke has created *Yennaga Yettang/Come See*, the sixth piece of public art in the \$1 million Victorian Women's Public Art Program launched in 2022. The film and sound artwork pays tribute to First Nation women's connection to country, celebrating their roles as knowledge holders of customs and traditions. The artwork was created by Maree Clarke – an internationally renowned multi-disciplinary artist and Mutti Mutti, Yorta Yorta, Wamba Wamba, Boonwurrung woman, and will be projected as part of a permanent display at the Powerhouse building in Mildura's redeveloped Riverfront Precinct. The film journeys through spectacular Latje Latje and Ngintait Country. Musicians Catherine Threlfall and Marilyn Air worked with a choir of local girls and young women aged 10 to 18 years old to compose the soundscape for the film and includes the addition of 'whispers' from older women.

The program has elevated female artists while ensuring recognition and representation for women who have made huge contributions to Victoria through their achievements. Of the 583 statues across Melbourne, only 12 depict real-life women.

Bilingual Kinders Connecting Kids to the World

Media Release

Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn has visited Templestowe World of Learning to reveal the names and locations of 11 early learning services to be offered a place in Victoria's nation-leading bilingual kindergarten program from Term 1, 2024. The expansion is part of a \$3.7 million investment to increase the diversity of children's language skills in Victoria's kindergartens, build stronger local communities and prepare children for an increasingly connected world.

Around 800 four-year-olds currently attend 10 bilingual kindergartens, where they learn in a language other than English for 12 hours of their weekly 15-hour kindergarten program. This expansion will give more than 400 more children the opportunity to learn in another language.

Language education plays a vital role in children's development – increasing their reading and writing skills, boosting their self-esteem, and strengthening their cultural identity. To help children develop their language skills, qualified language teachers incorporate language learning into fun kinder activities such as singing, dancing, painting and storytelling.

The proposed languages of the 11 new service providers are Auslan, Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Karen, Punjabi, Spanish and Vietnamese, and Gunai/Kurnai, a local Aboriginal language, to strengthen Koorie cultural inclusion and give children opportunities to learn about and share Victorian Aboriginal languages, culture and history.

Greener Schools Program To Deliver More Power Bill Savings

Media Release

Minister for Education Ben Carroll has announced the latest round of funding for the installation of solar panels at 44 schools by June 2024, taking the total investment in the program to \$20 million. With the program now in its third round, a total of 276 schools across the state are participating in the initiative, helping them lower emissions and reduce the costs of powering school campuses – helping reach the Labor Government's goal of net zero emissions by 2045.

The Greener Government School Buildings program removes the upfront costs of installing a solar power system that may otherwise discourage schools from doing so and will help Victoria meet its nation-leading renewable energy and emissions targets of 95 per cent renewable energy by 2035.

To find out more visit schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/greener-government-school-buildings-program

Awards Recognise Outstanding Specialist Schools

Media Release

The outstanding achievements of those working with children and young people with disability have been celebrated at the Principals' Association of Specialist Schools Awards, held at Marvel Stadium recently.

Minister for Education Ben Carroll congratulated the 10 category winners and 30 nominees for their hard work and dedication supporting the education of students with disability:

Peter Gibson, Outstanding Volunteer Award for his work at Kangaroo Flat's Bendigo Special Developmental School.

Glenallen School in Glen Waverley, Outstanding Team Award for implementing the Victorian Pathways Certificate supporting students and their families to make informed decisions after they finish school.

Swan Hill Specialist School's Natalie Goudie-Troy, Outstanding Teacher Award for an art program that uses literacy and Indigenous perspectives to engage students, and implementing a 'Home to School' transition program and playgroup.

Libby Gatgens from Nelson Park School in Bell Park, Outstanding Principal Award for visionary leadership which increased community support and participation in educational initiatives and events, facilitating professional development opportunities for staff, and mentorship to fellow principals.

Awards in six other categories: Outstanding Education Support Award, Outstanding Graduate Award, Outstanding Allied Health Member Award, Outstanding Specialist Award, Outstanding Middle Leader Award, Outstanding Assistant Principal.



City of Melbourne: whatson@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Myer Christmas Windows

The Myer Christmas Windows have been enchanting Australian families for almost 70 years with imaginary worlds of magic and movement. This year, the windows tell the story of Bluey's Christmas with both original and recreated scenes from the Heeler's holidays.



Titanic: The Artefact Exhibition

One of the most famous tragedies in modern history, the story of the Titanic and its ill-fated maiden voyage continues to enthrall, educate and break hearts more than 110 years since she sank to the bottom of the ocean.

Collect your boarding pass and embark on a journey to explore the powerful stories of those who travelled and worked onboard the legendary ship. This is the only exhibition in Australia to feature more than 200 artefacts, recovered directly from the wreck site. The exhibition takes visitors on a memorable journey through the events of that fateful night. Learn about the ship's innovative engineering, touch an iceberg that is the same temperature as the freezing waters of the North Atlantic Ocean that night, and experience life onboard through full-scale recreations of the ship's interiors.

Location: Touring Hall, Melbourne Museum, 11 Nicholson St, Carlton 3053

[Book online](#)



NGV Triennial| Free entry

Where: National Gallery of Victoria

When: 3 December to 7 April

This mind-blowing free exhibition is back. See AI robots. Be mesmerised by a massive 'breathing' installation. Then see giant plushie sculptures.

[Learn more](#)



Korean Christmas market

Where: Healeys Lane

When: 9 December

Munch on authentic bites and bust a move with K-Pop crews. Then find more of the best hidden laneway Christmas pop-ups and parties.

[Learn more](#)



North and West Melb gems

Where: North and West Melbourne

Have pandan dessert at a Thai cafe. Sip on viral tiramisu lattes in a hidden coffee spot. And enjoy pop-up and more. Catch everything from the Aus Open to concerts in the coolest local venues.

[Learn more](#)



Blockbuster summer events

Where: Various locations

'Tis the season for must-see musicals, family festivals and intergalactic projections.

[Book now](#)



Pop-up Christmas cinema

Where: The Capitol Theatre, Swanston Street

When: 2 to 23 December

Price: \$5

This stunning cinema is showing all the classic Christmas flicks. Think Elf, The Grinch, The Santa Clause and more festive faves.

[Book now](#)



Hilarious family show

Where: The Listies Ruin Xmas, Melbourne Town Hall

When: 22 December

Price: \$10

Catch comedy duo The Listies in a giggle-worthy charity pantomime. Expect silliness, inflatable Santa suits and inappropriate poo jokes!

[Book now](#)

MELBOURNE ZERO: Add your voice today: Melbourne is proud to be one of the world's progressive and liveable cities. So how is it still possible that hundreds of Melburnians are homeless every night?

These people are perilously unsafe and unable to access the healthcare and support they need without housing... and they cannot access or retain housing without getting the support and healthcare they need.

Those health problems escalate every night through the trauma and hardship of living on the street. It means people cycle in and out of short-term crisis accommodation and hospital emergency departments.

You CAN help break this crazy CATCH-22. Join the Melbourne Zero movement, a campaign to end homelessness, starting with rough sleeping, the most visible and severe form of homelessness.

We CAN become a world-leading city in ending street homelessness. Solutions exist.

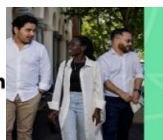
Never in recent history have more leaders made strong commitments to build more affordable housing. But for the most vulnerable bricks and mortar alone will not end street homelessness, because this is also a health emergency.

We need healthcare and wrap-around services to ensure vulnerable people get the support they need to heal, recover and get their life on track. Permanently.

The Commonwealth Government, states and territories are working on a new blueprint for change. It will impact Melbourne and every city in Australia. It's called the National Housing and Homelessness Plan.

Call for Leaders to ensure HEALTHCARE and SUPPORTIVE HOUSING are at the heart of any plan to end homelessness.

[Melbourne Zero](#)



Sport to help young people connect to community: [CMSport](#) is

partnering with Melbourne United and Melbourne Victory to **recruit young people to form an advisory group** to co-design a new youth program that uses basketball and football to develop skills and connection to community.

[Learn more](#) and [apply](#) before **December 8**.



Dear Friends, I am writing to ask you to participate in a survey being conducted by the Heritage Council on the future of the Heritage Register. The invitation is extended to RHSV members across the state. The full invitation is below. Michelle Glynn at the Heritage Council adds, “yes please do send the invitation and online link to the survey your local historical societies. We really do want to hear from a broad a range of people as possible, especially in the regions.

This link (https://engage.vic.gov.au/VHR_Future_Directions) takes you to an explanatory page and at the bottom a button starts the survey. It takes about ten minutes. Please take the survey and join in the effort to protect our history and heritage. Charles Sowerwine, Chair, RHSV Heritage Committee. **Survey closes 17th December.**

The RHSV bookshop, for Christmas, will be opening on Mon 4, Tue 5 & Wed 6 December until 7pm with free gift wrapping and Christmas cheer. And the fabulous book fair will return on those three days. So many members have told me that they loved our book fair so it is back! Albeit with a focus almost entirely on Victorian history. There are books that we have multiple copies of and books from private collections that have been donated. Fabulous books and competitively priced. In the spirit of *History Bazaar*, our bookshop newsletter, we are prepared to haggle on the price of second hand books!

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 2024 – to be confirmed (a complete diary to be sent around shortly

Month	Date	Day	Meeting Type	Time	Method
January	22nd	Monday	Pioneer Women’s Ceremony, Pioneer Women’s Garden Kings Domain	10:15	In person
February	12 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	tbc
February	15 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	tbc
March	7 th	Thursday	Council Meeting	17:15	tbc
March	11 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	tbc
March	21st	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	tbc

This publication is compiled and edited by Pam Hammond, Vice-President NCWV, with support from the President. Feedback and suggested contributions to: info@ncwvic.org.au