



NATIONAL COUNCIL of WOMEN of WESTERN AUSTRALIA Inc.

Dedicated to the Advancement of Women and their Families

PATRON: Hon Kerry Sanderson AC **VICE PATRON:** Janet Davidson OAM JP **PRESIDENT:** Robyn Nolan **SECRETARY:** Helen McDonagh **TREASURER:** Sally Plummer

Rod Evans Community Centre
Phone 9325 8897

email: ncwwa@inet.net.au

PO Box 6224 East Perth 6892
website: www.ncwwa.org.au

President's Message March 2018



Dear Members

Another International Women's Day (IWD) has passed- it was first celebrated in 1914 in Germany dedicated to the fight for women's right to vote. Then quite a number of years later it was in 1975 that the UN introduced a celebration day for women's rights and world peace. Much has happened since then for women however there is still much that needs to be done.

This year I was invited to Kununurra to be guest speaker at a IWD event on Saturday 10



L-R Maria Chan, Robyn Nolan, Christina Askew

March 2018. Over 150 women came together to attend the evening. Thank you to Kununurra Neighbourhood House, Christina Askew and Maria Chan for making

the weekend very enjoyable and informative. The Breakfast meeting on the Sunday morning saw over 30 key stakeholders including the Police, Local Government and

educators come together-which was a great opportunity to hear firsthand the critical issues facing the community.

The weekend also gave me an opportunity to promote NCWWA and its advocacy work- there are a number of critical issues that must be discussed with the Federal and State government as a matter of urgency.



L-R Sally Plummer, Her Excellency the Hon Kerry Sanderson AC, Robyn Nolan

I also had the opportunity to attend the National Press Club International Women's Day address from the Minister for Women the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP, which was held on Tuesday 6 March 2018. It was an opportunity to hear first hand from the new Minister for Women and an opportunity to invite her personally to be one of the

In This Edition

Page 1-2:
Page 3:
Page 4-5
Page 5:
Page 6:
Page 6:

President's Message
Standing committee advisers
Standing Committee Reports
Date of next meeting
IWD breakfast
Fundraising

speakers at the NCWA Triennial Conference in October.

Last Tuesday Sally Plummer and I represented NCWA at the Royal Commonwealth Society Western Australia Commonwealth Day Youth Harmony Program. It was a great opportunity to catch up again with the NCWWA Patron Her Excellency the Hon Kerry Sanderson AC Governor of Western Australia.



Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP Minister for Women pictured with Robyn Nolan

As you are all aware Her Excellency concludes her term at the end of April 2018. NCWWA is hoping to have an event to thank Her Excellency for her contribution as Patron during the last three years.

Next Wednesday I will be representing NCWWA at the NCWA Garden Party hosted by Lady Cosgrove in Canberra. Along with Barbara Baikie NCWA President I will be meeting with Lady Cosgrove prior to the event. The event will be attended by delegates from all States and the ACT along with sponsors and speakers from the NCWA Mid-term conference. Over 100 people will be attending the Garden Party including two other women from WA.

Planning has now started for the next NCWA Triennial Conference to be held at the QT Hotel in Canberra 17-19 October 2018. A dinner will be held on Thursday 18 October 2018 with a high profile guest speaker.

It is hoped that a conference brochure will be available in the next couple of months -this year the Conference will look at likely solutions to a number of critical issues facing women and families.

Late last week I had the opportunity to attend "Reflections" an event featuring Rosie Batty, Domestic Violence campaigner and former Australian of the Year, the Hon Simone McGurk MLA, Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Protection of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services and Elizabeth Proust Chairman of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Three diverse Australian women who reflected on their leadership journeys. The conversations were facilitated by Geraldine Mellet.

Thank you to all who attended the NCWWA March meeting and for supporting the changes to the NCWWA Constitution. The Constitution now adheres to the Incorporations Act 2015 and will be registered in the next few days.

There are a number of governance structures which will change as a result of the new Constitution -finally the financial year will become the standard year-July to June and as such membership fees will become due on 1 July 2018. The 2018 AGM will also be held later in the year rather than in July.

It was terrific to have Jan Standen from Grandparents Rearing Grandchildren as the guest speaker at the NCWA meeting today-the group have also joined NCWWA.

These families do an amazing job and it is vitally important that they receive the same resources as parents - while a Committee report to the Federal Government made a number of recommendations along these lines little has been done to advance this important cause.

The STEM bursary panel has met after receiving over twenty submissions this year. Many of the submissions were of a very high standard and thank you to all the young women who took the time to put in a submission. Well done and congratulations to Laura Harris 2018 winner and Dana McMullen 2018 runner-up. Both young women are studying Engineering at Curtin University.

Robyn Nolan 0417 917 294
robymn@bigpond.net.au



***Kununurra women at the IWD event
 Robyn was Guest Speaker***

NCWWA STANDING COMMITTEE



Currently the NCWWA Standing Committee is undergoing change with a amalgamation and reduction of the adviser positions along the lines proposed by NCWA.

At the present time there is no NCWWA adviser for Arts, Culture and Music or International Relations and Peace.

The Standing Committee meets four times a year and advisers discuss a wide range of issues relating to women and family. The first meeting for 2018 was held recently in February. Written reports from advisers are required before each meeting.

If you are interested in being an adviser please contact:

Jan Rose Standing Committee Co-ordinator rosewjyp@wantree.com.au or 9313 6813.

However please remember that any issue or resolution can be raised by a member at anytime and discussed at a general meeting.

In the next few months NCWWA will be calling for resolutions for the Triennial Conference. Two NCWWA resolutions will be forwarded for debate at the NCWA Triennial Conference in October. As NCWWA currently has a National Adviser it will be able to forward a third resolution to the Triennial Conference.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGEING, DISABILITY, MENTAL HEALTH



Adviser: Janni Goss

Rise in Homeless Elderly

According to the Maddington office of Mission Australia, there has been an increase in elderly people asking for financial and housing help over the past year. Its recent report into ageing and homelessness found there were a growing number of elderly Australians falling on hard times and being pushed onto the streets. Ms Price of Mission Australia said, “We are calling on government to build 60,000 additional dwellings across the country that are earmarked specifically for older people to meet the high demand. These homes must be fully accessible, with access to supports like medical services and community services to ensure older people can age in their homes with the supports they need.” Older clients sought assistance because of housing crisis, domestic and family violence and financial difficulties.

Aged Care Workforce

A national public consultation program is starting on the 8th February 2018. The aim is to ensure the safe, quality care of senior Australians through a skilled and adequate aged care workforce. Minister for Aged Care, Ken Wyatt AM, has established an expert taskforce to develop Australia’s first aged care workforce strategy. An online survey provides the opportunity for residents, families, carers, aged care workers, service providers, employee organisations and everyone with an interest in quality care to have their say on this vital issue. There are five strategic imperatives: Why the aged care industry matters; Industry leadership, mindset and accountability; Industry workforce organisation and education; Industry attraction and retention; and Translating research and technology into models of care and practice. You can provide feedback online at the Department of Health’s Consultation Hub.

Update on NDIS

The West Australian Government will hand over control of the NDIS to the Commonwealth. Joining this scheme will mean about 15,000 more West Australians would get support on top of an existing 25,000, and between 8,000 and 10,000 jobs will be created, doubling the size of the sector, according to Premier Mark McGowan and Social Services Minister Christian Porter. However there is concern in both the mental health and intellectual disability sectors regarding adequate assessment and management of client needs. Disability Services Commission has now come under the Department of Communities and is now known as Disability Services. These changes and future uncertainty are causing stress for existing staff.

Mental Health Update

The WA Association for Mental Health (WAAMH) is advocating that the planned closure of Graylands and its sale be used as a source of funding for further investment into the mental health system and the replacement for those services to be decommissioned at Graylands. This is an opportunity to increase contemporary community-based supports that enable recovery, and upgrade and improve crisis supports for people who need them.

Recovery Colleges complement existing mental health, and alcohol and other drug (AOD) support services by enabling self-directed recovery and mental health, and AOD learning opportunities in a safe and welcoming place. Recovery Colleges aim to support individual recovery through creating *an education platform, and a reduction of stigma relating to mental health, and AOD problems*. Recovery Colleges are based on a co-design and co-production model of service and education-based approaches with consumers, their families and carers, and those who work with them in health services and non-government organisations. Colleges already operate in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales and are modelled on earlier international initiatives from the UK, Canada and USA.



Increase in self-harm and youth suicide

WA doctors have reported an alarming increase in the number of children and teenagers presenting at emergency departments with self-harm which was more common in girls than boys and bullying was a key cause. In response, the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation has launched *The Big Splash* mental health program to raise awareness in children and young people.

The recent death of Dolly Everetts as a result of cyber bullying has placed the spotlight once more on suicide as the leading cause of death for school-aged children, with eight children and young people lost to suicide each week. Headspace support teams respond to suicide notifications in secondary schools and will be working with *Early Childhood Australia* on a new mental health education initiative run by beyondblue in schools.

However, it is important for all teachers to place greater emphasis on interpersonal relationships by modelling, teaching and positive reinforcing kind, caring and considerate behaviour and acceptance of diversity in the classroom.

Parents need to be aware of what their children are doing on their IT devices and not provide them for their very young children. It has been reported that 17% of children aged 3 and under and 36% of pre-schoolers have their own smart devices. A poll by Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne found children spending 4.5 hours per day on their devices, with 43% using them at bedtime and suffering sleep deprivation as a result.




NCWWA

Date of next General Meeting
Monday 23 April 2018
1.00pm
160 Hay St, East Perth

GUEST SPEAKER
Jo Sadler
 State Director
Mission Australia

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

The next NCWA Triennial Conference will be held on 17,18,19 October 2018 – in Canberra at the QT Hotel, London Circuit Canberra. Conference brochure will be available in the next couple of months.

UN WOMEN- INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST

PERTH CONVENTION CENTRE 8 March 2018



NCWWA Members Back: Merrill Cole, Sally Plummer
Front: Dr Dawn Butterworth, Jan Rose, Daphne Thacker



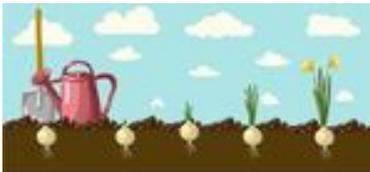
GUEST SPEAKER Siobhann Hobbs
Women, peace and security program,
Specialist UN women

It was decided that this year 2018 NCWWA be represented at the UN WOMEN IWD breakfast event.

The Guest Speaker Siobhan Hobbs informed the audience of the projects UN Women initiated to support women. In the aftermath of natural disasters, UN Women provide **Dignity Kits** which include sanitary pads, underwear and lanterns. Items which are often not considered by aid agencies.

In addition the MC interviewed a UN WOMEN Board member, Anna Johnston. Anna informed us that the effectiveness of peace talks is increased if at least 20 percent of those around the table are women. "It has taken a long time with many inefficient peace talks to acquire the data to verify this." Anna said.

NCWWA FUNDRAISING



BULBS

Order your bulbs for in time for planting!

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and then enjoy your flowers*

Closing date for orders **Thursday 19 April 2018**

Delivery of orders will be the at the
May General Meeting Monday 28 May 2018

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