



State President's Message

APRIL 2018



Lynette Harris
State President

Easter has come and gone for another year and planning is well underway for the State Conference to be held in Williamstown from the 31st May until 2nd June. My first year as State President will soon be concluded, and how rewarding it has been. It has been such a pleasure to meet so many members during this time. Group Conference rounds began with Yarra Valley, Eastern Foothills and West Gippsland Groups,

followed by Central Murray, Eastern Goulburn Valley and Moira.

It is always interesting to travel to other parts of Victoria with the scenery so different to the Otways. Everywhere is so dry and seems more so with such flat open spaces. I enjoyed staying with Helen and Jeff Wall, and Gwen and Hilton Younger while on rounds. Thank goodness for the GPS to get me from A to B.

My thanks to everyone for the friendship shown. It is always satisfying to have Group Presidents already nominated and ready to take on the role. For anyone thinking that one day "I might" please consider this role, because it is a wonderful experience and there is so much to learn about the workings of CWA on all levels.

Recently I attended, for the first time, the Buninyong Marmalade Ashes and what a delightful day it was with so many varieties of marmalades. Of course I had to purchase some to take home.

For those who do not know the history. When the England X1 won crickets' Ashes in their 2010-11 test tour, Australians were wont to mope until the next series when national honor could be restored. However Buninyong were determined to not take this disaster lying down, and challenged England to something else that they claim to have invented - that quintessential English tradition of marmalade making. The challenge was accepted at the international marmalade awards and so the game was on in a lighthearted, quirky test of England's Sovereignty.

The first X1 was a scratch affair with five locals putting together a team to get the marmalade to England and, with the eleven jars plus the 12th, arriving in Cumbria, they won.

So a trophy was sought for this important event and so the Marmalade Ashes evolved. A tiny insignificant jar of something as an exact replica of the Ashes Urn which is firmly held at Lords.

Like the Ashes Urn, no-one knows what is in the Marmalade Ashes although instant legend suggests it's burnt marmalade. The Marmalade Ashes was empanelled in the dock of the old Buninyong Courthouse to humour England's Barmy Army who songfully tease that we all came here via the dock of an English Court.

This has turned into an Australia wide competition. The Committee has been self-funding through marmalade sales and donations. CWA of Victoria has been instrumental in the success of Buninyong Marmalade in providing trained and accredited judges each time. The money raised has gone to Hospice and Palliative care in many areas nominated by entrants.

ACWW World Conference. Planning is in earnest for the 2019 ACWW Conference. Prospective speakers contacted and agendas being worked out. Early Bird Registrations begin 29th April 2018 on ACWW and CWA Websites.

CWA of Victoria has presented a resolution for the 2019 Triennial Conference urging attendees to lobby Governments all over the world to provide vaccinations to dogs to prevent nearly 60 thousand deaths each year from Rabies in overseas countries. This would greatly reduce the risk of exposure to humans.

My Best Wishes to you all and stay safe.

A great attitude becomes a great day, which becomes a great month, which becomes a great year which becomes a great life.