

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: "Cities are increasingly the home of humanity. They are central to climate action, global prosperity, peace and human rights," stated Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary-General. The resolution stresses importance of cities and human settlements to be inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. United Nations, 2013

From the President, Elida Brereton



The past month has been very busy for the Executive, and many thanks go to **Tracey Ahern, Hon Secretary**, for preparing documents for meetings, and to **Ronniel Milliken** who is assisting us with re-directing emails as we transition from the old to the new President's and Secretary's email addresses.

Some highlights of October for NCWV include:

The **Office of the Governor of Victoria** has informed NCWV that the new Governor, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable **Margaret Gardner AC**, has accepted our invitation to become NCWV's Patron-in-Chief, for the duration of her term of office. Many thanks go to Ronniel Milliken for her submission to the Office of the Governor.

NCWA AGM, Conference & Reception at Admiralty House, Kirribilli, Sydney was attended by eight NCWV members.



NCWA President, Chiou See Anderson, spoke well, with the focus on 'Removing the Gender Divide' Others all highly regarded in their field were:

Dr Hannah Tonkin, NSW Women's Commissioner for Safety –the first in Australia; Janet Cribbes, CEO Trades Women Aus., who spoke to us earlier this year; Amanda Gould, Director Highspec Properties Buyers Agents.

Reception at Admiralty House (opened in 1843) was excellent, with the Governor-General, General David Hurley and Linda Hurley extremely hospitable. As Patron, Mrs Hurley spoke generously about NCWA and their achievements, with fellowship between delegates warm and positive. We applauded Linda Hurley after she sang her own composition about the role of NCWA.



Elida, Cassandra, Mrs Hurley, Pam. Tracey, Elisabeth, Hean Bee

NCWV new members needed - of all ages if we are to remain relevant, vibrant and influential. The Committee is recommending that **Sandy Bird** be endorsed as an Individual Member. She has been interviewed by Ronniel Milliken and Pam Hammond and brings much experience as a former CEO in the area of aged care.

Festive End-of-Year Luncheon: Numbers are good already for this wonderful opportunity to catch up with each other, face-to-face, over a delicious lunch, at William Angliss Restaurant on **Tuesday November 14th from 12 noon**. There is still some room if you have not booked. Our speaker has an excellent reputation and will be inspiring as she describes her incredible journey across Asia and Europe, mostly alone, on her bike.

I look forward to seeing you at the Luncheon and to honouring, with you, our new Honourary Life Members, our Immediate Past President, the late Janet Galley OAM, and our most recent inductee to the Victorian Honour Roll Anne Parton, all very special members of NCWV.

Tickets via TryBooking on:

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1135310>

The whole membership of NCWV will be **surveyed** shortly regarding their willingness/desire/ability to meet face-to-face more often in 2024.

There will be no Council Meeting in December, but **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.



Cassandra, Elida, Pam Robertson, Pam H, Tracey, Ronniet



National Council of Women

Australia President Chiou See, as WEET member, informed NCWV that Paid Parental Leave will be extended, stating that PPL reform was one of the higher priority policies for WEET. *'I'm glad that the government has undertaken to allow 4 weeks of concurrent leave from 1st July 2026 as this was something that emerged from the research conducted by Baird and Hill.'*

Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Minister for Finance, Minister for Women, Minister for the Public Service has announced passing of the *Paid Parental Leave Amendment (More Support for Working Families) Bill 2023*. The Bill finalises the Government's expansion of Paid Parental Leave, increasing the scheme to 26 weeks by July 2026.

With this Bill, the Government is committing to providing each parent four weeks of reserved leave from July 2026 when the full scheme is implemented which will encourage shared care and send a strong signal that both parents play a role in caring for their children. This Bill also introduces concurrent leave – meaning that from 2026 both parents may take four weeks of leave at the same time, providing flexibility to families in how they arrange their care. It delivers more support for working families, improves outcomes for children and advances gender equality.

Pending its passage through Parliament, two additional weeks of payment will be added each year from 1 July 2024, increasing the overall length of the Paid Parental Leave scheme by six weeks by July 2026.

Information on the Department of Social Services [website](#).



Anne Parton. Inducted: Category: Local Champion

Anne has contributed many unpaid hours to many Victorian communities over the last 60 years. She has championed women's issues, advocated for marginalised women, raised significant funds for families, social causes and communities.

Anne was Vice President of the National Council of Women Victoria, and President of the National Council of Women Geelong for multiple terms, the President of the Boronia Netball Club, a member of the Geelong Lawn Tennis Club Committee for 13 years, and a member of various Uniting Church Committees.

Anne is currently Hospitaller of the Geelong Commandery of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, responsible for the members' wellbeing. Anne has worked for Trading Partners for over 20 years, selling overseas artisans crafts.

Anne received her Victorian Honour Roll Award 2023 from the Minister for Women, Natalie Hutchins.



Increase in Cardiovascular Diseases in Women

More and more women – particularly younger women – have high blood pressure, obesity or diabetes. This is leading to an increase in cardiovascular disease, and we are seeing it in younger as well as older women. The trend is expected to continue.

By understanding the different risk factors, you can take steps to reduce your chances of getting cardiovascular disease. There are positive steps that you can take to prevent most cardiovascular events—heart attacks, heart failure, and stroke. And, while it's true that there are a few exceptions, in most cases if you can identify the risk factors early on and take proactive steps, you can avoid developing cardiovascular disease.

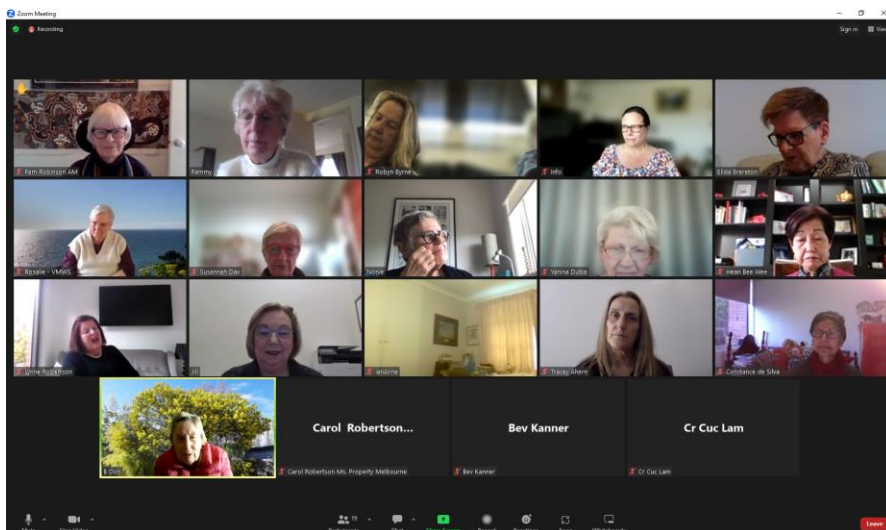
See the NCWV poster created by Freda Kaufman at:

<https://ncwvic.org.au/files/Heartcare%20Guide.pdf>

November Council Meeting, November 2, 5:15pm

Jill Forsyth, OAM, became involved in supporting East Timor's journey to Independence, and subsequent development from 1998 after the scorched earth withdrawal of the Indonesian Militia.

Some of the NCWV members who tuned into this ZOOM meeting



Jill's volunteering and fundraising started at her children's secondary school where she became President of the Parents Association, organised fetes, turned the uniform shop to be highly profitable and supported the scholarship to send the recipient to support a village in East Timor. Jill then set up a Timor Support Group which fundraised by catering for functions at the school.

After the 'scorched earth' campaign of the Indonesians, Jill went to Timor, supported by Kew Rotary, and stayed at an orphanage seeing the dreadful health issues, particularly of pregnant women and babies. As a trained midwife, she supported the creation of 'Maternity Packs' to help address this, supported by her Rotary Club who then purchased sewing machines so that the women could sew the packs and start to support themselves. This then led to a need for soap, which was produced from their bountiful supply of coconut oil, supported by a soap-maker from Cairns.

Packaging followed, with locals creating these using local weaving designs and artwork, which has assisted in their cultural heritage being maintained. Some of these initiatives were replicated by other NGOs, but when COVID hit, they left, so the locals flourished, now supported by the Government. Each enterprise needed around \$10,000 to set up, which Jill used her accumulated superannuation to support.

After many years of fundraising and learning about sustainable development and aid in another culture through her work with Kirsty Sword Gusmao's NGO the Alola Foundation, Jill discovered that by lifting people out of poverty through job creation, they would then go on to live with the dignity to feed and clothe their extended families, improve their housing situations and educate their children. Through developing small social enterprises, these local Timorese businesses have survived and blossomed.

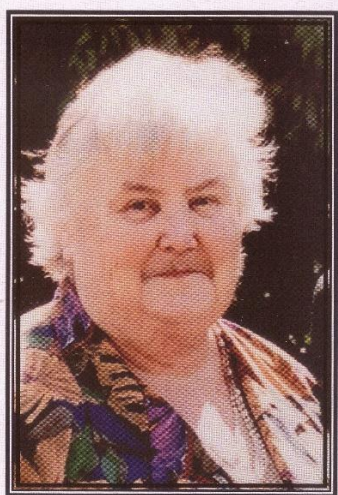
Through her travelling to East Timor via Darwin, Jill realised the great needs of the Aboriginal population. Jill is now attempting to replicate this model in the Larrakia nation in the NT, implementing the successful strategies that worked over the past 19 years, since training her first group of soap makers to produce natural Coconut oil organic soaps for the UN and Alola maternity packs.

She met with Elders at the Community Centre, which was well set-up but underutilised. She found that the locals didn't have the same incentive as the Timorese, as they have more Government support. A local artist, didgeridoo maker and player came on board who encouraged his daughters and others to join and become skilled in a range of crafts.

Job creation in Timor-Leste led to Jill setting up a pop up shop each Christmas to support the enterprise Fair-Trade producer groups. This operates six days per week as a sustainable enterprise run by volunteers, and helps fund local and international projects, as well as projects in Nepal and Laos. Creating jobs, being entrepreneurial, multiplying funds, and supporting others who are keen about working towards improved outcomes for social justice are Jill's passions, all of which she has been able to pursue through Rotary.

VALE

Janet Grace Galley OAM: September 1938-September 2023



Many of us have particular memories of Janet. Dr Deborah Towns OAM for her generous assistance to her historical research; Merrill O'Donnell from the Colac Family History Group wrote to say that Janet had helped her when writing a book about the women who signed the 1891 suffrage petition; Eva Court recalled NCWV meetings at Ross House when she and Janet sat at the back table. *"Sometimes Janet would rise to firmly state a point of order. Members respected Janet's knowledge of meeting procedure and reference text, 'Renton'."*

It is important to remember Janet's decades of work for 'Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities'. When we use the word 'work', although most women in Australia now have more access to education and participation in the paid workforce, Janet's social contribution after she left the paid workforce was as a volunteer, contributing her skills, sharing her business training and skills; her knowledge of 'Renton's Guide to Meetings and Organisations', along with her commitment to the causes for which a Non-Government Organisation had been established.

Janet had a lifelong involvement as a volunteer, especially in the women's non-party organisations, starting as a child in Colac, with very active and engaged women as examples, going on to complete the King's Girl Guide award program and a period as a boarder at the Methodist Ladies College. She became an MLC Old Collegian's office bearer 1971- 1979, serving as the MLCOC delegate to NCWV in 1974. She joined the League of Women Voters of Victoria (LWVV) in 1984, holding a variety of offices including President 1995-98, 2001-2004; Secretary 1998-2001 and a delegate for LWVV to NCWV. Janet also took part in work for the UN Children's Fund UNICEF, UNIFEM (1996-2008) and the United National Association of Australia (Victorian Division) Status of Women Committee as an active member 1991-2000, with women like Diane Alley OBE and Cecile Storey AM. Janet thus came to take an interest in the International Alliance of Women; attending the two Board meetings held in Melbourne in 1989, each with an associated international event; an IAW Congress and a week-long Conference at the Queen Victoria Women's Centre from 8 October 2012, that included an IAW Asia Pacific Regional Day with the theme 'Ending Violence'.

In June 1991 her already significant contributions resulted in being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia. Janet also became a Life Member of Order of Australia Association. In 1996 Janet became a Life Member of the Business and Professional Women Melbourne.

But it is as a member of National Council of Women that she will be chiefly remembered. In 2001 which was both the Centenary of Federation and international Year of Volunteers, NCWA issued Certificates of Appreciation and a Perth Mint Coin 'To Acknowledge Work for the Betterment of Women'; Janet's citation noted she had been President of NCWV 1992-94, Secretary 1983-89 and 1997-98, Convenor of the Associates, Executive Member and Newsletter Editor. Even though the NCWA Constitution stipulated one could serve only two terms as an Adviser, by moving from portfolio to portfolio, she was able to attend the International Council of Women Conference in Perth in 2003 as well as NCWA Triennial and Mid- term conferences, as a voting member, from 1985. Her ongoing role as Hon. Archivist for NCWV and the LWVV has been tireless and resulted in both organisations having their histories maintained, for which we are grateful.

Janet and husband Peter received recognition from the Box Hill Historical Society for their contributions to local history. Both of them enjoyed country travel; this no doubt contributed to Janet's extensive knowledge of places beyond the metropolitan area particularly in relation to earlier periods of NCWV regional groups.

Janet was uniquely placed to be a 'history keeper' in relation to women's work, especially as volunteers over many decades, and this was recognized in the invitation for her to be part of the team to oversee the NCWA's history. *The exhibition Stirrers with Style! Presidents of the National Council of Women of Australia and its predecessors was a project of the National Council of Women of Australia, supported by the NCWA History Steering Committee. At a National Triennial Meeting in Perth, Western Australia, the motion was put by Janet Galley OAM of Victoria that, to mark the 75th anniversary of the national body, the history of the National Council of Women of Australia (NCWA) should be researched and published.* From the Australian Women's Register: <https://www.womenaustralia.info/spons/SP00004.htm>

What an example to us she was in her ability to continue involvement in the work of the LWVV and NCWV while housebound during the COVID years. Our condolences go out to her family, she will be greatly missed by us all.

Written by Sheila Byard OAM with help from others including Elisabeth Newman AM, Dr Deborah Towns OAM, Dr Pam Williams OAM, Eva Court, Barb Joyce, Robyn Buccheri, Anne Parton.

ADVISER NEWS

Multicultural Adviser – June Anderson



AFRICAN MUSIC AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL (AMCF) FED SQUARE, FRIDAY 17 - SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2023, ITS 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY.

This three-day celebration of the very best of African culture is a spring highlight and the only place where you will see over 35 African countries and community organisations represented through music, food, fashion, film, dance, art, and culture - right in the heart of Melbourne. For families, there is kids' entertainment including free African drumming classes, Australian Football League (AFL) activities, face painting, jumping castles, Santa's grotto, mascots, balloonist, African board games, and more! Find out more: www.amcf.org.au

Education Adviser - Pam Hammond

Racism in Sport

I watched this webinar on 31 October hearing award-winning writer Ellen Van Neerven, a First Nations author of *Mununjali Yugambah* and Dutch heritage, talking about her ground-breaking examination of sport's troubled relationship with race, gender and sexuality. She played football from a young age, learning that sport can be a painful and exclusive world.

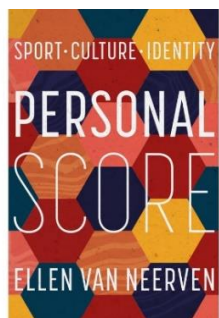
Ellen spoke of traditional sacred meeting places where for thousands of years indigenous people played games. Now, in many cases, the same places have been commandeered for modern-day sport and are also often referred to as 'sacred'. She moved on to give examples of well-known sports people who have been vilified and used their roles to effect change not only in their own realm, but in society more broadly. But at community sports level, many are still being verbally abused, including herself, which goes unchecked. Ellen stated, *"Combined with racial bullying at school, kids become socialised into 'casual racism' which then can extend to more open vilification later on"*.

Ellen went on to offer ways of addressing this. Firstly, it needs to be acknowledged and the consequences realised, including negative self-image, feeling lack of worth, driving them away from sport, health issues ... There needs to be justice and consequences for perpetrators; enable truth-telling, healing circles and support for victim survivors. She also feels that we need 'Upstanders' who are prepared to call out bad behaviour; more diversity in leadership of sporting clubs, point deductions for clubs whose supporters are perpetrators and especially education.

She finished by stating that all countries experience racism. *"Australia could lead the way."*

A panel, with Kyah Simon, indigenous Matilda player, Karen Farquharson, Chair of Anti-Racism Hallmark Research Initiative at the University of Melbourne, Molina Asthana from Multicultural Women in Sport, then discussed the issue. The main points from the discussion: it is a human rights issue; sport has capacity to be inclusive of all; diversity must be encouraged in participants, complaints process to improve; coaches and leadership; affirmative action and training in unconscious bias.

All agreed that the Matilda's success in the Women's Soccer World Cup has had a significant impact across Australia.



Ellen Van Neerven

Corrections Adviser – Barbara Latham

The British Film Festival is about to begin. Two films are particularly worthy of NCWV viewing:

"GOLDA" biographical docu-drama depicts Golda Meir, Israel's first female, and fourth, Prime Minister, in the runup to the 1973 Yom Kippur War of 19 days. Helen Mirren plays Golda, and Liev Schreiber plays Henry Kissinger.

"DISCONNECT ME" examines the social impact of mobile technology, responsible for increased mental pressure and physical illness caused by mobile phone addiction. Depression in young females has increased by up to 30%. Audience can interact with film by mobile device.

Parliament of Victoria, Community Engagement team

Professional learning: Engaging civics and citizenship, **Thursday 30 November 2023, 4pm-5.45pm**

A free professional development event presented online by Parliament of Victoria and Swinburne Living Lab.

Teachers from across Victoria's education sector are invited to a special workshop focusing on engagement in the civics and citizenship classroom.

This workshop explores what it means to engage in civics and citizenship and what engaging civics and citizenship education looks like. Through using co-design strategies participants will explore concepts such as democracy, decision-making and representation. Additionally, participants will consider how these co-design strategies can be used in the classroom to enhance democratic decision-making, encourage active citizenship and elevate student voice.

[Register](#)



Teacher Open House: Parliament House is opening its doors for a teacher professional learning event on **Wednesday 6 December from 4pm - 6pm.**

This is an opportunity to explore some of the key spaces inside Parliament House and familiarise yourself with the work that takes place here. Enjoy light refreshments as you chat with parliament staff, ask questions, and connect with colleagues. If you'd like to know more about the resources that are available to support civics and citizenship in your classroom, or you've been considering a school visit to Parliament House, then register your place for this free event. [Register](#)

OTHER NEWS

Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission

HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK 2023

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.

Join us at ceremony in Sydney **on Friday 8 December 2023**, or **FREE** live stream of the Awards via Zoom. Registration details to come at: <https://humanrights.gov.au/2023-australian-human-rights-awards> [GET YOUR TICKETS](#)

Early Childhood Update

Kindergarten parent opinion survey

Parents and carers of children in a funded kindergarten program are invited to take part in the 2023 kindergarten parent opinion survey. The [Kindergarten Parent Opinion Survey](#) will **open on Wednesday 15 November and close on Friday 8 December 2023** and we're encouraging all parents and carers of children enrolled in a funded Three- or Four-Year-Old Kindergarten program to provide their feedback. The Social Research Centre is running the survey on behalf of the Education Department.

Access To Toy Libraries for more Victorian Families

Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn has announced an investment of \$1.9 million will establish 8 new toy libraries and support around 135 existing not-for-profit toy libraries with grants of up to \$10,000. Grants of \$40,000 are available to eligible organisations to establish a new toy library in their local area, with funding to be used for educational toys, books, equipment and learning resources. Expanding toy libraries means more families will be able to access high-quality educational toys and resources nearby and at low cost – helping save money and encouraging play-based learning at home.

To further support Victoria's toy libraries, not-for-profit services can now also apply for one-off grants of up to \$10,000 to renew their toys and equipment and grow their membership. Funding is also able to be used for one-off costs, such as buying furniture or equipment to improve accessibility.

Toy libraries offer an alternative to buying toys, help teach children about recycling, provide social and emotional support, and connect parents and carers with other community services. Toy libraries also promote the importance of early childhood education among their members – so more children from diverse backgrounds can access them.

Toy Libraries Australia – which represents the sector across Victoria – will also receive \$300,000 from the Government over 4 years as part of the grants program.

Applications for the first round of grants close on Sunday, 19 November 2023. Visit vic.gov.au/toy-library-grants-program.

ACMI Powering Up Digital Skills for Students and Teachers

Media Release

From AI technologies to cutting edge digital games, the State Government is backing students and teachers to amp-up their creative and digital skills through an immersive education program delivered by ACMI, the national museum for screen culture at Fed Square.

Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks has announced the 2024 ACMI Education program, with a variety of creative learning opportunities and experiences designed to teach new digital skills and knowledge to primary and secondary students and teachers. Supported through the Department of Education's Strategic Partnerships Program and Creative Victoria, the ACMI Education program highlights emerging technologies across film, TV, digital games and digital art.

From the museum's Gandel Digital Future Labs, students of all ages will undertake hands-on workshops in filmmaking, narrative game design, animation and more, all designed to build skills in problem solving, collaboration and storytelling, and as well media and digital literacy.

The program also includes interactive onsite and online talks that connect with classroom learning, film programs that build critical thinking as well as school group visits to ACMI's world-class exhibitions. Online education resources are also available for teachers on the ACMI website including free lesson plans to help teachers use videogames in the classroom and recordings of the professional learning series *Demystifying artificial intelligence: Unlocking AI's potential for teachers*.

For more information visit: <https://www.acmi.net.au/education/>



It's Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the [latest free and online Q&A event](#) from Breast Cancer Trials will be on triple negative breast cancer. Moderated by Author and Journalist Annabel Crabb, join leading breast cancer researchers and women with a history of triple negative breast cancer [to discuss the latest in research, clinical trials and treatments](#).

Olympian Libby Trickett calls out harmful body commentary saying there's a problem with the way we speak to girls and women athletes about their bodies. *"From a very early age and before you hit puberty– if you're playing sport, people seem to feel that this gives them a licence to talk about a female athlete's body. In any other context, having adults talk about the bodies of young girls would be completely inappropriate."*

Trickett remembers being measured with body mass-index tests and skin-fold tests– both of which came with comments from coaches that made her feel ashamed of her body. Citing the research around the effects of body commentary, Trickett says female athletes are three times more likely to have a diagnosed eating disorder than non-athletes. Boys and men are twice as likely to participate in sport as girls. Less than 25 per cent of girls stay in organised sport past the age of 12 years.

Trickett says that *"international sporting bodies need to establish a mandated course that all coaches must undertake before they can coach girls and women athletes to reduce body commentary"*. The course should *"provide them with the right message and words to use before they can talk to girls, teenagers and women athletes about their bodies,"* she says.

Five women in just 10 days killed by men.



Three prominent politicians, across party lines, joined together to call for a renewed focus on the “epidemic” of men’s violence against women. Senator Larissa Waters, Bridget Archer and Alicia Payne have issued the call. They are the co-convenors of the cross-party Federal Parliamentary Friends of Ending Violence Against Women group. They say governments at all levels must prioritise the issue of gendered violence with funding and leadership, while Australians must drive cultural change. *“Counting Dead Women Australia has confirmed seven women were killed by violence in October, bringing the total to 43 for 2023,”* Waters, Archer and Payne said.

“We must tackle the root causes of violence against women, and to transform harmful social norms, with well-funded, expert-led respectful relationships education in schools, sporting associations, workplaces and across all aspects of society.”

They also noted that First Nations women are 8 times more likely to be murdered as a result of violence and that domestic violence occurs in every suburb and community right across the country.

Men’s Referral Service: 1300 766 491; family/domestic violence contact 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732

The media must step up. Last week, Respect Victoria joined a number of other organisations in the state in a statement against misogyny in the Australian media, stating it’s up to the media to promote equality and shape our culture for good. “It’s about headlines that paint men who murder their partners as ‘good blokes’; it’s disempowering images used in stories about family violence that show women cowering. It’s articles that lean into racist or gender stereotypes, that sexualise women and girls, that aim to take down women in positions of power, and that minimise violence using sexist ‘jokes’.” The statement placed the onus on journalists, editors, producers and cartoonists to join in the fight in preventing violence against women from happening.

NCWV congratulates Iranian-born activist [Nazanin Boniadi](#) on being awarded the 2023 Sydney Peace Prize at a ceremony at Sydney Town Hall on Thursday. Boniadi received the award for her advocacy in Iran’s #WomanLifeFreedom movement. She has dedicated her powerful platform to promoting the women-led movement, which erupted following the death of 21 year-old Kurdish woman Jina Mahsa Amini at the hands of Iran’s morality police.

“Every time I see a brave protester continue to flout the compulsory hijab, every time they’re freed from prison, every time I see someone saved from execution, every time I see the people on the ground who are risking everything to oppose this regime, I think to myself, who am I not to have hope? Because they do,” Boniadi said.

Shrine of Remembrance

November marks the approach of Remembrance Day. This important occasion invites us all to pause and pay our respects to those who have served and sacrificed in all wars and peacekeeping operations.

From November 1, the Shrine’s 11 Days of Remembrance program looks at the capacity of Victorians and Australians to capture thoughts, feelings and the impacts of military conflict in artistic forms – art, literature, photography and music. Visit at night to see the Shrine lit resplendent “red to remember” for ten days. Explore the full program.



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

What's free in November:

Devour dumplings at an open-air night market. Visit a huge pop-up garage sale. Then catch candlelight concerts at a floating music fest. So much happening in Melbourne.

[Learn more](#)

Help shape the future of University Square

Big change is happening at University Square - in 2025 it will become the doorstep to the new Parkville Station, so we've refreshed the 2016 University Square Master Plan.

Share your feedback via an online survey by **16 November 2023**.

[Have your say](#)

Support For Victorian Medical Research

Applications for the seventh round of Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund (VMRAF) now open. Minister for Medical Research Ben Carroll announced the latest round to help deliver grants and fast track innovative projects from research to real-world impact. Grants of up to \$100,000 will support early-stage innovative research projects that demonstrate potential for practical application at a later stage, while grants of up to \$500,000 will assist researchers in translating their products and practices into clinical or health care settings.

NCWV is delighted to read that the VMRAF seeks to promote gender equality by encouraging the participation and inclusion of women in applicant project teams. The VMRAF allocates a proportion of the assessment criteria weighting in favour of applicants with project teams that include at least 50 per cent of members who identify as women or applicants with project teams that are led by a Chief Investigator (CI) who identifies as a woman.

Applications for the seventh round of the VMRAF will close on 1 December.

For more information or to apply, visit health.vic.gov.au/victorian-medical-research-acceleration-fund.

Free Financial Counselling for Thousands of Victorians

Media Release

The State Government is providing free financial counselling to thousands of Victorians who are experiencing financial hardship. Minister for Consumer Affairs Gabrielle Williams today revealed that the Government's Financial Counselling Program supported almost 19,000 Victorians who needed it most in the 2022-23 financial year, including 3,806 people affected by family violence. A \$15 million investment in the program in 2023-24 includes an additional \$1.7 million for family violence financial counselling, bringing the total allocation for this area of specialised need to almost \$3.5 million. The support also includes dedicated financial counselling services to help people and communities in areas affected by the October 2022 floods which saw many Victorians displaced and financially stressed.

The Financial Counselling Program is funded by the Government through Consumer Affairs Victoria and links a financial counsellor with people facing financial difficulties. The program provides free, confidential and independent advice.

Financial counsellors can offer a range of support, from providing advice about rights and responsibilities to negotiating with a creditor or working out a realistic payment plan for debts.

The Government has invested more than \$39 million over three years to enable 12 community agencies across the state to deliver general and family violence financial counselling to Victorians. This includes more than \$1 million for the National Debt Helpline, a website and phone service that provides a central point of information and referrals for people needing help with financial issues. Victorians can find their closest financial counselling provider by using the "find a financial counsellor" map on ndh.org.au or calling 1800 007 007.



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 asks questions about the kinds of heritage you value. 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

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."*

Annual NCWV Luncheon, **Tuesday November 14, 2023**, 12 Noon



Starts with a welcome drink, then a two-course meal, tea/coffee, with much chat, laughter, and sisterhood.

William Angliss Restaurant, 550 Little Lonsdale St



This gathering begins at Noon.

'Get on your bike' to hear **our speaker, a real dynamo: Heather Burge**, 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. This is the story of the countries, people, the kindness of strangers and joys of cycling in unknown places way beyond one's comfort zone.

We will also acknowledge immediate-past-President, Ronniet Milliken, New President, Elida Brereton, two new Hon Life Members, and Janet Galley OAM.

Members: \$50; Non-Members: \$55 **Please book before end of business, November 6th**

Tickets via TryBooking on: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1135310>

National Council of Women of Victoria Meeting dates for 2023+

November	2 nd	Thursday	Council Meeting	17:15	Zoom and RH
November	13 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	Zoom
November	14 th	Tuesday	Annual Luncheon, William Angliss Restaurant, 550 Lt. Lonsdale St	12:00	In person
November	16 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	Zoom
December	7 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	
January	22 nd	Monday	Pioneer Women's Ceremony	10:15	Pioneer Women's Garden Kings Domain

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