



SEPTEMBER 2020 VOLUME 66 NUMBER 8

Victorian COUNTRY Woman

All Women, All Ages, All Places

Special 2019 Annual Report Edition



Linking Hands in Friendship

Office Bearers

PatronHer Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria

BOARD OF THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC. 2019-2020

(from 1 June 2019)

State President (Chair)Mrs Marion Dewar
Deputy State PresidentMrs Pam Mawson
State TreasurerMs Marie Vassallo
State Vice-PresidentsMrs Sarah Barnbrook, Ms Viviane Chemali, Karen Jackson, Mrs Lyn Trezise
General Members..... Mrs Noela MacLeod AO, Mrs Jennifer Nola, Mrs Janette O'Keefe, Ms Heather Scott

STATE COUNCIL 2019-2020

State President.....Mrs Marion Dewar
Deputy State PresidentMrs Pam Mawson
State TreasurerMs Marie Vassallo
State Vice-PresidentsMrs Sarah Barnbrook, Ms Viviane Chemali, Karen Jackson, Mrs Lyn Trezise

ACWW/International/Community Support Committee Chairperson... ..Mrs Faye Glover
Agriculture & Environment Committee Chairperson..... Mrs Margaret Wood
Catering Committee Chairperson Mrs Lyn Fleming
Club Committee Chairperson..... Mrs Mary Grant
Creative Arts Committee Chairperson.....Ms Heather Scott
Magazine/Communications Committee Chairperson.....Mrs Lorraine Zimmerman/Ms Marie Vassallo
Membership Committee Chairperson.....Mrs Peg Higginbottom
Performing Arts Committee Chairperson Mrs Helen Christie
Social Issues Committee Chairperson..... Mrs Jennifer Nola

MEMBERS OF HONOUR

Mrs Betty Burgess OAM, Mrs Carol Clay, Mrs Kaye Kyle, Mrs Noela MacLeod AO,
Mrs Helen Wall OAM, Mrs Dorothy Ward OAM

OTHER POSITIONS

Archivist..... Mrs Noela MacLeod AO
Editor..... Dr Joely Taylor/Mrs Lorraine Zimmerman

Auditor.....Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
Solicitor..... King & Wood Mallesons

GROUP PRESIDENTS

Ballarat District Miss Rosalie Silvey
BassMrs Lorraine Roy
Beaufort Mrs Lyn Fleay
Bendigo NorthernMrs Marilyn Tangey
Central Highlands Mrs Amanda Millar
Central MurrayMrs Marie Martin
Central Victoria Mrs Darryl O'Bryan
Central Wimmera. Mrs Prudence McCredden
Diamond Valley Miss Leanne Egan
East Gippsland Mrs Joanne Alderman
East Wimmera Mrs Sharon Douglas
Eastern Foothills Mirjana Angelov
Eastern Goulburn ValleyMrs Val Gibbs
EchucaMrs Barbara Higgins
Fraser Ms Jenny Kay
Geelong Mrs Gwen White
Gippsland Hills Ms Meg Edwards
Goulburn Valley West Mrs Jennifer Goonan
Henty.....Mrs Sue Caslake
Hume GoulburnMrs Kaye Ashe

Kiewa ValleyMrs Dhirleen Clark
Latrobe CentralMrs Wendy Earwicker
Loddon ValleyMrs Christine Coleston
McDonaldMrs Helen Paraskevas
Mallee (Leader) Mrs Jocelyn Lindner
Mildura/Millewa Mrs Gail Jurak
Mitchell Mrs Louise Taylor
MoiraMrs Jennie Briggs OAM
Mornington PeninsulaMs Cate Venturoni
Murray Valley..... Mrs Mary Heap
North EasternMrs Wilma Bright
North Gippsland Vivien Speight
Omeo/Tambo Valley Mrs Kate Commins
Polwarth Mrs Mary Prime
South GippslandMs Tania Duvoisin
South Western Mrs Pam Andrew
Upper Murray Mrs Joy Lowry
West GippslandMrs Ann Laws
West WimmeraMrs Judi Pymer
Yarra Valley Mrs Karina Noblett

The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc.



A.0004857F

3 Lansell Road, Toorak, Victoria, 3142

Patron: The Honourable Linda Dessau AC
Governor of Victoria

Head Office Contacts & Staff

Telephone: 03 9827 8971

Web: cwaofvic.org.au

Office Administrator: Robyn Smith

Email: cwaadmin@cwaofvic.org.au

Executive Director: Lynne Jordan

Email: execdiretor@cwaofvic.org.au

Membership Administrator:

Email: membership@cwaofvic.org.au

Accountant:

Email: accountant@cwaofvic.org.au

Bookkeeper:

Email: finance@cwaofvic.org.au

Reception:

Email: reception@cwaofvic.org.au

Magazine:

Email: cwamagazine@cwaofvic.org.au

CWA of Vic *Umina* Bed and Breakfast Contact

Reception: Mandy Darmody

Telephone: 03 9824 0239

Email: bandb@cwaofvic.org.au

SENIOR STATE OFFICE BEARERS 2019/2020

State President: Marion Dewar

Deputy State President: Pam Mawson

State Treasurer: Marie Vassallo

Honorary Solicitor: King & Wood Mallesons

Members of Honour: Betty Burgess OAM, Carol Clay,
Kaye Kyle, Noela MacLeod AO,
Helen Wall OAM, Dorothy Ward OAM

State Vice President: Sarah Barnbrook

State Vice President: Viviane Chemali

State Vice President: Karen Jackson

State Vice President: Lyn Trezise

General Board Members: Noela MacLeod AO, Jenny Nola,
Janette O'Keefe, Heather Scott

ACWW/International/Community

Support Committee Chairperson: Faye Glover

Agriculture & Environment Committee

Chairperson: Margaret Wood

Catering Committee Chairperson: Lyn Fleming

Club Committee Chairperson: Mary Grant

Creative Arts Committee Chairperson: Heather Scott

Magazine & Communications Committee

Chairperson: Marie Vassallo

Membership Committee Chairperson: Peg Higginbottom

Performing Arts Committee Chairperson: Helen Christie

Social Issues Committee Chairperson: Jenny Nola

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)

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correspondence to

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2019 DETERMINATIONS

Theme 2019: Linking Hands in Friendship

State Project: Disaster Assistance

Product/Resource: Sustainable Seafood

Country of Study: Iceland

Social Issues Focus: Social Isolation

Thanksgiving Fund: Batten Disease



Marion E Dewar
State President

State President's Report

Introduction

It gives me great pleasure to present the Ninety-Second Annual Report of The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc. As we have been *Linking Hands in Friendship* during 2019, so we see the links within our Association. The Association is made up of Members who belong to Branches. A number of Branches form a Group. Group Presidents join Senior Office Bearers, including Committee Chairpersons and Members of Honour, to form State Council, the body that advises the Board, organises State Events, undertakes research, advocates for vulnerable women, children and families, hears from the membership, assists the membership, proposes resolutions, and leads the Association as it fulfils its aims. The Association is governed by a Board, made up of seven Senior State Office Bearers, four General Board Members and the (non-voting) Executive Director. The Constitution, and accompanying Policies and Procedures covering all levels of the Association, enables the Association and its members to operate within a framework that allows for good governance and appropriate conduct.

The Office Year for Senior State Office Bearers and Group Presidents is 1/6/18-31/5/19 and 1/6/19-31/5/20 and for Branch Offices 1/10/18-30/9/19 and 1/10/19-30/9/20.

The Financial Year of the Association and the 40 Groups is 1/1/19-31/12/19 and of Branches is 1/10/18-30/9/19 and 1/10/19-30/9/20.

On behalf of all Members, I thank Deputy State President Pam Mawson (since 1/6/19) and State Treasurers Janette O'Keefe and Marie Vassallo (since 1/6/19), Members of Honour, Board Members, State Council Members, Committee Members, Appointed Members and Staff for their loyalty, generosity, friendship and service throughout 2019 to the Association, each other, local communities and to vulnerable women, children and families.

Executive

State Presidents Lyn Harris OAM (until 31/5/19) and Marion Dewar (from 1/6/19) led the Association with the support of Deputy State Presidents Marion Dewar (until 31/5/19) and Pam Mawson (from 1/6/2019) and State Treasurers Janette O'Keefe (until 31/5/19) and Marie Vassallo (from 1/6/2019).

Board

The Board met fifteen times during the 2019 year. These meetings included induction and information sessions, training in governance sessions, business sessions and a little social time. Length of meetings varied according to the Agenda. The attendance table appears at the end of this report. A number of policies were revised or rewritten and a process for policy review put in place. Members worked through strategic direction, budget and audit requirements, possible constitutional changes, operational oversight and major event authorisation.

1/1/19-31/5/19	1/6/19-31/12/19
State President Lyn Harris OAM	State President Marion Dewar
Deputy State President Marion Dewar	Deputy State President Pam Mawson
State Treasurer Janette O'Keefe	State Treasurer Marie Vassallo
State Vice President Pam Mawson	State Vice President Sarah Barnbrook
State Vice President Jenny Nola	State Vice President Viviane Chemali
State Vice President Heather Scott	State Vice President Karen Jackson
State Vice President Beverley Wall OAM	State Vice President Lyn Trezise
General Board Member MOH Kaye Kyle	General Board Member MOH Noela MacLeod AO
General Board Member MOH Noela MacLeod AO	General Board Member Jenny Nola
General Board Member MOH Helen Wall OAM	General Board Member Janette O'Keefe
General Board Member Marie Vassallo	General Board Member Heather Scott
Executive Director Lynne Jordan	Executive Director Lynne Jordan

State Council

State Council met four times (March, June, September and November), as usual, during the 2019 year. Members of State Council had opportunities for developing friendship and collegiality during meal break times, especially over dinner. For those able to stay inhouse, or to share accommodation off premises there was a further opportunity to bond. Business included governance and leadership training; reports from executive members, senior office bearers

and committee chairpersons; organisation for state events; approving proposed resolutions; working through Board proposals as a means to offering advice and expressing preferences for certain directions or courses of action. The input from Group Presidents and their sharing of information to and from Branches is invaluable.

Highlight

The highlight of the 2019 year was hosting the 29th Triennial World Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) 3-10 April with World President Ruth Shanks of New South Wales in the chair. Victoria presented a resolution. State President Lyn Harris OAM convened the host committee and her comprehensive report appears in this Official Annual Report.

Events

All state events were times to showcase the Association, explain the work that we do and promote membership. Thank you to all convenors and volunteers for your assistance at these events.

Australia Day was celebrated throughout the state at Branch, Group and State level. The Association was again privileged to serve at Government House by providing refreshments in the old kitchen.

Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show included staffing a stall for the sale of merchandise and promotion of the Association. This year, we were invited to provide recipes for demonstrations.

Junior Camp featured aspects of agriculture and the environment.

Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show saw members selling lamb menu items and merchandise.

Craft and Quilt Fair Melbourne was an opportunity to join craft and guild organisations to demonstrate knitting and crochet techniques, both old and new.

Open House Melbourne offers the opportunity to show visitors through the house and garden, our tour guides explaining the special architectural features and design as well as the aims of the Association. Refreshments and merchandise are also on offer.

State Exhibition showcased the amazing talent of our members in handcrafts and home industries, floral art and photography to the Kyabram community and beyond.

Royal Melbourne Show, our major catering and fundraising event, was as successful as ever, particularly as a record number of scones was made.

Seniors Week at *Umina* was an introduction to the property and our catering through a morning or afternoon Devonshire Tea.

State Christmas Fare brought local residents, outside stallholders and members from across the state together to take advantage of the opportunity to sell and purchase Christmas cooking and gift selections.

High Teas and *Gluten Free High Teas* were held regularly during the year, showing our *Umina* Dining Room to advantage and allowing Club Committee members to present delectable afternoon tea.

Determinations

The Determinations follow the chronological year and received due attention by members, at branch, group and state level, were researched by appropriate committees and featured from time to time in the magazine.

Theme: *Linking Hands in Friendship* brought out the artistic in many, visits with Sister Branches and links into the community in different ways.

State Project: *Disaster Assistance* The obvious need in this area resulted in donations to the Emergency Fund for fire, flood, drought and other emergencies.

Product/Resource: *Sustainable Seafood* involved the study of sea and river fish and other water-living creatures. Information about sustainable sourcing of seafood was brought to members' attention.

Country of Study: *Iceland* proved that Australians are inveterate travellers. It was surprising how many have actually worked in Iceland.

Social Issues Focus: *Social Isolation* is too often connected with physical or mental illness, age or unemployment. Education about this problem was sobering.

Thanksgiving Fund: *Batten Disease* Members were touched by the plight of families with small children suffering this incurable disease and made donations accordingly.

Committees

The Committees of the State Council each met regularly during the year. A Report from each one is printed in this Official Annual. On behalf of Members, I thank the Chairpersons (and Convenors) of the Committees for their magazine articles, leadership and commitment to the role.

ACWW/International/Community Support Committee and Chairperson Faye Glover featured this year with their major input into the World Conference.

Agriculture & Environment Committee and Chairperson Margaret Wood held a luncheon with two speakers and brought forward one resolution.

Catering Committee and Chairperson Lyn Fleming, with the assistance of Buyer Carole Bartlett, steered the team of volunteers through the mammoth task of providing catering for events culminating in the Royal Melbourne Show.

Club Committee and Chairperson Mary Grant added weekend retreats and craft schools to High Teas and in-house catering.

Cooking Committee and Convenors Marie Vassallo (until 31/5/2019) and Beverley Wall OAM (from 1/6/2019) undertook demonstrations and led masterclasses as well as convening the State Christmas Fare. On 26/6/2019 State Council voted to raise the profile of the Committee by taking it from a Subcommittee of the Creative Arts Committee to a full Committee.

Creative Arts Committee and Chairpersons Anne DuVé (until 31/5/2019) and Heather Scott (from 1/6/2019) trained judges, coordinated judges for Group Exhibitions and presented an excellent State Exhibition at Kyabram.

Magazine and Communications Committee Chairperson Lorraine Zimmerman and Interim Chairperson Marie Vassallo (from 6/9/2019) coordinated the production of eleven excellent magazines and other associated tasks.

Membership Committee and Chairperson Peg Higginbottom assisted in the opening of a number of new branches and promotion of the Association at several events.

Performing Arts Committee and Chairperson Helen Christie prepared for an event that did not take place, all the while encouraging members to develop their skills in performance and public speaking.

Social Issues Committee and Chairpersons Viviane Chemali (until 31/5/2019) and Jenny Nola (from 1/6/2019) brought together focus topics from several years, hosted an event and prepared one resolution.

Appointments

Archivist MOH Noela MacLeod AO kept the records up to date, researched information and supervised reshelving work by assistant Judy Normand.

Cooking Committee Convenor Marie Vassallo (until 31/5/2019) and Beverley Wall OAM (from 1/6/2019) led the Cooking Committee.

Editor Dr Joely Taylor resigned during the year and Lorraine Zimmerman was appointed Editor (6/9/2019). Joely supervised the attendance of an Intern. Her expertise as an editor and her attention to process has been much appreciated. Lorraine brought her eye for detail and her accumulated knowledge to this role.

The Membership

Members of the Association, in Branches and Groups, are to be congratulated on the way they have carried out the aims of the Association within their own localities and communities, engaged in self-development, raised funds, held events and offered assistance to women, children and families in urban and rural settings.

Members entered the Massive Murray Paddle for the fifteenth year, raising money for the Thanksgiving Fund.

The State Choir went into recess in March – thank you for your music.

Yarra Branch (formed 1928) was farewelled in September.

Celebrations were in order for Dookie 90, Mildura 90, Dimboola 85, Drouin 80 and Kara 80.

Staff

The Association was very well served by our committed and enthusiastic staff members. It is well known that employees who work in the not for profit sector do so because of a belief in the aims and objectives of the organisation and not for the donated hours and conservative salaries. I thank all members of staff, led by Executive Director Lynne Jordan, for their dedication and passion.

CWAA

Face to Face Meetings were held in February and August, teleconferences and drought subcommittee meetings via teleconference were also held. Janette O'Keefe was the representative on the drought subcommittee until 31/5/19. The Association received advocacy information through links to government, nongovernment agencies, utilities, organisations and businesses.

State Grant

The Association was fortunate to receive recurrent funding from the State Government (the first year of four years in 2019) as well as a grant to assist in hosting the ACWW World Conference.

Drought Grants

The CWAA received Commonwealth Government funding for drought relief which was distributed by the states and territory. Victoria's share was \$500,000. This was fully expended through an application process between October and 12 December 2019 in grants of \$3,000 per household.

The Victorian State Government announced on 27/11/2019 it would make available \$3 million for distribution by CWA of Victoria through a Drought Relief Application Program.

Coles announced that a further \$150,000 would be donated for Victorian drought relief and administered by the Association.

Archives Grant

Materials supplied through the Archives Grant for the rehousing of Archives materials (following the water damage in the Archives Dungeon) arrived in early December. Processes were prepared for the completion of the project.

Young People's Communication Project Grant

Website and Facebook were adjusted to strengthen access to digital health and wellbeing information for young people. Surveys of junior members and non-members of similar ages were undertaken.

Sponsorship, Educational Grants, Emergency and Welfare Funds

It was pleasing to offer sponsorship to four girls to Lord Somers and Powerhouse Camps and educational grants at secondary and tertiary level. Grants for the alleviation of natural disasters were forwarded to other states, to bushfire relief in West Gippsland and to a number of individuals. Welfare Grants were offered to individuals and families in difficult circumstances.

Umina

The property has been cared for by paid personnel and volunteers. A number of water issues, both inside and outside the house, have been dealt with since July. Funded by donations and a bequest, an all-abilities ramp and four ensuite bathrooms have been added to the house. Upgrades of exit signs added to safety requirements. A new plan for bedroom furniture and soft furnishings to be reorganised and replaced as required has been put in place. It was a pleasure to open *Umina* to visitors during Open House Melbourne.

Members

Past State President Machel Crichton passed away 4/9/2019. A Tribute Ceremony was held during State Council on 5/9/2019. She worked on Association submissions for 2010 Women's Health Policy and 2012 National Food Policy. Machel was Chairman of the ACWW/International/Community Support Committee from 2011-2013, Deputy State President 2013-2015 and State President 2015-2017.

Other members whose contribution was remembered were Miriam Stackhouse and Isabel Anderson (Handicrafts and Home Industries Committee Chairmen), Glenys Vaudrey (Honorary Assistant Treasurer), Elaine Baldwin (ACWW Committee Chairman), Edna Roberts (Resources Van) and Morrie Montrose (Younger Set State Representative).

Marion E Dewar
State President
9 June 2020

Board Attendance

1/1/19-31/5/19	Attendance	1/6/19-31/12/19	Attendance
State President Lyn Harris OAM	7/7	State President Marion Dewar	8/8
Deputy State President Marion Dewar	7/7	Deputy State President Pam Mawson	6/8
State Treasurer Janette O'Keefe	7/7	State Treasurer Marie Vassallo	8/8
State Vice President Pam Mawson	5/6	State Vice President Sarah Barnbrook	3/7
State Vice President Jenny Nola	4/6	State Vice President Viviane Chemali	6/8
State Vice President Heather Scott	7/7	State Vice President Karen Jackson	5/7
State Vice President Beverley Wall OAM	5/7	State Vice President Lyn Trezise	8/8
General Board Member MOH Kaye Kyle	3/6	General Board Member MOH Noela MacLeod AO	6/6
General Board Member MOH Noela MacLeod AO	5/7	General Board Member Jenny Nola	7/7
General Board Member MOH Helen Wall OAM	5/7	General Board Member Janette O'Keefe	5/7
General Board Member Marie Vassallo	5/6	General Board Member Heather Scott	8/8
Executive Director Lynne Jordan	5/6	Executive Director Lynne Jordan	7/7

Board Members 2019

Senior Office Bearers



STATE PRESIDENT

Marion Dewar



**DEPUTY STATE
PRESIDENT**

Pam Mawson



STATE TREASURER

Marie Vassallo

State Vice Presidents



Sarah Barnbrook



Viviane Chemali



Karen Jackson



Lyn Trezise

General Board Members



Noela Macleod AO



Jennifer Nola



Janette O'Keefe



Heather Scott

State Presidents

Lady Mitchell CBE.	1928-29-30, 31-32	Mrs J H Goldsmith OAM	1977-78-79
Mrs J S Fraser OBE	1930-31	Mrs W Tom AO	1979-80-81
Mrs R G Beggs	1932-33-34-35	Mrs H Rinaldi	1981-82-83
Miss E Grice	1935-36	Mrs R Eliason	1983-84-85
Mrs W E Sargood	1936-37-38	Mrs W Gedling OAM	1985-86-87
Mrs O A Hicken OBE JP	1938-40, 45-46-47	Mrs L J Olden	1987-88-89
Mrs A C Bennet	1940-41-42	Mrs D G Dempster	1989-90-91
Mrs H G Marfell OBE JP	1942-43-44-45	Mrs B Cumming	1991-92-93
Mrs N Welsh	1947-48-49	Mrs N Courtney OAM	1993-94-95
Mrs G O Dorward	1949-50-51	Mrs J Reid OAM	1995-96-97
Mrs J N Spittle	1951-52-53	Mrs D Ward OAM	1997-98-99
Mrs N S F Hedditch OBE	1953-54-55	Mrs B Burgess OAM	1999-00-01
Mrs V B Jane	1955-56-57	Mrs J Weller	2001-02-03
Mrs H Hillgrove	1957-58-59	Mrs P Pither-Mills AM	2003-04-05
Miss A T Stewart OBE	1959-60-61	Mrs N MacLeod AO	2005-06-07
Mrs N W Cameron OBE	1961-62-63	Mrs H Wall OAM	2007-08-09
Mrs W B Lang	1963-64-65	Mrs H Christie	2009-10-11
Mrs J P Wallace OBE	1965-66-67	Mrs C Clay	2011-12-13
Mrs H McF Cameron MBE	1967-68-69	Ms D Coombe	2013-14-15
Mrs J Grant Coutts OAM	1969-70-71	Ms M Crichton	2015-16-17
Mrs D H Reid	1971-72-73	Mrs L Harris OAM	2017-18-19
Mrs H R Fisher AO OBE	1973-74-75	Mrs M Dewar	2019-20
Mrs A L Ferry	1975-76-77		

Groups and Branches as at 31st December 2019

BALLARAT DISTRICT GROUP

Group President: Miss Rosalie Silvey

BRANCHES (14)

Bacchus Marsh, Ballan & District, Ballarat Dinner (Night), Buninyong, Daylesford/Hepburn, Dean, Eureka Rebelles, Gordon & Surrounds (Night), Marshians Night, Melton Owls (Night), Scarsdale, Sebastopol, Spa Centre, Webbcona (Night).

BASS GROUP

Group President: Mrs Lorraine Roy

BRANCHES (6)

Cowes, Glen Alvie, Grantville, Loch, Woodleigh Vale, Wonthaggi Night.

BEAUFORT GROUP

Group President: Mrs Lyn Fleay

BRANCHES (8)

Ararat, Avoca and District, Beaufort, Landsborough, Lilyana (Night), Lismore Derrinallum & District (Night), Raglan, Stawell (Night).

BENDIGO NORTHERN GROUP

Group President: Mrs Marilyn Tangey

BRANCHES (6)

Axedale (Night), Bendigo, Campbells Forest, Dingee & District, Golden Night, Kangaroo Flat.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS GROUP

Group President: Mrs Amanda Millar

BRANCHES (12)

Craigieburn, Gisborne Day, Heathcote Night, Kyneton, Kyneton Twilighters, Lancefield, Macedon, Riddells Creek (Night), Romsey, Sunbury Stars, Trentham, Woodend Eves.

CENTRAL MURRAY GROUP

Group President: Mrs Marie Martin

BRANCHES (5)

Baulkamaugh (Night), Cobram Nocturnals, Nathalia Night Watch, Tallygaroopna, Youanmite.

CENTRAL VICTORIA GROUP

Group President: Mrs Darryl O'Bryan

BRANCHES (10)

Castlemaine (Night), Dunolly, Harcourt, Havilah (Night), Heathcote, Maryborough, Newbridge, Newstead, Phoenix Chewton, Sutton Grange.

CENTRAL WIMMERA GROUP

Group President: Mrs Prue McCredden

BRANCHES (6)

Beulah, Dunmunkle, Hopetoun, Murtoa, Rainbow and District (Night), Willenabrina.

DIAMOND VALLEY GROUP

Group President: Miss Leanne Egan

BRANCHES (6)

Hurstbridge (Night), Kinglake (Night), Rosanna, South Morang Night Owls, Wallan (Night), Whittlesea Jumbunna Night (Night).

EAST GIPPSLAND GROUP

Group President: Mrs Joanne Alderman

BRANCHES (4)

Bairnsdale-Amaroo, Bengworden, Lakes Entrance (Night), Orbost.

EAST WIMMERA GROUP

Group President: Mrs Sharon Douglas

BRANCHES (8)

Bealiba, Cabbaritta Charlton (Night), Kara (Night), Marnoo, Stuart Mill, Wedderburn (Night), Wirrim (Night), Wycheproof Phoenix.

EASTERN FOOTHILLS GROUP

Group President: Mirjana Angelov

BRANCHES (6)

Belgrave, Boronia, Donvale, Knox Knights, Mooroolbark, Ringwood.

EASTERN GOULBURN VALLEY GROUP

Group President: Mrs Val Gibbs

BRANCHES (8)

Caniambo, Congupna, Dookie, Karramomus, Katandra West, Pine Lodge (Night), Shepparton East, Shepparton Sunset (Night).

ECHUCA GROUP

Group President: Mrs Barbara Higgins

BRANCHES (6)

Bamawm, Boobook (Night), Campaspe (Night), Echuca-Murray (Night), Milloo, Tongala.

FRASER GROUP

Group President: Ms Jenny Kay

BRANCHES (8)

Ashburton (Night), Boroondara (Night), Docklands, Glen Waverley, Port Phillip, Richmond (Night), Umina (Night), Whitehorse.

GEELONG GROUP

Group President: Mrs Gwen White

BRANCHES (15)

Altona, Barrabool, Central Nights, Drysdale, Inverleigh, Lara, Mereburn (Night), Native Hut (Night), Ocean Grove Nightlights, Point Cook Evening, Portarlington, Surf Coast, Thurina, Werribee, Werribee South.

GIPPSLAND HILLS GROUP

Group President: Ms Meg Edwards

BRANCHES (11)

Bena, Inverloch, Kardella, Korumburra, Leongatha, Leongatha Twilight, Meeniyan, Mirboo, Mirboo North Night Owls, Poowong & District, Woorayl.

GOULBURN VALLEY WEST GROUP

Group President: Mrs Jennifer Goonan

BRANCHES (7)

CWA Potters, Harston, Mooroopna (Night), Rodney (Night), Rushworth, Sheridan-Kyabram (Night), Toolamba Wrens.

HENTY GROUP

Group President: Mrs Susan Caslake

BRANCHES (11)

Burswood (Night), Dunkeld and District (Night), Glenelg (Night), Hamilton, Hamilton Evening (Night), Hawkesdale, Heywood Evening (Night), Koroit (Night), Port Fairy (Night), Wattle Hill Creek (Night), Woolsthorpe.

HUME GOULBURN GROUP

Group President: Mrs Kaye Ashe

BRANCHES (7)

Broadford Mount Piper (Night), Euroa-Forlonge, Mansfield, Redgate-Alexandra, Seymour Central (Night), Yarck, Yea.

KIEWA VALLEY GROUP

Group President: Mrs Dhirleen Clark

BRANCHES (3)

Kergunyah (Night), Kiewa District, Wodonga.

LATROBE CENTRAL GROUP

Group President: Mrs Wendy Earwicker

BRANCHES (12)

Bunyip, Drouin, Drouin South, Flynn-ites (Night), Gormandale, Lowanna Hills Newborough (Night), Moe, Morwell Evening, Neerim District, Traralgon, Traralgon Evening, Warragul Evening.

LODDON VALLEY GROUP

Group President: Mrs Christine Coleston

BRANCHES (3)

Barham/Koondrook (Night), Cohuna, Dingwall, Lake Boga/Tresco

MALLEE GROUP

Group Leader: Mrs Jocelyn Lindner

BRANCHES (3)

Cowangie, Ouyen, Woomelang.

MCDONALD GROUP

Group President: Mrs Helen Paraskevas

BRANCHES (6)

Bayside (Night), Bentleigh Day, Brighton, Dingley Village, Mentone, Murrumbena.

MILDURA/MILLEWA GROUP

Group President: Mrs Gail Jurak

BRANCHES (6)

Carinya, Darling Junction (Night), Irymple Night, Merbein, Mildura, Millewa (Night)

MITCHELL GROUP

Group President: Mrs Louise Taylor

BRANCHES (9)

Alphington, Collingwood (Night), Essendon (Night), Footscray (Night), Keilor Downs, Niddrie, Pascoe Vale, Sydney Road (Night), Williamstown Evening.

MOIRA GROUP

Group President: Mrs Jennie Briggs OAM

BRANCHES (6)

Benalla, Boorhaman, Corowa, Swanpool, Thoona, Yarrawonga/Border

MORNINGTON PENINSULA GROUP

Group President: Ms Catherine Venturoni

BRANCHES (10)

Frankston, Frankston South, Mornington, Mount Martha Seaside, Pearcedale, Peninsula Belles (Night), Red Hill, Rosebud, Rosebud East, Somerville (Night).

MURRAY VALLEY GROUP

Group President: Mrs Mary Heap

BRANCHES (5)

Booren (Night), Moulamein, Nykora (Night), Tanlynne (Night), Tyntynder (Night).

NORTH EASTERN GROUP

Group President: Ms Wilma Bright

BRANCHES (10)

Barnawartha, Beechworth, Bright & District (Night), King Valley (Night), Moyhu (Night), Oxley and Milawa, Rosewhite & District (Night), Wangaratta & District, Wangaratta District Evening (Night), Whorouly.

NORTH GIPPSLAND GROUP

Group President: Vivien Speight

BRANCHES (9)

Avon, Bundalagwah, Cobains, Denison, Giffard, Maffra, Sale, Sale Starlight (Night), Tinamba & District.

OMEQ/TAMBO VALLEY GROUP

Group President: Mrs Kate Commins

BRANCHES (2)

Benambra District (Night), High Country

POLWARTH GROUP

Group President: Mrs Mary Prime

BRANCHES (6)

Barongarook (Night), Birregurra (Night), Colac Night Owls (Night), Dreeite, Irrewarra, Winchelsea (Night).

SOUTH GIPPSLAND GROUP

Group President: Ms Tania Duvoisin

BRANCHES (3)

Fish Creek, Foster, Yarram.

SOUTH WESTERN GROUP

Group President: Mrs Pam Andrew

BRANCHES (11)

Allansford, Allansford Evening, Camperdown Evening, Cobden, Dalvui (Night), Mortlake, Mortlake Evening, Panmure, Terang, Warrnambool, Warrnambool Night Owls.

UPPER MURRAY GROUP

Group President: Mrs Joy Lowry

BRANCHES (4)

Cudgewa, Kurrajong (Night), Tallangatta, Tintalra.

WEST GIPPSLAND GROUP

Group President: Mrs Ann Laws

BRANCHES (9)

Casey Dinner (Night), Cranbourne, Dandenong, Emerald & District, Koo Wee Rup (Night), Noble Park, Officer Owls (Night), Pakenham, Woorinyan.

WEST WIMMERA GROUP

Group President: Mrs Judi Pymar

BRANCHES (7)

Dimboola, Drung South, Horsham, Kaniva, May, Nhill Twilight (Night), Serviceton.

YARRA VALLEY GROUP

Group President: Mrs Karina Noblett

BRANCHES (5)

Monbulk, Monbulk Lady Night Hawks, Tarrawarra (formerly Healesville Night Chicks), Wanallock (Night), Wandin.

State Treasurer's Report



Marie Vassallo
State Treasurer

It is my pleasure to present my first report to you as State Treasurer. You will find the Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 December 2019 and the accompanying Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2019 in this official annual report. These statements have been audited by our independent auditors Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu.

The year 2019 was punctuated with the hosting of the ACWW 29th Triennial World Conference in Melbourne April 3rd to 10th. This uplifting and colourful event saw members from across the State work hard to promote, present and experience, the colour, singing and most importantly the advocacy and friendships that developed from 676 women from more than 70 countries gathering together at the Melbourne Convention Centre. The monies received and expended by the CWA of Victoria and the number of delegates that attended the 29th Triennial World Conference were audited by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. The audit was a condition written in the Sponsorship Agreement between the Association and the Melbourne Convention Bureau Limited and was provided to ACWW in London.

As at 31st December 2019 the Association's total assets were \$7,657,702. This figure is constituted by our cash assets including main account investments, trade and other receivables, Special Purpose funds, stock on hand at cost, property, plant, equipment as well as cash at hand. As at 31 December 2019, our current liabilities of \$2,464,570 consists of membership subscriptions paid in advance, provision for employee entitlements, Endowment Fund (life memberships), trade and other payables and accruals. Our liabilities also include \$1,500,000 received in December 2019 which is a deferred grant from the Victorian State Government for drought relief, to be disbursed in 2020.

As we are all aware, 2019 saw a continual decline in interest rates. This had an impact on our 2019 investment income. Our operational investment income in 2019 from the Main account Term deposits and cash management account was \$48,612. The investment interest received from our Special Purpose Term deposits was \$53,267 for the year ending 31st December 2019.

The Statement of Profit and Loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 31st December 2019 shows a total income of \$3,087,537, a total expenditure of \$3,417,174 and a deficit of \$329,637 in the combined Main and Special Purpose Accounts. As detailed above, the recorded deficit is related in part to the timing of receipt of the Victorian Governments' grant for drought relief, and the disbursement of monies received in previous years for drought relief and disbursed in 2019.

Special Purpose Funds represent bequests and other monies held in Trust for special purposes. The funds are administered by the Board and are not available for use in general operations. The Special Purpose Fund reserves showed a balance of \$2,438,654 as of 31st December 2019.

In 2019 we saw an increase in our assistance to vulnerable people and families across the state. We provided \$1,078,384 in Emergency relief and \$15,544 in Welfare payments. This money is a combination of the generous donations from our members and the general public, corporate donors including Coles, as well as the State and Federal governments. It shows a continued high level of trust in our Association, and one which we can all be proud of. This work in providing relief through natural disasters which our state is prone to, and unexpected difficulties that Victorians face, will continue in 2020.

Branches continued to support our Special Purpose funds with donations of \$9,382 for Educational Grants, \$29,089 for Emergency fund and \$15,352 for welfare fund. In addition, the Central Highlands Group initiated the Ruby McCulloch Grant which will become available in 2020. In 2019 we continued to provide support to primary, secondary, tertiary and post graduate students through our Educational grants. In total throughout 2019, the Country Women's Association of Victoria disbursed \$21,998 in Educational Grants. These grants included \$800 in the name of the Colac CWA Educational fund, \$4,750 in the name of Mrs AA Gibbs, \$2,000 in the name of Alice Stewart, \$1,000 in the Diamond Jubilee Residential Grant and \$1,500 granted to a Rural Nurse Postgraduate.

Our Thanksgiving Fund in 2019 was Batten Disease. An amazing \$32,796 was donated by members. Donations to the 2019 State Project of Disaster Assistance amounted to \$26,584.

Our membership base is the foundation of our Association. Although membership subscriptions in 2019 of \$337,900 is higher than in 2018 this can be accounted for by the modest increase of \$1.50 in annual subscriptions covering the shift in membership numbers and that 2019 was the first full year, in which the magazine postage fee was included in the membership subscription. This accounts for the decrease in Magazine income noted in Note 2, as this line now accurately reflects advertising revenue obtained through the magazine. September 2019 saw an increase in the number of branches who reported to head office that they are moving into recess. Thankfully, we also saw an increase in the number of new branches formed in 2019. The enthusiasm and new ideas brought by these new members and branches is infectious and bodes well for our Association.

Some of the budgeted events did not occur in 2019. These included some of the planned retreats and workshops, performing arts and training events. Loss of income from these events have an impact on our ability to meet budget and for the Association to continue to provide the services to the community. Our three major events, The Royal Melbourne Show, Christmas Fare and State Exhibition along with the other smaller events provided \$335,091 to our operational revenue. These events are strongly supported by members across the state, and without your efforts they would not be a success. Recurrent expenses were managed tightly by our Executive Director which assisted in the mitigation of the impact of the cancelled events on our budget.

In 2019 revenue from the B&B accommodation, \$239,974 was slightly down on 2018. This can partially be attributed to the impact of renovation works undertaken including the addition of ensuites and the use of the B&B by members during Association events. The added value to the Association of the B&B is difficult to estimate in dollar terms as it enables our members to provide volunteer hours at State events.

All our members continue to contribute to their communities and other organisations which support women, children and families. Whilst 2019 was a difficult year in many Victorian communities our members raised a total of \$343,213 which has been donated with the following breakdown.

Local donations: \$281,190
National donations: \$54,777
International donations: \$7,246

Thank you to all members for the many hours of volunteer work and support that you all provide to each other and our communities.

In closing I would just like to share a quote I came across the other day that resonated with me and reflects on the work we do and the year ahead.

"Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows; it empties today of its strength" –Corrie Ten Boom

29th ACWW Triennial World Conference Committee Report



Lyn Harris OAM

Immediate Past State President
ACWW World Conference
Committee Convener

At the 2013 27th Triennial World Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) held in Chennai India, delegates voted for The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc. to host the 2019 29th Triennial World Conference to be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC). The Conference theme was '90 Years of Achievements, Building 90 Years of Opportunities'.

This conference signaled the end of the Triennium, the start of a new one, the opportunity to create new policy and organisational direction and the greatest social event of the three-year cycle that governs the Associated Country Women of the World.

During the course of the Conference, voting took place to elect a new World President. We congratulate Magdie de Kock from South Africa.

The aim of the Conference was to create opportunities for women particularly, to exercise more influence over their lives and that of their families through being better informed, being part of an enabling environment and having the necessary tools to achieve the changes they need and want. The Conference gave women from many parts of the world a chance to meet, discuss and endorse resolutions for common action, and to encourage women to lobby to change the situations in which they live for the betterment of women, children and families.

Six years of planning began. I was Convener and formed a Committee. From then on organization to host the Conference began in earnest.

Committee membership changed over time. It included Lyn Harris OAM, Lynne Jordan (Executive Director), Janette O'Keefe, Joanne Alderman, Marion Dewar, MOH Noela MacLeod AO, Heather Scott, Jenny Nola, Glenys Ball, Bev Wall, Faye Glover, Wendy Earwicker, Gwen Mason, Sue Gass, Viviane Chemali, Jessamy Evans, Nicole Baskerville and Marie Vassallo.

Attendees – 676 all up. Australia 364, Brunei Darussalam 4, Cameroon 1, Canada 57, England 31, Fiji 2, India 6, Indonesia 3, Jamaica 2, Kenya 2, Malaysia 24, Mongolia 1, Namibia 6, The Netherlands 1, New Zealand 18, Northern Ireland 9, Norway 20, PNG 7, Republic of Kiribati 2, Romania 3, Russian Federation 1, Scotland 3, Solomon Islands 2, South Africa 30, Sri Lanka 2, Tonga 4, Trinidad and Tobago 11, Tuvalu 2, USA 49, Wales 1, Zimbabwe 3.

Many CWA of Victoria groups, branches and members generously sponsored many South Pacific Island women. Other states contributed as well, which enabled some women to attend a world conference for the first time.

This we knew was going to be a very expensive project and therefore grants and sponsorship was needed for it to be successful. MCEC staff were with us every step of the way throughout the six years and during the conference, with support and guidance.

Lynne Jordan and I spent many hours contacting and visiting prospective businesses and also attending meetings with Members of Parliament from the Victorian State Government. Letters were written and endless time spent on the phone with much needed help from Janette O'Keefe with her many hours of working on successive budgets with each being forwarded to London to ACWW Head Office.

In my role as Convener, a four-day journey to London once a year for meetings.

A badge was designed especially for the conference with much support by Winning Edge. The outcome was a green and gold design in the shape of the map of Victoria, something that all attendees and also juniors who participated in the Opening Ceremony will have as a keepsake.

The registration bags were made from different materials of indigenous designs.

The charity collection donated by attendees was greatly supported and given to Caroline Chisholm and Back Packs 4 Vic Kids, both worthy causes.

Finally, our hard work paid off with the State Government's substantial grant and, with the Melbourne Tourist Bureau's contribution, we realised that we were halfway there.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service agreed to be a sponsor and arranged for their plane simulator to be put in the foyer of the MCEC providing great interest for attendees. Creswick Woollen Mills, another sponsor, organised a wonderful fashion parade and their stall sold beautiful Creswick clothing as well as donating bright pink scarves for all volunteers to wear at the Conference.

Travellers Aid met people at Southern Cross Station and supplied disability equipment when needed.

Bev Wall OAM spent hours contacting the many outside stall holders with their great array of items for sale such as fashions, soaps and jewellery. Wendy Earwicker organised a huge Conference stall. Many thanks to all those members who made and donated beautifully made toys and other craft. This enabled visitors to purchase Australian animals and other items to take back home.

Stall Holders were: 1. Royal Flying Doctor Service 2. Pinned on you 3. Creswick Woollen Mills 4. Perry's Lemon Myrtle 5. Seven Creek Pearls 6. Vintage Chicks 7. M&S Textiles 8. The Glass Castle 9. Opakuma 10. Chasing Springtime 11. Amy Jade Creations 12. Kashzale.

What a wonderful Opening Ceremony, with many Junior CWA of Victoria members carrying in the flags of 84

countries belonging to ACWW. The oldest junior being 23 years and the youngest 11 months; all walking on stage wearing their special yellow and gold t-shirts. Thank you to Heather Scott for helping with the enormous effort of getting juniors and parents to the venue and what a proud moment for Victorian members, parents and committee watching the procession.

The beautiful flower arrangements on stage kindly donated by Ros Thompson were certainly a work of art.

The Hon Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria, was unable to attend but arranged a message of welcome through a special video recording.

The Hon Jill Hennessy, Attorney General and Minister for Workplace Safety, provided the welcoming address to Victoria, highlighting the role that CWA of Victoria has played in the history of this state.

The Hon Daniel Andrews, Premier of Victoria, provided a video message welcoming the ACWW Conference Delegates and encouraging all to enjoy Melbourne and Victoria.

Ms Emma Kealy, Shadow Minister for Mental Health, Women and the Prevention of Family Violence, also attended the Opening Ceremony.

The Welcome to Country with Aunty Joy and singers Lillie Walker, who sang 'Wominjeka Wurundjeri' and Zoe Koulbanis who sang 'Advance Australia Fair' was part of the Opening Ceremony.

The Schools Spectacular students' amazing performance entertained the audience with singing and dancing in beautiful, bright costumes. Thank you to Simon Patterson, Creative Producer, Neil Gladwin, Creative Director, and all students participating. Jenny Nola introduced us to Simon and Neil.

Guest speaker was Mrs Melissa Fletcher, a proud indigenous woman, who spoke on her role as CEO of her family's sheep meat processing plant based in Dubbo and then her role working for 10 years at their plant in Albany WA. Melissa is now CEO of Fletcher International Exports in Dubbo with a workforce of approximately 1,250.

Resolutions played an important part in the conference. CWA of Victoria put forward a resolution to eliminate Dog Mediated Rabies and thank you to Janette O'Keefe for the dedicated work undertaken on this resolution. Other resolutions were – Registration of Old Landfills; Marine Environment; Use of Plastics; Action on Climate Change; Textiles and Clothes; Domestic Violence; Iron Deficiency; Gender Sensitive Healthcare; Health and Nutrition; Pollinator Protection; Query or Q fever; Safe Toilet Facilities for All.

The Thanksgiving Service was well attended. A very moving ceremony conducted by The Revd Elizabeth Murray, St John the Evangelist, Toorak; Dianne Wright, Founder of Anam Cara Hospice, Colac; Trish Mardiasuty from Islamic Council of Victoria; and The Revd Loni Vaitohi, Shepparton Uniting Church. 9 candles were lit to represent the 9 ACWW areas around the world.

There was also fun and laughter when comedian, singer and actor Kelly Nash strolled on to the stage in a wig, bolstered with lots of clothes and, amid lots of laughter from the audience, made a valuable point through her performance that we should be proud of our bodies no matter what size and shape, not to conform to peer pressure and to be happy being ourselves.

CWA Victoria was delighted with the speakers that were showcased to the world. Dr Andrea Britton, a veterinarian and public health consultant spoke on her role on the Board of Vets Beyond Borders, working to eliminate rabies in dogs by vaccinating dogs. Over 60,000 people, mainly children, die from rabies every year. Sandie de Wolf AM, Interim CEO of DVVIC, the peak body for specialist family violence services, spoke about her role. Sister Vijili Dali, Daughters of Mary Immaculate, spoke on her work as DMI International Mission Director, supporting and helping women and children in Chennai, India.

Six Concurrent Sessions took place during the Conference: 1. Q&A: World President Ruth Shanks and CEO Tish Collins staged impromptu Question & Answer sessions with stimulating discussions. 2. ACWW & UN Policy & Communications Manager Nick Newland explained ACWW's consultative status with the United Nations and how ACWW works with UN. 3. Indigenous Edibles: Chef Greg Hampton from Melbourne Social Enterprise Restaurant showed many edible Australian plants and explained their uses. 4. QCWA Country Kitchens, established by Queensland CWA to connect women who want to heal communities by improving fruit and vegetable consumption in rural and remote Queensland. 5. Sustainable Development Goals: Warwick Shanks (KPMG, Wollongong) spoke of the importance of volunteering and his interest in the UN Sustainable Goals. 6. Empowering Women: presented by Creswick Woollen Mills and showcasing a study of clothes' types, understanding body shapes and empowering women with colour choice.

The Farewell Gala Dinner was another highlight with people up and dancing before dinner was served. Thank you to Shepparton band 'Indecision' for enjoyable music. Much talking and laughter could be heard and what a way to end a wonderful, successful conference.

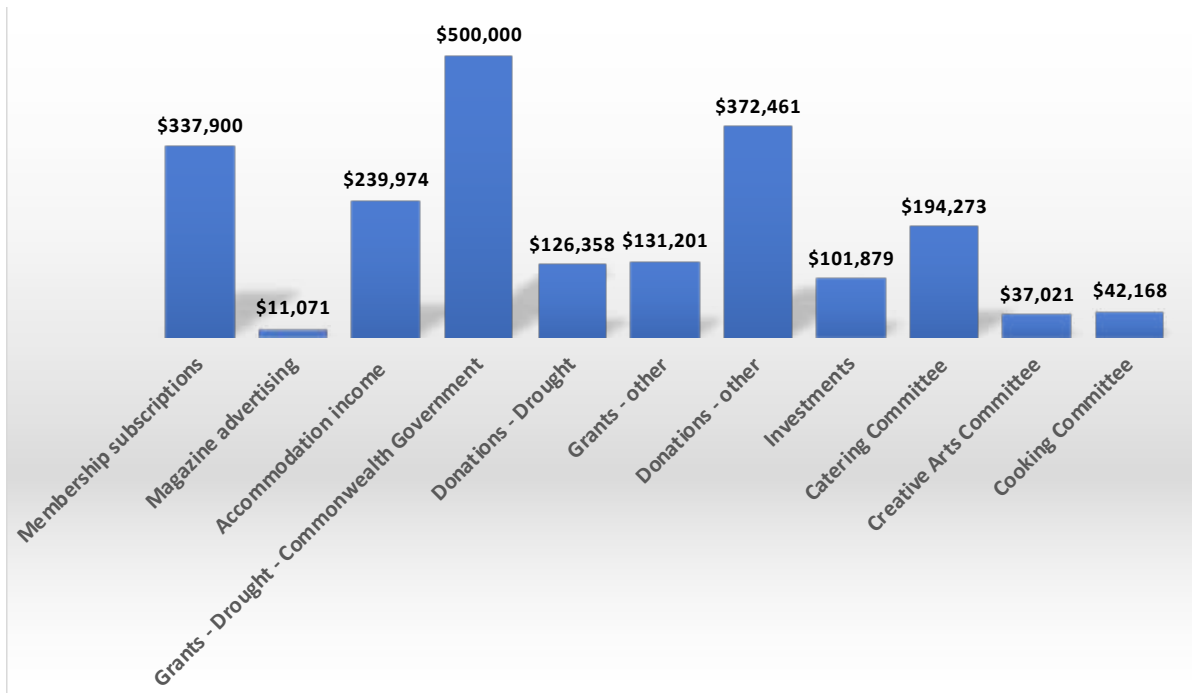
The optional tours were a huge success. They were organised by Joanne Alderman with Gwen Mason helping with the Gippsland Tour. Participation:

City Sights Tour	150
Aboriginal Dreamtime	39
Carlton Brewery	39
MCG Hallowed Turf	37
Wildlife & Winery Tour (Yarra Valley)	46
Penguins on Parade	43
Great Ocean Road	40
A Country Affair (Gippsland)	45

CWA of Victoria Financial, Events and Activity Highlights of 2019

A full copy of the 2019 Annual Report and Financial Statement is available on the website at www.cwaofvic.org.au

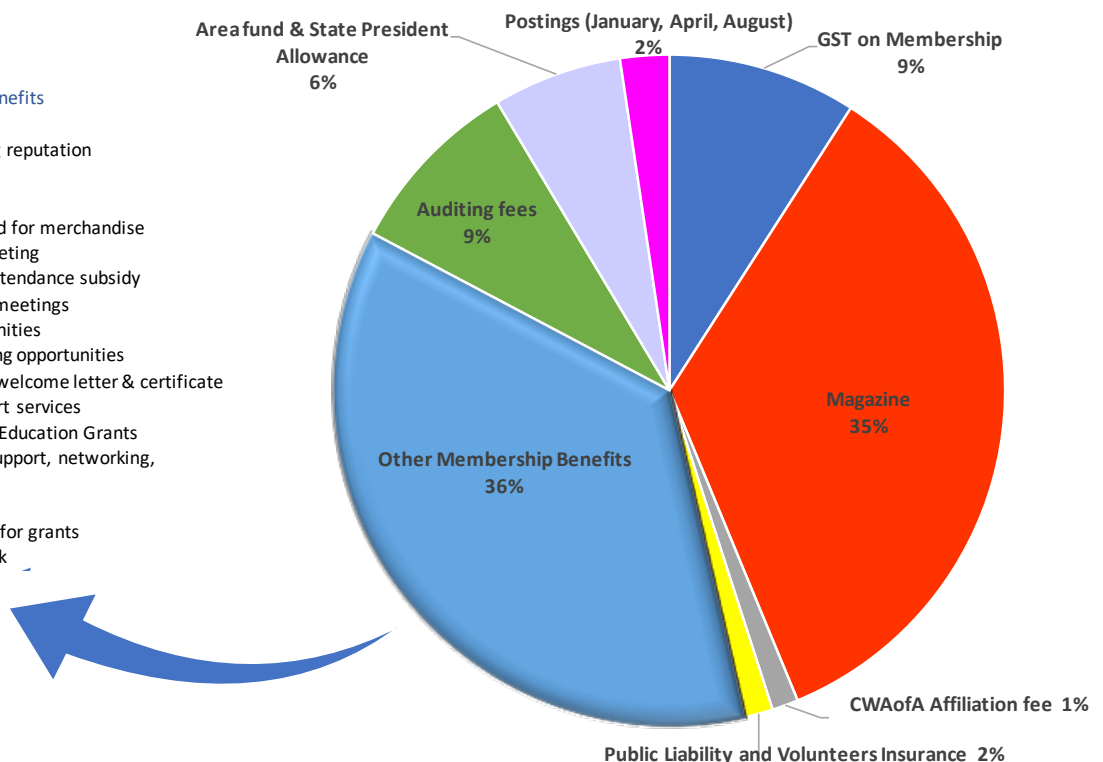
1.Highlighting Some of our Income Sources



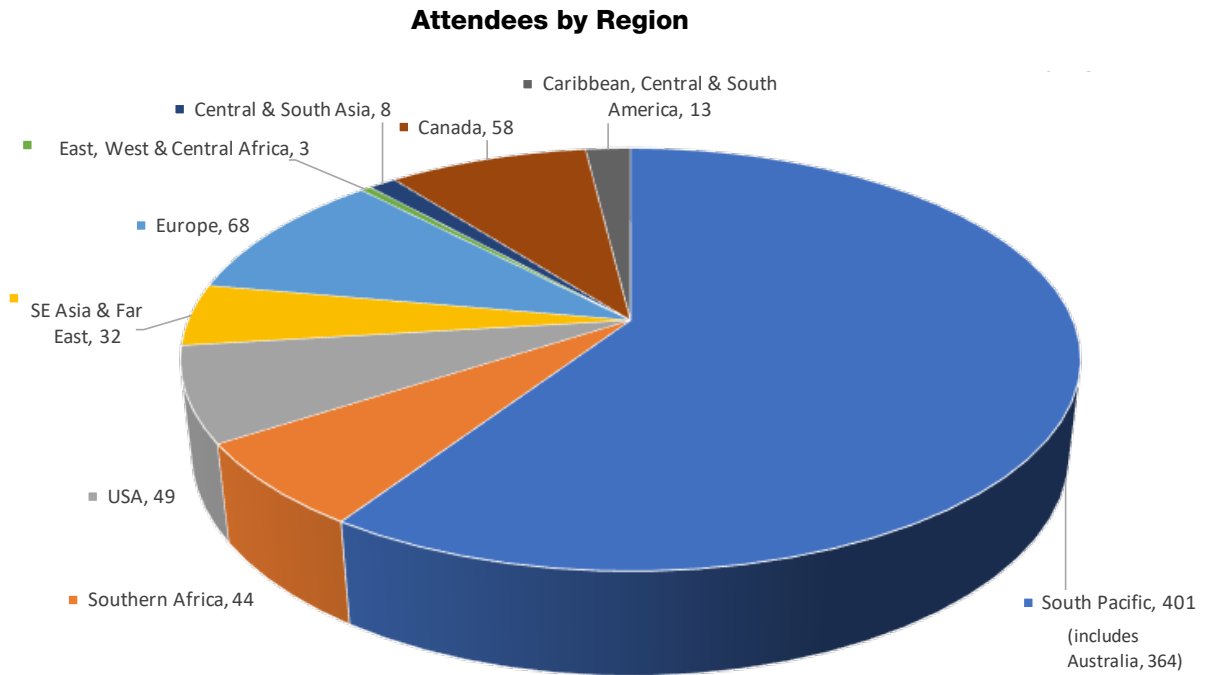
2.The Value of Your CWA of Victoria Membership

Other Membership Benefits include:

- Association's strong reputation
- Logo and Brand
- Membership Cards
- Discount at B&B and for merchandise
- Annual General Meeting
- State Conference attendance subsidy
- Four State Council meetings
- Leadership opportunities
- Learning and training opportunities
- New Member kits, welcome letter & certificate
- Membership support services
- Access to Awards / Education Grants
- Friendship, social support, networking, connections
- New Branch kits
- Assistance to apply for grants
- Website & Facebook



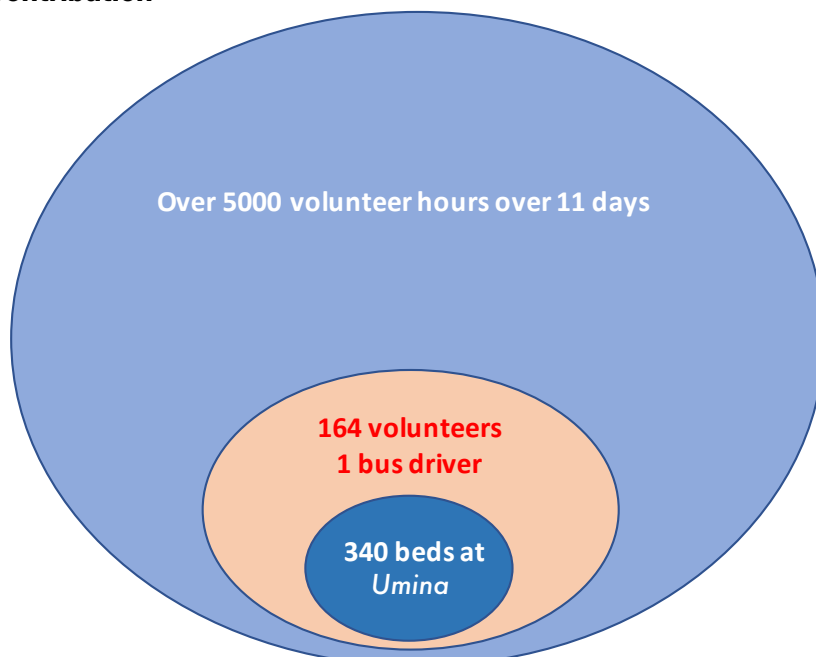
3.The 29th Triennial World Conference Melbourne 4-10 April 2019



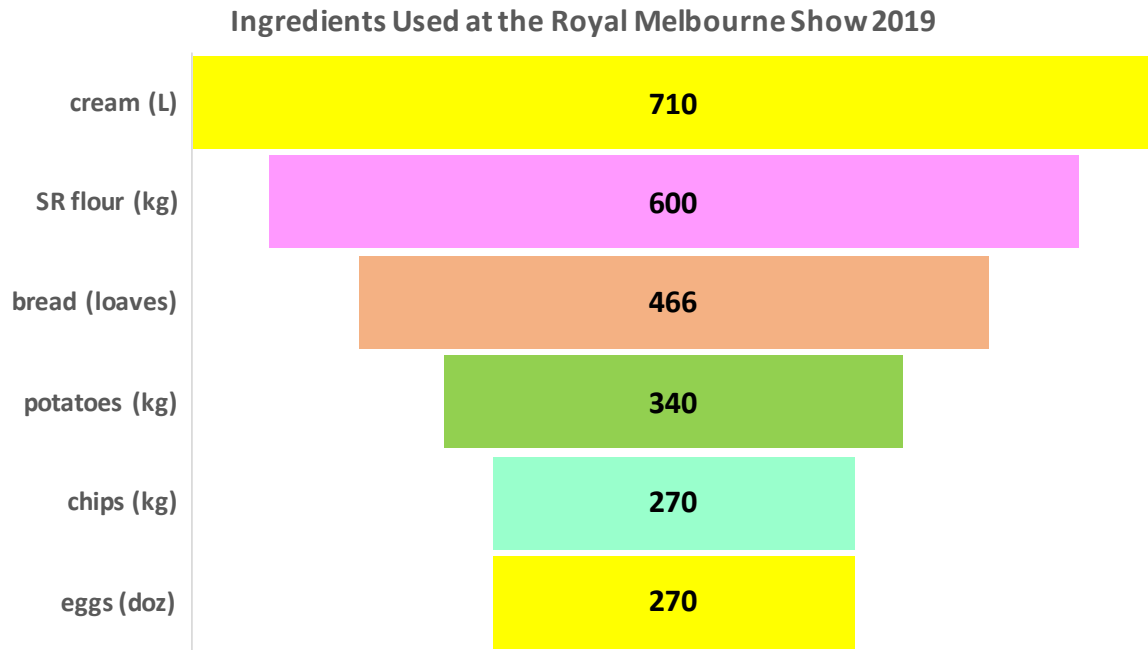
4.The 2019 Royal Melbourne Show

For some 70 years we have been running the CWA Cafeteria at the showgrounds. Over 11 days members work tirelessly to prepare and provide food, treats and drinks to thousands of Show attendees and of course that includes our famous scones! The RMS is our biggest fund raising activity.

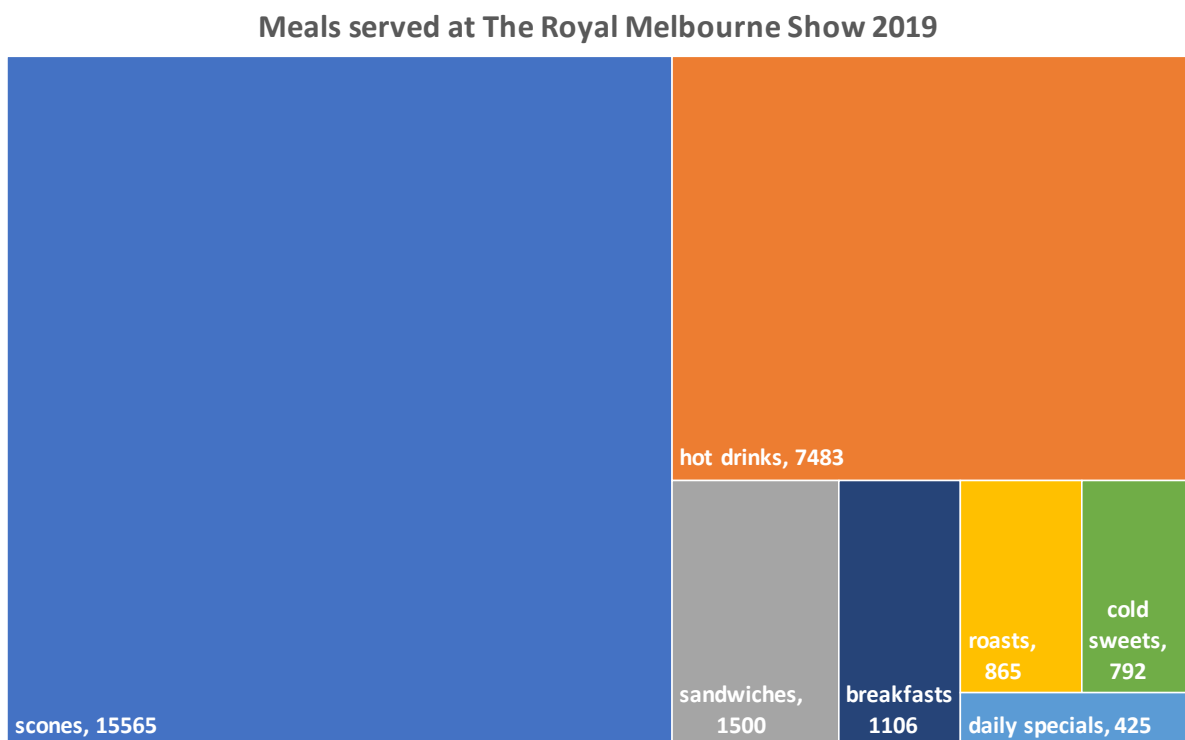
i) Volunteer Contribution



ii) Ingredients used at The Show



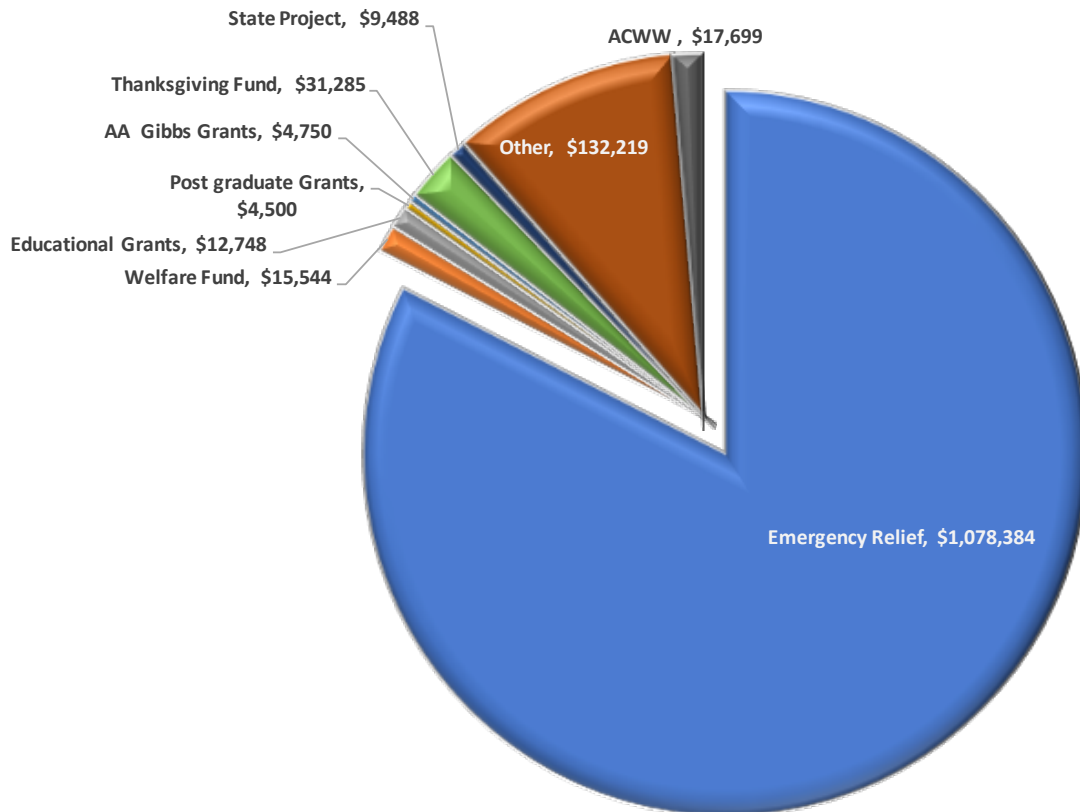
iii) Food served at the cafeteria



5. Disbursement of Special Purpose Funds in 2019

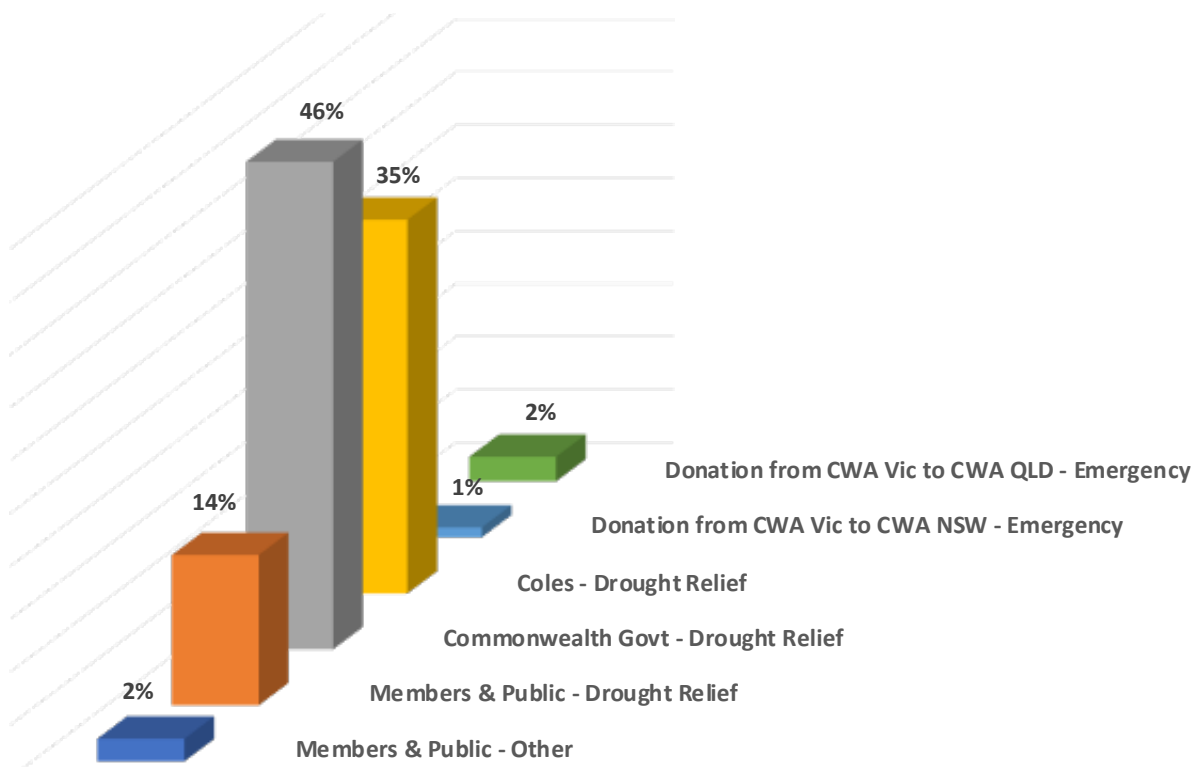
Each year CWA members, branches and groups along with members of the public, businesses and governments contribute to our special purpose funds.

i) \$ value of funds disbursed



ii) Emergency Relief Disbursement by Source of Monies

Emergency Relief is distributed to disadvantaged vulnerable women, children and families. In 2019 we saw the severe impact particularly of drought and bushfires.



Continued from page 14

Finally, a huge thank you to those who volunteered to help during the Conference. Marie Vassallo organised the many volunteers. Registration desk volunteers. Sue Gass for making beautiful gifts for speakers. Those who packed the registration bags. Members who sourced goods for the bags. Thank you to Glenys Ball for those hundreds of bookmarks. Those who helped on the big stall. The capable ushers and scrutineers. Faye Glover and helpers setting up and then dismantling the flags. Ron Fleming taking so many photos during the conference. Those who greeted attendees arriving at the airport. Scott Harris/Spence Construction for making/donating flag poles and stands. Noela MacLeod AO and Rosemary Strijbos who sold raffle tickets throughout the Conference.

To my wonderful Committee, and the husbands, and to all who helped in some small way, to those who were always on hand to help wherever, what can I say but thank you so much for your support to make the 2019 ACWW Triennial World Conference such a success and a wonderful memory to keep.

ACWW/International/ Community Support Committee Report



Faye Glover
Chairperson

On behalf of the ACWW/International/Community Support Committee (ACWW/I/CS), I am pleased to present this 2019 report.

Each month the Committee meets at *Umina*, starting with morning tea and a welcome cuppa in the Craft Room. Most months a Meeting is held to report and discuss delivering donations, table correspondence or plan a function. This is followed by unpacking in the ACWW/I/CS storeroom. Records are kept of name of Group, Branch or Friends who have donated goods and the number of items in the various categories. Then gathering and packing items from the range of donations, to be delivered to various charities, some in suburban Melbourne and some to regional areas, such as the following recipients: Mission to Seafarers – Melbourne, Mission to Seafarers – Hastings, Caroline Chisholm – Essendon, Cottage by the Sea, Monash Health, Ronald McDonald House, St Mary's House of Welcome, Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, Backpacks 4 Vic Kids, Doncare, Royal Women's Hospital, Northern Mercy Hospital, RFDS Education Unit, Books 4 PNG Kids, Anonymous X, 3081 Angels, Haven Home Safe–Preston, Premmie Brigade, Queen Elizabeth Centre, various police and ambulance stations.

The Committee aims to support wherever and however possible; women, children and families in the world, the South Pacific Area (SPA) and in local areas of Australia and Victoria in particular because of the ability to respond quickly here. Members discuss ACWW World activities that are featured in the ACWW magazine 'The Countrywoman' or share something they have learnt from the website www.acww.org.uk or from the Facebook page, which has many posts on current topics. Try to 'take time' to look at these new methods of communicating. The Committee looks at ways to best support our near neighbours in the South Pacific Area in conjunction with SPA President Gail Commens. The Committee voted to donate \$1,000 of 2019 funds raised to the SPA Projects Fund. The stamps members save and send in are trimmed – approximately 1cm border – and forwarded to the SPA President, who takes them to a buyer, and proceeds go towards SPA Funds. Several members have registered to attend SPA Conference in PNG 2020.

Community Support by the Committee, as the list of organisations showed earlier, is extensive. Committee members who live in the vicinity of an organisation CWA supports deliver donations. The workload seems to balance out over the year. Plus, members all over the state give a great deal of support in their own hometowns and regions. Thank you for this support at all levels.

As Committee Chairperson, I represent CWA of Victoria at United Nations of Australia Victoria Status of Women Committee (UNAASOWC) monthly meeting in Melbourne. This Committee covers a wide range of topics on women's issues that are at the forefront of world news and that are often featured in the ACWW World magazine, such as United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, Orange the World and 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

ACWW has been involved with UN for 68 years. CWA of Victoria observes some UN declared International days including International Women's Day, March 8. To celebrate this year, a Luncheon was held in March with MOH Noela MacLeod AO as guest speaker. Noela gave a delightful presentation of the history of ACWW. After question time a shared lunch and fellowship was enjoyed.

The highlight for 2019 had to be CWA of Victoria hosting the ACWW 29th World Conference. The ultimate event for ACWW members. Plus, a great experience for so many Victorian members who were able to attend. Branches were very proud to have their Junior members involved in the spectacular Flag Parade to open the Conference. It was a great opportunity to interact with all the other nations and hear their story. Listening to various reports and resolutions was very informative. Glenys Ball gathered together a wonderful display of ACWW memorabilia. Many items from 1962 had ladies recalling events from that time, which was lovely to see.

On behalf of all members who had donated fabric, sewing notions, bras etc to the Committee, we gave these items to attendees from the South Pacific Area and developing countries. The massive collection of Baby Goods for Charity was divided between Caroline Chisholm – Essendon, Backpacks 4 Vic Kids and Melbourne City Mission – Early Childhood Prevention Program.

The Committee provided information at the 2019 State Conference about membership of ACWW, the upcoming SPA Conference in Port Moresby PNG in June 2020 and 2022 World Conference in Malaysia.

Dame Phyllis Frost Centre was visited by two members who have clearance to enter DPFC. They delivered approved baby items for the 'Living with Mum Program'. This is a valuable service to the women at DPFC.

For International Day of Rural Women, October 15, the Committee decided to combine Country of Study with this observance and hosted an Icelandic themed Luncheon on October 15. Guest Speaker Janine Gleeson gave an excellent presentation all about Iceland. Janine has first-hand knowledge as she had lived and worked there for many years. Janine displayed traditional garments, books and photos.

Once again, the Committee participated in the Christmas Fare with an information table and attractive goods for sale, provided by the Committee members and donations sent specifically for the Fare. Tea cosies were popular!

A very big Thank You to each and every member of CWA of Victoria for sending so many wonderful donations to Head Office. It shows such dedication to the Association and without your support the Committee couldn't function.

Thanks-a-million to the very happy, hardworking 2019 ACWW/International/Community Support Committee. I am greatly indebted to you all for willingly carrying out the duties of this Committee.

Agriculture & Environment Committee Report



Margaret Wood
Chairperson

The Committee has had another great year, with various topics looked into, such as composting food waste to improve our soils, farmer health, Murray Darling Basin plan and plasticwise to name a few.

Again, we have been working with Worksafe on the Agriculture Safety Reference Group to improve safety on farms. It is now mandatory to have roll over protection on all quad bikes. There is a rebate which runs till June 2020. To explain a bit about the Group and why it was started, there has been international acknowledgement of the need for proactive behavioural change in the agricultural industry to reduce workplace deaths and serious injuries. Anecdotal evidence also indicates that many farming incidents and injuries go unreported. Worksafe is still very concerned about the safety performance of the Victorian agricultural industry.

Worksafe runs a proactive program which includes compliance and enforcement activities, grants for safety initiatives, media campaigns and presence at agricultural field days but changing the safety culture and behaviour of our farmers is challenging. Improving farm safety starts with you. Whilst it is pleasing to see many farmers taking up the government's quad bike safety rebate to fit quad bike operator protection devices or help purchase alternative vehicles, there is a continued need to change farmers' behaviour towards the safety of themselves, their employees, their families, their farm contractors and other visitors to their farms.

To this end Worksafe has met with key stakeholders (Agriculture Safety Reference Group), including the Country Women's Association of Victoria, to seek their input and broaden the opportunities to influence the farming industry.

Agriculture Victoria is working on the Smarter Safer Farms Program to design farm safety equipment and develop infrastructure grants for Victorian farmers. An analysis has been undertaken of what safety equipment and infrastructure will improve farm safety outcomes for Victorian farmers.

We had a luncheon in March with a speaker from the Centre for Farmer Health, Dr Alison Kennedy, who spoke on the health of our farmers and how we can help and also Geoff Pain who spoke on 'What's in our water'. The talks were very interesting and well attended with a lovely lunch afterwards. Thank you to all involved.

We have worked with Look Over the Farm Gate VFF to promote their screening of Happy Sad Man throughout the State, which did very well.

At our State Conference we had a fantastic stall with lots of visitors, and we had a Resolution that was passed on the state of the Murray Darling Basin which was later taken up by Country Women's Association of Australia.

One of our Committee members, Dr Viv Waller, Compost Project Leader, Centre for Urban/Sociology at Swinburne University passed away. Viv did a lot to encourage us with composting waste to improve our soils. Viv did a fantastic video and you can see it on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvOvwDB4kx4>. A really good video to watch and learn.

In November our committee got up at 4am to be at the Melbourne Seafood Market at 5am for a tour of the market! Barbara Konstas, who is the CEO of the market, gave us a very informative tour of the market for an hour. We learnt quite a bit about sustainable fish and which fish to buy. It is a must to visit the market so if you get a chance do so.

There is so much out there to try to improve on to look after our planet. Everyone can help in their various ways. Every little bit helps so try and do something if you can. The committee will be doing lots of things in the coming year. Bio security is a must and to look at the plastics in our oceans.

I would like to thank all my Committee for all their interest and help over my term as Chairperson. I have enjoyed every minute and am sure we have achieved something. May the new Chairperson have a great term as well.

Archives Committee Report

We have had a great response for requests that Branch and Group minute books be forwarded to the archives. There are still massive gaps and I know we will never be able to have all the minute books, as they have been lost in bushfires, floods, etc. The owner of all minute books is CWA of Victoria Inc., not an individual or a Branch or Group. Minute books must not be sent to local historical societies or kept by members in their homes. On occasions in the past, when family members have cleared out their mother's house, minute books have been thrown out or burnt.

I have located another missing Member of Honour, Mrs Campbell Wilson, who was Group President of South Gippsland Group.

Here are some interesting facts beginning from the first meeting of the Club Committee in October 1948 at 54 Market Street Melbourne – this was before the final papers for the purchase of *Umina* were finalised in November:

- Mr Farren Webb arranged for a bank overdraft to cover the cost of purchase of furnishings.
- Vacant Possession November 10th, 1948 and a clearing sale before this.
- Recommendation that for the time being all floors to be treated if necessary, so that in the bedrooms only mats beside the beds and, if possible, no polishing will be required. Hall and sitting room to be carpeted or rugged immediately.
- Only members over 16 be accommodated.
- Name CWA Club.
- It was decided that a room be kept for the State President.
- No drink to be permitted in Club.
- Twelve applications received for the position of Matron.
- Miss Kelly be engaged to do housework, to live in and be paid £3 per week.
- Floors to be stained where necessary.
- 20 cubic foot Frigidaire to be bought – cost £208.
- Front room, State President's room and one adjoining sanded and stained.
- Right hand side of tiled foyer to be made into an office.
- Insurance – Fire £10,000; Furniture £3,000 and Linen £500.
- A caretaker be given £1 and asked to work in the interests of the Association on the day of the sale, keeping an eye on the coke and barricading the gate into the vegetable garden.
- 1/- per night be charged to garage a car.
- Discussion on name plate for gate. "UMINA" to be taken off immediately and the State President to choose a suitable name.
- Employing a gardener for one extra day to chop wood and clean yard etc.
- The dairy converted to a bedroom by Cumbrill and Son for £25/10/- as the Club is consistently full.
- Twenty-four more sheets be purchased.
- Notice on the door of the Reading Room that cards may be played here in the evenings.
- A fund be started for the provision of a craft room.

We continue to wrap, record and process the minute books which are then placed in the archives. A very big thank you to Judy Normand for her assistance.

Procedures have been put in place to order the processes and use the materials sourced from the Archives Grant.



MOH Noela MacLeod AO
Archivist

Catering Committee Report

The Catering Committee continued its responsibility for the major CWA Catering outside the Lansell Road property. We met regularly to plan and coordinate this responsibility with 10 active committee members.

The 2019 year commenced with a request for 6,000 ANZAC biscuits and 500 scones for distribution to patrons at Flemington Races on 25 April. The response from members was heartening. Thank you also to those members who individually packaged and labelled the biscuits.

In July, the menu changed for the Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show. Warming lamb and vegetable soup, and home-made cake slices were provided for sale with commercially purchased lamb pies for these 3 days. CWA tea towels continued to prove popular with patrons.

Planning for the 2019 Royal Melbourne Show takes much time and preparation through the year. This is the largest, longest and most profitable annual CWA event and requires many members' assistance. More than 150 volunteers recorded more than 5,000 hours working on site, or at *Umina* for this event. The Cafeteria doors open for breakfast at 7.30 am and close after the evening meal at 7pm. Much food was prepared, served and eaten during this time each day. Queues of customers lined up for their favourite – scones and hot drink. A new scone record of 15,656 scones were baked. Well done to all scone cooks.



Lyn Fleming
Chairperson

The CWA Showbag again proved popular, with this year's theme 'Sustainability'. Goods were packaged in a green thermal lined bag suitable for supermarket shopping. The prepared tally of 800 bags were sold out within a week. Thank you to the many members who knitted beanies as the designated 'craft item' for this bag. Many more beanies were sold on the merchandise stall, along with CWA cookery books and tea towels, jars of member-made preserves, rich fruit cakes and loaves as well as other lovingly made craft items. Thank you to our many members who provided these 'sought after' goods.

There was much surprise, discussion and delight from patrons with the return of the 'heritage' CWA tea towel display hanging in the ceiling of the Cafeteria. A special thank you to the RASV and their staff for arranging this for us. It was a highlight for CWA to be recognised and volunteers invited to participate (wearing their aprons) in the Grand Parade on the final Show Day. The response from the crowd was enthusiastic and much appreciated.

A very big thank you to all members who have assisted the Catering Committee in any way during 2019. We look forward to this assistance and support continuing for 2020.

Cooking Committee Report

It gives me great pleasure to present this report. I was appointed Cooking Committee Convenor in June 2019. Thank you to Marie Vassallo who was the retiring Convenor. The Cooking Committee had a change in 2019 and is now a stand-alone Committee, rather than being part of the Creative Arts Committee.

The 2019 Cooking Committee has nine members. Seven of the nine members are also on the Catering or the Club Committee or both. This is very helpful when our interests are in creating food, enjoying our passion and learning from like-minded members.

The Cooking Committee has had a busy 2019 with cooking demonstrations at branch/group level, Sponges and Scones proving to be most popular. We also had Masterclasses on Preserves and Pasta making, as well as four Christmas Goodies Masterclasses. Richmond booked out two of the four Christmas Masterclasses for members of their own branch.

The Cooking Committee tried something new for 2019, offering a Best Kept Secrets weekend for members and non-members, although the weekend did not go ahead due to insufficient participants. A day class on making Sponges and Scones was held for those who had booked, which they enjoyed immensely. Judging by the feedback of the participants, Masterclass members for 2019 learnt lots from our wonderful tutors and made very positive comments.

The 2019 Christmas Fare was very successful with the most perfect day weather wise. I could not have asked for better if I tried. With some new stall holders, along with our regular ones that have been the backbone of our Christmas Fare for some time, the gardens and lawns looked amazing. The Christmas food stall is a huge part of the Fare and we would like to thank Coles for their continued support in again supplying dry ingredients. The BBQ and Devonshire Teas were a huge success. The Committee tried some new ideas with raffles and competitions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made Christmas goodies, packed and prepared for the Fare, or helped on the 7th December in any way to make our Christmas Fare a great success.

While I'm thanking people, I would like to thank the Cooking Committee for their support, tutoring, hands-on assistance and friendship in 2019. Without this wonderful team we couldn't do Masterclasses and Demonstrations, so thank you Carolyn Asquith, Carol Clay, Lisa Calandro, Mary Grant, Karen Jackson, Pam Mawson, Sue Rich and Marie Vassallo.

We look forward to meeting you at your branch when we come to give a demonstration, or you come to *Umina* for a Masterclass in 2020.



Beverley Wall OAM
Convenor

Club Committee Report

It is with much pleasure that I present this report highlighting the activities of this Committee for 2019. I would like to thank my Committee members for their assistance with catering events and for their very valued comments and suggestions towards making your *Umina* Bed and Breakfast facility the best it can be.

Providing Morning/Afternoon Teas, Lunches and Dinner for all State Council meetings involves much planning, preparation, cooking and presenting and then, of course, the dreaded cleaning up. I thank the volunteers who provided their time in the kitchen over these eight days, working with Marilyn Mackie, Anne DuVé and Lorraine Costello, as well as the Second Year Group Presidents who assist with the service of the meals.

Our High Teas are still providing a relaxed but elegant occasion for our guests, who always enjoy the ambience of our grand Dining Room, teamed with the professional presentation of the tables and the food. Louise Taylor and her band of Merry Women have organised and managed the front of house since the inception of High Teas. I sincerely thank Louise and her team for their professionalism, dedication and reliability in ensuring High Teas at *Umina* are



Mary Grant
Chairperson

something to be remembered. The team in the kitchen work very hard preparing and serving the delicacies on the tiered stands. A big thank you to everyone who has assisted with this task. Two Gluten Free High Teas were offered during the year and they were a resounding success. Patrons were so impressed with the variety and flavour of the food offered.

Australia Day at Government House is a big event for the Association and requires a lot of organisation and helpers from the membership and the Club Committee. Our part in this event is always well patronised as people say, "We came to get a famous CWA scone."

Open House Melbourne in July is another event where we can showcase both *Umina* and our famous scones, the latter through the committee. Seniors Week in October always sees an enthusiastic group enjoy our hospitality and, of course, the famous scones and a cuppa.

As well, Club Committee members assist with events organised by the Cooking Committee, such as Masterclasses and the Christmas Fare.

We have catered for luncheons for ACWW/International/Community Support and Agriculture and Environment Committees, as well as provided meals for our Embroidery and Craft Retreats.

In July we host the annual Junior Camp – an event eagerly looked forward to by our Junior members. This year we used Agriculture and the Environment as our theme.

During 2019 we introduced a new initiative to increase the use of the B&B as well as tap into the market of people wishing to learn a new craft. We offered three weekend retreats. Learning to Knit was on offer in September, followed by Goldwork Embroidery in October and Slow Stitching in November.

The major works on the all abilities ramp and the installation of ensembles in Rooms 1, 5, 25 and 26 are now complete. A number of rooms have also been upgraded with new décor. The gardens are looking neat and well-kept. Our thanks go to members, members' family and the group from the Australian Garden History Society for their invaluable assistance.

As members, we ask that you spread the word about the *Hidden Gem in Toorak*. It is YOUR Club, so please advertise and promote the facilities we have and encourage members and friends to use them.

Once again, I thank my dedicated band of workers who willingly give of their time whenever asked to work in the kitchen or at events we organise. Without this support the job of Chairperson of this Committee would be extremely difficult. I have enjoyed my involvement in this part of the CWA organisation and look forward to assisting my successor as they take on the role of Club Chairperson. Why don't you come and join her?

Creative Arts Committee Report

Creative Arts Committee has sixteen members who meet five times per year, and a further seven on the Exhibition sub-committee who come to our June and September meetings, and assist with the running of the State Exhibition. Our principal aim is to encourage and promote Handcrafts and Home Industries in the community. We do this by providing training for judges, by holding the annual State Creative Arts Exhibition, and by hosting craft courses and workshops.

In 2019 the Handcraft Judges' Update day featured Linda Steele, President of Victorian Quilters, who gave a very detailed presentation on the judging of quilts, and member Dianne Hadley, who talked about the aspects to be considered when judging dolls. At the Home Industries Update, Caroline Gray from 'A Bit of Jam and Pickle' brought along samples of fermentations, such as kimchi, for members to try, and explained how they are made and what to look for in a good fermentation. Judges also brought along samples of cooking and preserves using indigenous Australian ingredients, to be tasted and assessed, as the theme for the 2019 Home Industries Group Exhibits was 'Flavours of Australia'. Members very much appreciated the time our guests spent in preparing and presenting their talks.

Judges' training continued with a course for prospective Handcrafts judges being held at Tatura from February onwards. Some members have yet to complete the course and will do further training in 2020; others are gaining practical experience by working at shows and exhibitions under the guidance of experienced judges. Four judges completed their training in 2019 and were presented with Handcraft Judges' badges at State Conference: Cate Goodman, Annie Graham, Stella Hyde and Helen Jewell. Congratulations to our new judges, and we thank the senior judges Wendy Earwicker, Pam Mawson, MOH Noela MacLeod AO, MOH Helen Wall OAM, Sue Gass and Betty Mustey for the many hours they have devoted to training our judges.

Kyabram was the venue for the 2019 State Creative Arts Exhibition. Over 1,400 entries were received and displayed to advantage in the beautifully restored Kyabram Town Hall. The Group Exhibits, on the themes of 'Faces' (Handcrafts) and 'Flavours of Australia' (Home Industries), were very popular, with entries from 17 and 10 groups respectively. Both sections were won by Gippsland Hills Group. Congratulations go to Green Star winners Heather Mulready, Dianne Hadley, Stella Hyde, Ruth Baxter, Ann Weir, Zena Provan, Penny Wolswinkel, Maree Agius, Margaret Finn and Heather Bennett, and to Home Industries Certificate of Merit winners Beverley Sutherland and



Heather Scott
Chairperson

Melanie Wityk. 864 visitors came to see the Exhibition, and 236 members submitted entries, from 95 different branches. Special thanks go to the host group, Goulburn Valley West, local member Doreen Napier, State Vice President Lyn Trezise, and all the more than 60 volunteers who helped make the Exhibition such a success.

The State Photography Competition is now the responsibility of the Creative Arts Committee, and 2019 produced some stunning photographs. The winner of the Paula Pither-Mills Perpetual Plaque for Photography being Anne Wilson's entry in 'Ingredients' and 'Finished Product': 'Grain' and 'Bread'. This year, entrants received Judge's Comments Cards with their score and the judge's comments about their photos. These should be very helpful in enabling members to improve. We hope to see many more entries in next year's State Photography Competition. The photos were on display at State Conference, and the prize-winning photographs were also on display at the State Exhibition.

During the year the Committee and other interested members provided demonstrators for the Craft and Quilt Show, the Royal Melbourne Show, and other events. This enabled the general public to see crafts being worked, to try their hands at various crafts, to ask questions and learn about crafts and the Association, and sometimes led to new members joining the Association.

Eight members enjoyed a weekend Tatting and Lace Retreat at *Umina* in October. Tutors Heather Bennett, Penny Wolswinkel and Val Smith were very patient with the varying skill levels of the students, and everybody made some improvement. Delicious meals were provided by Club Committee Chairperson Mary Grant.

Heartfelt thanks to all Committee members for their support. Especial thanks to immediate past Chairperson Anne DuVé for her assistance in the handover, and to the Senior Judges Panel for their advice and guidance. Thanks also go to all our CWA of Victoria judges who so willingly travel to Exhibitions and shows across the state.

Magazine and Communications Committee Report



Marie Vassallo
Interim Chairperson

The Magazine and Communications Committee consists of a hardworking band of members. All members of this Committee undertake roles to ensure that the magazine is published on time 11 times a year and accurately reflects the wide and diverse activities of our Association. It also has input in keeping the broader public informed through the Association's website and Facebook page.

The Committee has seen some significant changes over 2019. Our Editor, Dr Joely Taylor, stepped down from this role in the second half of 2019. I am pleased to report that she has remained an active member of the Committee, and her enthusiasm and expertise continues to be utilised. A heartfelt thank you to Joely for her efforts during her time as Editor, when the style and format of the magazine underwent a 'facelift'. It has become more colourful and easier to read for those with vision impairment (myself included!). It was with great relief that Lorraine Zimmerman agreed to take on again the role of Editor. Lorraine's exacting attention to detail is a huge asset in this role.

2019 saw our first foray into assisting students interested in journalism and editing. We welcomed our first intern, Rebecca, in October. She will be working under the guidance of Dr Joely Taylor for one year, across all aspects of the editing and magazine production.

The State Literature Competition for 2019 was a huge success. There were 88 entries from 30 individual members. As in previous years, the judges were impressed with the standard of writing on offer. The book of the winning literature entries was printed and sold out at State Conference. Congratulations to all involved.

Each month, a junior newsletter is produced by one of the committee members, Joanne Legg. This is sent to all branches who have junior members. All juniors are encouraged to send in articles and photos to be included in the newsletter production.

In 2019, our State President, Marion Dewar, continued to record the magazine onto CDs as she has done for a number of years. These are available for members, in place of the written magazine, who have significant visual impairment.

Our magazine has seen a decline in external advertising over 2019. The revenue from corporate advertising does assist in reducing the cost of production to the Association. We are always keen to work with corporate partners to provide them with a visually appealing and prominent advertisement. Thank you to all groups and branches who have advertised exhibitions and fundraisers in the magazine. These show the vibrancy of activity across our Association.

Without members' contributions, our magazine would be a dull document indeed and our social media presence would be poor. Thank you to all branches and groups that send in 'news' items, to all members who have provided photographs of events, to Jenny Mitchell for the monthly cryptic crosswords, for the members who have sent in book or film reviews, to the committee chairpersons who provide their monthly reports and to all members who have sent in suggestions.

Last, but absolutely not least, a heartfelt thanks to the Committee, preproofreaders Joan Hill, Eileen Denereaz and Denise Underwood, proofreaders Mardi Akers, Julie Denyer, Lindy Faulks, Pam Crockett, Margaret Maxwell, Jenny Nola, Maria Fraser, Dr Joely Taylor, and to editor Lorraine Zimmerman. We have such a great time, continually learning from each other and look forward to having new members join us in 2020.

Membership Committee Report

It is with pleasure that I present this report for 2019, on behalf of the Membership Committee.

This year was busy for both members and the Committee, focusing on welcoming new members, opening more branches, and supporting Group Presidents and members with these endeavours.

We attended several events, including the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, the Melbourne Craft and Quilt Show and our own State Christmas Fare.

The Flower and Garden Show is always successful in relation to promotion and a lot of fun. Thank you to all our members who volunteered over this five-day event.

Branch Presidents, along with their members, have participated at events in their districts and local areas promoting the CWA of Victoria and encouraging many women to join.

The Committee has continued to focus on supporting Group Presidents in establishing new Branches and assisting established Branches in gaining new members.

The enthusiasm that new Branch members bring is exciting and somewhat infectious. So many women join because they are keen to make new friends, share and learn new skills and be engaged in their local communities.

It has been an enjoyable and rewarding time as Chairperson of the Membership Committee and I would like to thank my dedicated and hardworking team of Committee Members with a special mention to Sharon McNamara who has fulfilled the duties of committee secretary efficiently and professionally. I would also like to thank the Office Staff who support us so well.

Our objective each year is to grow our membership base and to retain and support existing members and branches.

Membership Statistics - as at 31.12.2019

Full Members	4,693
Life Members	126
Junior Members	295
Total Membership	5,114

New Members	451
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Number of Branches	312
Number of Groups	40



Peg Higginbottom
Chairperson

Performing Arts Committee Report

Performing Arts Committee members put much effort into the planning for a Performing Arts event for 2019. Venues were investigated and performers encouraged, involving a great deal of time and effort by everyone concerned. Eventually the decision was made not to proceed with Performing Arts Presents 2019.

Many Groups and Branches continue to compete and entertain in their own areas, giving pleasure to audiences, thus bringing the talents of members to the general public. This also allows members to continue to express and to enjoy their love of speech, music and drama and all that the performing arts involves. Public speaking competitions at Group Conferences provide entertainment and individual empowerment.

Thank you to all who assisted with the research for Performing Arts Presents 2019, with special thanks to the enthusiastic and hardworking Committee members.



Helen Christie
Chairperson

Social Issues Committee Report



Jennifer Nola
Chairperson

It is with great pleasure that I present the Annual Report of the Social Issues Committee for 2019.

The Social Issues Committee members have worked hard to explore the *2019 Social Issues Theme of Social Isolation* and to continue supporting our themes from previous years. It was gratifying to learn of the great work occurring in our branches during the year to support people in the community who were feeling socially isolated. The number of coffee mornings conducted at branches, libraries and other community venues provided a great comfort and boost to those who were disconnected. Our Christmas Fare stall also provided a great opportunity for people who had wandered into the Lansell Road grounds to have a sit, a chat and then to continue on their pre-Christmas way, happy to have had the opportunity to speak to someone on that day. The impact on mental health and physical wellbeing as a result of being socially isolated cannot be underestimated. The little things can make a huge difference in someone's life!

Our meetings were peppered with guest speakers including Meg Trimble from QCWA who spoke on the mental health peer support program she has been researching and writing called *Bouncing Back*. Executive Director Lynne Jordan spoke about how best to utilise our limited resources and increase our effectiveness via Advocacy Plans. This has led to work being commenced on the CWA Advocacy Plan for Domestic Violence and Homelessness.

We held a stall at State Conference where we collected members' ideas on how to combat social isolation. Many of these ideas have already been implemented by various branches around the state.

Committee members attended various seminars and community information sessions on social issues topics dear to our hearts. These included a Maroondah Council event titled 'Journey of Ageing' with guest speaker Gerard Mansour attended by Judy Normand; Heather Scott represented us at the Foundation for Alcohol Research Education campaign launch to end advertising of alcohol during children's TV hours; we have reconnected with the Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Alliance with Sarah Barnbrook our representative – it is pleasing that we have a CWA voice again with this group.

Viviane Chemali and Judy Normand attended a lecture on 'Loneliness and its Impact on our Community' run by Leadership Victoria and Rotary Melbourne. The guest speaker was Associate Professor Simon Stafrace, Program Director, Alfred Mental and Addiction Health.

In October, Manningham Council held an event titled 'The Eastern Loneliness Dialogue' which I was able to attend along with many others from different support agencies. It was very enlightening to hear how loneliness and social isolation is handled in the eastern part of the metropolitan area. The issues are very similar throughout the state and communication is a priority in this field. The Social Issues Committee still believes that a virtual branch is an idea worthwhile exploring with our Membership Committee counterparts and have been investigating how NSW established their virtual branch to help overcome the social isolation of those who can't access local meetings.

I attended a very interesting 'Social Prescription' Seminar in Brighton with various guest speakers on how to improve people's health without using medication but rather with prescribing social activities of some sort.

Following my attendance at the presentation of the UNICEF Australia NSW Youth Drought Summit learnings, I travelled to Bairnsdale in December to a training day titled 'Communicating with Communities in Stress'. Little did the presenters know how quickly they would need to put the training into practice as the fires hit just days later.

We were very pleased to have our resolution requesting that *State and Local governments institute a range of targeted strategies to address growing social isolation in their communities* passed at State Conference. Many hours of research and discussion went into preparing the resolution and I thank those members who were involved.

Our major event for the year was a Seniors Month presentation by the Commissioner for Senior Victorians, Gerard Mansour, who spoke to twenty-one members from Wodonga, Essendon, Meenyan, Ballarat, Ashburton and Umina on 'Social Isolation in our Ageing Communities, Causes and Responses'. As always, Gerard was very informative and gave us some insight into his work, good ideas to take away to assist in the ageing journey we are all on, and some hints and tips on how to help the Association retain members!

Our thanks to some wonderful members who have retired from the committee over the past twelve months – Christine Coleston, MOH Carol Clay, Isobel Simon, Cate Goodman and Julie Denyer. My sincere thanks to them for their contributions to discussions and their assistance at events and stalls. Welcome to our new committee members – Margaret Maxwell, Elaine Smith, Tracey Kyle and MOH Noela MacLeod AO. Thank you to the remaining members of the committee – Viviane Chemali, Heather Scott, Sarah Barnbrook and Judy Normand. A wonderful team of members to work with! Thank you for your continued support and inspiration.

Group Reports

Ballarat District

In 2019 the Ballarat District Group had 15 Branches – 9 Day Branches and 6 Night Branches. The Group extends from Ballarat to Melton, Daylesford to Scarsdale and it is certainly a juggling act to meet the needs of all in arranging Group Conferences to achieve maximum attendance. To this end, I ran the first Group Conference to be held on a Saturday since the formation of the current Group in 2001 when the Ballarat and Hampden Groups were combined. Our Branches are a mixture of older and younger members with different needs and aspirations. All have a common cause in working for their respective local communities as well as supporting the Association at state level and making donations for International Projects.

Bass

2019 has been a year of celebration and sadness for the Bass Group with the death of Past State President Machel Crichton who would have been proud that Wonthaggi has been reformed. Loch and Woodleigh Vale celebrated the 70th Anniversary of the commencement of their branches with a joint event.

Beaufort

The Beaufort Group consists of 8 branches with the inclusion of 2 new branches that were formed just over a year ago. Members are actively supporting their communities that are also strengthened by the involvement and commitment of our CWA members. Our Group has enjoyed the challenges and opportunities that these contributions of catering, scone drives, BBQs, providing breakfasts for school students, and craft have made. Thank you to all members for your friendship and support.

Bendigo Northern

All branches participated to raise over \$2,000 by wrapping Christmas gifts at Bendigo Marketplace, donating a proportion to a Food Share Program that supports rural families. We held a Social Issues forum. Each month we hold a Craft meeting. In June we held a Competitions Workshop and we like to think that these two factors led to some success in the State Exhibition. The Group continues to celebrate CWA Sunday with a thanksgiving service; support SPAN; engage the community in *Women Walk the World* in April; participate in events such as *Be Well Be Connected*. Then we bake and make preserves to sell on stalls, always with the goal of raising the profile of CWA. A member now sits on the Bendigo Positive Ageing Advisory Committee.

Central Highlands

Central Highlands Group is pleased to report on a highly successful year in 2019 – including the formation of a new branch – Woodend Eves – and a strong level of activity/fundraising from all 12 branches. Major achievements include establishing the Ruby McCulloch Scholarship and a donation of \$5,500 to the Royal Women's Hospital. The Group has also introduced a new monthly e-newsletter – The Highland Fling – to keep members updated and to promote future events.

Central Murray

Central Murray Group has enjoyed a fruitful year with our five Branches. A highlight of the year was the various celebrations for International Women's Day that branches held. *Women Walk the World* highlighted the wonderful projects that have improved the standard of everyday living for women and children. A poignant indigenous art exhibition titled *Because of Her We Can*, promoted discussion of the great strength women had provided to their families through the many challenges that racial discrimination presents. We heard firsthand from a survivor of domestic violence and how crucial it is for society to report domestic violence. Events featuring a trail blazing woman in the Victorian Police Force, a female magazine editor in the corporate tennis world and Tai Chi to promote our health and wellbeing rounded off the year. Interbranch connections were strengthened as we supported each other's events. The profile of CWA within our communities was lifted by attendance and good media coverage. Meanwhile our junior members were very excited to be flag bearers at the ACWW World Conference and enjoyed a growth in their membership.

Central Victoria

March Group Conference in Harcourt saw the election of Darryl O'Bryan, Judi Kent and Helen Hand. At our handover lunch in June we said thank you to Lyn Fleming and Marg Jarvis for their roles and support during the past 12 months. Some of the highlights for the year were: State Conference – with 17 members attending from 8 branches; Newstead, supported by West Wimmera Group, having a resolution passed. Starting a Group Newsletter – Group Goss – thanks to Judi Kent. A successful Icelandic International Day at Heathcote thanks to Helen Johnstone and Branch officers. August Group Conference in Maryborough was a happy sight of people dressed with a splash of

yellow, thanks to Havilah members. An invitation to share a day in Inglewood at one of the town's historic mansions. A Group Craft day held in Newstead, thanks to Craft Leader Lyn Carter. Getting the Group Creative Arts Collaborative moving toward our first Exhibition for four years - to be held in the historic town of Maldon in March 2020.

Central Wimmera

Central Wimmera Group has had several successful group activities during the year. As a group we have had a craft day making diamond dots Christmas cards and making sewing scissor beaded lanyards. We also enjoyed a presentation on Sustainable Seafood from a second-generation fisherman from Portland. The group is fortunate to manage the Halls Gap Cottage. Extensive renovations have been completed to the bathroom and kitchen for visitors to enjoy. It's a gem of a place to stay and enjoy the beautiful Grampians.

Diamond Valley

Diamond Valley Group has had a great year. We continued with our very successful Creative Arts Event which again identified some great talent in many areas of cooking and craft which we then shared with everyone at the State Creative Arts event at Kyabram. Lots of work was done through the year focusing on fundraising and supporting local events for those impacted by drought and bushfires. On a sadder note we started the year off with 7 branches but sadly our Greensborough Day branch closed after 72 years of service to the community and the Country Women's Association. I would like to thank all the members over those 72 years for their great work. I am looking forward to working closely with the Group President Elect and working towards the growth of our Group as we move into the new year.

East Gippsland

It has been a trying year for our members in East Gippsland with not only severe drought but also bushfires. Throughout the year and the region, we ran a number of 'Drop in and have a Cuppa Days' to offer farmers family relief and to promote Grants for drought administered by CWA. Orbost was re-opened with 35 excited and passionate members. Donations were received from generous and concerned CWA Groups and Branches and other aid agencies to assist with our drought recovery efforts. Our Group Project was Median Arcuate Ligament Syndrome (MALS) that assisted a local boy receive urgent surgery in America. We continue to be involved on the East Gippsland Shire Council's Drought Reference Group and their Senior Ambassador program. Members have continued with their unwavering and enthusiastic support at both Branch and Group level.

East Wimmera

East Wimmera Group has enjoyed craft days, conferences, and a Christmas Luncheon together. There is always plenty of talk and laughter as we learn and share together. Our main fundraiser was a morning cooking demonstration with a screening of the movie 'Poms' and afternoon tea to follow. We welcomed Wycheproof Phoenix, a new branch for our group.

Eastern Foothills

Eastern Foothills Group has 6 branches now as, unfortunately, Kilsyth/Montrose has closed. The AGMs went well. We had a meeting and discussed what was expected of the branches at the AGM. 29 members attended the State Exhibition in Kyabram with 28 other members. We all had a fun time and members have asked if we could have a couple of bus trips yearly. We donated over \$500 for drought relief at our Christmas lunch at Bayswater hotel.

Eastern Goulburn Valley

During the year the Eastern Goulburn Valley Group have held a very successful craft exhibition, catered at the Shepparton Show and catered for the Women Motor Bike riders when they visited Shepparton. Members have participated in a Church Service at Dookie, Craft Days at East Shepparton and *Women Walk the World*. Many of our members enjoyed a bus trip to Bendigo and surrounding districts in September.

Echuca

During the past year the Echuca Group celebrated the 50th birthday of Milloo as well as enjoying a combined International/Christmas lunch with a guest speaker and food from the Country of Study.

Fraser

Fraser Group had an outstanding year. Port Phillip won the Alvie Ferry trophy for the largest increase in membership - over 400% and Ashburton won the Book of Honour for best Secretary's report. Both these Branches continue to build on their success: Port Phillip sponsored the establishment of the new Docklands Branch; and Ashburton expanded its range of activities. Where do these 'gals' get the time? Fraser Group members are always ready to answer the call for volunteers to help out at CWA State events; as well as supporting their local communities and a wide range of Group fundraising and social events. The Group film nights focusing on strong women continue to be very popular. A sustainability interest group is now getting off the ground - an area of concern to many members. Fraser Group's ongoing success is due to the dedication of its growing membership base to CWA ideals and the determination to care, challenge, create and...coffee!!

Geelong

Geelong Group consists of 15 branches! We welcomed two new branches: Surfcoast and Werribee South and saw Galena go into recess! Our Group Exhibition was a great success and we look forward to an exciting 2020!

Gippsland Hills

The 11 branches of Gippsland Hills Group continue to be very active. The group is 'home' to a number of past and present senior office bearers including State President Marion Dewar. Our successful group exhibition on 3-4 May was held in Inverloch. Monthly group craft is in Leongatha - activities included felting and Kumihimo. Three times annually we join with neighbouring Bass and South Gippsland Groups for craft. Performing Arts day was held in August in Meeniyan, with members of all three groups involved - *linking hands in friendship*. State President Lyn Harris OAM was guest of honour at our AGM and Autumn conference hosted by Mirboo. Mirboo North hosted the Spring conference. Our monthly cake stand (rotated through the branches) at the Coal Creek farmers market remains popular with visitors and locals. A signature change over the last year is singing both verses of the National Anthem at Group functions. Joining members from across the state at State AGM and Conference in Williamstown was a highlight of 2019.

Goulburn Valley West

Goulburn Valley West Group has enjoyed a year of fellowship and community service. We are in the process of forming a new Branch. The Group hosted the State Creative Arts Exhibition in Kyabram. Members have contributed to Group and State fundraising events.

Henty

Henty Group continues with 11 branches, with members from juniors to those in their nineties. We had a great craft camp in Port Fairy in June, enjoying fun and friendship and sharing craft. In August we had a stand at Sheepvention in Hamilton, where much interest was shown in our merchandise, knitted goodies and soup. October kept us busy with a successful Arts and Crafts Exhibition held in Portland.

Hume Goulburn

Our 7 branches continue to be busy and are actively trying to grow their branches. Yarck welcomed 4 new members this year, now totalling 23. Great effort for a tiny town. Our new Group President is Kaye Ashe and she is obviously enjoying her role. Our Past Group President, Sarah Barnbrook, has gone on to become a State Vice President. Well done Sarah! We had a good representation attend the State Conference in Williamstown and are looking forward to Warrnambool 2020. Our Creative Arts Exhibition is bi-annual and will be held at Yea in May 2020. Keep up all the good work ladies!

Kiewa Valley

We began the year with 2 of our Wodonga junior members acting as flag bearers at the ACWW World Conference, which was attended by several of our members. The Group was well supported by members attending State Conference, promoting fellowship, friendship and shared interests. Group President Training in March where I have met a fabulous group of ladies all determined to promote and consolidate the future of CWA into the 21st century. My Secretary and I attended Group Branch AGMs, meeting many new local people. Congratulations to Kiewa for becoming an Evening Branch for 2020, accommodating new members still in the workforce. Sadly, Yackandandah is in recess. Thank you to all members who put entries in the State Exhibition, assisted at the Royal Melbourne Show and Christmas Fare and baked for state events. Thank you to members who helped with the Group sausage sizzle and attended our Christmas gathering at the Albury Botanical Gardens, enjoying a talk on the history of the gardens. Wodonga made a friendship quilt that will be raffled to raise funds for Hilltop Cancer Hostel.

Latrobe Central

49 members from 8 Branches entered the Group Creative Arts Exhibition at Drouin in February, which was followed by the Group AGM and Conference the next week hosted by Drouin South.

The Bunyip/Tonimbuk Fires brought many members together to support those affected - by manning the incident and recovery centres, catering, making quilts and growing plants.

Drouin, Gormandale and Moe Branches celebrated significant birthdays with well attended events. Group members attended Neerim District's ACWW 'Walk the World' event at Rokeby.

The August Conference was held at Flynn Hall and hosted by the newest Branch - Flynnites.

Loddon Valley

We have amazing Branches - Cohuna, Dingwall and Lake Boga/Tresco; serving their communities and supporting people living in isolation; encouraging their youth and local schools; helping students to read and teaching them practical life skills; holding a membership drive in June to help gain much needed members for our Branches; and forming a new Branch at Pyramid Hill. We are always on hand to help members and their communities.

McDonald

McDonald Group has a new Bentleigh Day Branch and we are in the process of starting a Bentleigh Evening Branch. At Christmas we donated craft items to an Aboriginal Women's shelter in St Kilda and have sent goods to a hospital in the Northern Territory. Branches promote 'reuse recycle' and also make beeswax food wraps and veggie bags. McDonald is a vibrant group of energetic and inspirational women who support communities where needed.

Mildura/Millewa

We had two highlights during my term. Merbein launched a book '80 years of CWA History' and Mildura celebrated a 90th Birthday. Both celebrations had great attendance. Members continue to support monthly delegates meetings and assist within the community with their fundraising and donations.

Mitchell

Mitchell Group continues to grow and flourish. Our members have worked hard to support the Association at state events such as High Teas, the Royal Melbourne Show and Christmas Fare. We held our first Mitchell Makers' Day and hosted the State Conference at Williamstown. Friendships are forged at our Group events and we are grateful for our multi-generational relationships.

Moir

One highlight of our group for the year was celebrating International Day. Branch members, dressed in costume, ate Icelandic food and learned the history of Iceland. A trip to *Umina* by some members of our group proved to be a very enjoyable day of fun and fellowship of getting to know each other on a casual basis.

Mornington Peninsula

2019 has seen the closure of our Balnarring Branch with many members moving to other branches and the opening of a new branch - Mount Martha Seaside. We continue with 10 branches, 4 of which are evening branches, giving us a very broad dynamic to interest new members. Our annual Creative Arts Exhibition in April is a highlight of our year and I am always amazed at our talented ladies. Community events such as the Red Hill Show allow our members to share their passion for our organisation and all that it does.

Murray Valley

We have five Branches and had a wonderful year with Group craft, Music and Drama, sharing a lovely casserole lunch, took part in Daffodil Day, hosted a cake stall, a sausage sizzle and took a bus trip to the Craft Exhibition. Altogether it's been a busy year.

North Eastern

North Eastern Group had a busy year with overall membership showing an increase on last year. We sadly saw the closure of Myrtleford after 91 years. On the other hand, we welcomed a new Branch to the Group in September - Oxley and Milawa - and they are a very enthusiastic branch. We wish them all the best for the years to come. Many members have been impacted by the drought and fires in the later part of the year. Supporting their members (particularly Moyhu) and communities has been ongoing throughout the year. Many thanks to all branches for their support to the Group over the year.

North Gippsland

The North Gippsland Group, which has 10 branches, has had a busy and rewarding year. We have held the usual fundraising and community awareness events. Our main focus has been on supporting those affected by the drought. One Branch in particular has been busy and organised an outdoor movie night for families and an adults' dinner with guest comedian Vince Sorrenti. As a Group we provided a lunch for women with entertainment by Kelly Nash (who performed at the ACWW World Conference) and the 60 women left laughing and energised enough to keep on going. We have had only a small increase in membership with plans for bigger and better next year.

Omeo/Tambo Valley

2019 has been a testing time for individuals and our communities! We have endured the ongoing drought and bushfires broke out 21 November north of Bruthen and Dargo. These quickly gathered momentum, with road closures to the end of the year. Both branches, High Country and Benambra, catered for the Benambra, Omeo and Ensay Calf sales and the Omeo Show. Funds have been dispersed for various community needs. Four members of High Country attended State Conference in Williamstown and had a most enjoyable time. In July 2019 the Omeo Hall, formerly the meeting venue for Omeo (now High Country), was sold. Funds will be shared between the Association and the Branches of the Group. The half-yearly conference in August at Swifts Creek was well attended, with a delicious lunch cooked by Carol Nunan, our guest, who spoke about her career in the hospitality industry and the importance of promoting local produce. Activities included Biggest Morning Teas, Women Walk the World and Anzac Day. International Day is much anticipated by the primary school children who display their work and enjoy lunch with us. Benambra has lost one member while High Country Branch has four new members.

Polwarth

Polwarth Group CWA began the year with eight branches. Our theme was friendship and respect. This was developed through holding regular delegates meetings followed by lunch. We enjoyed time at State Conference with many attending for the first time. We enjoyed our Group Exhibition and two bus trips. With regret we closed the Colac Branch who have spent almost 70 years with us. Some members joined two other branches. Surf Coast also decided to join the Geelong Group as this was more convenient for travel for this very enthusiastic new branch. We will continue to support our local Breast Care Nurse with donations for petrol vouchers, bamboo turbans and electrobes and breast cushions. Rugs both knitted and crocheted were distributed to local Aged Care Facilities. Heart cushions and premature baby sets were delivered to both Colac and Geelong Hospitals. Going Home Bags for children returning home after Foster Care were prepared and presented to Barwon Youth and Family Services. We were delighted to contribute to the refurbishment of the guest rooms at *Umina*. Donations have been made to the CWA Bushfire Appeal. We aim to develop further friendships with the formation of new branches.

South Gippsland

South Gippsland Group has three branches – Fish Creek, Foster and Yarram. Members continue to support each other and their local community, as well as statewide initiatives. Members were saddened by the death of esteemed member Miriam Stackhouse in October. Miriam served as a Group President several times and as Handicrafts and Home Industries Committee Chairman (1991-1993). She was a judge of both Handicrafts and Home Industries. A Life Member of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), Miriam attended a number of South Pacific Area and World Conferences. She travelled to teach and mentor women of the South Pacific islands.

South Western

11 Branches annually attend Social, International, and Association Days; Women Walk the World, CWA Sunday and Our Creative Arts Exhibition. We support local Agricultural Shows, Warrnambool City Council, TAFE and groups in need with committee membership and stalls as required. Gaining 2 grants helped keep our Terang CWA Hall maintained. A member of Night Owls was honoured at the Australia Day Awards and we are hosting the Victorian State Conference in May 2020.

Upper Murray

We are a small group of 4 branches, two in Tallangatta and two in the Corryong area - one in Tintaldra and one in Cudgewa. This year we gave two scholarships to the high schools in the area. This was our first time of doing so. It was wonderful to be able to help two young girls with their education. We had a fabulous combined Christmas party at Shelly Camp, halfway between the two towns. We also had a group craft day and a couple of other combined events.

West Gippsland

Whilst visiting our Branches I have been very heartened by the support that the Branches give to their local communities. Their contributions are quite varied but there is a common thread of compassion, empathy and generosity. Our Group Exhibition was a great showcase for the talent of the members and for promoting the Association. Branch members are the quiet achievers and I wish them continued success in their endeavours.

West Wimmera

West Wimmera Group has welcomed a new Branch at Kaniva with 10 members, making 7 Branches in total. A number of members entered some excellent work in the state craft exhibition - where Sadie Williams took out the Troutbeck Trophy for the best pair of Knitted Socks and Rita Stewart took out the Troutbeck Trophy for the best piece of China Painting. Horsham took third place in the Branch Aggregate for branches with 17-30 members. Horsham also hosted the West Wimmera Group Craft Exhibition – members entered extremely beautiful work. Sadly, this year, we also saw the passing of three of our long-term members (Rita McKenzie, Lauris Hunter and Marjorie Uebergang) who are greatly missed.

Yarra Valley

The Yarra Valley Group has 5 branches, most of them are small but are very active. We have had a quiet year as a group, but individual branches have been busy raising funds for local charities and also the emergency fund and for drought relief. To raise funds, members have made jam and pickles, knitted or crocheted wheelchair rugs, baby clothes, dog blankets and teddies. They have also made chemo bottle bags, sewn for Days for Girls and collected handbags to fill with toiletries for Save the Dignity. Some branches also have regular market stalls which raise a fair amount of money. So, overall, we have had a busy and productive year.

