

Founded 1902 ~ Celebrated 123 years in 2025

Newsletter

May 2026

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/>

This is link for our social media LinkedIn profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/national-council-of-women-victoria-inc/> Members with a LinkedIn account, can like the page and share content that they feel resonates with them.

QUOTE: “The United Nations General Assembly declared 8–9 May as a time of remembrance and reconciliation and invited all Member States, organizations of the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and individuals to observe these days ... to pay tribute to all victims of the Second World War. The Assembly called upon Member States to unite efforts in dealing with new challenges and threats, with the UN playing a central role, and to make every effort to settle disputes by peaceful means in conformity with the [Charter of the United Nations](#) in such a manner that international peace and security are not endangered.” Lest We Forget.

From the President, Elida Brereton



Sarah Barnbrook, Ronnieta Milliken, Prof Cassandra Szoeko, Dr Deborah Towns OAM, Pam Hammond and others, worked hard to bring the **Mothers' Day Women's Health event**, Friday May 8th, into fruition. In particular, our joint Hon. Sec, Dr Julie Stevens worked long hours to organise this event from her end, the host RMIT University, and I thank her for her incredible dedication to the task.

NCWA is holding its Mid-term National Conference in Canberra on Sunday June 28th and Monday June 29th and we are awaiting details about the venue, speakers and accommodation, which means that there may be a last minute rush if the information is slow in arriving from NCWA. I do urge those of you able to go to our nation's capital and keen to network and socialise with fellow NCW members from around Australia, to keep these dates free.

We will let you know when registration papers are sent to us. We have a closing date for the submission of resolutions (mid-May), and I thank Robyn Byrne OAM and her Advisers for working on these. At the May Council meeting we allocated time for a sharing of the draft resolutions.

Member and Adviser **Sarah Barnbrook** presented a submission to the **Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability and Insurance Scheme Inquiry into the integrity of the NDIS** on behalf of NCWV and AFK (her company) with our full blessing, with the submission putting a very strong case for the Inquiry to take account of “*the lived realities of participants, carers and families, particularly in regional communities, and to highlight where the system is not yet delivering the safe and sustainable outcomes it is designed to achieve.*” The submission has been very well received with some of her words quoted by members of the Inquiry, and acknowledgement the submission is being taken seriously. Well done Sarah!

The **NCWV Geelong Branch** is holding its annual Luncheon on **Wednesday June 17th** and their hospitality is always warm and the meal, venue, and speaker ---this year our own Sarah Barnbrook -- never fails to please. I urge you to consider making the trip to Geelong for this special event. **Details P4.**

NCWV May Council Meeting, 7 May

Dr. Kirsten Abernethy from **Victoria Women's Trust**, was our speaker. She is a social scientist, researcher, and educator with over 20 years experience working with coastal and seafaring communities across Australia, the UK, and the Pacific. Her work is grounded in feminist values, and her research and advocacy has been centred upon worker's rights, looking at the experiences of women. Kirsten has led research and sector-wide programs focused on women's leadership, workplace inclusion and systemic reform. In 2017, she won the VIC AgriFutures Rural Women's Award.

In 2025 Kirsten was appointed **Executive Director** of the **Victorian Women's Trust** and looks forward to taking the Trust forward in its 40th Anniversary year, by bringing new and relevant projects. She shared her passions with us:

It feels like our two organisations have a natural connection. Both were founded on a belief that women's voices matter and that progress for gender equality does not happen by accident. It happens with intention, because women organise, advocate, act and persist. One thing that I think connects the National Council of Women, Victoria and the Victorian Women's Trust is a shared understanding that representation matters, that women and girls need to see themselves as participants in civic life, not observers of it.

One thing I think about is how leadership begins long before it is recognised through being selected for a leadership program or position. Women are often practising leadership well before they are invited into formal power: advocating for their families/communities, mobilising, influencing people to take action for purposes beyond themselves, seeking and aligning with others in relationships, problem solve and innovate, being responsive and adapting to change, and carrying responsibility in difficult circumstances.

I saw women carrying enormous responsibility while remaining underrepresented at the tables where decisions were made, whether at the kitchen table or the round table. Working and living in rural communities has also sharpened my understanding of how unevenly power is distributed. Not only in a gender context but also between metropolitan and regional communities.

It is my experience in my work, also my own lived experience as a rural woman – facing and seeing the weight of gendered inequality in its many forms—that drew me strongly toward the Victorian Women’s Trust (VWT). Taking on the role of Executive Director felt like the role aligned with my values.

*In 2025 VWT had its 40th birthday. We are an independent feminist organisation founded on a bold vision: that women, girls and gender diverse people deserve safety, opportunity, economic security, and full participation in society. We combine research, advocacy, grant-making, and community engagement to shift power and drive long-term change. VWT commissions research to create public conversation, inform public debate, policy and government decision-making. This year we launched a new program, **Feminist Researcher in Residence Program**, which will tackle an issue at the frontier of gender equality. This year the topic is Artificial Intelligence. We fund grassroots organisations and feminist initiatives that advance equality, amplify underrepresented voices and improve safety. Our annual grants round is now open. We are starting with our young feminists, and building our youth platform and program, **Rosie**, where the next generation of feminists can connect online and in person and activate around issues that matter to them.*

The Trust creates spaces for storytelling, public conversation and expression, through podcasts, writing, journalism, campaigns and cultural projects to amplify women’s voices and experiences in ways that help shift public understanding.

*One of the initiatives I’m most excited about, **Madam Speaker**, launched in 2024, a collaboration between VMT and the agency we work with called You’re Creative.*

Women’s voices and speeches have been relegated to the margins. Excluded from official records, absent from public memory and overlooked in political and cultural recognition. Generations of women’s leadership, advocacy, intellectual contribution and experience have been undervalued, or in many cases erased. As a result, we inherit and learn a version of history that is incomplete, one that too often privileges male perspectives as the dominant public narrative.

Madam Speaker emerged from a simple but powerful idea:

- *It’s a digital speech archive*
- *It’s about ending the invisibility of women’s voices, and ensuring society embraces their authority.*
- *It dismantles the notion that authority is male, by centralising access to women’s words, ideas, and opinions*
- *It’s goal is to reshape perceptions of authority and leadership, creating space for future women leaders, confident in their own voices.*
- *It showcases powerful speeches and public women orations from the 1850s to now. Across politics, arts and culture,*

disability advocacy, gender equity, education, environmental leadership and lots more.

*It is designed as an open, accessible and evolving platform and it can continue to grow over time. Importantly, it also invites community participation. People can contribute speeches, help expand the archive and become part of a broader effort to redefine what women’s leadership actually looks and sounds like in practice. **We need more speeches**, so if anyone has a speech or would like to contribute speeches, please reach out.*

Its potential as an educational resource is enormous and we are thinking about how we can get it in front of educators and of course get funding to supercharge this.

An example, a friend who is an English teacher has developed a Yr 10 Language and Literature Unit using Madam Speaker. The unit is all about analysing and producing persuasive speeches. They are learning to ‘Speak from the Heart’, through analysing Indigenous women’s speeches, women such as Megan Davis, June Oscar, and Casey Sullivan. The feedback from the Year 10s, is that they are loving it. Madam Speaker has the potential to be used across all different subjects and curriculum areas.

To me, Madam Speaker is both a cultural project and a democratic one because the voices we preserve ultimately shapes whose and what leadership we value. It doesn’t define leadership narrowly. It recognises that women have always shaped public life even when those contributions have not always been institutionally recognised.



Contact Kirsten here – kirsten@vwt.org.au

Also at the May Meeting: Ukrainian Women’s Association of Victoria, President Natalya Poshyvailo-Towler gave a brief and passionate report on the unlawful deportation and forced transfer of Ukrainian children by Russia. She told us that this started during the 2014 war by Russia.

This issue has been the subject of international advocacy by Ukrainian women’s organisations, including the *Ukrainian National Women’s League of America*, which has drawn attention to the profound loss, displacement, trauma, and erasure of identity experienced by these children and their families. Information from the *Bring Kids Back UA* initiative indicates that, as at February 2026, there were around 20,000 documented records of deportation or forced transfer, 16,142 cases officially confirmed, and 2,003 children returned.

Natalya explained that these children are re-educated, have Russian passports, speak only Russian and once 18 years of age, enter compulsory military training and may end up in Ukraine, fighting for Russia. Families have no way of tracking children.

Natalya noted Australia's membership in the *International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children* and the possibility of a motion on this issue being prepared for consideration at the NCWA Conference in June. NCWV to assist with this.

NCWV June Individual Members & Council Meetings June 4, 11:00am & 12:15pm, Ross House

Hannah Murray, Company Secretary, YWCA will brief NCWV members at the **Individual Members meeting at 11:15**, for 15 to 20 minutes on the YWCA Board Traineeship program and how that contributes to board renewal, including how the program is set up, advertising, selection, support, training used [for example 3rd party training programs such as those offered by the Institute of Community Directors] onboarding and outcomes/engagement longer term – for trainees and YWCA. Followed by 10 minutes Q&A.

Council meeting speaker to be advised.



This event focussed on the importance of embedding sex-specific health education within the pharmacy curriculum as a first. The evening began with video excerpts from the Government House Women's Health forum, followed by an in-person panel on *redefining health education through teaching sex-specific health within university health degrees*:

- Professor Catherine Itsiopoulos, Deputy Vice-Chancellor STEM College and Vice-President, RMIT University
- Dr Julie Stevens, Pharmacy Program Manager, RMIT
- Professor Cassandra Szoeki, Neurologist, Consultant Physician, Author of *Secrets of Women's Healthy Ageing*
- Ms Atinuke (Tinu) Abraham, Victorian President, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia



Julie stressed differences in the way drugs are absorbed and possible negative interactions between drugs. It is vital that Pharmacists have this included in their training as they are the 'last line of defence' against possible prescription errors. Tinu endorsed this saying that undergraduates who have this training will be more valuable.

Points raised by the Panel included the gap in evidence about differences between Male and Female bodies in relation to diseases/medications and actions by the health professions.

There needs to be updated Codes of Practice and education for health professionals and undergraduates in all Health professions: Medicine, Nursing, Physiotherapy etc. Catherine raised the barriers to curriculum change, saying evidence vital also resourcing and supporting staff, to convince Accreditation bodies and stakeholders.

This was a highly informative event, but the conversation needs to continue for the health of all women and girls

SYLVIA GELMAN AM MBE BEQUEST

It is with pleasure that the Members of the Committee of Management of the Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Bequest announce that Sarah Barnbrook has received a Sylvia Gelman Award. Sarah, a relatively new member to NCWV, is known to Members as holding several Standing Committee portfolios including Communications and Child and Family. Through these portfolios she advocates for the digital safety of children and youth and, in promoting ethical use of AI, warns of its potential dangers through misuse. She is a well-respected speaker on these subjects nationally and internationally. Additionally, and most importantly, Sarah, who is an appointed member of the NCWV Committee, has good positive visions for NCWV, particularly for the recruitment of younger Members.

The Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Award is provided from the Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Bequest. It aims to encourage and promote talent within the NCWV family, stimulate innovation and strengthen NCWV and its Organisations. Members, particularly if recently joined NCWV either as a Delegate or Individual Member, are encouraged to apply for an Award. There is no age restriction.

For further details and application form contact the Convener, Elisabeth Newman: elisabeth_mn@hotmail.com

In addition, the Bequest provides grants for members to attend NCWA Conferences. Attendance at such meetings provides valuable insight into NCWA. A grant covers the registration fee with extra to assist with accommodation and travel costs. With the NCWA Conference scheduled for **June 28th and 29th in Canberra**. Members, both Delegates and Individual Members, are welcome to register interest in attending. We are still waiting on full details from NCWA, thus can't set the value of the grant. Once the value is set we will notify those who have registered interest in attending.

In keeping with Sylvia Gelman's wishes, preference will be given to applicants from new Members. Grants are limited.



Elisabeth Newman AM Convener
Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Bequest
Committee of Management: Hean Bee Wee AM, Alex Jeffreys, Tracey Ahern, Ex-Officio Member and NCWV President Elida Brereton

Mav 6th 2026

President Nonie Crozier and NCWV Geelong Branch members of the National Council for Women Victoria warmly invite you and your friends to join us at our **82nd Annual Luncheon to be held on**

Wednesday 17th June 2026, noon for 12.30pm.

Our luncheon venue is the Pecten Centre located separately within the Shell Club precinct, cnr Bacchus Marsh Road/Purnell Road, Corio entering from the Bacchus Marsh Road Service Road.

Cost: \$75-00 per person. Drinks at Bar Prices.

RSVP: June 7th 2026

Try Booking: <http://www.trybooking.com/DLMBQ>

Raffle proceeds will support a very special community based and funded local programme.

Enquiries: President Nonie Crozier 0409994528



Our Guest Speaker is Sarah Barnbrook, an award-winning international advocate, including United Nations forums as an accredited delegate, a charity leader, and digital safety expert; Founder of *Away from Keyboard Inc.*, a registered Australian charity focused on preventing digital harm and promoting safer, healthier online and offline lives for children, young people, communities and carers.

"New Tools, Old Powers: How Disconnection Makes Women More Vulnerable Online"

This provocative talk reveals how digital tools amplify age-old power imbalances—exacerbating coercion, economic disparity, and exploitation—and how reconnection and agency can disrupt these patterns.

Sarah Barnbrook is an Australian advocate, speaker and social impact leader working at the intersection of human rights, gender equality and emerging technology.

She is the Founder of *Away from Keyboard (AFK) Inc.*, an Australian charity focused on preventing digital harm and promoting safer, healthier online and offline lives for children, young people, carers and communities. She brings practical, human-centred perspectives to some of the most urgent issues of our time, focussing on ensuring innovation expands opportunity rather than deepens harm.

She has spoken nationally and internationally, where she Sarah is also involved in leadership roles across women's advocacy, STEM and governance organisations, helping shape policy, education and community responses to emerging challenges. Known for translating complex global issues into clear local relevance, Sarah empowers audiences to think critically, act confidently and engage with change in meaningful ways, informed, inspired and better equipped to navigate a rapidly changing world.



COTA Wise Helpline: 1300 135 090 | Seniors Rights Victoria Helpline: 1300 368 821

Pam Hammond, NCWV Vice-President and Ronniel Milliken, Past President attended this launch prior to the May Council Meeting. Follows is a message from Jessie.

Thank you for your participation in last week's launch of the *Addressing economic security gaps for older women in Victoria* report! It was great to share core findings from the report with such a passionate and solutions-focused group, and to hear your feedback on potential next steps.

The report can be accessed at the following link: [COTA Victoria website, report link](#). We greatly value your support in sharing the report within your networks and discussing. We would also welcome opportunities to provide further information or engage with any networks or groups who may be interested in learning more about this work.

Thank you again for your engagement and contribution. Warm regards,

Jessie (Marshida) Kolthoff (she/her) | Policy & Advocacy Manager | COTA Victoria | Seniors Rights Victoria

COTA Victoria's Aged Care Navigation Service pilot to address knowledge gaps following Aged Care Act changes

27 March 2026

Aged Care Navigation Service
Monday to Thursday
One-hour phone appts

[Download media release as a PDF](#)

[Register for a free, one-hour phone call](#)

Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria has launched its own Aged Care Navigation Service pilot, designed to fill a growing information gap arising from recent changes to the Aged Care Act and its implementation. Alongside valuable support for older Victorians, the pilot will gather and provide evidence to government that funding for services of this type is vital to older Victorians.

As part of the pilot, members of COTA Victoria's soon-to-be closed Care Finder program team will provide free, personalised advice and recommendations to those struggling to find answers regarding aged care

ADVISER NEWS

Environment Adviser - Pam Robinson AM

This month, as I write my report for our Newsletter, I am aware that on Friday 8 May, Sir David Attenborough turns 100 years. What an amazing and wonderful ground-breaking career he has shared with us – and by bringing us to the forefront of natural history storytelling, he has given us individually and as a world audience, the opportunity to understand nature, and its various plant, animal, and marine communities. A week's long celebration was held in UK and events ranged from community-based activities to more formal recognitions.

The BBC brought the nation together for a live event which took place at London's Royal Albert Hall. The event *transported* audiences on a journey through a century of exploration and discovery – it featured dramatic wildlife stories, accompanied by spoken reflections from public figures and leading advocates for the natural world, alongside some of those he has collaborated with from the world of conservation and wildlife filmmaking. As has been quoted, *“His greatest legacy is not just what he showed us – but what he inspired us to protect” and even at a 100 yrs., Sir David continues to advocate for the planet noting “there’s still more to be done”.*

Accompanied by the BBC Concert Orchestra, it featured original compositions from some of Sir David's best known landmark series. It is expected that this event will be a program on our TVs, so keep an eye out for when that is to be shown. Australia and many other international countries marked Sir David's centenary.

He has championed women in nature and science careers. He has helped elevate women scientists in conservation and this was further cemented by his partnership with leading women such as Jane Goodall (primatologist and anthropologist – the world's preeminent chimpanzee expert who took us on her field research) and Sylvia Earle (marine biologist, oceanographer, National Geographic Explorer at large who holds the record for deepest walk on the sea floor). Additionally he has provided great support for Youth activists and researchers, seeing them as the “great hope” for environmental survival, and validating their concerns about climate change and empowering them to act as future custodians of the planet.

The events also reminded us that doing some good for the environment daily is crucial for building a sustainable future, and small, consistent actions have a significant collective impact. Easy daily habits, whether with energy conservation by turning off unnecessary lights, minimising water use, disposing of glass, paper and electronics/batteries through designated programs are all part of combating ways we can all help the environment and assist improved air quality and part of fighting global warming. In protecting biodiversity small actions such as planting native species supports local pollinators and wildlife and a healthy environment is essential for our health, wellbeing, food, and fibre production.

Key environmental dates in May and early June



20 May - World Bee Day raises awareness of the essential role that bees and other pollinators play in keeping people and the planet healthy. The Australian Farmers' Markets Association and the When Bee Foundation are joining forces to celebrate World Bee Day from 16–24 May, highlighting the vital role bees play in food production. In the lead-up to World Bee Day, the Bring Your Buzz campaign invites people to wear yellow at their local farmers' market, showing support for bees and the food they help grow. There are also some fun things to do with younger people. <https://www.worldbeeday.org.au>
See P.15 for the event Ross House is holding on the day.

5 June - World Environment Day This special day is dedicated to raising global awareness and promoting positive actions that contribute towards protecting the natural world. The global theme focuses on Climate Action. Environment Victoria is having a 2026 Campaign Launch on Saturday 23 May. Events happening on 5 June include:

La Trobe University, (Bundoora): Humanitix event features a 'TED-style talk and research showcase'; Manningham Council 'Inspired Living Series'. Many events are listed on Council websites and local event platforms. <https://.worldenvironmentday.global>

8 June - World Oceans Day - Action Theme for 2026 is “Strong Marine Protected Areas for Our Blue Planet”. This theme focuses on supporting the global goal of protecting at least 30% of the world's lands, waters, and oceans by 2030. The theme emphasizes creating and strengthening Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) to safeguard ocean wildlife, habitats, and overall ecosystems health. Stronger MPAs are identified as a critical, nature-based solution to combat the climate and biodiversity crisis. The purpose of the Day is to inform us all of the impact of human actions on the oceans. World Oceans Day is observed by all UN Member States, of which Australia is one.



Key events include community beach clean-ups, educational programs by Conservation Volunteers Australia and contacting local Councils will be able to lead you to activities.

Environment Education Victoria (EEV): <https://www.eev.vic.edu.au>

Conservation Volunteers Aust: <https://www.conservationaustralia.org.au>

Australia was host to the first International Marine Protected Areas Congress in 2005, (IMPAC 1) and was initiated by an idea following the declaration by the Victorian Government of 24 new MPAs in 2002. I am proud to have been on the Parks Victoria Board Committee who lead the development of the first IMPAC with the international event being held in Geelong. IMPAC is held every 4 years around the world and has been held in USA, France, Chile, and Canada. Senegal will host it in 2027.

Photo: Dr Jon Day PSM, formerly Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and IMPAC 1 to IMPAC World Committee, Government Minister of the Senegal Delegation and Pam Robinson AM at handover from IMPAC 5 Canada to IMPAC 6 in Senegal 2027, with hand crafted Indigenous Paddle. Photo source: Pam R

Children's Garden – Royal Children's Hospital

The Children's Garden at The Royal Children's Hospital is a special place for patients, their families, staff, and visitors to enjoy – whether as a place to relax or indeed to participate as a volunteer with 'hands on'. One can imagine, for a patient, to be able to walk out of the hospital into a garden – a garden that is alongside Royal Park – it gives not only a chance to be in the fresh air but also to be in nature which provides emotional comfort, solace, and healing for physical, mental, and spiritual pain.

If you would like to learn more about the stories from the garden at The Royal Children's Hospital or could support in either financial or volunteer ways, contact Annalese Fowler below – who in turn will provide you with further information. annalese.fowler@rch.org.au | rchfoundation.org.au

Habitat Adviser until 2024: Birute Don

NCWV is sharing this article to honour the memory of Birute Don, past Habitat Adviser who constantly advocated for this.

[Moves to wind up cladding safety body - Parliament of Victoria](#)

The Legislative Assembly has debated a new bill to formally wind up *Cladding Safety Victoria*, marking the final stages of the state's response to the combustible cladding crisis that emerged after high-profile apartment fires over a decade ago.

The [Cladding Safety Victoria Repeal Bill 2026](#) seeks to abolish Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) as a standalone agency, repeal the *Cladding Safety Victoria Act 2020*, and transfer remaining responsibilities to the state's building regulator, now transitioning into the Building and Plumbing Commission (BPC).

Member for Dandenong Gabrielle Williams said CSV was established following the recommendation of a taskforce established in the wake of the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire in London as well as several cladding related fires in Australia.

'CSV's ground-breaking approach to identifying, assessing, classifying and treating combustible cladding risk has saved lives, and it has saved building owners hundreds of millions of dollars.' said Gabrielle Williams. She said CSV, along with building owners, owners' corporations and Fire Services Victoria, had completed remediation on more than 99 per cent of the highest-risk buildings in the Cladding Rectification Program, being more than 1,600 buildings, representing around 83,000 homes. While the opposition has confirmed it will not oppose the bill, Coalition MPs raised concerns about the transition and the risk of unresolved works falling through regulatory gaps.

'We need to make sure that as we morph into and transform into another entity, we are doing the work that needs to happen not only here in Melbourne, because we do see a lot of high-rise buildings that have cladding on them, but also around regional Victoria, so that we are capturing every building that these products were used on,' he said.

Ellen Sandell, Member for Melbourne, whose electorate includes many of the buildings affected by cladding said *"It was a failure of government regulation that this flammable cladding was allowed to be imported and then was allowed to be installed on buildings. I would reserve judgement on the bill's success until it became clear how well the new regulator was resourced and how remaining cases would be handled."* While acknowledging that Cladding Safety Victoria had improved safety outcomes, she criticised what she described as years of regulatory failure that allowed flammable cladding to be imported and installed in the first place. *'It was a failure of government regulation that this flammable cladding was allowed to be imported and then was allowed to be installed on buildings,'* Ms Sandell said.

She said apartment owners continued to face financial, emotional and legal burdens linked to building defects and owners corporation disputes, warning that unresolved issues could undermine confidence in higher-density living.

Young People Seeking Help in Their Own Right

As part of my role as Youth Adviser, I have reviewed the new report *Seeking help in their own right* (Fitz-Gibbon, 2025), which examines how young people experience family violence crisis services in Victoria. The findings highlight that while reforms have advanced since the Royal Commission into Family Violence, young people are still too often overlooked and treated as secondary to adults.

Young people reported significant barriers in seeking help, including a lack of age-appropriate services, low awareness of supports, and frequent experiences of being excluded from decision-making. Many described feeling invisible, unsupported, or pushed into homelessness services rather than family violence responses. The report calls for earlier intervention in schools, youth-specific crisis pathways, independent access to housing, financial support, and the development of youth-friendly online platforms. It also stresses the importance of embedding young people's voices into system design.

For NCWV, this is an urgent advocacy priority, continue to press for reforms that ensure children and young people are recognised as victim-survivors, help deliver a safer, responsive system that supports young people to recover, and thrive.

What Young People Say They Need. -Young participants articulated clear recommendations for change:

- Earlier intervention and education: Schools to be resourced as trauma-informed entry points and to provide respectful relationships education consistently.
- Dedicated youth pathways: Youth-specific family violence crisis services and housing options that are safe, trauma-informed, and confidential.
- Independent access: Ability to access housing, financial, and support services without parental consent when unsafe.
- Technology-enabled access: Youth-friendly online platforms, self-assessment tools, and information via social media.
- Youth-centred design: Embedding lived experience in systems reform and decision-making.

Implications for NCWV Advocacy

These findings present a call to action for NCWV. We are uniquely placed to:

1. Advocate nationally for youth-specific family violence refuges and crisis pathways that move beyond adult-centric assumptions.
2. Support reforms to consent laws so that young people escaping violence can independently access essential services.
3. Champion education reform by advocating for trauma-informed, family-violence trained staff in schools and embedding social workers into secondary schools.
4. Promote technology-enabled tools that give young people safe, confidential, and accessible ways to seek help.
5. Ensure young voices are heard in policy consultations and program design, recognising them as victim-survivors in their own right, not only as dependents of adults.

Action Priorities for NCWV

Based on findings of *Seeking help in their own right* (Fitz-Gibbon, 2025), the following strategies are recommended as priorities for NCWV to advance:

1. Advocate for Youth-Specific Crisis Pathways

- Write to relevant Ministers (Families, Youth, Women, Education) to call for youth family violence crisis services and refuges.
- Prioritise advocacy for the removal of parental consent requirements that prevent young people from independently accessing housing, Centrelink, and financial supports when unsafe.

2. Strengthen the Role of Schools

- Work with Victorian Department of Education to embed family violence social workers in secondary schools, start with pilot.
- Advocate for trauma-informed professional development for teachers/staff to better identify and respond to disclosures.

3. Raise Youth Awareness Through Accessible Information

- Partner with organisations such as *eSafety*, *Safe Steps*, and youth-led networks to co-develop a youth-friendly online resource hub with clear crisis pathways and self-referral options.
- Support a statewide youth awareness campaign across schools and social media to normalise help-seeking and ensure young people know their rights.

4. Centre Young Voices in Reform

- Commit to applying a youth lens across all NCWV submissions, policy letters, and consultations to ensure young people are recognised as victim-survivors in their own right.

5. Build Cross-Sector Partnerships

- Convene a roundtable with youth homelessness services, family violence specialists, and policymakers to explore joint advocacy on housing and service access.
- Strengthen partnerships between NCWV, frontline services, and youth organisations to amplify shared priorities and ensure coordinated action.

Conclusion: This report confirms what many young people have long told us: the systems designed to protect them are often the hardest to access. By centring youth voices and driving systemic reform, NCWV can help ensure that no young person is invisible, unsupported, or silenced when seeking safety from violence.

Royal Commission Submissions, from Nina Richwol, NCWV Delegate, WIZO

Dar Friends,

The email below has a link to an outstanding recording of a webinar briefing on making a submission on to the Royal Commission on Antisemitism & Social Cohesion. A one-hour program, it is very informative: https://youtu.be/jQnhhJSO_m8

Neil Pharoah, specialist in helping organisations navigate government and shape the policy and funding systems they work within, together with Alley Steele, CEO of Jewish Centre for Justice and Law, set out what the Royal Commission wants to know, and how to make your submission as effective as possible for Jewish and non-Jewish Australians and privacy matters.

The Commission wants to know your experience or observation of antisemitism, i.e., where did it happen?

How antisemitism has affected those around you- your friends, family community?

A time that antisemitism directed at someone else or community has changed how you see Australia today.

Without our submissions to the Royal Commission, Australia is at risk of becoming more fractured society.

Thank you for considering making your submission.

Link to make your submission to the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion:

[Submissions | Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion](#)

Thank you, Nina Richwol

Submissions close at the end of May.

Standing Committee Coordinator: Robyn Byrne OAM

Join a conversation on International Consortium of Journalists (ICIJ)'s latest investigation, [Cancer Calculus](#).

The project examines global pricing and access issues surrounding Merck & Co.'s blockbuster cancer drug Keytruda.

- Date: Monday, May 18, 2026
- Time: 1 p.m. ET, this is 3:00am in Australian Eastern States!
- Duration: 1 Hour
- To register: Click [HERE](#)

ICIJ's chief reporter Sydney Freedberg will be joined by Serif Health's lead data scientist Bill Pajeroski.

Explore how *Keytruda* became a case study in the global tension between medical innovation, pharmaceutical profits and equitable access to care, shedding light on the economic and ethical questions shaping cancer treatment worldwide.

The event will include:

- A look at how the investigation unfolded
- Key findings and why they matter
- Behind-the-scenes insights from the reporting
- Audience Q&A

Social Issues Adviser: Dr Yee Man Louie

Summary Report: BSL Talks Webinar – *Thriving Kids, thriving families, thriving communities*

The following summarises the key insights from a recent BSL Talks webinar on the *Thriving Kids* national reform.

The panel included **Dr Caroline Croser-Barlow** (CEO, The Front Project and Thriving Kids Advisory Group member), **Professor Sharon Goldfeld** (Centre for Community Child Health, Murdoch Children's Research Institute), **Tanya Oxlade** (BSL Head of Disability Services, Programs and Innovation), and **Leah Robertson** (BSL Senior Manager, Early Years).

What Thriving Kids Is — and Why It Matters: Dr Caroline Croser-Barlow opened by explaining that *Thriving Kids* is a **\$4 billion, five-year investment** by State, Territory and Commonwealth governments aimed at shifting developmental trajectories for children aged eight and under, particularly those with developmental delay and/or autism with low-to-moderate support needs.

Critically, she emphasised that this is not a single program, but a portfolio of supports organised into two streams: universal parenting and community supports available to all families, and targeted allied health and capacity-building supports for those with more specific needs.

The fundamental logic shift, moves away from the old "find and fix" model — where a child must first receive a diagnosis to access help — toward enriching the everyday environments where children already live, learn and play.

Monash University: Specialised PD Training: Supporting interpreters: working with victim survivors of sexual violence from multicultural communities

Who is this for? NAATI-certified interpreters based in Victoria working in complex and sensitive settings

Why this program? Monash University, in partnership with the Victorian Government and Sexual Assault Services Victoria, has developed a specialised training program to support interpreters working with victim survivors from multicultural communities.

What will I learn in this program? Practical strategies for interpreting in sensitive environments Deeper understanding of sexual violence contexts & terminology Tools for ethical decision-making Focus on interpreter wellbeing and self-care
Program format: 4 self-paced online modules (2-month access)

Interactive activities + real-world scenarios

Live 3-hour expert session (ethics & self-care)

What's included? Full access to all training materials

40 NAATI PD Points + extra 10 PD points for attendance at the interactive presentation.

Monash digital credential (badge)

Cost: Fully sponsored for Victorian-based NAATI certified interpreters (worth \$250).

How do I register? [Register here](#) Please contact us at: arts-research-pm@monash.edu

When? Registrations opens: 8 June 2026; Course Opens: 15 June 2026; Course Closes: 16 August 2026



Nominations for the [Victorian Senior of the Year Awards](#) are open!

These awards recognise older Victorians who make outstanding contributions to their communities, including through promoting multiculturalism, inclusion and community connection.

Nominations close 19 May 2026.

Program information will be available in 16 languages when nominations open. Learn more or submit a nomination via Seniors Online Victoria.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/awards>

Olivia Newton John Cancer Institute

Join Us for a Community Event that Puts Patient Voices at the Heart of Research.

Monday 18th May 2026 6.00pm – 7.30pm

ONJCRI, Level 5, ONJ Building, 145 Studley Road, Heidelberg, VIC, 3084

We're hosting a community event focused on the power of patient advocacy and how partnering with researchers helps shape meaningful, impactful research.

Come along to:

- Hear directly from our researchers about why patient perspectives are essential to their work
- Learn from current patient advocates as they share what partnering with us means to them
- Go behind the scenes with a guided tour of one of our labs
- Connect with others who are passionate about advocacy
- Enjoy light refreshments in a welcoming, relaxed setting

To register your attendance please contact: patientadvocacy@onjcri.org.au

ARTS NEWS

I was interviewed after a panel discussion and presentation when I was on at the Arts Centre Melbourne about my work!

TV program "A New You" My episode goes to air at 7 on Tuesday 19th of May on Ch31 and on ctvplus.org.au.

Kindly, Güler Altunbas, NCWV Individual Member.

OTHER NEWS

Victorian Multicultural Commission (VVC)

Dear friends and community,

The Victorian Budget 2026/27 brings welcome news for multicultural and multi-faith communities — further information can be found [here](#). Many of you would know amongst the many areas the VMC has been advocating for, supporting our seniors is one that is close to my heart, and to that of many. I am pleased to see it continuing. Further details can be found in the Budget papers [here](#).

The release of the [State Disability Plan and the Victorian Autism Plan](#) marks a significant step in building inclusive, coordinated support for all Victorians, including multicultural communities. Both plans were shaped by extensive engagement with people with disability, Autistic people, families and carers. Your feedback is invited to help shape future support. On a related note, I encourage you all to complete the [Victorian Multicultural Health Survey](#), open until 31 May and available in 14 languages. Inclusion is not a single policy — it is a thread that runs through everything we do.

The [Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion](#) released its interim report, examining the threat environment, law enforcement responses, and the systemic changes required to better protect communities. Its findings are sobering. Social inclusion must be actively tended, and the safety of every community depends on that sustained attention.

ANZAC Day on 25 April offered a moment of national reflection, reflecting on the story of service in this country has long been shaped by people of many cultural and faith backgrounds, and people from First Nations. These moments of reflection help us think about and take action on the future we want to be.

The weeks that follow bring their own occasions: the Hung Vuong Festival, Vesak, Tongan White Sunday, Cinco de Mayo. Each marks a moment of reflection, renewal or celebration, and I extend my best wishes to all those marking these meaningful occasions across Victoria.

We look ahead now to Mother's Day on 10 May. Across Victoria's multicultural communities, mothers carry and shape the continuity of culture itself — language, memory and identity moving through daily life, across generations and across borders. This is not only something passed on, but something lived and renewed in families every day, and it reaches well beyond them into the wider fabric of our society. As a mother, it is a contribution I hold close.

To every mother, my warmest wishes.

Vivienne Nguyen AM, Chairperson, Victorian Multicultural Commission

LAUNCH

Stop waiting. Start leading.

The Multicultural Executive Accelerator (MEC) is a 9-month, mentor-matched cohort for professionals ready to **step into leadership** and **accelerate** their careers.

DESIGNED TO HELP YOU:

- Step into leadership with clarity and confidence.
- Gain access to senior leaders and decision-makers.
- Build influence without losing your authenticity.
- Navigate the unspoken rules of leadership.

**This is not a course.
This is a career-defining cohort experience.**

APPLY NOW >

apoc.community

9-MONTH PROGRAM MENTOR-MATCHED LIMITED SPOTS. CAREFULLY CURATED.

Multicultural Executive Accelerator –

Applications are now open for a new cohort of the Multicultural Executive Accelerator, a curated leadership program designed to support multicultural professionals to build visibility, confidence and influence in their careers.

Applicants will also receive a Career Clarity resource and the full program brochure upon submission.

The program will select 15 participants to ensure a personalised, high-impact experience with tailored mentoring and support.

More information and applications are available through the program's official channels.

Apply Now

Leadership Institute: We're heading back to Melbourne with two incredible events designed to support women at every stage of their leadership journey.

Women In Leadership Summit Melbourne, 26 - 29 May, 2026 Melbourne, [EXPLORE EVENT](#)

EA/PA Leadership Summit Melbourne, 26 - 29 May, 2026 Melbourne, [EXPLORE EVENT](#)



Melbourne 2026 - A Defining Moment for Indigenous Leadership - From Recognition to Power

[Indigenous Leadership Summit](#) is returning to Melbourne this June. This year's theme, *From Recognition to Power*, focuses on what comes after acknowledgement and what it truly means to translate commitment into action.

With the passage of the statewide treaty legislation in late 2025, Victoria has become the first state in Australia to move beyond recognition and into a new phase of Indigenous self-determination, shared authority and decision making.

This June, we will gather to continue that work and create a space where Indigenous leadership is visible and supported. It is designed to move conversations forward, challenge assumptions and deepen understanding of what leadership looks like when power is shared and outcomes are real. This summit invites Indigenous and non Indigenous leaders alike to engage, participate and take responsibility for the role they play in shaping the future of leadership in this.

You'll hear from incredible speakers including:

- **Jessica Mauboy**, *Internationally Acclaimed Singer, Songwriter and Cultural Leader*
- **Katriina Heikkanen**, *Indigenous Business Lead GHD*
- **Glenn Milliken**, *Head of First Nations Strategy BUPA*
- **Scott Gorringe**, *Director and CEO Murri Matters*

16 - 19 June 2026 | Novotel Melbourne [Download Event Guide](#) [Register For The Summit Here](#)

In November, the Women Leadership Institute's *Pathways to Politics for Women* proudly marked its ten-year anniversary. It has evolved from a Victorian-only pilot into a national initiative delivered in collaboration with eight leading universities.

Today the impact speaks volumes:

- 92 electoral successes across all levels of government
- 64 alums currently serving in parliaments and councils nationwide
- A diverse network of more than 750 alums, backed by post-program support, one-to-one mentoring, masterclasses and safety initiatives

The Leadership Institute also launched – [Celebrating 10 Years of Impact](#) a rich collection of interviews, stories and reflections from alums, collaborators and their team. This publication is, above all, a celebration of our wonderful community – women's voices, achievements, and role in shaping the Australian political landscape. The Institute invites you to spend time exploring the publication. Read here: [Publication: Celebrating 10 years of impact - Pathways to Politics](#)

Melbourne Women's Foundation: Housing security for women: learn, connect, and accelerate change

A special event and conversation with leaders working at the forefront of housing insecurity will share what is happening on the ground and what is needed next. The issue is complex, often linked to domestic and family violence, mental health, job insecurity and the rising cost of living. It can be difficult to see where meaningful change can happen.

- > What will it take to respond the growing need for affordable housing?
- > What are the current housing challenges faced by migrants and refugees?
- > What is needed to support women's access to safe community housing?

Date: Wednesday 13 May 2026

Time: 6pm for a 6.30pm start

Venue: Hall & Wilcox, Level 31, Queen & Collins Tower, 376-390 Collins Street, Melbourne (Enter via 100 Queen Street)

[Register](#)

This is the article and photo by Women's Agenda on the April 4 Corners report.

Why women are more affected when universities struggle, by [Dr Marg Rogers](#)



The ABC's Four Corners investigation into course cuts, staff cuts, [university corporatisation](#) and alleged financial mismanagement, aired on Monday night in April, revealed the worrying impact this is having on students, academics and the community. There are failures and struggles that unfairly affect women. [Australian women](#) are more likely than men to study at university and graduate with a degree. They are also more likely to study higher degrees, such as honours, masters and PhDs. So, when universities struggle financially, restructure, reduce staff, and change their course offerings, many women's degrees are affected.

Cut units and courses can leave students with half-finished courses and units they did not want to study. It may mean they have to study elsewhere and apply for credit for the units already completed. This process is often messy, leaving students with units that do not count toward the next degree. So, they end up paying more for their qualification. This is particularly difficult for women, who often earn less as they experience a [graduate gender pay gap](#). They are more likely to have time out of the workforce as they juggle caring and household responsibilities. This means their student loans ([HECS debts](#)) are longer and larger as they are [indexed each year](#).

Arts and Humanities degrees (more popular among women) have been particularly affected since the Liberal Government introduced the [Job-Ready Graduates Package](#) during the pandemic, severely cutting student numbers, as these degrees have doubled in price.

Many have been surprised that the Labour Government has not addressed this. They say it is complicated to change back. But for female arts graduates earning less than male counterparts, it will be complicated to repay a \$50,000 student loan.

Staff cuts: The combination of the Job-Ready Graduates package, continued reductions in Government funding (to half of what it was in the 1980s), and the reliance on disaster-management tactics by [consultancy firms](#) has led to many job losses and course cuts across the sector. Women's jobs are more likely than men's to be cut in universities. While over half of university staff are women, [pay gaps persist](#) because they are [over-represented](#) in lower-paid casual, professional, or junior academic roles. They are under-represented in senior leadership, where these questionable decisions are made.

Australian research reveals that two-thirds of university staff reported very high levels of [workload pressure](#), resulting in poor work-life balance. [Another study](#) showed Australian academics worked nearly twice as many hours as they were paid for. A quarter of them reported moderate to severe levels of anxiety and depression. Additionally, to support the corporate business model, there is also more pressure for academics to publish. This ultimately affects society, who need research to solve the complex issues we face in our world. When research is delayed or not published, we all lose out.

ABC's Four Corners revealed the [extent of challenges](#) facing universities in a time of reduced government funding. Universities need to realise that their most precious resources are their students, professional staff and academics. Governments need to fund universities properly, remove the unfair disadvantage faced by women in this sector, and exercise greater oversight of what universities are doing.

Women's Agenda: Wednesday, 29th April 2026, Article and photo by **Angela Priestley**, Publisher & Co Founder



The backlash against women's rights globally is seriously well-funded. So why isn't the fightback? It's a question I've been pondering from *Women Deliver*, learning about the incredible work achieved while also contending with some elephants in the room. The rise of autocracy. The rise of misogyny.

The concentration of power in the hands of "tech bros"; the huge funding and organising that goes into breaking down what women have achieved. [How can we counter this?](#)

This is what Julia Gillard and Dr Mahlia Kahn had to [say on these issues](#).

Dr Kahn said that some of the gains made for women have been taken for granted, and those seeking to protect and extend women's rights need to become more organised, and recognise the scale of what we're up against.

"We need to recognise that all the funding that flows into the system... should also flow into the feminist movement, the rights movement, youth movements, which we've been very, very reluctant to fund and organise in really concrete ways," she said.

She described Hungary's recent democratic success story as proof of what can be achieved. *"Victor Orbán was thoroughly defeated in an election. ... What [the opposition] did campaign against was the centralisation of power, the moving away from Europe, and the attack on rights."*

Gillard highlighted an uncomfortable idea that needs more attention: the fact that, despite massive cuts to overseas development, especially for feminist and women-led organisations and initiatives supporting women's health, there has been little pushback from voters. *"Around the world, major donors have cut back overseas development assistance spectacularly, not just the US, the UK, France, Germany, Japan. As far as I'm aware, in none of those democracies have those cutbacks caused voter distress, voter protests, or voters going to see their local member of parliament... It has effectively been, in most democracies, a pain-free cutback,"* she said. *"Despite multiple years of campaigning to build community support for overseas development assistance, we didn't win hearts and minds."*

Gillard and Kahn also responded to questions on the centralisation of power in the hands of a few tech leaders. *"We have already seen a major transfer of power from citizens, from nation states, to technology companies,"* Gillard said. *"It's the sense of loss of control of your information that technology companies now extract so much information from individuals."* *"When we look at nation states, the impact of social media on community polarisation, on understanding the difference between facts and conspiracy, the intersection of social media and corrosion in democracies. We can all think of examples of where it's really told in tearing communities apart or having an impact on electoral outcomes."*

She is also optimistic about what can be done and even the idea of AI supporting more good. Gillard also highlighted the Australian social media ban as proof that legislation ending social media access to young people can be popular, and that popularity highlights the community's desire for change.

Kahn urged those feeling defeated by the power imbalance of tech leaders ([described as 'demi-gods' by The Economist](#)) to look to history and see that there have been worse times, and that there have been unelected leaders controlling things globally whom many people fail to even name anymore. She outlined the William Randolph Hearst parallel, a newspaper publishing [baron in the 1800s](#). He controlled everything back in the day. He was one of the world's richest men, and he controlled almost all the media in the US. And at that time, there was so much written about how dangerous it was to have such concentrated power. Kahn said *"The fact that most of you have never heard of him gives us a huge amount of optimism that maybe our grandchildren will be like, 'Musk, who the hell?'"*

Gillard shared a powerful line to reframe the task ahead. *"We want to be breaking glass ceilings, but we've also got to make sure we're standing on concrete floors, that the things we already know that we have can't suddenly crumble away."*

Tradeswomen Australia

We want girls, women and non-binary to feel safe, secure and comfortable at every workplace, and be able to participate in the career of their choice. We want to help employers create safe and healthy workplaces so that their skills shortages can confidently be filled by this previously untapped workforce. We offer a range of programs and services including trades workshops, trades information sessions, practical career support, access to qualified employers, and gender diversity and inclusion training for trades workplaces.

Learn more about our [research](#), [media coverage](#) and [blog posts](#) for further information on the barriers tradeswomen face and what Tradeswomen Australia are doing to solve them.

Newsletter, 23/03/2026: [TWA supported Sarah in her career – and look at her now!](#) TWA is proud to announce one of our placed apprentices, Sarah Hunn-Mozes, has been named Victorian Female Apprentice of the Year in 2025! [Read more](#)



Sarah Hunn Mozes



[Congratulations to Star Bux, recipient of 2026 Alice Anderson Award](#)

TWA congratulates this year's recipient of the Alice Anderson Award! Kangan Institute's Industry Excellence Awards were handed out at a gala event at Melbourne Showgrounds, where the transformative power of practical education was on full display. The evening celebrated students and apprentices whose dedication and skill are shaping not only their own futures, but the industries and communities around them. [Read more](#)

[Powering Her Pathway EOI now open!](#)

Tradeswomen Australia (TWA) is now taking expressions of interest from women looking to power up their careers in the clean energy sector. The Powering Her Pathway program provides a road map for women interested in entering clean energy trades. [Read more](#)



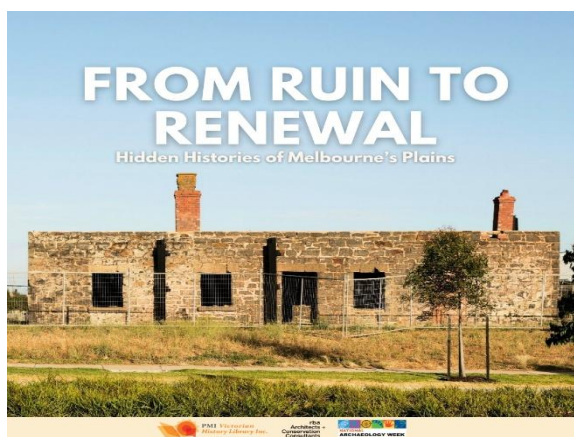
**PMI Victorian
History Library Inc.**

Monthly Newsletter, April 24, 2026

Enjoy our latest blog post, [Hidden in Plain Sight: A History of Australian Women at Work](#). Along with the many other women mentioned, we enjoyed the short look at Patricia Clarke. She was the only woman to work at the *Australian News and Information Bureaus* in the early 1950s.



*Examine **artefact-rich deposits** and conservation methods, **19 May***



*Explore how **heritage experts** reimagine the role of ruins, **21 May***

First Australian woman to swim seven of world's most dangerous channels: Triathlete Joanne Norman



A shark attack victim from Western Australia has become the first Australian woman to complete the gruelling [Oceans Seven](#) swimming challenge. The marathon feat involves swimming across seven of the world's most dangerous channels, including the Strait of Gibraltar, English Channel, Cook Strait and North Channel. Triathlete Joanne Norman, who hails from Geraldton, became only the 43rd person to complete the swim, which totals more than 200 kilometres in open water. Norman began her seven swim endeavour five years ago, ticking off her [first swim across the English Channel](#) in July 2021, to mark her 50th birthday. She said it was amazing to be the first Australian woman. After completed her first swim, she explained her drive for taking on the challenge. "I love my sport, and I also enjoy knowing what my body can do and pushing boundaries," [she said in 2021](#) to the ABC.

"It's kind of who I am ... I've always been stubborn, resilient, determined. Getting out of a comfort zone and being uncomfortable, but knowing that while you're uncomfortable you can do many things. I guess that's sort of a life thing ...if you want to achieve anything that's worth doing, you have to get out of your comfort zone."

Over the next four years, she completed the remaining six ocean swims: in April 2023, she crossed Strait of Gibraltar from Spain to Morocco; in October she crossed the Catalina Channel from Santa Catalina Island to the Palos Verdes Peninsula in Southern California; in January 2024, she crossed the Cook Strait from the North Island of New Zealand to the South Island; in September she crossed the North Channel between Northern Ireland and Scotland. In March 2025, she completed the Molokai Channel; in July 2025, she completed the Tsugaru Channel in northern Japan. Finally, earlier this month, she walked off the shore at North Pāpōhaku Beach on Molokai Island in the middle of the night, completing the final leg of the [Oceans Seven](#) after the final 41km leg, which took her 14 hours and 15 minutes.

What makes Norman's achievement even more astonishing is that during her attempt to swim the Moloka'i channel last year, she was mauled by a cookie cutter shark. The wound on her abdomen took six weeks to heal after stomach surgery.

Ross House Members and Tenants: Please join us to celebrate World Bee Day!



Come and enjoy some delicious morning tea, and hear from guest speaker, Robert, from Bee Sustainable.

Wednesday 20th May 2026,

11:30am - 1:30pm

Ross House Foyer and Jenny Florence Room, Level 3.

NO RSVP required, just turn up!

Please share this among your staff and volunteers

We hope to see you there!

Warm regards, The Ross House Team

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 2026

Month	Date	Day	Meeting Type	Time	Method
May	7 th	Thursday	Council Meeting	12:00	Ross Hse/ZOOM
May	9 th	Friday	Women's Health Panel Special Screening + live panel.	4:30pm	RMIT Lecture Theatre, Building 80, Swanston St
May	17 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	RHSV and ZOOM
May	21 st	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
June	4 th	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meetings	11:00, 12:15	Ross Hse/ZOOM
June	16 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	ZOOM
June	17 th	Wednesday	Geelong Annual Luncheon	12:00pm	Pecten Centre, Shell Club
June	18 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
July	2 nd	Thursday	Council Meeting	17:15	Ross Hse/ZOOM
July	13 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	ZOOM
July	16 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHS
August	6 th	Thursday	Individual Members Annual Meeting; & Council Meeting	11:00, 12:15	Ross Hse/ZOOM
August	17 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	ZOOM
August	21 st	Friday	My Vote My Voice	9:15	Parliament
August	20 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
September	3 rd	Thursday	AGM	12:15	Ross Hse/ZOOM
September	13 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	ZOOM
September	17 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
October	1 st	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meetings	11:00, 12:15	tbc
October	12 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	ZOOM
October	15 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
November	5 th	Thursday	Council Meeting	17:15	Ross Hse/ZOOM
November	16 th	Monday	Standing Committee Meeting	16:30	ZOOM
November	19 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
November	24	Tuesday	Annual Luncheon	12:00	William Angliss
December	3 rd	Thursday	Individual Members & Council Meetings	11:00, 12:15	Ross Hse/ZOOM
December	17 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting	10:00	RHSV
			Pioneer Women's Ceremony		

This publication is compiled and edited by Pam Hammond, Vice-President NCWV, with support from President, Elida Brereton. NCWV is inviting expressions of interest to work with the current editor on the Monthly Newsletter.

Please contact with a CV to: info@ncwvic.org.au