

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.



NCWV Website: <https://ncwvic.org.au/>

QUOTE: *The United Nations' International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is observed on June 4 each year. The purpose of the day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse. This day affirms the UN's commitment to protect the rights of children.*

From the President, Elida Brereton



My report commences with the sad news that former NCWV President **Gracia Baylor AM** has died. Gracia was born in Brisbane in 1931 and she was one of the first women elected to the Victorian Legislative Council. Some Members attended the funeral last week and others will attend a Memorial Service for Gracia in August. See VALE on page 6

In May I represented NCWV at the **Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) – Drugfree Lifestyle Lunch**. WCTU is one of our founding affiliated members and the speakers at the lunch were excellent: Kerry Redpath is a highly-regarded author and speaker who shared her earlier life of drugs and alcohol abuse, nearly causing her death, and her clean life now. She talks to students all over Australia about the awful consequences of drug abuse. Shane Varcoe spoke with authority and passion about the harm of vaping and what needs to be done to wean young vapers away from these toxic items filled with harmful chemicals, despite being presented as harmless, colourfully created playthings. More information is available here: <https://theconversation.com/what-are-penjamins-disguised-cannabis-vapes-are-gaining-popularity-among-young-people-254572> thanks to Barbara Latham.

Dawn Stark presents a strong Drug Education program to students at all levels as a vital part of the WCTU Drug-free Lifestyles program.

A small group from the NCWV Committee has met to review our work and directions, and we agree that our website needs improvement, and that the Women's Health Forum run under our name at Government House in early March next year needs comprehensive planning in order to harness all key women's health practitioners under the leadership of our Health Advisor Prof Cassandra Szoeki.

We are considering Individual Member outings, and a special new project for Harmony Day 2026 that will involve students and others in a rich experience.

In Marrakech, Morocco, **23 to 29 June**, the General Assembly of the International Council of Women-CIF, our head body, will be addressing issues facing women and girls around the world.

The NCWA representatives to General Assembly including Hean Bee Wee AM, Elisabeth Newman AM and Prof Cassandra Szoeki, will be able to play a key role in the decisions to ensure that tangible and do-able decisions are made that enhance the lives of women and girls ---and all society.

June Council Meeting, Thursday June 5, 12:00pm, Ross House, 251 Flinders Lane, Speaker Dr Ros Otzen, author of: Hester Hornbrook and her Ladies: The Creation of Social Supports in Melbourne 1850s-1870s.



Ros, a retired educator, teaching at State & Independent schools, including Principal of Korowa Anglican Girls' School from 1991-2003. She was the inaugural President of the Alumni Council of the University of Melbourne.

Ros is a Board member of The Invergowrie Foundation supporting education of girls & women in Victoria. She was inaugural Chair of the Board of the education arm of MCM (Melbourne City Mission), the Hester Hornbrook Academy, serving the most educationally-disadvantaged young people.

Ros spoke about women from the 1850s and 1860s in Melbourne. Recently, she became the inaugural chair of the board of the Hester Hornbrook Academy which is an arm of the Melbourne City Mission. The students are on the high need scale, in fact 91% of the 800 enrolled students have high level special needs, the school receiving government funding for them. They are school refusers, people with home dysfunction, with homelessness, teenage mothers, mental illness, addictions, involvement in the justice system. It is a magnificent school, and it is named after this woman who is one of my heroes.

Hester was born in 1785 into an army family. She married an English army officer, Thomas Hornbrook in 1800. They had a daughter. Hester was widowed, granted a small army pension, and joined her daughter and husband in Liege. She came to Melbourne in 1850, following her grandson.

Melbourne grew from about 70,000 people in 1849 to about 200,000 in the 1860s. Needs were great.

Hester organised a women's petition against the sale of alcohol in the goldfields. She founded the Melbourne City Mission in 1854, taking over management in 1856. Its purpose was to identify needs in the city, so they had men and women walking from house to house to identify and help people, but particularly to question them about their religious activities. They discovered many families in need. At the same time as the city missionaries were collecting data, groups of men and women were trying to cope with meeting these needs.

Margaret Peppers was also daughter of the army. She married when she was 15. Her husband died very shortly thereafter in a horse-riding accident, leaving her pregnant. She survived, and eventually married John William Peppers. They came to Melbourne but John died on route to Sydney in 1852, leaving a substantial sum. This is when Margaret joined Hester.

With Margaret Peppers, Hester set up an school system from 1859, which continued after Hester died of bronchitis in 1862. The women who Hester had appointed in committees to run her nine schools got together and seamlessly continued her vision, forming the Hornbrook Ragged School Association. They provided support to 10 percent of children in Melbourne.

The first missionary that was employed by the city mission was Joseph Greathead, 55 years old, who came out from England. His wife, Sarah came out later. He couldn't find work, and couldn't leave his wife and children to go to gold fields. He found an ad and became the first city missionary. Sarah was the first matron of the retreat for prostitutes.

Many of the women who were part of the Hester Hornbrook Association set up schools in their own homes, which also gave them some income after they became widows.

All committees had some young women on them, and they were to give active help in schools because a member of the committee had to be present every day in schools, a real commitment, and the younger women were also by this means being initiated into good works, so that when they were older women and they married they will keep doing good works. The others are mainly young married women, much the same age as the women and children they're helping. What's good about these ladies is that they are in comfortable homes with men who are making a go of it, who actually provided a lot of the money.

The only reason we know anything about these schools is that the ladies published an annual report, and they actually named themselves. Women then were seen, not heard. But these women presented their own reports and spoke out.

Ros highlighted other remarkable women of this time.

Miss Maclachlan, a daughter of Mrs Maclachlan; and Miss Fraser honorary secretary. Isabella Maclachlan, who was a founding member of the Melbourne Benevolent Ladies' Society (1845) and the Melbourne City Mission (1854), in 1863 became the first President of the Hornbrook Ragged School Association

Miss Cairns, youngest daughter of Jessie and Rev Adam Cairns, minister of the East Melbourne Presbyterian Church, married Robert Harper.

With three families, who all worked for Hester Hornbrook's Schools, they founded the Toorak Presbyterian Church.

Jessie Butchart and her husband, a stock and agency magnate, were wealthy Scottish Presbyterians. Jessie was en route to England with the children to meet her family, when she died on board, a terrible disaster, a very important lady.

Philippa Jennings, daughter of active social worker Alicia Jennings, married Reverend Michael Becher. She had 16 children, seven of whom died, but when her husband died, she joined the Hornbrook Ragged School Association, and was on the committee for about 20 years.

Helen Long managed the Sydney Street Collingwood School from 1861, followed by her daughters Caroline and Susannah. Caroline married Alfred E Clarke, who was a big name in the history of Malvern. They had nine children. She ran the Duke Street Prahran School and a sister-in-law joined her. So there was this network developing.

Miss Fraser was a Scottish Evangelical, unmarried woman, and secretary for decades of several charitable groups, including the Benevolent Ladies' Society and the Hornbrook Ragged School Association, but is absolutely unremembered now!

These schools were absolutely essential. But in 1872, the free Compulsory Secular Education Act came in and that really was the death knell of the association schools, because they depended on donations and nobody would donate, so the numbers gradually whittled down. In the 1870s, properties were sold, many of the ladies owned their own properties, then they rebuilt their schools with a residence for the teacher and her family. That gave them an income and a safe place to raise their own children who attended their schools.

Eventually the only schools that remained were the ones in the areas where there was booze and gambling issues.

Together these women created the basis for social care in Melbourne. They are completely unacknowledged and unknown today. For more details, Ros's book will be available shortly at: rosotzen@hotmail.com

July Council Meeting – a late meeting

The next Council Meeting is one of our twilight meetings.

Thursday 3rd of July, 5:00pm for 5:15pm. It'll be at Ross House and by zoom. The speaker will be **Dr. Simone McCarthy**, the Executive Dean Research fellow at Deakin University, Institute for Health & Transformation. Simone was on ABC Radio, talking about the incidence and rise of young women in gambling, the topic of her Phd. Study. Her talk will be about the increase of young women in gambling, including women's lived experiences of gambling and gambling related harm, and the practical and clinical responses to addressing women's vulnerability to gambling through a gender lens and the determinants that influence women's consumption of harmful products, and how this contributes to gender inequality.

ADVISER NEWS

Education Adviser: Pam Hammond

The NCWV's **My Vote My Voice** event engages students in civics. A theme is given to students, based on what is topical and of interest to young people, to research and develop a presentation expressing their opinion. The 2025 topic is: **What is Special about the Australian Democracy**. Students present in the Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament of Victoria, at the Speaker's lectern. They have been excited, engaged and passionate about the experience. **August 22nd 9:15am – 12:30**

Victorian Early Years Awards Open For 20th Year

MEDIA RELEASE

Nominations for the Victorian Early Years Awards are now open for Victorians to nominate their most innovative, inspiring and dedicated early years teachers, educators, organisations and programs improving outcomes for children in their critical early years. Victoria's entire early years sector, from maternal child health services to playgroups, early childhood initiatives and everything in between, are eligible for awards.

Categories include creating collaborative community partnerships, improving access and participation, and promoting children's health and wellbeing – recognising the important work involved in improving the health, wellbeing, learning and development of children from birth to eight years. Outstanding individual contributions to early childhood outcomes will be recognised through the Early Childhood Teacher and Early Childhood Educator of the Year awards, while educational leadership will be celebrated through the Emeritus Professor Collette Tayler Excellence in Educational Leadership Award.

Early childhood services embedding Aboriginal perspectives and supporting Aboriginal children and families with access and inclusion will also be recognised through the Aunty Rose Bamblett Koorie Early Years Legacy Award.

Winners will receive \$15,000 to further develop their initiatives, share their approaches, or to support their professional development. **Nominations for the Victorian Early Years Awards close on Thursday 12 June, with finalists announced in August. For more information or to submit a nomination, visit vic.gov.au/victorian-early-years-awards.**

United Nations International Day of Play (IDOP) **Wednesday 11 June 2025.**

The day raises the global profile of the power of play. IDOP advocates for children's right to play, under Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Play is essential for children's learning, development and wellbeing. IDOP celebrates our sector's achievements in providing more children with access to play-based education in their early years.

Standing Committee Coordinator: Robyn Byrne OAM

I would encourage everyone to be on the newsletter distribution list of WIRE because of the opportunities available to members. This month they are running a series of Women's financial Empowerment courses online.

<https://www.wire.org.au/learning-opportunities/womens-financial-empowerment/> See article on page 9

Study about relationships between Men and Women.

Around one in three Australian men report having used intimate partner violence (IPV), a groundbreaking longitudinal study has found. The world-first [research on intimate partner violence](#) from the Australian Institute of Family Studies, titled *Ten to Men*, highlights a nationwide increase of IPV, as well as ways to tackle the problem. The findings highlight the importance of social support and paternal affection as protective measures against IPV use. Men with higher levels of social support in 2013-14 were 26 per cent **less likely** to use IPV by 2022, compared to men with lower levels of social support. Even more significantly, men who strongly agreed that they received affection from a father or father figure during childhood were 48 per cent **less likely** to ever use IPV, compared to men who strongly disagreed.

"Policy and practice changes that focus on providing integrated mental health support for men, and programs that promote the importance of social support as well as good quality relationships between fathers and their sons could contribute to a reduction in men's use of intimate partner violence," the report says.

"Depressive symptoms and a lack of social connection aren't an excuse by any means, as violence is always a choice – but they do signal where we could be building more supports around men early on, for the sake of their future partners, children and communities," said Dr Sean Martin, the *Ten to Men* Program Lead.

Speaking to the need to achieve the National Plan objective to end gender-based violence in a generation, Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFS) Commissioner Micaela Cronin said it's *"critical that we better understand **pathways into** using violence and very importantly, both the protective factors and **pathways out of** using violence...a key priority for the DFS Commission, and we have called out the importance of building the evidence base about men who use violence."*

"I commend AIFS on this important research and look forward to seeing these insights turned into action."

Women's Agenda <https://womensagenda.com.au/latest/one-in-three-australian-men-report-using-intimate-partner-violence-world-first-research-shows/>

Health/Nutrition:

Jane Martin, executive manager of the Obesity Policy Coalition, explains why added sugar labelling would help parents make informed decisions on what foods to give their children.

- Obesity in young children is increasing. 2-5 year olds today are twice as likely to be obese as those 20 years ago
- Of 57 toddler snack products surveyed, nearly half contained more than 25% sugar
- Sweet ingredients derived from fruit act like added sugar as far as health effects are concerned.

Australians consume too much added sugar and our toddlers are no different, with nearly a third of their daily energy intake coming from processed, unhealthy foods, including many which are high in added sugar. This contributes to excessive weight gain and obesity. Increases in consumption of processed foods by children mean that we're seeing the sharpest increase in obesity among very young children.

In young children, regularly eating sweetened packaged foods can affect taste preferences, which is one of the reasons why Australian Dietary Guidelines recommend we limit sweet foods for young children. But the majority of toddler snack products contain sugar – even when they are savoury.

Read more: [*Sweet ingredients found in worrying number of supermarket infant and toddler foods*](#)

Choice surveyed 57 toddler snack products in major supermarkets to highlight just how pervasive added sugar is. Nearly half the products surveyed contained over 25% sugar, with up to six different sweet ingredients contributing to the total sugar content. Many of the sweet ingredients (such as fruit juice, fruit juice concentrate and fruit pastes) had been derived from fruit, which is still added sugar as far as its effects on health are concerned. However, under current labelling rules it's impossible to tell what is added sugar and what is naturally occurring, such as in whole fruit.

Food manufacturers know that people associate the word 'fruit' with health. Many take advantage of this, plastering it over packaging, and we're seeing this trend more frequently on products aimed at toddlers. A lot of these products contain highly processed fruit products, the processing of which results in an ingredient high in sugar and low in fibre and other nutrients, such as juices and fruit concentrates. These products are often significantly modified and do not reflect the nutrition content or fibre benefits of the whole fruit from which they were derived.

Parents deserve to know what's really in the products they're feeding their kids. Currently, that is hard to find as added sugars are not grouped together on the ingredients list or listed separately on the nutrition information panel. With 60+ different names for sugar, even the ingredients list can't always be relied upon to help parents make an informed choice.

With food ministers meeting in early November, we want them to use this as an opportunity to make added sugar labelling mandatory and help all consumers.

Some small changes to the way added sugar is represented could make a big difference:

- The amount of added sugar should be shown separately from naturally occurring sugars in milk, yoghurt and unprocessed fruit in the ingredients list and on the nutrition information panel.
- We must ensure the definition of added sugar captures sugar from highly processed fruit ingredients such as fruit juice, fruit paste and fruit juice concentrates.

We know that adequate food labelling on packaged foods can help inform people's purchasing habits, and also have a positive impact on reducing obesity rates. We owe it to our youngest Australians to give them the healthiest start in life.

NCWV has supported the NCWA Resolution on the harm of sugar at the Triennial Conference last year to be raised at Federal Government level.

Arts and Letters;

Review from Guosheng Chen, Vice-President NCWV: Jacinta Parsons, ABC program host, has just published an interesting book "*A wisdom of Age*". The book launch on Thursday was great. Jacinta was the shining star and old ladies in the book, in particular, the 94 years old Jean was incredible. Jacinta's book is selling on-line now. I am sure readers will be inspired by the stories. In this book, Jacinta talks to the women who inspire her, the women who are doing this ageing thing right. Looking to the source, Jacinta is mining the wisdom direct from those that know how to do it well, those older women who say, this is what feels good. Drawing from the experiences of everyday women right around the country, Jacinta reflects on conversations she's been having about the 'wisdoms' of ageing, asking: now that we know what's held us back and who has controlled this narrative, how are we going to do this better?

This book captures the brewing tone of revolution that sits in the hearts of middle age to older women who are ready to live a different way, to tell a different story - a story of women's ageing being about reclaiming the fierce girl we had inside us pre-adolescence; about speaking out, about refining our confidence and finally, about wisdom.



Kobo From \$16.99 · ebook,audiobook

The Stella Prize: The purpose of this Prize is to promote books by Australian women in all their diversity, support greater participation in the world of literature, and create a more equitable and vibrant national culture.



Sydney-based novelist Michelle de Kretser has won this year's Stella Prize for her eighth book, *Theory & Practice*, published by Text Publishing. The Sri Lankan-born writer receives \$60,000 from the Stella Forever Fund. In her acceptance speech, de Kretser said that despite being "afraid", she wanted to address the issue of censorship and democracy.

"We've seen scholars, [creatives](#) and journalists silenced, their funding revoked and their contracts cancelled for expressing anti-genocide views," she said. "We've seen our institutions and our media betray the principles they're supposed to uphold.

We've seen language suffer Orwellian distortions...our leaders pander to the anti-Arab racism of that global bully the United States." "All the time I was writing these words, a voice in my head whispered, You will be punished, smeared with labels as potent and ugly as they're false." I'm still afraid. But I've just accepted a prize that is not about obedience. It's not about feel-good narratives, it's not about marketing, it's not even about creativity – Stella is about changing the world."

Women and Employment Adviser: Dr Deborah Towns OAM

Cherishing and Challenging Democracy: Civics, Rights, Responsibilities, Parliament House

Cherishing, Challenging Democracy: Civics, Rights, Responsibility

Free Event

Venue: Queens Hall, Parliament House, Spring St, East Melbourne

Date: 16 July 2025

Time: 08:30 AM - 12:15 PM

REGISTER NOW

Celebrate the centenary of women's right to stand for parliament in Victoria. Expert speakers on the history of democracy, reconciliation, multiculturalism, women's rights, civics in schools and community, and students' leadership and activism.

Presented by National Council of Women Victoria and the League of Women Voters Victoria.

ALL AGES WELCOME

This 'democracy' event, 16th July, 8:30am for 9:00 start, came about from NCWV's affiliate the League of Women Voters Victoria's (LWVV) AGM last December. Firstly, the event celebrates the centenary of women gaining the right to stand in Victoria, 1924-2024. The LWVV turns 80 this year, so we are celebrating that too. LWVV began in 1945 with one of its main aims being to encourage the community to be responsible voters. Educational programs for children and adults have been organised by the LWVV over the decades.

Secondly, due to the LWVV's concern about valuing democracy and responsible voting, it was disappointing to learn that the Australian Government's recent review of civics and schooling found that only 28 per cent of students in year 10 and 43 per cent in grade 6, 'were proficient in civics. Community knowledge of how democracy works are at record lows'. Informal voting increased in the 2025 federal election.

Australia's Governor General, Her Excellency, the Hon Sam Moyston is on a mission to improve this. She recently stated 'I think misinformation and disinformation is the great scourge of our time'.

The Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)'s 2024 report found that there is a declining participation in all 'civics'-based activities since 2019 for secondary school students. This includes excursions such as visiting Parliament or Government House. So, in this spirit our event is to encourage students and the wider community to learn about these findings and what changes are expected, to understand the issues and provide the opportunity for students and the community to visit Parliament House, Melbourne. The LWVV and the NCWV are hosting this event, 'Cherishing and Challenging Democracy: Civics, Rights, Responsibility', from 8.30 for 9 am start to 12.00 noon, in Queens Hall, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne. It's a free event with morning tea provided.

Please book via the code in the flyer or Try Booking (Registration is required by Parliament House and for catering numbers please, by Saturday 12 July): <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1406597>

Speakers: Hon Judith Maddigan, first woman speaker in the Parliament of Victoria, Vivian Nguyen AM, CEO, Multicultural Commission Victoria, Associate Professor Libby Tudball, former president Social and Citizenship Education Assoc, Ngarrnga Project, University of Melbourne, Elida Brereton, President, Secondary Students, Melbourne Girls College Panels with Q & A opportunities, and Convenor Dr Deborah Towns OAM, President, League of Women Voters Victoria.



Hear more about Beatrice: **Interview on Late Night Live with Judith Brett**, political historian. Author of 'Fearless Beatrice Faust: Sex, Feminism & Body Politics' (Text Publishing): <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/latenightlive/feisty-beatrice-faust-judith-brett/105203948>

Beatrice Faust in 1963, felt the abortion laws did not work and only served to make the procedure unsafe. She believed strongly in freedom and, with a friend, formed a Council for Civil Liberties. She established a sub-committee on abortion to ascertain whether it was a civil liberties issue. The Abortion Law Reform Association was formed and Beatrice developed a well-organised professional interest group. 1972 was an election year so Beatrice wanted to survey each political candidate and publish findings on where each candidate stood on women's issues. She invited 10 women, all educated professional women with many contacts to form the nucleus of the Women's Electoral Lobby (WEL). She campaigned for abortion law reform, and wrote, often controversially, about sex and feminism. A new biography canvasses her complex political and private lives.



VALE: [Hilda] Gracia Baylor [AM](#) 8 October 1929 – 23 May 2025

NCWV mourns the death of Gracia who was an active member of the National Council of Women at the national and state level, serving as president of the National Council of Women of Victoria from 1990-93 and of the National Council of Women Australia from 1997-2000. She helped prepare many submissions to government on issues concerning women's health, migration, education, nutrition and environment. In 1999, Gracia was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in recognition of her services to Parliament and women's affairs. She was a member of two Federal Government Advisory Committees. Gracia Baylor, daughter of Herbert David Parry-Okeden, a grazier and businessman and Hilary May Webster, was born in Brisbane, and educated in Victoria and Tasmania as well as Brisbane as a result of her father serving in the Royal Australian Air Force during WWII.

At the National Gallery Art School in Melbourne she completed a Diploma of Fine Arts and subsequently trained as a secondary school teacher and taught at secondary schools. She married Richard Patrick Baylor in 1959, a Solicitor, with whom she had four children, three boys and a girl. She became a clerk in his law firm in Healesville where they lived.

Her interest in politics was sparked when she recognised the need for a kindergarten in Healesville. She served as a Healesville Shire Councillor from 1966-78 and ultimately became the first woman president of the Shire of Healesville from 1977-78. This also made her the first female Shire president in the state of Victoria. From 1973-76, she was President of the Australian Local Government Women's Association and actively supported women to stand for local government.

Gracia was one of the first two women elected to the [Victorian Legislative Council](#) in 1979, the other being [Joan Coxsedg](#). During her time in Parliament, she saved the remaining tower of the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital for Women by persuading fellow Upper House colleagues to block legislation to sell this piece of Crown land to developers. The building became the Queen Victoria Women's Centre (QVWC), a focal point of reference for women to access services and facilities. In 1995, she became a Trustee of the QVWC.

Over the course of her career, Gracia Baylor initiated the council approved baby capsule program which all new parents use to safely carry their infants in cars for the first few months. *'Before this program, babies were just placed in the back of the car in a bassinet and if there was an accident, they didn't have a hope,'* she said. She was also instrumental in getting mammograms approved for the Medicare register. Gracia chaired the Vera Scantlebury Brown Trust Boar very capably. The trust was responsible for the Bursary fund, established in Dr Scantlebury Brown's memory, awarding scholarships in the field of early childhood health and education.

Gracia firmly believed that women should have equal status to men. *"I've always believed in equality ... that women should have equal opportunity to share in the decision-making processes of the nation at any level, whether it be parliamentary, corporate, or at the local level."*

OTHER NEWS



Queen Victoria Women's Centre, 210 Lonsdale St, Melbourne (Access via QV Square).

Girl Masters: Badham/McCartney is a bold, intergenerational conversation between feminist artists Lauren McCartney and Van Badham that interrogates “mastery” as a gendered concept. This dual exhibition confronts the tension between the public and private realms of feminist expression, with the artists exploring how time, shared history, and personal evolution shape their practices. McCartney, celebrated for her satirical critiques of male art-world paradigms, presents intimate, delicate watercolour renderings of traditionally masculine grids, while Badham - once McCartney’s teacher and now mentored by her former student - returns to visual art through theatrical digital compositions and found objects.

Together, they stage a subversive, multi-voiced inquiry into who gets to be a “master” -and where, how, and under what conditions “girls” can assert mastery at all.

- **OFFICIAL OPENING:** Wednesday, 11 June, 5:30 for 6pm (with beer and pizza!);
- Open Monday, June 9, 9:00 AM - Thursday, June 26, 5:00 PM

RSVP: vanbadham@gmail.com – friends welcome!

QVWC Community Appeal: Help the Queen Victoria Women’s Centre reach their goal of \$20,000 by June 30. Donate to the Community Appeal. Any amount, big or small, will make a difference in preserving the QVWC.

Help preserve the extraordinary living history and the heritage of the QVWC building, so they can support women and gender diverse people to thrive. You can now support QVWC in two ways:

1. **Community Appeal:** Any amount, big or small, will make a difference in preserving the QVWC
2. **Conservation Appeal:** Tax Deductible Donation via the National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

Visit www.qvwc.org.au to find out more about their Conservation Projects and to donate today!



is an initiative of the Queen Victoria Women's Centre [QVWC SHOP! Feminist Maker's Store](http://www.qvwc.org.au)

Open: Tues - Sat: 11am - 6pm: CLOSED Sun - Mon :

CLEARANCE SALE UP TO 70% OFF.

We are a feminist design store that showcases women and gender diverse artists, designers and makers from across Victoria. We exist to celebrate ethically made and locally crafted goods and the stories they hold.

QVWC SHOP showcases products by more than 100 local women-owned and run small businesses, with an aim to represent a diverse section of the creative community. We are a destination for values-led gifting and offer a curated selection of unique, locally sourced and ethically made gifts, fashion, art, homewares, books, treats and more!



Australian Human Rights Commission

United Nations Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), New York



Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner and her Director, Nick Devereaux, recently attended UNPFII, where the theme was the Implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - identifying good practices and addressing challenges. Commissioner Kiss delivered two statements which are available on our website.

[Statement 1](#)

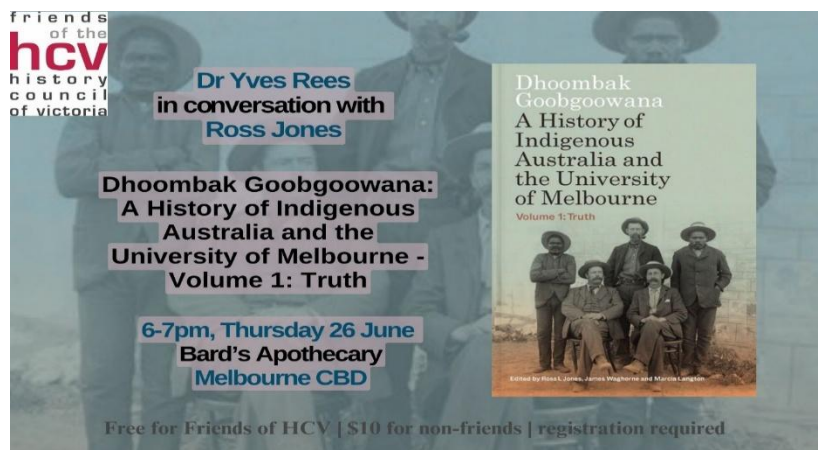
[Statement 2](#)

Equality at work - the next stage of IncludeAbility: [Watch webinar recording](#) [Contact the team](#)

The Commission recently launched [Equality at Work](#), the second phase of our employment program IncludeAbility, at an event which was also livestreamed across Australia. The webinar link is below. Equality at Work is about making sure people with disability have equal access to job opportunities, fair pay and safe working conditions. The team works with employers and people with disability to create more inclusive and accessible workplaces. If you or your team know organisations that might like to get involved with Equality at Work and its pilot programs, contact [the team, link above](#).

HCV news and events

Dhoombak Goobgoowana: History of Indigenous Australia and the University of Melbourne, Vol 1: Truth



[Dhoombak Goobgoowan](#) acknowledges and publicly addresses the long, complex and troubled relationship between the Indigenous people of Australia and the University of Melbourne. It is a book about race and how it has been constructed by academics in the University. It is also about power and how academics have wielded it and justified its use against Indigenous populations, and about knowledge, especially the Indigenous knowledge that silently contributed to many early research projects and collection endeavours.

Join convener Dr Yves Rees at the Bard's Apothecary for an evening with co-author, [Ross Jones](#), Senior Research Fellow in the Indigenous History of the University of Melbourne Project in the Centre for the Study of Higher Education.

Time/Date: Thursday 26 June, 6pm-7pm, Bards Apothecary, Melbourne CBD. Book a ticket:

https://www.historycouncilvic.org.au/book_author_hcv_-_general_public_invitation_dhoombak_goobgoowana_ross_jones

Yoorrook Justice Commission

On Saturday Robyn Byrne, Convenor of Standing Committee, was part of the Walk for Truth from Portland to Parliament. <https://yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au/video/walk-for-truth/>

Everyone is invited to join when Yoorrook Deputy Chair Commissioner Travis Lovett, Kerrupmara Gunditjmara, walks from Portland, where colonisation began, to Parliament, where we can transform the future.

Starting Sunday 25 May on Gunditjmara Country, the **Walk will finish at Parliament House on Wednesday 18 June**. You can see expected dates of each leg of the walk: <https://yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au/events/walkfortruth/>

This powerful journey aims to bring everyone together to walk toward truth, celebrate the strength and resistance of Aboriginal people, and be proud to have the oldest living culture in the world as ours.

On the walk around Birregurra (which was near a mission where Indigenous people were taken) Robyn was talking to a young singer Noah and an Age reporter came up and spoke to us and told them that the Age has made a report of 100 testimonies that the Yoorrook Justice Commission has taken, so anyone can access them, **link below**. Prof Elanor Bourke and Commissioner Tavis Lovett and local indigenous and non indigenous people were there. <https://www.theage.com.au/yoorrook-justice-commission>



National NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth. You can support and get to know your local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities through activities and events held across the country.

The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy

In 2025, NAIDOC Week marks a powerful milestone: 50 years of honoring and elevating Indigenous voices, culture, and resilience. The 2025 theme, celebrates not only the achievements of the past but the bright future ahead, empowered by the strength of our young leaders, the vision of our communities, and the legacy of our ancestors.

The NAIDOC journey began as a movement for recognition and rights, sparked by Indigenous communities who saw a future built on justice and equality. Over the decades, it has grown into a powerful national celebration, a testament to the enduring strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

As we commemorate this 50-year legacy, we also look forward, honouring the next generation who will carry the torch, shaping the future with courage, insight, and deep respect for our roots. Guided by the wisdom of our Elders and the groundwork laid by our forebears, each NAIDOC Week reinforces our vision for an Australia where Indigenous voices are not only heard but lead the way. For further information, please visit their website – <https://www.naidoc.org.au/>.



Gain confidence in managing your money with practical tools and knowledge. Join our interactive workshops designed to equip women and gender-diverse people with practical tools and knowledge to build financial security. Topics Covered:

- Budgeting, saving & setting financial goals
- Managing debt & accessing financial support
- Understanding bills, insurances & loans
- Recognising financial abuse & avoiding scams
- Superannuation & planning for your future

Dates:

17th June: 10am – 12pm

1st July: 10am – 12pm

Location: Tarneit Community Learning Centre, 150 Sunset Views Boulevard, Tarneit Victoria 3029

Register now! Spots are limited [REGISTER HERE](#)



Join WIRE to take control of your online safety by learning about online risks and scams, protecting yourself and your family online, and exploring helpful tools to improve your digital wellbeing.

In language & in culture resources are available.

Email for more details - Yihan Li (Information Advocate)
yli@wire.org.au

SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE

This month, join us for a special interactive preview concert with director Chris Latham OAM. You'll have the opportunity to share feedback and help shape the final concert that marks 80 years since the end of the Second World War Or commemorate with us at one of our remembrance services.

WAR MEMORIAL CONCERT: Experience the *Second World War Memorial* concert in the making—a moving tribute marking 80 years since the end of the Second World War. Join us for an exclusive behind-the-scenes preview with renowned director Chris Latham OAM, artist in residence at the Australian War Memorial. Chris will share the creative journey behind this powerful commemoration, offering insights into the stories, inspiration and musical choices that bring wartime history to life. Enjoy excerpts from both historic wartime compositions and new works commissioned especially for this event and take part in shaping the final concert by sharing your feedback before its national premiere in Canberra on 15 August 2025.

Sunday 22 June, 2:30pm - 4:30pm; Auditorium, \$10 [Book now](#)

Growing the Next Generation of Farming Leaders

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence today announced the opening of the 2025 Upskill and Invest Young Farmers Scholarship Program, encouraging early-career farmers to apply and gain the tools they need to thrive in Victoria's agriculture sector.

The program offers scholarships of up to \$10,000 for farmers aged 18 to 40 including up to \$5,000 for training or study, and another \$5,000 to apply those skills on-farm through practical investments.

Participants can pursue learning in areas such as agronomy, irrigation, land management and conservation, alongside core business skills like marketing, accounting, and HR.

After completing their training, recipients can use the second half of their scholarship to invest in farm planning, new technologies, professional development, or equipment that supports innovation and growth.

Online Event

National ALGWA is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: ALGWA Masterclass - Overcoming Imposter Syndrome with Fabian Dattner. Don't miss your chance to hear from the magnificent Fabian Dattner about how to kick your imposter syndrome to the curb. It's a female tendency - to downplay our value and second guess our place at the table. Register to attend or to receive a recording if you can't make it. Register [here](#)

Time: June 12, 2025 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/91898990590?pwd=O3gUyaawMUUnfV5nXWnH6rvjlknwm>

Meeting ID: 918 9899 0590 Passcode: 765277

Melbourne Women's Foundation

Local Gatherings – Boroondara

Come say hello! Our local gatherings are relaxed, feel-good catch-ups where you can connect with others in the Melbourne Women's Foundation community and share ideas over a casual drink and/or dinner.



Next catch-up: Tuesday 10 June at 7pm

📍 **Auburn Hotel**, 85 Auburn Road, Hawthorn East

Bring a friend—everyone's welcome, no matter where you're based! Just email info@melbournewomensfoundation.org at least **48 hours beforehand** if you plan to come along.

All gatherings are held at the Auburn Hotel at 7pm.

Mark your calendar for upcoming dates:


- **Tuesday 10 June (rescheduled from 27 May)**
- **Tuesday 22 July**



In a time of rapid change and growing inequality, trust in leadership and public policy has never been more important. That's why we're launching **Trust Women: Lunch Break Sessions**, is a new webinar series designed to break down some of the most important gender equality policy challenges facing Australia today. From February to June 2025, we'll host expert-led discussions on key issues such as nuclear energy, early childhood education, abortion access, housing, youth mental health, and tech-facilitated abuse.

Each session will offer insights from leading thinkers, advocates, and policy experts, helping us better understand the blockers to progress and, more importantly, the pathways forward. [Free, registration essential >](#)

[AI and Tech-Facilitated Abuse: What Does the Future Hold?](#)

 **12pm AEST, Tuesday 17 June 2025**

 Free Zoom Webinar [REGISTER >](#) Speakers TBA

Parliamentary Inquiry:

Inquiry examines coercion by cults and other groups

The harmful tactics used by some cults and other groups to control their members are the primary focus of a [new parliamentary inquiry](#) which has opened for input from the community.

The Legislative Assembly Legal and Social Issues Committee is looking into the methods used to recruit people and the impacts of coercive behaviours. The Committee is [calling for submissions](#) from the public who wish to have their say.

It is also giving people the option to share their personal experience by filling out a short [anonymous questionnaire online](#).

Public hearings are expected to start later this year and a final report is due in September 2026.

WHAT'S ON



Queen Victoria Market, Queen St, Melbourne

Every Wednesday, 5:00-10:00pm

Wednesday 4 June to 27 August.

Wrap up warm and embrace the winter chill as the Market's sheds and laneways come alive with the inviting aromas of delicious food; the sounds of live, local musicians; and the vivid spectacle of quirky roving performers, promising a fun and not-to-be-missed night for all.

LEGO Star Wars exhibition; Melbourne Museum; **When: Until 26 January**

[Book now](#)

This epic collaboration features over 8 million bricks! Build your own light saber, battle your mates then explore the immersive LEGO galaxy.

RISING, Melbourne's winter festival of new art, music and performance features 65 events, 327 artists, 15 new commissions, 9 world premieres, 5 Australian and 10 Victorian, returning to showcase the city in all its moon-lit glory over two epic weekends. Over 12 nights, RISING transforms the city centre into a pulsating playground of music, theatre and dance, and public performances. **4 June – 15 June. Visit: 2025.rising.melbourne**

Continuing RISING's legacy of unlocking hidden corners of the city, the expansive 2025 program will spill into laneways, arcades, underground basements and grand theatres showcasing an unmissable lineup of world-class international and local artists, in a city-wide celebration of Naarm.

Swingers: The Art of Mini Golf will transform the Flinders Street Station ballroom into a mini golf course with each hole designed by a female artist. Bad Apples Music will take over the new Anzac Station for *Track Work: Music from the Underground*, a free all-ages First Nations-led concert as part of the Metro Tunnel Creative Program.

Best jazz spots, various locations



From classic clubs to vibey basements and local pubs, these are some of the best spots to catch some live jazz in the city. For the link to find details:

[The best live jazz bars in Melbourne - What's On Melbourne](#)

[Dolly](#) is inside Le Méridien Hotel. Every Saturday, they host free live jazz with local bands. The room is stylish but relaxed, perfect for a late dinner and live tunes. Jazz nights run year-round.

[Springrock](#) is a city pub with free jazz and soul every Friday and Saturday night, from 9pm. The atmosphere is casual and lively. Simply walk in.

Paris Cat Jazz Club: One of Melbourne's most iconic [jazz venues](#) since 2005, with a focus on local talent. The space is intimate and dimly lit, with a cosy underground feel. You can catch jazz shows here almost every night of the week.

[Bird's Basement](#) is the sister club to Birdland in New York. It's a full dinner-and-show setup with table service and a seasonal Italian-leaning menu. There are two shows most nights — a dinner set and a supper session. Expect big names, serious jazz, and a sharp cocktail list. Upstairs, grab a pre-show drink at Jazz Corner Hotel Bar.

[1806](#) is a cocktail bar that hosts live jazz every Thursday and Sunday. It's a moody space with velvet booths and a long, polished bar. The music leans classic, with local musicians playing smooth jazz and standards.

Motley Bauhaus a [laid-back pub](#) hosts free live jazz every Saturday. Anyone can join the jam session, and regulars often bring their instruments. No bookings needed. The vibe is casual and community-focused. Head upstairs for extra space if it's busy.

Things you can only do in the city: [Tour](#) [Entertainment](#)

Visit a museum dedicated to screen time, [ACMI](#) at Federation Square, celebrates screen culture past and present. Explore the program of film festivals, one-off screenings and immersive exhibitions. Go behind the camera at ACMI's free exhibition, [The Story of the Moving Image](#). There's more than a century of movie history to explore. And you can get hands-on at this fun cinema showcase, with animation and sound effects to play with.

Science Gallery Melbourne, 114 Grattan St, Parkville 3052, [Free](#) Exploring the collision of art and science, Science Gallery Melbourne is located in Melbourne Connect, the University of Melbourne's hub for innovation, which aims to involve, inspire and transform curious minds through integrating art and scientific research. With exhibitions, events, and learning initiatives, the gallery shares knowledge and is shaping the next generation of science and technology trailblazers.

RISING: intangible #form, [Free](#), Capital Theatre, 113 Swanston St. 4 June – 15 June. Visit: [2025.rising.melbourne](#)

For a hundred years, The Capitol Theatre has been a prismatic fantasy. Look up and get lost in the crystal cave. Now, artist Shohei Fujimoto morphs the iconic auditorium into a pulsing ocean of lasers. A light-spiked gateway to the edges of perception. For RISING he data-maps The Capitol and transforms it into a large-format kinetic sculpture. An explorable sea of red beams that syncopates with your synapses to our universal understanding of the space. Part of RISING, presented with RMIT University.

Plans For the Planet: Olaf Breuning for Kids, [Free](#), The Ian Potter Centre NGV Melbourne, Federation Square

An exclusive NGV exhibition created by Swiss contemporary artist Olaf Breuning that invites children and families to explore the natural environment and consider their relationship to the world. Championing young voices and a love of the natural world, children can engage with and problem-solve some of today's environmental issues such as deforestation, pollution and loss of habitat for wildlife, while expressing their hopes for a better planet. Using a specially-designed swipe card, kids can go on their own adventure activating animations and multimedia activities to help forest animals save their forest home, make a funny self-portrait and type up their solutions to issues and share their plans for the planet for everyone to see.



[Melbourne – She Shapes History](#)

Walk through Melbourne and you'd be forgiven for thinking women didn't play a central role in shaping the city. Fewer than one in ten place names commemorate them. Only 3% of Victoria's public statues are of women. But look a little closer, and you'll find the city tells a different story.

Melbourne is where a woman helped launch the tram network, where women-led petitions reshaped our democracy, and where trailblazers created Australia's first hit musicals, and defined iconic fashion. It's a city where women built hospitals, opened cafés that became sanctuaries, and carved out space for culture, politics, and protest.

These are the stories that shaped Melbourne. And once you start noticing them, you won't stop. Because when you learn to read the city differently, you realise the women who built it were here all along.

Tours commence at 10:00am from 28 June so make sure to grab some family, friends or colleagues and secure your place now. But hurry – these tours sell out FAST. [She Shapes History - Booking](#)



President Nonie and members warmly invite you and your friends to attend the 81st Annual Luncheon on Monday 30th June 2025, 11.30am for noon, Cost: \$70-00 per person [RSVP: June 23 2025](#)

To be held in Geelong's newest multi- functional entertainment centre, within the Shell Club precinct, cnr Bacchus Marsh Road/ Purnell Road, Corio. Melways Map 432 B8

Our Key Note Speaker Emelia Young, whose groundbreaking research and multidisciplinary work saw her receiving the Ministers Award for Outstanding Leadership in the development of a specialty area incorporaing occupational therapy, maternity care, and support of young parents with disability/ies.

Enquiries: Secretary: Barbara Abley AM Email: rivendell.b@bigpond.com Mobile: 0419358223

Registrations: Anne Parton Email: ivpanne@iinet.net.au phone: 03 52419344

**Please advise dietary requirements, *names of guests to be seated together. Tables of 8.*

PAYMENT due by 23rd June 2025

Preferred Payment by *Direct Deposit to BSB 063512 A/C No 10134722

***PLEASE indicate ANNUAL LUNCHEON and YOUR NAME in the Reference Line**

Enquiries regarding other forms of payments should be directed to:

Treasurer, Jan Kinloch OAM Email: jan@pecs.com.au Mobile: 0408346691

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 2025

Month	Date	Day	Meeting Type	Time	Method
June	16 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	ZOOM
June	19 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
June	30 th	Monday	Geelong's 81 st Annual Luncheon Lazarus Community Centre, Geelong	11:30 for 12:00	Melways Map 432 B8
July	3 rd	Thursday	Council Meeting	17:15	Ross Hse/ZOOM
July	14 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	ZOOM
July	16 th	Wednesday	Cherishing, Challenging Civics, Democracy, Rights & Responsibility	9:00	Queen's Hall Parliament Hse
July	17 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHS
August	7 th	Thursday	Individual Members Annual Meeting; & Council Meeting	11:00, 12:15	Ross Hse/ZOOM
August	18 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	ZOOM
August	22 nd	Friday	My Vote My Voice	9:15	Parliament
August	21 st	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
September	4 th	Thursday	AGM	12:15	Zoom/Ross Hse
September	15 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	ZOOM
September	18 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
October	2 nd	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meetings	11:00, 12:15	tbc
October	13 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	ZOOM
October	16 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
November	6 th	Thursday	Council Meeting	17:15	tbc
November	20 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
November	27 th	Thursday	Annual Luncheon	12:00	William Angliss
December	4 th	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meetings	11:00, 12:15	Tbc
December	18 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
February	1 st	Sunday	Pioneer Women's Ceremony Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden	11:00 – 2:00	King's Domain, St Kilda Rd

This publication is compiled and edited by Pam Hammond, Vice-President NCWV, with support from President, Elida Brereton.