



The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc.

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Patron – Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria

Friday 1 May 2020

Good Morning Members

I hope you are enjoying the change in the weather. Here is this week's reading of branch activities.

Kind Regards

Marion



Hi Marion

Just a friendly email - thought you might like to see this photo. This is a photo of my (baby) sister (13 yrs younger than me) Athalie – she sent yesterday from Adelaide. Her 'message' was: Used the recipe from the apron. They're great! Xx.

Years ago, when CWA HO brought out Aprons for Anzac – with the biscuit recipe on them, I gave one to Ath next time we visited them in SA. I remember the first year she had the apron she said one had to read the recipe upside down, ha ha!!!!!!

Thinking of you three in there today doing the Pop up shop. What a great idea. I sent out lots of emails advertising the 'shop' but a lot of people said they are not 'going out' at all, especially some of my

older church friends who are always interested in what CWA is doing.

Tim's Cub Scouts (3rd Beaumaris Group) made Anzac Biscuits in their own kitchens last Wed. night...on ZOOM...Tim just participated in Zoom, not the cooking here of any



biscuits, ha ha... They and the Scouts are meeting each week and having a proper program. This cooking night will give some of them a head-start to their Cooking Badge. Scouts this week made red cardboard poppies, Tim said the pattern was so easy and they came up well.

Thanks for the latest Newsletter. Our branches are doing amazing things - always an interesting read. I will get our Branch Secretary to send you a report for next time on what our girls did (today) on and for Anzac Day

Good morning Ladies

Information for you attached. I read in State President Marion's newsletter that beanies and mittens are required by Mission to Seafarers...might interest knitters!!

It seems other branches are working on projects, does anyone have ideas of something we as a Branch can do?

(i.e.) Craft wise - for our street stall & raffle or donation to a worthy cause...perhaps our International Officer can give us some information on country of study Botswana??

Happy Birthday to March and April 'Girls'. Hope you were all able to celebrate in some way ladies. 🌹🎂

We have now set up a Facebook Page, makes it easier to post photos etc. If you can't do it or don't have FB, have a friend post for you!!

Anyone can join and invite their friends. Have a look and share what you have been doing in isolation. 😊

Have a great Anzac Day.

Lake Boga/Tresco branch members keep in touch via phone calls, we had an interview on ABC Mildura recently about our Winter Warmers project.

Hello my name is Annette. I have been writing cards and sending them to everyone around Australia. Why don't we all do that as a whole organisation to share the love and stay in contact. I have contacted old and young. Some people don't have a computer, so this is a personal way to keep in touch. Stay safe and well.



Hi Marion

We trust this email finds everyone safe and well. We wanted to share with you a picture of our meeting in March. Our March meeting was a Virtual Meeting using Zoom. We even had a guest, our Day Branch President also joined us on Zoom. I have attached a photograph taken of the meeting gallery with all our smiling faces. Interestingly, it was our best attended meeting. We held a short meeting then each member contributed with sharing something positive that has

come out of being in physical isolation, something from the past we have reconnected with, and something we hope to learn/discover from this experience. Our next activity is scheduled to be a Virtual House Party and Quiz Night. We are only a small group and we have kept very much connected during this time.

Thank you so much Marion. Keep smiling. 😊

Thanks Marion,

You are onto a real success here. With or without internet service, all the branch ladies are receiving your letter. Enjoying the regular CWA contact, and very appreciative of your efforts. In a broader sense possibly your letter helps us all feel a bit more connected to our Victoria wide 'sisters'.

Hi Marion,

Many thanks for passing on all the news from other branches. Some members are very **creative**, well done. We circulate your email to all who have internet connection and Treasurer, Elaine drops off printed copies to those in town who otherwise cannot receive it. Members are keeping in touch via phone calls and emails and the occasional hello from the front gate, dropping off surplus eggs, fruit or vegies to some members. Our small craft group are busy knitting squares to make into rugs or bed capes. Unfortunately we missed out on celebrating our 50th Birthday celebrations. Hopefully when the virus abates completely we will celebrate then. Our President came up with a brilliant idea by purchasing a journal for our members to write in or place photos of their activities in their isolation. The journal is passed on to each member by mail or letter box drop. Our branch had a weekend planned mid May to stay at *Umina* and take in a show and visit other attractions in Melbourne. Of course this has now been cancelled and we hope it will take place at a later date.

Greetings to all other branches. Stay safe. 🌸



Hi Marion

Our members have been keeping in touch via email and for those members not on email, by mail. This year we could not attend the ANZAC Day ceremony and lay a handmade wreath as we normally do. One of our members made two floral tributes of poppies and placed them at the Memorial. These are the two either side in the attached photo. Some of our members marked the day with a driveway dawn service with their candles and poppies. I got up and watched the service from the War Memorial in Canberra and then the service from The Shrine of Remembrance here in Melbourne with a cup of tea and an ANZAC biscuit made by my granddaughter and dropped at my door.



Members have been busy with their craft and one member has finished a double bed cathedral block quilt, and I have attached a photo. She has done a wonderful job but says she will have a rest from cathedral blocks for a while.

Thank you for sending your emails containing news from other branches, they are very interesting and make us feel more connected.



Dear Marion,

The Ladies are keeping busy the last week with Anzac Day celebrations. We also did our first Skype session with a few hitches to sort out. We also sorted out our Face Book page. On ANZAC morning a few of our members and many of the town folk placed themselves at the end of their driveways to remember our fallen and those still serving. One member made a wreath out of egg cartons beautifully painted with rosemary attached, two members then placed it on our local Cenotaph. Attached you will see some of the teddies that have been knitted for Dorevitch Pathology. One member is also busy sewing bags for the local hospital.



Hello Marion,

Thank you for your Email Letter to Members. Anzac Day was just so different for everyone. I placed a lighted candle on my letter box with sprigs of Rosemary and a pamphlet on Anzac traditions with Ode. A hand knitted red poppy too. We all missed going to the regular services at 11am, then our usual visit to our R.S.L Club for lunch with friends after watching the march. We did remember all who fought for our freedom of our country and for all souls who lost their lives in these terrible wars especially at Gallipoli.



Good evening Marion,

Not sure how it works as to how we get our message to other branches in your newsletter but this is what we have been doing.

With over 150 poppies made by our members and a beautiful quilt we have made a wonderful Anzac Day tribute. Our members all got behind this and were busy knitting poppies and one of our ladies made a magnificent quilt for the display.

We have also been busy making scrubs for the hospital. When the call went out our members were only too happy to help cut and sew

(all with approval from our police and health department) and all at appropriate physical distancing, so we are still keeping busy.



Dear Marion

Thank you for the latest Email to Branches. Our members stay in contact via the telephone as only 2 of us have electronic devices. I have been knitting mittens for the Mission to Seafarers. These are easy to do but the casting on and off needs to be tight so that they don't unravel. I see some CWA branches and groups have done some previously. [It is a knitted square folded over and sewn up with a small gap for the thumb] Also, they need beanies.



Hi Marion,

Greetings from our Branch. It has certainly been an eerie and unusually quiet Easter, school holidays and Anzac long weekend. No crowds, beaches closed, but there was still a run on toilet rolls, flour and pasta!!

Seems with our social distancing and isolation people in the street are much more likely to say hello and smile.

Sadly we had to postpone our branch's 85th anniversary and our shop's 50th birthday due to Covid 19. We will just have to keep the fruit soaking until we can make that cake!!! However our talented window decorators were able to do a celebratory display in our shop window to remind the community of the long term existence and commitment of the Country Women's Association.

Anzac Day saw a beautiful memorial window done by one of our long term members. I will send you a photo.

Recently our Executive had a Zoom meeting, a new experience for some of us. Now we would like to extend that invitation to all members for a general meeting next week.

Meanwhile our members are home schooling, teaching, knitting, crafting, making preserves and missing grandchildren. We have really enjoyed reading about the activities of industrious Victorian members statewide.