

The Country Women's Association
of Victoria Incorporated

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2020 Official Annual Report



Grow Connect Improve

**NINETY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

Office Bearers

PatronHer Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria

BOARD OF THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC. 2020-2021

(from 1 June 2020)

State President (Chair).....Mrs Marion Dewar
Deputy State President.....Mrs Pam Mawson
State Treasurer.....Ms Marie Vassallo
State Vice-Presidents.....Mrs Sarah Barnbrook, Ms Viviane Chemali, Mrs Jennifer Nola, Mrs Lyn Trezise
General Members.....Mrs Lyn Fleming, Mrs Noela MacLeod AO, Mrs Janette Mason, Ms Heather Scott

STATE COUNCIL 2020-2021

State President.....Mrs Marion Dewar
Deputy State President.....Mrs Pam Mawson
State Treasurer.....Ms Marie Vassallo
State Vice-Presidents.....Mrs Sarah Barnbrook, Ms Viviane Chemali, Mrs Jennifer Nola, Mrs Lyn Trezise

ACWW/International/Community Support Committee Chairperson...Mrs Vivien Speight
Agriculture & Environment Committee Chairperson.....Ms Narelle Hanrahan
Catering Committee Chairperson.....Mrs Sarah Barnbrook
Club Committee Chairperson.....Mrs Anne DuVé
Creative Arts Committee Chairperson.....Ms Heather Scott
Magazine/Communications Committee Chairperson.....Mrs Mary Grant
Membership Committee Chairperson.....Mrs Joanne Alderman
Social Issues Committee Chairperson.....Mrs Judith Poole

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.....Mrs Lorraine Zimmerman
Auditor.....Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
Solicitor.....King & Wood Mallesons

GROUP PRESIDENTS

Ballarat DistrictMiss Rosalie Silvey
BassMrs Sally Ann Matthews
BeaufortMrs Lyn Fleay
Bendigo NorthernMrs Gwenda Athans
Central HighlandsMrs Amanda Millar
Central MurrayMrs Helen Christie
Central VictoriaMrs Darryl O'Bryan
Central Wimmera.....Mrs Prudence McCredden
Diamond ValleyMrs Natasha McLeish
East GippslandMrs Dianne Scott
East WimmeraMs Cheryl Kemp
Eastern FoothillsMirjana Angelov
Eastern Goulburn Valley.....Mrs Val Gibbs
EchucaMrs Barbara Higgins
FraserMs Margaret Maxwell
GeelongMs Marie Kelly
Gippsland HillsMs Meg Edwards
Goulburn Valley WestMrs Jennifer Goonan
Henty.....Mrs Sue Caslake
Hume GoulburnMrs Kaye Ashe

Kiewa ValleyMrs Dhirleen Clark
Latrobe CentralMs Janet MacDonald
McDonaldMs Mandy McMahon
Mallee (Leader)Mrs Jocelyn Lindner
Mildura/MillewaMrs Moya Murphy
MitchellMrs Heather Delmenico
MoirraMrs Rosslyn Heaney
Mornington PeninsulaMs Cate Venturoni
Murray Valley.....Mrs Ruth Arthur
North EasternMs Wilma Bright
North GippslandMs Dianne Honey
Omeo/Tambo ValleyMrs Kate Commings
Polwarth.....Mrs Mary Prime
South GippslandMs Evie Buckley
South WesternMrs Sandra Webb
Upper MurrayMrs Joy Lowry
West GippslandMrs Ann Laws
West WimmeraMrs Judi Pymer
Yarra ValleyMrs Carmel Mitchell



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State President's Report

Introduction

It gives me great pleasure to present the Ninety-Third Annual Report of The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc.

As we explored the Theme of *Grow Connect Improve* during 2020, opportunities to do so increased as the months passed. Developed by the Covid Taskforce Subcommittee of the Board, we saw the birth and growth of the online *Grow Connect Improve* Project on our website.

On behalf of all Members, I thank Deputy State President Pam Mawson and State Treasurer Marie Vassallo, Members of Honour, Board Members, State Council Members, Chairpersons and Convenors, Appointed Officebearers, Co-opted Committee Members, and Staff for their kindness, generosity, friendship and service to each other and the Association, local communities and vulnerable women, children and families throughout the year.



Marion E Dewar

State President

Executive

The Association was led by State President Marion Dewar, Deputy State President Pam Mawson and State Treasurer Marie Vassallo with the support of Executive Director Lynne Jordan.

Board

The Board met nineteen times during the 2020 year. Most meetings were held via videoconference. The list of members and attendance table appears at the end of this report. Members worked through general governance, policy revision, budget management, audit requirements, operational oversight, and coronavirus regulations. The guidance of Executive Director Lynne Jordan during these unusual times was invaluable.

Branches provided valuable information to the Executive Director through an extensive survey response that was collated and formed part of the Association's submission to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

State Council

State Council met in March, June, September and November. Members of State Council met once in person (in March) and thereafter via videoconference. Retiring members were farewelled in March and new members welcomed in June.

Business included acceptance of reports from executive members, senior officebearers and committee chairpersons; organisation for fundraising events; approval of proposed resolutions; working through Board proposals to offer advice and express preference, appointment of officebearers, and sharing of knowledge.

The input from Group Presidents and their role of communication to and from Branches continues to be very important.

'These Unusual Days'

The Association adjusted well to the many changes brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. Executive Board members met in March to plan the immediate and longer term response. This included access to the building, safety of the property, welfare of staff and members, and financial and organisational constraints. Meetings were conducted via videoconference. Senior Office Bearer and Group President training sessions were also conducted via videoconference. Events and activities were cancelled. The delayed Annual General Meeting was held at the end of August. Fundraising changed focus. A diminished income made for very serious discussions at board level. Inter group and inter branch communication was encouraged in as many forms as possible. Thirty-eight State President's Letters to members were emailed to all branch secretaries from March to October. The permission to have some or all staff onsite was very limited for a long period of time. During one period I spent 109 nights and 110 days at *Umina* without a break. The support of Deputy State President Pam in caring for people and property during 2020 can only be described as legendary.

'Firsts' for the Association

*Management, in the capable hands of Executive Director Lynne Jordan, of requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Covid Taskforce (Subcommittee of the Board) development of the *Grow Connect Improve* Project.

*Covid Taskforce development of alternative fundraising ideas, from the Pop Up Shop to the Scone Show Record Challenge.

*Holding the Annual General Meeting via videoconference – a first among many other associations and incorporated bodies. Out thanks to Fitzroy IT for their assistance as we learnt together.

*A *Special 2019 Annual Report Edition of Victorian Country Woman* in September.

*Selling the Showbag and Calendar online through Woolworths.

*State Exhibition Raffle with emailed tickets.

*Digital-only Photography Competition.

*State Christmas E-Raffle.

*The visit of our Patron – Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria, to the 7 November Pop Up Shop at 3 Lansell Road Toorak.

*Murdoch Books publishes the first (of three) CWA of Victoria books – *Thrifty Household*.

Events

State events are times to showcase the Association, explain the work we do in the name of the Association, promote membership, raise funds and advocate for our purposes. Thank you to all convenors and volunteers for your assistance at these events. Many events were unable to be held. However, new ones were added and may become firm fixtures in the annual calendar.

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.

High Teas were held in February and March.

The Birthday Garden Experience at *Umina* on 12 March invited members to picnic in the garden to celebrate the 92nd Birthday of the Association.

State Exhibition photography competition was organised online.

Royal Melbourne Show Online received support through a video made by the State President in the *Umina* kitchen.

State E-Raffle

State Christmas Fare Pop Up Shop brought local residents to the property to purchase Christmas cooking selections.

Pop Up Shops began on Anzac weekend as a small replacement for the usual events at *Umina* and continued fortnightly throughout the year.

A Scone Challenge attempt to beat the show record saw pop up shops around the state and at *Umina* make and sell scones to the public.

Determinations

The Determinations follow the chronological year and received due attention from members, at branch, group and state level.

Theme: *Grow Connect Improve* found one outlet in the project of activities on the website begun by the Board's Covid Taskforce.

State Project: *CWA of Vic. Inc. IT and Systems Upgrade and Maintenance* The ongoing need in this area was highlighted during the height of the pandemic.

Product/Resource: *Australian Indigenous Foods* engaged members in researching, tasting, harvesting and cooking a variety of foods.

Country of Study: *Botswana* gave members the opportunity to engage in more armchair travel to desert and delta, wild life park and river.

Social Issues Focus: *Building communication skills in times of stress* rang true in almost every branch across the state in this unusual year.

Thanksgiving Fund: *Endometriosis Research through the Jean Hailes Medical Centre for Women* will bring relief to many women and girls who suffer from this condition.

Committees

The Committees of the State Council met during the year, mostly by videoconference. 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 leadership and organisation as well as for their magazine articles and reports. It was unfortunate that a number of events did not take place although some committees found innovative ways to hold events and carry out their tasks.

Appointments

Archivist MOH Noela MacLeod AO researched information of interest to members.

Cooking Committee Convenor Beverley Wall OAM provided recipes for the magazine that proved popular with readers.

Editor Lorraine Zimmerman sourced colourful cover photos and interesting content for each magazine edition.

The Membership

Members of the Association, in Branches and Groups, are to be congratulated on the way they have carried out the purposes of the Association within their own localities and communities, engaged in personal development, held events, raised funds, and offered a variety of practical assistance to women, children and families in urban and rural settings across the state. Celebrations were in order for Wirrim (50), Bengworden (70), Glen Alvie (70), Yarrawonga/Border (90), Hamilton (90), and Trentham (90).

Staff

The Association continued to be very well served by our friendly and committed staff members. Staff positions included Executive Director, Office Administrator, Accountant, Bookkeeper, Membership Officer, Drought Support Officer (for some months), and B & B and Shop Receptionists. I thank all members of staff (all part time) led by Executive Director Lynne Jordan, for their loyalty, fortitude and enthusiasm.

CWAA

Hosted by the State President and the Deputy State President, a Face to Face Meeting of the Country Women's Association of Australia was held in February at *Umina*. The Association received advocacy information during the year. Victoria's membership was suspended by the CWAA Board on 8 June. Drought sub-committee meetings were attended by representatives of every state and territory.

Bushfire Fund

The Association opened a Bushfire Relief Fund in the aftermath of the January bushfires in East Gippsland and north east Victoria. The generous donations from members, branches, groups, members of the public, businesses, and organisations were much appreciated. Applications closed almost as soon as opened due to the unprecedented number of applications received. Grants of \$1,000 per household were distributed through an application process assessed by the State President to households affected by the bushfires.

State Grants

The Association was fortunate to receive recurrent funding from the State Government (2020 was the second of four years) as well as a number of grants to assist with recovery from the pandemic.

Archives Grant

Materials and processes, members and staff combined to complete the rehousing of Archives materials by mid year. The purchase of kit shelving allows space for the natural increase of the holdings.

Drought Grants

During 2020 drought grant allocations received from the State Government, Coles and the Australian Government were distributed in grants of \$3,000 per household through applications assessed by the State President. In addition, funds from the CWA of Victoria Emergency Fund allocated to drought were expended.

The CWAA received further Commonwealth Government funding for drought relief in late 2020 which was distributed by the states and territory. This was Victoria's share was expended through an application process between October and December 2020 in grants of \$3,000 per household.

The assistance of the Deputy State President in assessing bushfire and drought grant applications is acknowledged.

Sponsorship, Educational Grants, Emergency and Welfare Funds

It was pleasing to offer educational grants at secondary and tertiary level. Donations for the alleviation of natural disasters were forwarded to other states. Grants for drought relief in certain local government areas of the state and bushfire relief in East Gippsland and North East Victoria were made through a grant application process. Welfare Grants were offered to individuals and families in difficult circumstances where a request had been made through a group president.

Peck Bequest

The Peck Trophy is named for Mr TP Peck, a friend and benefactor of the Association, with a lifelong interest in handworked needlework tapestry. Mr Peck bequeathed a tapestry to the Association. We also accepted a second tapestry. The tapestries hang in the entrance hall of *Umina*.

Umina

It was a sadness to close *Umina* B&B in mid March due to the pandemic. However, the work required to be ready for reopening began later in the year and continued as it was able. Staff found the garden a place of serenity during the difficult months.

Members

Past State President and Member of Honour Carol Clay was declared missing on 20 March 2020. Our thoughts remain with her family and friends.

I acknowledge the contribution of members who passed away during the year, including Past State President Lorna Cumming, and past state office bearers Penne Oorloff (Noble Park), Glennis Williams (Darling Junction), Lorna Crago (Tallangatta), and Therese Suter (Kerang).

Marion E Dewar

State President

6 May 2021

Board Member Listing and Attendance Table

Board Members 1/1/2020-31/12/2020	Attendance
State President Marion Dewar	19/19
Deputy State President Pam Mawson	18/19
State Treasurer Marie Vassallo	19/19
State Vice President Sarah Barnbrook	19/19
State Vice President Viviane Chemali	17/19
State Vice President Karen Jackson (until 31/5/20)	6/7
State Vice President Jannifer Nola (from 1/6/20)	10/11
State Vice President Lyn Trezise	19/19
General Board Member Lyn Fleming (from 1/6/20)	11/11
General Board Member MOH Noela MacLeod AO	15/18
General Board Member Janette Mason (from 1/6/20)	9/11
General Board Member Jennifer Nola (until 31/5/20)	8/8
General Board Member Janette O'Keefe (until 31/5/20)	8/8
General Board Member Heather Scott	19/19
Executive Director Lynne Jordan	18/19

Board Members 2020

Senior Office Bearers



STATE PRESIDENT
Marion Dewar



**DEPUTY STATE
PRESIDENT**
Pam Mawson



STATE TREASURER
Marie Vassallo

State Vice Presidents



Sarah Barnbrook



Viviane Chemali



Jennifer Nola



Lyn Trezise

General Board Members



Lyn Fleming



Noela MacLeod AO



Janette Mason



Heather Scott

State Vice Presidents' Reports

SARAH BARNBROOK

In such an unprecedented year, I would like to thank State President Marion Dewar for her leadership. I think we all learned the importance of meeting with each other face to face. I had the opportunity to serve the Board and assist with various projects when needed. There were a lot of difficult decisions, but also challenging opportunities for the Association. The development of the Covid Taskforce provided a space for new ideas and projects to be developed.

I had the pleasure to work with the fundraising team at Jean Hailes for the Thanksgiving Fund, with our focus on Endometriosis Research. I also encouraged members to take part in the Women's Health Week and encouraged members to read through the research that was released.

I was a mentor to Group Presidents and provided support and information nights.

One of my favourite parts of the year is attending Group Annual General Meetings. It was so beautiful to gather and hear about the great works members are doing. I had the privilege of visiting Moira, Central Murray and Eastern Goulburn Valley. Thank you so much for your hospitality.

I encourage all members to look for ways they can continue to support the Association. After all, you are a member of the Association, not just your local branch.

VIVIANE CHEMALI

As State Vice President, I attended the CWA of Victoria Board meetings and supported the work of the Association. It was a pleasure to support the work of the Association, especially during the Covid lockdown. I was a member of the Covid Taskforce in its initial stages and assisted with the Pop Up Shop fundraising throughout the year.

In 2020, I was a committee member on various State Committees: Club, Magazine and Membership. I also assisted with the work for the Archives. I have always found it interesting to participate on State Committees with like-minded people and work on issues of interest to members. I enjoyed participating on these committees and getting involved in debates and projects.

In February 2020, I attended two Group AGMs and Group Conferences as the Senior Office Bearer: Ballarat and District Group and Beaufort Group. It is a great pleasure to hear all the work that groups are undertaking to support their branches, fundraise and expand their membership base to support women and children in the community.

When Covid 19 started in March 2020, it became impossible to meet other members in person and all meetings were conducted by videoconference. I contributed to the Communication section of the *Grow Connect Improve* Project to give members and the community information and ideas about what they could do or learn during these difficult times. I enjoyed researching information about what was available and where to access the necessary information. I hope members have found the Communication section of the Project practical and useful, and that they were able to put some of these ideas to good use.

During 2020 I was the Association contact for Travellers Aid. Although the initial plan was to meet the Travellers Aid representatives face-to-face this was no longer possible, so we met by videoconference. The representatives informed me how they continue to support travellers and I conveyed this information to CWA members at State Councils, and in the CWA magazine.

JENNIFER NOLA

I was honoured and thrilled to be elected State Vice President in 2020 during a challenging and difficult year for the Association, our communities and our members. The way our members have worked their way through the challenges thrown up by the virus and the various lockdowns has been inspirational.

My own branch, Essendon, was able to keep meeting via Zoom and included interesting guest speakers most months. I was kept very busy on various Association committees, mostly via Zoom. This has included the Covid Taskforce where we worked our way through various new ideas to help raise funds for the Association to combat the cancellation of all our usual major events. The Merchandise sub-committee looked at new products and the state of play with existing goods. I also attended Magazine and Communications Committee, proofreading for the magazine, Social Issues Committee, ACWW/International/Community Support Committee, Membership Committee and Pop Up Shop. I spoke on community radio, North West FM98.9, throughout the year, talking all things CWA. I was on Libbi Gore's weekend programme on 774AM where I spoke about making scones and promoted our Christmas Fare. Libbi was kind enough to order her Christmas goodies as a result and attended *Umina* to meet us in December. I attended all Senior Office Bearer training sessions offered by the State President.

I have enjoyed researching and writing the Communications section for the "Grow, Connect, Improve" Project which has been very rewarding for me. I attended and participated in all Board meetings and State Council meetings and undertook a Mental Health First Aid course. I joined various board training webinars and zoom sessions to increase my knowledge and keep abreast of governance and management issues.

The merits of a Virtual Branch had been discussed by the Social Issues Committee during the previous year of 'Social Isolation' focus. It was greatly rewarding to see the concept ready to become a reality.

I would like to sincerely thank all members and for their support, kindness, guidance, hospitality and friendship. It is always a great learning experience being a member of the Association, whether it be a cooking hint, visiting a new part of Victoria or the new friendships that have developed. One of my favourite mottos that I live and breathe is 'you are never too old to learn something new'. I look forward to what the next five months will bring in this role!

LYN TREZISE

2020 started off as a busy year with two board meetings, two group annual meetings and group conferences, state council, two more meetings and then turmoil. As hard as it was, it was time to learn new ways of communicating. What a wonderful asset to be able to use Zoom for meetings even though there was no personal contact. We were all kept very busy with so many board and committee meetings, many more emails to attend to and numerous phone calls. Events such as pop up shops emerged with online cooking classes, scone drives and Christmas stalls all helping to keep our Association going. Thank you for the help of members and all their contributions. I thank all those who have finished in their current roles. I wish all those continuing on in new roles a very successful coming year.

State Presidents

Lady Mitchell CBE.....	1928-29-30, 31-32
Mrs J S Fraser OBE.....	1930-31
Mrs R G Beggs.....	1932-33-34-35
Miss E Grice.....	1935-36
Mrs W E Sargood.....	1936-37-38
Mrs O A Hicken OBE JP.....	1938-40, 45-46-47
Mrs A C Bennet.....	1940-41-42
Mrs H G Marfell OBE JP.....	1942-43-44-45
Mrs N Welsh.....	1947-48-49
Mrs G O Dorward.....	1949-50-51
Mrs J N Spittle.....	1951-52-53
Mrs N S F Hedditch OBE.....	1953-54-55
Mrs V B Jane.....	1955-56-57
Mrs H Hillgrove.....	1957-58-59
Miss A T Stewart OBE.....	1959-60-61
Mrs N W Cameron OBE.....	1961-62-63
Mrs W B Lang.....	1963-64-65
Mrs J P Wallace OBE.....	1965-66-67
Mrs H McF Cameron MBE.....	1967-68-69
Mrs J Grant Coutts OAM.....	1969-70-71
Mrs D H Reid.....	1971-72-73
Mrs H R Fisher AO OBE.....	1973-74-75
Mrs A L Ferry.....	1975-76-77

Mrs J H Goldsmith OAM.....	1977-78-79
Mrs W Tom AO.....	1979-80-81
Mrs H Rinaldi.....	1981-82-83
Mrs R Eliason.....	1983-84-85
Mrs W Gedling OAM.....	1985-86-87
Mrs L J Olden.....	1987-88-89
Mrs D G Dempster.....	1989-90-91
Mrs B Cumming.....	1991-92-93
Mrs N Courtney OAM.....	1993-94-95
Mrs J Reid OAM.....	1995-96-97
Mrs D Ward OAM.....	1997-98-99
Mrs B Burgess OAM.....	1999-00-01
Mrs J Weller.....	2001-02-03
Mrs P Pither-Mills AM.....	2003-04-05
Mrs N MacLeod AO.....	2005-06-07
Mrs H Wall OAM.....	2007-08-09
Mrs H Christie.....	2009-10-11
Mrs C Clay.....	2011-12-13
Ms D Coombe.....	2013-14-15
Ms M Crichton.....	2015-16-17
Mrs L Harris OAM.....	2017-18-19
Mrs M Dewar.....	2019-20-21

Groups and Branches as at 31st December 2020

BALLARAT DISTRICT GROUP

Group President: Miss Rosalie Silvey

BRANCHES (13)

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

BASS GROUP

Group President: Sally Ann Matthews

BRANCHES (6)

Cowes, Glen Alvie, Grantville, Loch, Woodleigh Vale, Wont-haggi Owl Women.

BEAUFORT GROUP

Group President: Mrs Lyn Fleay

BRANCHES (8)

Ararat, Avoca and District, Beaufort, Landsborough, Lilyana (Night), Stawell (Night).

BENDIGO NORTHERN GROUP

Group President: Mrs Gwenda Athans

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 Twilights, Lancefield, Macedon, Riddells Creek (Night), Romsey, Sunbury Stars, Trentham, Woodend Eves.

CENTRAL MURRAY GROUP

Group President: Mrs Helen Christie

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), Willenabrana.

DIAMOND VALLEY GROUP

Group President: Mrs Natasha McLeish

BRANCHES (6)

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

EAST GIPPSLAND GROUP

Group President: Mrs Dianne Scott

BRANCHES (4)

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

EAST WIMMERA GROUP

Group President: Ms Cheryl Kemp

BRANCHES (7)

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

EASTERN FOOTHILLS GROUP

Group President: Mirjana Angelov

BRANCHES (7)

Belgrave, Boronia, Donvale, Gully Golden Girls, Mooroolbark, Ringwood.

EASTERN GOULBURN VALLEY GROUP

Group President: Mrs Val Gibbs

BRANCHES (8)

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

ECHUCA GROUP

Group President: Mrs Barbara Higgins

BRANCHES (5)

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

FRASER GROUP

Group President: Ms Margaret Maxwell

BRANCHES (5)

Ashburton (Night), Boroondara (Night), Port Phillip, Richmond (Night), Umina (Night).

GEELONG GROUP

Group President: Ms Marie Kelly

BRANCHES (16)

Altona, Barrabool, Central Nights, Drysdale, Galena, 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 (10)

Bena, Inverloch, Kardella, Korumburra, 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 (6)

Broadford Mount Piper (Night), 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: Ms Janet MacDonald

BRANCHES (12)

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

MALLEE GROUP

Group Leader: Mrs Jocelyn Lindner

BRANCHES (2)

Cowangie, Woomelang.

McDONALD GROUP

Group President: Ms Mandy McMahon

BRANCHES (5)

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

MILDURA/MILLEWA GROUP

Group President: Mrs Moya Murphy

BRANCHES (5)

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

MITCHELL GROUP

Group President: Mrs Heather Delmenico

BRANCHES (9)

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

MOIRA GROUP

Group President: Mrs Rosslyn Heaney

BRANCHES (6)

Benalla, Boorhaman, Corowa, Swanpool, Thoon, Yarrowong/Border

MORNINGTON PENINSULA GROUP

Group President: Ms Catherine Venturoni

BRANCHES (8)

Frankston, Frankston South, Mornington, Mount Martha Seaside, Pearcedale, Peninsula Belles (Night), Rosebud, Rosebud East

MURRAY VALLEY GROUP

Group President: Mrs Ruth Arthur

BRANCHES (7)

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

NORTH EASTERN GROUP -

Group President: Ms Wilma Bright

BRANCHES (9)

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

NORTH GIPPSLAND GROUP

Group President: Ms Dianne Honey

BRANCHES (8)

Avon, Bundalaguah, Cobains, Denison, Giffard, Maffra, Sale, Sale Starlight (Night).

OMELO/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: Mrs Evie Buckley

BRANCHES (2)

Fish Creek, Yarram.

SOUTH WESTERN GROUP

Group President: Mrs Sandra Webb

BRANCHES (10)

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

UPPER MURRAY GROUP -

Group President: Mrs Joy Lowry

BRANCHES (3)

Cudgewa, Kurrajong (Night), Tallangatta..

WEST GIPPSLAND GROUP

Group President: Mrs Ann Laws

BRANCHES (7)

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

WEST WIMMERA GROUP

Group President: Mrs Judi Pym

BRANCHES (6)

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

YARRA VALLEY GROUP

Group President: Mrs Carmel Mitchell

BRANCHES (5)

Monbulk, Monbulk Lady Night Hawks, Tarrawarra, Wanallock (Night), Wandin.

Deputy State President's Report

I love to wear hats, especially in winter (they help keep me warm), but metaphorically speaking I have worn many different hats in 2020. The year started with our Club Committee Chairperson Mary Grant having to return home due to the terrible bushfires so on with my catering hat and along with a fabulous team we catered for a beautiful wedding in *Umina's* lovely garden. With that same hat and another great team our Australia Day catering at Government House was accomplished with great success.

My unexpected chauffeur's hat was needed as State President Marion had her arm in a sling and needed a driver to get to her Group AGMs. (I am still waiting for the real hat...) After that, on with my judge's hat and off to Red Hill and King Island. With my co-ordinator of small events hat on I assisted Mary with the International Needlework Tour event held at *Umina* just as the first lockdown in Melbourne was coming into effect.

Marion and I then wore many hats including receptionist, telephonist, seamstress (over 200 masks sewn in reality) and Anzac wreath maker. I was also an elastic finder, clothing sorter for bushfire affected people, mower of lawns at *Umina*, Zoom Masterclass Scone Demonstrator and instigator of *Umina's* Pop Up Shops which started with the tiny team of Marion, State Treasurer Marie and me but now includes many wonderful volunteers and continues to make us more a part of the community that Head Office is part of here in Toorak.

But of course, as Deputy State President, my principal role has been to support our State President Marion, which has been my absolute privilege.

**Pam Mawson**

State Treasurer's Report

It is my pleasure to present my final 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 2020 and the accompanying Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2020 in this official annual report. These statements have been audited by our independent auditors Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu.

The impact of COVID 19 on our Association has been significant in 2020 and will continue to have effect well into 2021 and beyond. Despite these issues, our auditors Deloitte noted in their management report:

"The year ended 31 December 2020 was another busy year for CWA:

- COVID-19 forced the majority of Victoria to work from home for significant periods of the year, and required social distancing across the Country;*
- The CWA team determined innovative ways to generate additional income in light of the challenges presented by COVID-19;*
- CWA continued distributions to assist those most significantly impacted by the droughts, with \$4.4M being distributed to affected families in Victoria in the year to 31 December 2020."*

As at 31st December 2020 the Association's total assets were \$6,156,783. 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 2020, our current liabilities of \$992,746 consists of membership subscriptions paid in advance, provision for employee entitlements, Endowment Fund (life memberships), trade and other payables and accruals.

**Marie Vassallo**
State Treasurer

As we are all aware, 2020 saw a continual decline in interest rates. This had an impact on our 2020 investment income. Our operational investment income in 2020 from the Main account Term deposits and cash management account was \$26,309. The investment interest received from our Special Purpose Term deposits was \$33,444 for the year ending 31st December 2020. This is a decrease in total of \$42,126 from our 2019 interest received. The impact on our special purpose disbursements is being closely monitored, with a number of our bequests only allowing the interest to be distributed.

The Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive income for the year ended 31st December 2020 shows a total income of \$6,413,603, a total expenditure of \$6,423,775 and a deficit of \$10,122 in the combined Main and Special Purpose Accounts. This income includes receipts from the Commonwealth and State governments including JobKeeper and State government business support grants.

Special Purpose Funds represent donations, grants and legacies 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 \$2,317,795 as at 31st December 2020.

In 2020 we saw a significant increase in our assistance to vulnerable people and families across the State. We provided \$5,149,074 (excluding \$2,705 of interest) in Emergency relief and \$13,100 in Welfare payments to vulnerable people and their families. This money is a combination of the State government grants, generous donations from our members and the general public, corporate donors including Coles and Cable Knitwear. In 2020 we distributed \$4,359,673 of State Government grants monies in Drought relief payments. In 2020, \$228,689 was donated for Bushfire relief. Also, in 2020 we distributed in excess of \$380,000 in bushfire relief grants. This demonstrates a continued high level of trust in our Association, and one which we can all be exceedingly proud of. A special thanks to our staff, who during Victoria's hard lockdown, worked with Permitted Work Permits to ensure relief monies were processed following the application review process undertaken by the State President and Deputy State President. A mighty effort by all! This work in providing relief through natural disasters which our State is prone to, and unexpected difficulties that Victorians face, will continue in 2021.

Branches continued to support our Special Purpose funds with donations of \$9,830 for Educational Grants, \$57,494 for Emergency fund and \$15,777 for welfare fund. In 2020 we continued to provide support to primary, secondary, tertiary and post graduate students through our Educational grants. In total throughout 2020, the Country Women's Association of Victoria awarded \$15,775 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, and \$1,500 in the Diamond Jubilee Residential Grant.

It was decided by State Council that our Thanksgiving Fund and Special Project recipients in 2020 would be extended for another year due to the impact of COVID 19

Our membership base is the foundation of our Association. Membership subscriptions received in 2020 of \$315,137 is lower than in 2019. In 2020 as a response to the pandemic the Board made the decision to withhold the constitutional modest increase of \$1.50 in annual subscriptions. This figure therefore highlights a decrease in membership renewals. This may also be explained by the decreased activity of a number of branches during the various stages of lockdown. September 2020 saw another increase in the number of branches who reported to head office that they are moving into recess. Thankfully, we also saw a number of new branches formed in 2020 in a number of communities where branches have not been for a number of years/decades. The enthusiasm, sense of community and new ideas brought by these new members and branches is infectious and bodes well for our Association.

A large number of the budgeted events did not occur in 2020. These included some of the planned retreats and workshops, training events, State exhibition and the Royal Melbourne Show. 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. As referred to earlier by our auditors "The CWA team determined innovative ways to generate additional income in light of the challenges presented by COVID 19"

The Board subcommittee – Covid 19 Task Force, worked with State Committees to bring new revenue streams to help offset the lost income. These included:

- Eight pop up shops held at Umina between April 2020 and December 2020 selling CWA baked goods ,preserves and merchandise
- The successful launch of our Thrifty Households book, which went to Number 1 Best Seller!
- The State-wide "beat the Melbourne Show "scone challenge
- Holding the Christmas Fare across a variety of locations in our State

Recurrent expenses were managed tightly by our Executive Director which also assisted in the mitigation of the impact of the cancelled events on our budget.

Whilst we met the 2020 first quarter income expectation for the B&B accommodation, unfortunately it was closed due to COVID regulations at the end of March 2020. Plans are underway to reopen, and we still need to comply with COVID 19 regulations and safety requirements.

All our members continue to contribute to their communities and other organisations which support vulnerable women, children and families. Whilst 2020 was a difficult year with members fundraising activities severely curtailed, the Branch returns show that our members raised a total of \$258,677 which has been donated with the following breakdown.

Local donations: \$198,999 (slightly down on 2019)

National donations: \$55,234 (slightly up on 2019)

International donations: \$4,444 (considerably down on 2019)

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

2020 has shown we are a resilient, supportive and resourceful group of women continuing to strive for our communities. I am very proud to present this report to you all.

The Country Women's Association of Victoria Incorporated

ABN 55 584 949 677

A.0004857F

Annual financial report for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

Special purpose financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

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Notes to the financial statements	9

Independent Auditor's Report to the members of The Country Women's Association of Victoria Incorporated

Opinion

We have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of The Country Women's Association of Victoria Incorporated, ("the Association") which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the declaration of members of the Board.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of The Country Women's Association of Victoria Incorporated presents fairly, in all material respects, the Association's financial position as at 31 December 2020 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and the financial reporting requirements of the Association *Incorporations Reform Act (Vic) 2012* as described in Note 1.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of matter – Basis of Accounting and restriction on Distribution and use

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Association to meet the financial reporting requirements of the Association *Incorporations Reform Act (Vic) 2012*. Our report is intended solely for the members of the Association and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the members. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

The Board is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Official Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2020, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information; we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Board for the Financial Report

The Board of the Association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the basis of preparation and accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Association *Incorporations Reform Act (Vic) 2012*. The Board's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the ability of the Association to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

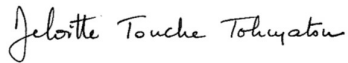
As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.

Deloitte.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU



Isabelle Lefevre

Partner

Chartered Accountants

Melbourne, 4 May 2021

**THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED**

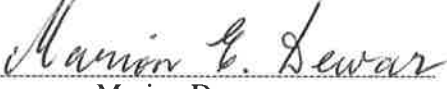
DECLARATION BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

As detailed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Association is not a reporting entity because in the opinion of the Board there are unlikely to exist users of the financial statements who are unable to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. Accordingly, these special purpose financial statements have been prepared to satisfy the Board's reporting requirements under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012*.

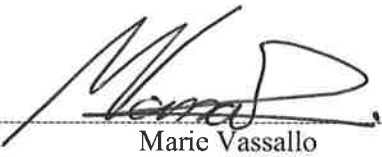
In the opinion of the Board:

1. there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable; and
2. the attached financial statements and notes thereto are in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012*, including compliance with accounting standards and giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Association.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board.



Marion Dewar
State President



Marie Vassallo
State Treasurer

Melbourne, 4th May 2021

**THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED**

**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
Revenue	2	5,786,640	1,820,844
Other income	2(a)	626,963	1,266,693
Administration expenses		(570,853)	(1,569,264)
Employee benefits expense		(555,370)	(583,997)
Repairs and maintenance		(14,755)	(37,281)
Scholarships		(15,775)	(23,445)
Donations		(16,246)	(17,699)
Welfare		(13,100)	(14,844)
Emergency Relief		(5,149,074)	(1,078,384)
Projects and Thanksgiving		(37,311)	(36,483)
Finance costs		(4,560)	(7,184)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(46,681)	(48,593)
(Deficit) / surplus before tax		(10,122)	(329,637)
Income tax expense	1(a)	-	-
(Deficit) / surplus for the year		(10,122)	(329,637)
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive (loss) / income for the year		(10,122)	(329,637)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	3	765,883	747,919
Short term deposits	3	1,974,485	1,832,608
Trade and other receivables	4	79,610	52,903
Stock on hand at cost	5	75,660	65,685
Investments - Special Purpose Funds	7	2,434,701	4,091,219
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		5,330,339	6,790,334
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	6	808,879	826,380
Right of use asset		17,565	40,988
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		826,444	867,368
TOTAL ASSETS		6,156,783	7,657,702
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	594,070	2,079,871
Members subscriptions paid in advance		196,073	199,834
Provision for employee entitlements		83,933	60,604
Endowment fund – Lifetime memberships		99,696	100,994
Lease liability		18,974	23,267
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		992,746	2,464,570
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Lease liability		-	18,973
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		-	18,973
TOTAL LIABILITIES		992,746	2,483,543
NET ASSETS		5,164,037	5,174,159
MEMBERS FUND			
Accumulated surplus		2,846,242	2,735,505
Reserves – Special Purpose Funds	11	2,317,795	2,438,654
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS		5,164,037	5,174,159

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

<u>Notes</u>	<u>Accumulated surplus \$</u>	<u>Special Purpose Funds \$</u>	<u>Total \$</u>
Balance at 1 January 2019	2,760,666	2,743,130	5,503,796
Deficit for the year	(329,637)	-	(329,637)
Total comprehensive loss for the year	(329,637)	-	(329,637)
Transfer to/(from) Special Purpose Funds	304,476	(304,476)	-
Balance at 31 December 2019	2,735,505	2,438,654	5,174,159
Deficit for the year	(10,122)	-	(10,122)
Total comprehensive loss for the year	(10,122)	-	(10,122)
Transfer to/(from) Special Purpose Funds	120,859	(120,859)	-
Balance at 31 December 2020	2,846,242	2,317,795	5,164,037

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from members and customers		4,677,654	5,683,857
JobKeeper receipts		167,100	-
Interest received		89,903	99,533
Finance costs		(3,668)	(5,617)
Payments to suppliers and employees		(6,364,898)	(4,667,154)
Net cash generated by operating activities	9(b)	<u>(1,433,909)</u>	<u>1,110,619</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Repayment of lease liability		(24,157)	(23,737)
Net cash used in financing activity		<u>(24,157)</u>	<u>(23,737)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(5,758)	(146,583)
Proceeds from maturity of term deposits		250,004	-
Investments in term deposits		(1,313)	(150,000)
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>242,933</u>	<u>(296,583)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		(1,215,133)	790,299
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		4,621,202	3,830,903
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	9(a)	<u>3,406,069</u>	<u>4,621,202</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1: Significant Accounting Policies

Financial reporting framework

The Association is not a reporting entity because in the opinion of the Board there are unlikely to exist users of the financial statements who are unable to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. Accordingly, these special purpose financial statements have been prepared to satisfy the Board's reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012*.

For the purpose of preparing the financial statements, the Association is a not-for-profit entity.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012*, the recognition and measurement requirements specified by all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*, AASB 107 *Statement of Cash Flows*, AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* and AASB 1054 *Australian Additional Disclosures*.

Basis of Preparation

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the Association in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated. All amounts have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

The operations, assets and liabilities of the groups and branches are not included in this financial report, except as follows:

- the membership subscriptions are collected by the branches for the Association;
- the groups and branches contribute to the Association by way of fund raising;
- the groups and branches also contribute to the Educational Grant/Scholarships Fund each year, used to fund scholarships, in accordance with the Constitution, Policies and Procedures, and Rules and Objects of the Association, whichever is most relevant.

Each group/branch manages affairs within its own boundaries subject to the Constitution, Policies and Procedures, and Rules and Objects of the Association, whichever is most relevant.

Application of New and Revised Accounting Standards

Amendments to Accounting Standards that are mandatorily effective for the current reporting period

The Association has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accountant Standards Board (the AASB) that are relevant to its operations and effective for an accounting period that begins on or after 1 January 2020.

**THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1: Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Application of New and Revised Accounting Standards (cont'd)

Amendments to Accounting Standards that are mandatorily effective for the current reporting period (cont'd)

The following Accounting Standards and Interpretations were adopted by the Association in the current financial year:

- AASB 2018-6 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Definition of a Business*
- AASB 2018-7 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Definition of Material*
- AASB 2019-1 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - References to the Conceptual Framework*
- AASB 2019-3 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Interest Rate Benchmark Reform*
- AASB 2019-5 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Disclosure of the Effect of New IFRS Standards Not Yet Issued in Australia*

The adoption of these Accounting Standards and Interpretations did not have any significant impact on the financial performance or position of the Association. The impact of those Standards and Interpretations most relevant for the Association are described below.

AASB 2019-4 Disclosure in Special Purpose Financial Statements (SPFS) of Not-for-Profits Private Sector Entities on Compliance with Recognition and Measurement Requirements

AASB 2019-4 amends AASB 1054 to require not-for-profit private sector entities that are required to apply AASB 1054 (including those required by legislation to do so) and are preparing special purpose financial statements (SPFS) to disclose information about those financial statements, including information that enables users of the financial statements to understand whether or not the material accounting policies applied in the financial statements comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards.

In particular, the amendments to AASB 1054 require a not-for-profit private sector entity to:

Basis of preparation of SPFS

- disclose the basis on which the decision to prepare SPFS was made
- where the entity has interests in other entities – disclose either:
 - whether or not its subsidiaries and investments in associates or joint ventures have been consolidated or equity accounted in a manner consistent with the requirements set out in AASB 10 Consolidated Financial Statements, AASB 128 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures, as appropriate. If the entity has not consolidated its subsidiaries or equity accounted its investments in associates or joint ventures consistently with those requirements, it shall disclose that fact, and the reasons why; or
 - that the entity has not assessed whether its interests in other entities give rise to interests in subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, provided it is not required by legislation to make such an assessment for financial reporting purposes and has not made such an assessment;

**THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1: Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Application of New and Revised Accounting Standards (cont'd)

Amendments to Accounting Standards that are mandatorily effective for the current reporting period (cont'd)

Compliance with the recognition and measurement requirements in AAS (except for consolidation and equity accounting)

- for each material accounting policy applied and disclosed in the financial statements that does not comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards (except for requirements set out in AASB 10 or AASB 128), disclose an indication of how it does not comply; or if such an assessment has not been made, disclose that fact; and
- disclose whether the financial statements overall comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards (except for requirements set out in AASB 10 or AASB 128) or that such an assessment has not been made.

The Association has made the required disclosures in note 1 above.

New and revised Australian Accounting Standards in issue but not effective

At the date of authorisation of the financial statements, the Association has not applied the any new and revised Australian Accounting Standards, Interpretations and amendments that have been issued but are not yet effective.

Standards and Interpretations in issue not yet adopted

At the date of adoption of the financial statements, the Standards and Interpretations listed below were in issue but not yet effective.

<u>Standard/Interpretation</u>	<u>Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after</u>	<u>Expected to be initially applied in the financial year ending</u>
AASB 1060 <i>General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities</i>	1 July 2021	31 December 2022

The potential effect of the revised Standards on the Association's financial statements has not yet been determined.

**THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1: Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Accounting policies

The following significant accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements:

(a) Income tax

No liability for income tax has been recognised as the Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

(b) Property, Plant and Equipment

Freehold land and buildings are brought to account at cost.

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated on a diminishing value basis over the useful lives of the assets to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Buildings	100 years
Motor vehicles	5 years
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	3 – 6 years

(c) Revenue Recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Revenue is recognised as (and when) the performance obligation is satisfied.

Annual subscriptions are due by 1st October each year and are collected by the branches. The income stream arising there from is then accounted for as subscriptions received in advance and drawn down in 12 equal amounts on a monthly basis. At balance date, the subscriptions received in advance represent 9/12 of the subscription run completed on 1 October 2020.

Life members are women distinguished and elected for outstanding service to the Association at branch or group level. All lifetime membership subscriptions fees received are placed in the “Endowment Fund – Lifetime membership” and the interest is available to the Association. The lifetime membership subscriptions are amortised over 10 years.

The sales of goods are accounted for and recognised upon delivery of the goods to the customer, which is when the Association has satisfied the performance obligation and the amount of revenue can be measured reliably.

Grants – Government and others

The new income requirements state that in cases where there is an ‘enforceable’ contract with a customer with ‘sufficiently specific’ performance obligations, the transaction should be accounted for under AASB 15 where income is recognised when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied, as opposed to immediate income recognition under AASB 1058.

For those grant contracts that are not enforceable or the performance obligations are not sufficiently specific, this will result in immediate income recognition under AASB 1058. Income will be deferred under AASB 15 otherwise and recognised when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied.

In light of the financial impacts of Covid-19, the Association received JobKeeper payments in the year ended 31 December 2020. JobKeeper subsidies are not recognised until there is reasonable assurance that the entity will comply with the conditions attached to them and the grant will be received. The grant is recognised in profit or loss in the period in which the entity recognised the related costs as expenses.

**THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1: Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

(c) Revenue Recognition (cont'd)

Donations and bequests

The majority of the donations and bequests do not meet the enforceability and the 'sufficiently specific' criteria under AASB 15 and are therefore recognised as income once the Association controls the relevant asset (assuming no other related amounts are applicable) under AASB 1058.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rate applicable to the financial asset.

(d) Inventories

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned on a first in first out basis.

(e) Employee Entitlements

A liability is recognised for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave when it is probable that settlement will be required and they are capable of being measured reliably.

Liabilities recognised in respect of short-term employee benefits, are measured at their nominal values using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Liabilities recognised in respect of long term employee benefits are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the Association in respect of services provided by employees up to reporting date.

(f) Special Purpose Funds

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 Investment – Special Purpose Funds has been classified as current in the balance sheet.

Monies raised from the branches for special purposes are recorded as Special Purpose Funds and initially recorded in the profit and loss account on receipt. As these funds are designated for specific purposes by the members and the Association, they are recorded as Special Purpose Funds in equity and can only be used for the purpose specified.

**THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1: Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

(g) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

In the application of the Association's accounting policies, the Board is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

(h) Goods and Services Tax

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except:

- i. where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority, it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense; or
- ii. for receivables and payables which are recognised inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of receivables or payables.

(i) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash on hand and term deposits. Term deposits are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

(j) Trade and Other Receivables

Receivables are measured at amortised cost less any impairment. An estimate for doubtful debts is made for the expected lifetime credit losses. In using this practical expedient, the Association uses its historical experience, external indicators and forward-looking information to calculate the expected credit losses using a provision matrix.

(k) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Association has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that the Association will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at reporting date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation. Where a provision is measured using the cashflows estimated to settle the present obligation, its carrying amount is the present value of those cashflows.

When some or all of the economic benefits required to settle a provision are expected to be recovered from a third party, the receivable is recognised as an asset if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received and the amount of the receivable can be measured reliably.

**THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1: Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

(l) Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Association becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

Financial assets are derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire, or when the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards are transferred. A financial liability is derecognised when it is extinguished, discharged, cancelled or expires.

Classification of Financial assets

Debt instruments that meet the following conditions are measured subsequently at amortised cost:

- The financial asset is held within a business model whose objective is to hold financial assets in order to collect contractual cash flows;
- The contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

All other financial assets are measured subsequently at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL).

Initial measurement of financial assets

Financial assets are classified according to their business model and the characteristics of their contractual cash flows.

Subsequent measurement of financial assets

For the purpose of subsequent measurement, financial assets are classified into the following categories:

- Financial assets at amortised cost
- Financial assets at FVTPL

(i) Amortised cost and effective interest method

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating interest income over the relevant period.

(ii) Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL)

Financial assets at FVTPL are measured at fair value at the end of each reporting period, with any fair value gains or losses recognised in profit or loss to the extent they are not part of a designated hedging relationship. The net gain or loss recognised in profit or loss includes any dividend or interest earned on the financial asset and is included in the 'other gains and losses' line. The Association does not have any financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Impairment of financial assets

The Association recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses on trade receivables. The amount of expected credit losses is updated at each reporting date to reflect changes in credit risk since initial recognition of the trade receivables. Long standing debts identified by management and those which are unlikely to be received have also been included in the provision for impairment of receivables.

(m) Comparative figures

Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation in the current year.

**THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(n) Leases

The Association assesses whether a contract is or contains a lease, at inception of the contract. The Association recognises a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease liability with respect to all lease arrangements in which it is the lessee, except for short-term leases (defined as leases with a lease term of 12 months or less) and leases of low value assets (such as small items of office furniture and telephones). For these leases, the Association recognises the lease payments as an operating expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease unless another systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern in which economic benefits from the leased assets are consumed.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted by using the rate implicit in the lease. If this rate cannot be readily determined, the Association uses its incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise:

- Fixed lease payments less any lease incentives receivable;
- Variable lease payments that depend on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate at the commencement date;
- The amount expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees
- The exercise price of purchase options, if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options; and
- Payments of penalties for terminating the lease if the lease term reflects the exercise of an option to terminate the lease.

The lease liability is subsequently measured by increasing the carrying amount to reflect interest on the lease liability (using the effective interest method) and by reducing the carrying amount to reflect the lease payments made.

The Association remeasures the lease liability (and makes a corresponding adjustment to the related right-of-use asset) whenever:

- The lease term has changed or there is a significant event or change in circumstances resulting in a change in the assessment of exercise of a purchase option, in which case the lease liability is remeasured by discounting the revised lease payments using a revised discount rate.
- The lease payments change due to changes in an index or rate or a change in expected payment under a guaranteed residual value, in which cases the lease liability is remeasured by discounting the revised lease payments using an unchanged discount rate (unless the lease payments change is due to a change in a floating interest rate, in which case a revised discount rate is used).
- A lease contract is modified, and the lease modification is not accounted for as a separate lease, in which case the lease liability is remeasured based on the lease term of the modified lease by discounting the revised lease payments using a revised discount rate at the effective date of the modification.

The Association did not make any such adjustments during the periods presented.

The right-of-use assets comprise the initial measurement of the corresponding lease liability, lease payments made at or before the commencement day, less any lease incentives received and any initial direct costs. They are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the shorter period of lease term and useful life of the underlying asset. The depreciation starts at the commencement date of the lease.

The Association applies AASB 136 to determine whether a right-of-use asset is impaired and accounts for any identified impairment loss as described in the 'Property, Plant and Equipment' policy.

**THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Note 2: Revenue		
Membership Subscriptions	315,137	337,900
Magazine income	1,424	11,071
Accommodation income	58,623	239,974
Donation income – Operational	9,640	24,470
Grant income – Commonwealth Government	4,273	15,000
Grant income – State Government – Victoria	233,697	116,201
Grant income – Special Purpose Funds – Commonwealth Government – Drought	-	500,000
Grant income – Special Purpose Funds – State Government – Victoria - Drought (i)	4,359,673	-
Donations income – Special Purpose Funds – Drought	389,004	126,358
Donations income – Special Purpose Funds – Other	126,727	347,991
Donations income – Special Purpose Funds – Bushfire	228,689	-
Investment income – Operational	26,309	48,612
Investment income – Special Purpose Funds	33,444	53,267
	<u>5,786,640</u>	<u>1,820,844</u>

(i) The Association initially received a sum of \$4,780,000 from the State of Victoria to aid victims of droughts in Victoria. Of this amount, \$4,359,673 was paid to applicants to the relief scheme, and the remaining \$420,327 was remitted back to the State.

Note 2 (a): Other income includes JobKeeper receipts amounting to \$189,600.

Note 3: Cash and Term Deposits

Cash on hand	970	620
Cash at bank	764,913	747,299
Total cash	<u>765,883</u>	<u>747,919</u>

Interest Bearing Term Deposits at amortised cost (i)

- National Australia Bank Limited	530,529	349,658
- Westpac Banking Corporation	517,371	556,365
- Bank of Melbourne	926,585	926,585
Total Term Deposits	<u>1,974,485</u>	<u>1,832,608</u>
Total Cash and Term Deposits	9 <u>2,740,368</u>	<u>2,580,527</u>

(i) All of the term deposits have maturity over 90 days, however, can be withdrawn with a 31 days-notice.

Note 4: Trade and other receivables

Trade debtors	20,680	15,617
Provision for doubtful debts	<u>(6,910)</u>	<u>(6,564)</u>
	13,770	9,053
 Sundry debtors	 47,696	 30,517
Prepayments	<u>18,144</u>	<u>13,333</u>
	<u>79,610</u>	<u>52,903</u>

Note 5: Stock on Hand – At Cost

Office and retail goods	78,983	66,401
Provision for obsolescence	<u>(3,323)</u>	<u>(716)</u>
	<u>75,660</u>	<u>65,685</u>

**THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Note 6: Property, Plant and Equipment		
Freehold land - at cost	402,544	402,544
Buildings – at cost	441,669	441,668
Less Accumulated depreciation	(137,589)	(134,517)
	304,080	307,151
CWA vehicle – at cost	22,219	22,219
Less Accumulated depreciation	(12,381)	(9,920)
	9,838	12,299
Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment – at cost	641,764	636,006
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(549,347)	(531,620)
	92,417	104,386
Total Property, Plant & Equipment	808,879	826,380
Note 7: Investments at amortised Cost – Special Purpose Funds		
- Cash at Bank – restricted (i)	9 665,701	2,040,675
Interest Bearing Term Deposits – restricted (i)		
- National Australia Bank Limited	30,000	30,000
- Commonwealth Bank	311,000	311,000
- Westpac Banking Corporation	694,741	693,428
- Bank of Melbourne	548,444	548,444
- Bendigo	179,996	430,000
	1,764,181	2,012,872
Other Assets/(Payables)		
- Accrued Interest	4,819	37,672
Total Special Purpose Funds	2,434,701	4,091,219

- (i) The amounts disclosed in the Special Purpose Funds include restricted cash and restricted investments which can only be used for the purpose for which they have been designated.

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Note 8: Trade and other payables		
Trade creditors	27,052	43,985
Accrued expenses	236,687	211,942
Sundry creditors	-	9,550
Disbanded branches	3,666	3,229
Prepaid income	21,349	27,451
Other liabilities	205,316	240,586
Deferred Grant – State Government – Victoria - Drought	-	1,500,000
Deferred Grants – State Government – Victoria – Other	100,000	38,003
Deferred Revenue – Other	-	5,125
	594,070	2,079,871

**THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

		2020	2019
		\$	\$
Note 9: Notes to the statement of cash flows			
(a) Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents			
For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand and in banks and investments in money market instruments, net of outstanding bank overdrafts. Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:			
Cash on hand		970	620
Cash at bank		764,913	747,299
Investments at amortised cost		1,974,485	1,832,608
Cash and cash equivalents – Association	3	2,740,368	2,580,527
Cash at bank – Special Purpose Funds - restricted	7	665,701	2,040,675
		<u>3,406,069</u>	<u>4,621,202</u>
(b) Reconciliation of (deficit)/ surplus for the year to net cash flows from operating activities			
(Deficit) /surplus for the year		(10,122)	(329,637)
Interest reinvested		32,854	(2,346)
Interest on lease liability		892	1,567
Depreciation		46,681	48,593
Provision for bad and doubtful debts		346	2,970
(Reversal) /provision for obsolescence of inventory		2,607	(2,902)
Changes in net assets and liabilities:			
Decrease /(increase) in assets:			
Trade and other receivables		(22,243)	21,545
Inventories		(12,583)	6,025
Other assets		(4,811)	48,395
(Decrease) /increase in liabilities:			
Trade and other payables		(1,489,561)	1,296,217
Provisions		23,329	20,905
Endowment fund		(1,298)	(713)
Net cash flows provided by operating activities		<u>(1,433,909)</u>	<u>1,110,619</u>

**THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 10: Subsequent Events

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic continues to adversely impact the activities of the Association. Other than this, there has not been any other matter or circumstance occurring subsequent to the end of the financial year that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect, the operations of the entity, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the entity in future financial years.

(b) The financial report was authorised for issue on 4th May 2021 by the Board.

**THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
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Note 11: Reserves – Special Purpose Funds in Equity

The following table shows the movements of the Special Purpose Funds for the year 2020.

Special Purpose Funds 2020 - Reserve	Balance 1 Jan 2020 \$	Donations, Grants and Legacies \$	Transfers from Retained earnings \$	Interest \$	Total \$	Admin Fee \$	Disbursements \$	Balance 31 Dec 2020 \$
Emergency Relief Fund	459,756	5,021,471	-	4,740	5,485,967	-	5,151,779	334,188
Emergency Drought Pamperpacks Fund	(249)	-	249	-	0	-	-	0
Welfare Fund	205,731	17,988	-	5,252	228,971	3,086	13,100	212,785
Education Grants Fund	253,430	11,952	-	3,840	269,222	3,805	8,725	256,692
Colac CWA Education Fund	181,111	-	-	2,625	183,736	1,825	800	181,111
Central Highlands Ruby McCullough Scholarship	153,072	-	-	2,078	155,150	2,078	-	153,072
AA Gibbs Educational Fund	95,258	-	-	1,287	96,545	-	4,750	91,795
Elsa Mary Grice Education Grant	434,405	-	-	6,434	440,839	6,434	-	434,405
Food Technology Scholarship	31,287	-	-	404	31,691	404	-	31,287
Sarah Amiet (nee Nicholson) Award	62,620	-	-	900	63,520	900	-	62,620
Alice Stewart Post Graduate Agribusiness Scholarship	109,772	70	-	2,679	112,521	1,647	-	110,874
International & Community Support Fund	63,463	2,749	(249)	-	65,963	952	187	64,824
Post Graduate Environmental Scholarship	56,290	-	-	801	57,091	801	-	56,290
Diamond Jubilee Residential Grant	21,230	-	-	322	21,552	-	1,500	20,052
Rural Nurses Post Graduate Scholarship	151,371	-	-	1,932	153,303	1,932	-	151,371
Thanksgiving Fund (2015)	275	-	-	-	275	-	-	275
Thanksgiving Fund (2016)	(223)	-	-	-	(223)	-	-	(223)
Thanksgiving Fund (2019)	32,796	-	-	-	32,796	-	32,796	-
Thanksgiving Fund (2020)	-	15,984	-	-	15,984	240	-	15,744
ACWW Pennies for Friendship	19,015	9,810	-	-	28,825	-	14,080	14,745
ACWW Women Walk the World	2,182	1,319	-	-	3,501	-	2,167	1,334
Murray Marathon Fund	150	-	-	-	150	-	-	150
Valerie Fisher AO OBE Memorial Educational Fund	10,976	-	-	-	10,976	-	-	10,976
Waverley Harris World Conf Fund	5,428	-	-	150	5,578	81	-	5,497
State Project 2020	-	22,378	-	-	22,378	-	2,446	19,932
State Project 2019	24,736	-	-	-	24,736	-	-	24,736
State Project 2018	13,326	-	-	-	13,326	-	-	13,326
State Project 2017	199	-	-	-	199	-	-	199
State Project 2013 - 'What Can I Do' (Family Violence)	11,627	-	-	-	11,627	-	-	11,627
B&B Upgrade	39,620	125	-	-	39,745	-	1,634	38,111
TOTAL	2,438,654	5,103,846	-	33,444	7,575,944	24,185	5,233,964	2,317,795

**THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
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Note 11: Reserves – Special Purpose Funds in Equity (continued)

The following table shows the movements of the Special Purpose Funds for the year 2019.

Special Purpose Funds 2019 - Reserve	Balance 1 Jan 2019 \$	Donations, Grants and Legacies \$	Transfers from Retained earnings \$	Interest \$	Total \$	Admin Fee \$	Disbursements \$	Balance 31 Dec 2019 \$
Emergency Relief Fund	855,815	677,075	-	5,250	1,538,140	-	1,078,384	459,756
Emergency Drought Pamperpacks Fund	(249)	-	-	-	(249)	-	-	(249)
Welfare Fund	197,450	20,387	-	6,400	224,237	2,962	15,544	205,731
Education Grants Fund	247,593	11,022	-	10,477	269,092	3,714	11,948	253,430
Colac CWA Education Fund	179,652	348	-	4,606	184,606	2,695	800	181,111
Central Highlands Ruby McCullough Scholarship	-	150,000	-	3,072	153,072	-	-	153,072
AA Gibbs Educational Fund	99,285	-	-	2,212	101,497	1,489	4,750	95,258
Elsa Mary Grice Education Grant	428,971	-	-	11,869	440,840	6,435	-	434,405
Food Technology Scholarship	31,076	-	-	677	31,753	466	-	31,287
Sarah Amiet (nee Nicholson) Award	62,151	-	-	1,401	63,552	932	-	62,620
Alice Stewart Post Graduate Agribusiness Scholarship	111,747	70	-	1,631	113,448	1,676	2,000	109,772
International & Community Support Fund	61,490	5,341	-	-	66,831	922	2,446	63,463
Post Graduate Environmental Scholarship	55,779	-	-	1,348	57,127	837	-	56,290
Diamond Jubilee Residential Grant	22,000	-	-	560	22,560	330	1,000	21,230
Rural Nurses Post Graduate Scholarship	151,612	-	-	3,533	155,145	2,274	1,500	151,371
Thanksgiving Fund (2015)	275	-	-	-	275	-	-	275
Thanksgiving Fund (2016)	(223)	-	-	-	(223)	-	-	(223)
Thanksgiving Fund (2018)	31,285	-	-	-	31,285	-	31,285	-
Thanksgiving Fund (2019)	-	32,796	-	-	32,796	-	-	32,796
ACWW Pennies for Friendship	18,091	16,515	-	-	34,606	271	15,320	19,015
ACWW Women Walk the World	2,362	2,234	-	-	4,596	35	2,379	2,182
Murray Marathon Fund	150	-	-	-	150	-	-	150
Valerie Fisher AO OBE Memorial Educational Fund	11,143	-	-	-	11,143	167	-	10,976
Waverley Harris World Conf Fund	6,290	-	-	232	6,522	94	1,000	5,428
State Project 2019	-	26,584	-	-	26,584	-	1,848	24,736
State Project 2018	20,966	-	-	-	20,966	-	7,640	13,326
State Project 2017	199	-	-	-	199	-	-	199
State Project 2013 - 'What Can I Do' (Family Violence)	11,804	-	-	-	11,804	177	-	11,627
B&B Upgrade	136,416	31,977	-	-	168,393	-	128,773	39,620
TOTAL	2,743,130	974,349	-	53,268	3,770,747	25,476	1,306,617	2,438,654

ACWW/International/ Community Support Committee Report

Members of CWA of Victoria have continued with their generous support and donations of items, thank you to all who contributed. We were able to have space in a container headed for the Highlands of Papua New Guinea so all the items of clothing, books, pencils and birthing kits were able to be sent. Under Covid restrictions we met by Zoom. We also organised our usual International Lunch by Zoom which gave an opportunity to be joined by all interested members from across the state. The speakers were interesting and informative. The reduced restrictions in December allowed for a few of the committee to meet and unpack and have a mini Christmas breakup.

Associated Women of the World (ACWW) have also had to cope with this worldwide pandemic and distributed their magazine by email. It actually worked quite well. Back issues are also online for anyone who would like to read them. ACWW website has posters and flyers available for a variety of subjects, including the 'Orange the World Campaign' and Women Walk the World. The usual Walk the World was delayed and I hope Branches and Groups managed a walk even though it had to be modified. This is an opportunity to make the public aware of ACWW and of CWA of Victoria's involvement.

Of course, the South Pacific Area Conference was also impacted and postponed. The resolutions were, to encourage processes so that rural voices are heard, particularly women's voices, for promoting Family Planning education in developing countries and that WHO and UN bodies support education and production and distribution of vaccines for developing countries.

Attending the monthly United Nations Australia Association Status of Women Committee (UNAAVSOW), an even longer title than our Committee, is linked with ACWW in promoting UN Sustainable Development Goals and concerned with the situation of Women and Girls.

Thank you to Faye Glover for a thorough handover and support throughout the year. The Committee members are an amazing group of women and my thanks to them for their flexibility in using technology for meetings and for being quick to return to packing and delivering.



Vivien Speight
Chairperson

Archives Committee Report

We received a grant from the State Government to upgrade the archive packaging and during the lockdown volunteers headed by the State President and assisted by Staff Members were able to finish placing all the minute books into acid free packaging. My grateful thanks to all those responsible

As I have a great many old magazines and other material that I have been given or accrued over many years I have been able to continue to research 'Her Story'.

I have had an enquiry from the grandson of Gladys Cunliffe on her life as a CWA member. Gladys Cunliffe was a music teacher in Heidelberg and a member of Heidelberg Branch. Here is 'Her Story' -

The Gladys Cunliffe Scholarship was made possible by the legacy of Miss Cunliffe, a music teacher interested in the work of the Association. The scholarship named for her was for a student of music whose home was at least 25 miles (40 km) from Melbourne and covered either a Degree or Diploma course.

It was first awarded in 1961 to Jennifer Dodd of Mildura to complete her Bachelor of Music. Back in those days it would have been far more difficult for a young person to leave a country home to study in Melbourne and £55 (\$110) would have represented about three weeks wages – a handsome amount of money and could have bought a great deal of music.

The family came to Australia during WWI, and at first settled in Sandringham. Mr Cunliffe was an engineer with the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works and also played the violin. Mrs Cunliffe was a pianist and was for many years the organist at the Unitarian Church in Grey Street East Melbourne. Gladys had a younger sister Stella who was a gifted cellist. There was much music in the Cunliffe home as you could well imagine. Gladys attended PLC and studied the piano with Edward Gall who was an outstanding music teacher in the 1920's, 30's and 40's. While she was a student of Mr Gall's Gladys won the Clarke Silver medal entitling her to study in London at the Royal College of Music, where she attained her degree then known as the 'ARCM' and 'LAB'. She returned to Melbourne where the family now lived in Heidelberg and in the late 1920's established an extensive teaching practice. She also gave many recitals and made many ABC broadcasts from this time up until WWII. She sent several years as Music Mistress at St Mary's Girls' Grammar School in Perth, WA and inaugurated a wonderful music group at the Karakalta Club there. Gladys also gave Two Piano Recitals with Percy Grainger at an Orchestral Concert. She also spent some years at another St Mary's School in Herberton Qld, then back to Victoria to teach at Clyde Woodend. In between times during this busy musical life she conducted choirs, YMCA and others, adjudicated, gave lectures for the Worker's Education Association (now CAE). With her sister Stella Turner, on cello, and a violinist friend formed "The Tudor Trio" and gave many recitals travelling around country districts.

Mrs Cunliffe was an active member of Heidelberg Branch for many years. It was during Gladys' country travels that she became aware of the need for opportunities to be provided for young, musical country people – the idea of the scholarship was born. In those days, she was in contact herself with CWA choral work in concerts as an adjudicator.

Gladys Cunliffe served on various Music Councils, and was an active member of the British Music Society. She taught at Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School in the late 1940s. Gladys died in the late 1950s from cancer, but her memory lives on. We remember her generous music scholarship to CWA of Victoria.

I would like to thank Judy Normand for her assistance over many years. Judy has resigned due to ill health.

"I feel that the greatest reward for doing is the opportunity to do more." – Dr Jonas Salk



MOH Noela MacLeod AO
Archivist

Agriculture & Environment Committee Report

New Chairperson Narelle Hanrahan was appointed by State Council in June 2020. Thank you to Margaret Wood, the retiring Chairperson. Like all committees in 2020, meetings were held over Zoom.

The Committee supported three successful resolutions at State Conference:

- requesting that fresh potable water be available to all communities
- requesting action on illegal dumping of hazardous materials, and
- requesting the implementation of recommendations regarding a sustainable Melbourne Foodbowl.

The Product/Resource 'Australian Indigenous Foods' was well supported by many branches as members discovered new ingredients and tastes.



Narelle Hanrahan
Chairperson

Catering Committee Report

I have had the pleasure of serving as the Catering Committee Chairperson during a very unusual year. The cancellation of the Royal Melbourne Show required some creative problem solving. The Board's Covid Taskforce developed an idea, inspired by Jenny Nola, to continue with a Beat the Scone Record. I would like to thank all Branches/Groups who participated in helping sell scones in their own regions. While we didn't break the record, we definitely smashed the daily record and set a new one. There were several groups who made over 1,000 scones! Thank you to Hume Goulburn and North Eastern Groups.

Many thanks as well, to everyone who took the time to make the veggie bags that were included in the show bags. Executive Director Lynne Jordan secured a deal with Woolworths to sell the show bags online. She was also instrumental in facilitating the packing and transport of the bags to the warehouse.

We had the privilege of holding an online Masterclass with Joy Davis, Royal Melbourne Show master scone maker. Joy shared her method of scone making and provided lots of tips and tricks. I highly recommend attending a masterclass again, when you get the chance.

At November State Council, the decision was made to hold an annual Branch/Group Scone drive as part of the celebrations of the CWA Birthday which is 12 March.

I encourage all members to find a friend and sign up to work at the Royal Melbourne Show in 2021. It will be a great time to work together and volunteer together. Many hands make light work.



Sarah Barnbrook
Chairperson

Club Committee Report

The start of 2020 was to be very busy on the Club Committee front with several catering events scheduled for the first part of the year. But Mother Nature thought otherwise. Despite the bushfires the Committee catered for three events before Coronavirus hit.

On 11 January we catered for a small wedding in the gardens under the beautiful oak tree. We provided a selection of sweet treats for 50 guests. Due to the threat of bushfires Club Committee Chairperson Mary Grant was unable to come down to *Umina* for this event, but the team of kitchen members cooked and presented a lovely spread for the guests.

In February and March the monthly High Teas brought many new people to *Umina* but then we were not able to stage any more monthly High Teas for the rest of the year. We were very disappointed about this as they are a guaranteed revenue raiser.

March State Council was, as always, a pleasant and friendly occasion and was followed by the training sessions for the new 2020/21 Group Presidents.

The last catered event at *Umina* was three days for the Needlework Tours Group at the end of March. Social distancing was practised and hand sanitiser used.

During the early period when the B&B was closed the dining room and reception area were repainted. Our heartfelt thanks to John and Sheryl Long for donating the paint and the painting which John completed. Club Committee Chairperson Karen Jackson managed to acquire a very generous donation of many tins of white paint from Bunnings Torquay. This paint will be used to repaint some of the bedrooms.

Over winter months State President Marion Dewar and Deputy State President Pam Mawson checked all the bedrooms which are now fully furnished with bedside tables and lamps, matching cushions and throw rugs on the beds and appropriate pieces of artwork on the walls. Pam worked on making new curtains for some rooms. It is sad that the B&B remained closed for the rest of the year.

I sincerely thank Deputy State President Pam who put on her thinking cap and decided to try a Pop Up Shop out on the front lawn. The first one sold scones and Anzac biscuits. This was followed by a Mothers' Day Pop Up Shop with scones and heart shaped decorated shortbread biscuits. There was a break midyear and then they continued every fortnight. Pam continued to lead this new venture.



Anne DuVé
Chairperson

Cooking Committee Report

It has been a wonderful opportunity to be your Cooking Committee Convenor for the past twelve months. Although 2020 was somewhat of an unusual year, the Cooking Committee made the most of it. Our year started with a Masterclass in Preserves, which was hugely successful. The Cooking Committee had two other classes organised but then cancelled due to Covid-19. Learning new skills, we started having Zoom meetings. Sometimes technology and I didn't go hand in hand but with lots of help from more tech savvy committee members I have got by.

With the Christmas Fare looking like it was not going ahead as we have known in past years, the committee started to plan for a Christmas Pop Up Shop. With lots of Zoom meetings, the Christmas Pop Up Shop at 3 Lansell Road started to take shape in how we were to achieve such a feat. Thanks to Coles who were again generous with their support.

The first online Christmas Fare Raffle was organised by State Treasurer Marie Vassallo and was a monumental success. A very big thank you to Marie for a job well done. Change is often difficult to adjust to when we have done things a certain way for many years. Well done and thank you all for your support.

Masterclasses via Zoom were planned for late October and November. Our very capable tutors Marie, Marilyn and Pam demonstrated Christmas Cakes, Christmas Puddings and Shortbread. The classes were a hit with members being able to cook along with their tutor, ask questions and get lots of tips and hints during the class. Another first for our Committee. Zoom Masterclasses which have been very successful.

The Christmas Pop Up Shops around Victoria were amazing. The support was truly wonderful.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone on the Cooking Committee for their continued support and friendship, tutors Marie Vassallo, Marilyn Mackie and Pam Mawson for Masterclasses. Lyn Trezise, Sharon Douglas, Carolyn Asquith, Kaye Ashe, Mary Grant, Lisa Calandro, Lorraine Costello, Wilma Bright, Dhirleen Clark and Devika Fernando. Thank you for everything you have done. You all have made my job much easier, Thank you, during a very different year.



Beverley Wall OAM
Convenor

Creative Arts Committee Report

The principal aim of the Creative Arts Committee is to encourage and promote Handcrafts and Home Industries among members and 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. The Committee currently has fourteen members who meet five times per year, and a further nine on the Exhibition sub-committee who come to our June and September meetings, and assist with the running of the State Exhibition.

Judges' Update Days for Handcrafts and Home Industries judges were held on January 29-30, 2020. They were well attended, with 28 judges and 13 trainees attending the Handcrafts day, and 31 judges and 4 trainees attending Home Industries.

At the Handcrafts Update, Pat Dale, author of *Basketry and Weaving with Natural Materials*, spoke on basketry and showed examples of creative basketry work. Other featured topics were new card-making techniques, Zentangles, Crystal Art/Diamond Dotz, and "something new from something old" articles. Judging ethics and critique writing were discussed. Notes were supplied by Libby Milner, but as she had to give her apologies, the sessions were led by Wendy Earwicker and Pam Mawson.

Marie Vassallo was the guest speaker at the Home Industries Judges' Update, speaking on the latest trends in gluten-free cookery, and aspects judges should look for when judging gluten-free sections in shows or exhibitions. Other featured topics this year were Cookery: all types of biscuits and items which could be entered in "Any other cookery"; Preserves: fruit butters, fruit pastes, and items which could be entered in "Any other Preserve". Judging ethics and critique writing were discussed.

Following the Updates, all judges undertook revision papers as part of the reaccreditation process. Owing to the pandemic, other requirements were extended for an additional twelve months.

Judges' training for both Handcrafts and Home Industries was planned for 2020, and an initial session for Home Industries trainees was held at Lansell Road on 15 March, where trainees learnt about judging ethics, and undertook practical training on scones and fruit butters. Training then had to be suspended due to covid-19. Three judges who had completed their training courses prior to 2020 were able to undertake sufficient practical judging experience to be granted their badges during 2020: Cheryl Kemp and Heather Scott (Handcrafts) and Gillian Simmonds (Home Industries). Congratulations to our new judges.

Twelve members (the maximum possible) participated in the Blackwork Embroidery Retreat held at *Umina* on February 19-20. Tutor Penny Wolswinkel, from Kardella Branch, had prepared a wonderful kit for each participant, with Aida cloth and linen, hoop, needles and thread, patterns and instructions. Penny has studied at the UK Royal School of Needlework, and is a member of the Embroiderers Guild of Victoria. She has won the Eliason Trophy for the best exhibit in Embroidery at the State Creative Arts Exhibition several times, including last year for her blackwork pear.

The class was taken on a journey from the beginnings of blackwork to its modern interpretations, with time to practise each stage under Penny's expert guidance. All the members very much enjoyed the retreat and gave some suggestions for topics for future retreats. We were very well looked after, with meals provided by Club Committee Chairperson Mary Grant and members of her committee.

CWA judges were in demand at Agricultural Shows in the early part of 2020, and Latrobe Central and Central Victoria Groups held successful Group Exhibitions before Covid-19 led to the cancellation or postponement of all other group exhibitions.



Heather Scott
Chairperson

planned for late March onwards. Members have been urged to continue working on their exhibition entries, which they will be able to enter in Group and State Exhibitions in 2021.

The State Photography Competition was converted to a digital-only competition for 2020, to enable it to continue despite covid-19, and the change was so successful that the Committee plans to continue this format. The Competition attracted 262 entries from 59 members, with the winner of the Paula Pither-Mills Perpetual Plaque for Photography being Jessica Hodder of Marnoo, East Wimmera Group, for her wonderful photo 'Hands in Water'. Entrants received Judge's Comments Cards with their score and the judge's comments about their photos. A special Zoom gathering was held, hosted by the State President, at which the prize winners were announced and the winning photos shown. This also gave entrants the opportunity to meet one another, often for the first time. The photos were posted on the website and were also on display as a Powerpoint presentation at the State AGM (held by Zoom).

The Creative Arts State Raffle took place in 2020, and proved very popular, with tickets selling out by mid August. Owing to Covid-19 restrictions, the draw was postponed until October, and took place in Koonwarra, Gippsland Hills Group, where the Group Presidents of Bass, Gippsland Hills and South Gippsland and the Creative Arts and Club Committee Chairpersons were able to attend. The very excited winner of the first prize was Cheryl Edgar of Morwell Evening Branch.

For the first time since the end of World War II, a State Exhibition was not held this year. The Committee recommended the cancellation due to the covid-19 pandemic after consultation with judges, stewards and other helpers, and careful consideration of possible options, and the Board adopted the recommendation on 10 June. A competition for the Syme Cup for the Group Handcraft Entry for 2020 was held, with the theme 'Sea, Shore and Shells'. After several postponements due to covid-19 restrictions, the 12 group entries were judged and the winners announced: First - Gippsland Hills Group; Second - Goulburn Valley West Group; Third - North Gippsland Group.

In November, the Committee tried a new initiative – craft destash markets were held in Loch and Wodonga. Stall holders brought along craft materials they wanted to sell, and eager buyers queued for access to the hall to make their purchases. Local branches and groups were able to raise some funds, and some funds also benefited Creative Arts. It is hoped to hold more craft destash markets in 2021.

Committee members have had to be flexible in 2020, learning to meet by Zoom and working out new ways to achieve our aims. My thanks go to Abbi Cininas, Anne DuVé, Wendy Earwicker, Margaret Finn, Mary Heap, MOH Noela MacLeod AO, Gwenda Swan (2019-20 committee); Mary Grant, Stella Hyde, Carol Johnson, Pam Mawson, Doreen Napier, Helen Ryvitch, Lyn Trezise, MOH Helen Wall OAM (2019-20 committee); Debra Christensen, Lyn Fleay, Kerrie McMillan, Elizabeth Milner, and Mary Prime (2020-21 committee), and to Exhibition Sub-committee members Pam Andrew, Bev Byron, Susan Campbell-Wright, Karen Denney and Lyn Fleming. I have very much appreciated the support I have received. Special thanks go to the Senior Judges Panel for their advice and guidance, and to all our CWA of Victoria judges who so willingly travel to Exhibitions and shows across the state.

Magazine and Communications Committee Report

The Magazine and Communications Committee is a hardworking band of members. All of the members of this Committee undertake roles to ensure that the magazine is published on time 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.

Editor Lorraine Zimmerman worked with the Committee, the Board and State Council and with you, the members, to produce informative and interesting magazines during 2020. The choice of cover is always a talking point with members who also love reading what other members have been doing. Thank you Lorraine.

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 who have significant visual impairment and are in place of the printed magazine.

A junior newsletter is produced regularly by Committee member 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.

2020 dawned and we started a new year full of enthusiasm. Covid-19 certainly threw all its challenges at committees and we had to find new ways to continue. Not to be deterred, we investigated the Zoom teleconferencing option and we met, albeit on a computer screen! We were able to have one face to face meeting at the end of the year.

We chose the topics for our Literature Competition during one of our Zoom meetings. We followed the advice of last year's judge, who suggested we reduce the number of topics as well as the word limit in some instances. As an incentive to get people writing we offered a writers' workshop by Zoom teleconferencing, at minimal cost to the participant – but, if you are lucky enough to be a winner in the Literature Competition, then your participation is free.

During 2020 our magazine saw a complete halt to external advertising, hence a significant reduction in revenue that assists in reducing the cost of production. 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 sent in 'news' items, to all members who provided photographs of events, for the monthly cryptic crossword and other puzzles, for the members who sent in book or film reviews or articles of interest, to the committee chairpersons who provided monthly reports as well as members who sent in suggestions and feedback.

Lastly, my heartfelt thanks to the committee and proofreaders. You are an enthusiastic bunch of workers, committed, always willing to give of your time, to contribute and offer suggestions. You embraced the change in proofreading procedures and so the magazine continues to march on. You have been a pleasure to work with and I look forward to what 2021 offers.



Mary Grant
Chairperson

Membership Committee Report

It gives me great pleasure to present the Membership Committee report for 2020.

While Interim Chairperson Lyn Harris formulated a questionnaire to be sent at random to members in different parts of Victoria. The questions included why the member joined and the value of being a member. This resultant information will be important to guiding the Committee towards our goal of increasing the number of women joining the Association and also provide information to Seftons, an Australian Rural & Regional Marketing Consultancy engaged by CWA of Victoria to raise the profile of CWA and the work that the Association does. Seftons will generate strong media interest on behalf of the Association. A plan to hold a Focus Month in 2021 is yet to be decided.

We developed a series of workshops to assist Group Presidents. These covered: (1) Website - General Membership Enquires (2) Membership Renewals; (3) New Member, New Branch Referrals, (4) Recruitment Drive and 5) Mentoring. They are important to ensure everyone is on the same page and actively recruiting members, maintaining the members we have and looking to the future.

We thought it would be advantageous to find out why members leave us. A sub-committee was formed to establish a set of questions to be asked of those leaving, especially why they were leaving. We can't assume why members leave and naturally can't address any issues they may have if we don't know why.

For some time, a Virtual Branch has been under discussion. A paper was prepared and submitted to the Board. After further discussion and presentation to State Council, the Membership Committee proceeded with this exciting concept of a virtual branch. It will mean women who are isolated, either by distance or not being able to attend branch face2face meetings can be members of the CWA of Victoria. For many women this will be like a dream come true. It will bring women together via one of the online portals that allow 'real time' interaction - nearly face2face but not quite. Time will tell how this branch forms. The Membership Committee will be giving this branch its full support as we do every branch. We invite everyone to think about how you can work with this virtual branch and welcome them into the CWA of Victoria family.

We were asked to put together and write a series of Case Studies (stories) that can be used by Seftons to promote our Association and to give them an insight into what and who we are - 15 in total were written. Another project was to provide information for a Growth Plan for the Association.

We know that 2021 is going to be a challenge and we will take the opportunity to work together to drive the growth of the Association. I sincerely thank the Membership Committee and our Administration Staff for their time, commitment and support and hope you will join with us over the coming months as we move to encourage women from all over Victoria to join us, thus increasing our membership and allowing us to continue to support women, children and families.



Joanne Alderman
Chairperson

Social Issues Committee Report

It gives me great pleasure to provide the Annual report for the Social Issues Committee for 2020. Our theme for this year was "Building communication skills in times of stress". No one had any idea at the time of formulating this theme how important communication was going to become in 2020 and how stressful the year ahead would be for many of our members and the Association in general! As you would expect our enthusiasm for social issues did not wane due to the restrictions imposed by Covid19 lockdowns and social distancing rules. This group of women is far bigger than a pandemic!!

The committee didn't miss a beat and continued to meet via videoconference during the difficult year we experienced. We built our communication skills by learning how to use Zoom (how many times did someone say, 'can you hear me?'), Teams or by attending Webinars throughout the year. We put into practice our skills through making many phone calls to committee members, various association members and other likeminded organisations in relation to our continued focus on past Social Issues themes. We also supported one another with stories about how we coped.

The early part of the year was very much dedicated to researching, writing and finetuning resolutions in readiness for the expected State Conference in May. The following resolutions were approved at State Council and went forward to conference to be voted upon:

- a) Availability of Potable Water in all Victorian Regional Communities,
- b) Illegal Hazardous Chemical Waste and Asbestos Dumps in Victoria
- c) Food Standards in Aged Care
- d) Button Battery Safety Standards

The committee also seconded the following five resolutions:

- a. Fuel Reduction Burns in Victorian Forests
- b. Aged Pension Level and Assessment Criteria
- c. National Approach to Numeracy and Literacy Standards
- d. E- Cigarettes
- e. Remote Area Satellite Telephone Technology and Support



Jennifer Nola
Interim Chairperson

The pandemic created havoc with our plans for 2020 and resulted in the cancellation of our scheduled Seymour meeting and the guest speakers who were to speak about homelessness and affordable housing in the local area. We hope to recreate this event in 2021. It also meant our plans for a number of walks to support *16 Days of Activism* against Gender Based Violence in November were also not able to take place. However, we listened to some very interesting speakers at our meetings using Zoom.

The Committee had a Mental Health First Aid training opportunity arise earlier in the year but Covid put paid to that. Two members however, attended the course later in the year at their own expense and found it to be very worthwhile. We now have five members of the committee who have completed this course.

At our July meeting Ms. Rabia Sikander, Senior Manager, Family Preservation and Reunification and Home-Based Care, Uniting Care spoke to us. She gave an interesting and informative insight into the concerns of immigrant and refugee Families living in Melbourne. Rabia discussed her role, marriage, and cultural expectations in the CALD community, Domestic Violence and the stigma and cultural pressures involved, the barriers to leaving a relationship and older women's concerns.

In August, the first Zoom AGM was held and the committee was thrilled to witness all resolutions being passed. The hard work was worth the effort!

During our September meeting Allison Troth from NGO Destiny Rescue Australia, gave a very eye-opening talk to the committee about her work volunteering and working for various Australian Not For Profit organisations which rescue women from family violence, pimps and the brothel industry. She has contributed to government policy addressing migrant women who are left homeless by family breakdown, and with Anglicare Victoria, working to address women left homeless by marriage breakdown, family violence and human trafficking. Destiny Rescue Australia rescues children from the tourist red light districts of seven Asian countries. The organisation has recently been invited to start rescues in Australia from 2021 - from neighbourhood massage parlours, karaoke bars and spa beauty centres.

October saw the committee welcome Janette Large from the Women's Property Initiative to tell us all about the work they do in the social housing space. Their focus is on providing permanent and affordable homes and advocacy for women. Only a small fraction of the properties in the private rental market in Victoria are affordable for people on low incomes and sadly most low-income earners are women, particularly women over the age of fifty-five.

After much discussion and debate the Social Issues theme put forward to State Council for 2021 was "Safe Home For All". This was based on the fact that women and children enduring Family Violence (Theme in 2012) are frequently prevented from leaving these situations because of the lack of social and affordable housing for them and the resultant homelessness that leaving the violent home would cause them.

In further support of our belief that everyone should have a safe home to utilise, State President Marion Dewar signed the Everybody's Home online petition on behalf of CWA of Victoria Inc. It is pleasing to know we are on board as an association. Members may follow the progress of this campaign on their website and continue to support affordable social housing in local areas.

The committee comprised twelve dedicated members up until the State AGM and then fifteen enthusiastic and dedicated members went to work from June onwards.

I wish to thank them for all the work they have contributed to the resolutions and discussions throughout the year. It was very exciting to welcome six new members in June as the ever-capable Judith Poole took over as Committee Chairperson. The retiring members were Immediate Past Social Issues Chairperson Viviane Chemali, Heather Scott and Judy Normand who we gratefully thank for their work and contributions to the Committee over the past three years.

We look forward to a productive year ahead.

Group Reports

BALLARAT DISTRICT

In 2020 the Ballarat District Group had 13 branches – 6 Day, 6 Night and 1 Weekend Branch. 2020 was an interesting year for all of us, we maintained contact by many methods and our interest in craft, with 1,000s of volunteer hours spent in making items that could be donated to our local communities that were delivered when Covid restrictions allowed, with TV and newspaper publicity which showed that CWA in our Group was alive and well and still working to support our local, the state organisation and international projects. Branch AGMs were a delight to attend, everyone was so happy to meet face to face again even with mask wearing and appropriate spacings, with only two via Zoom.

BASS

Bass Group members made the most of Covid times, cooking, crafting and gardening. Some Bass Group branches met through Covid via zoom and all branches remained connected via emails and mail drops. Members welcomed President Marion's newsletters and the CWA *Grow, Connect, Improve* activities kept members engaged. Members participated in the State Raffle, State Photography Competition and the State AGM, participated in face mask fundraising and supporting community food bank programs.

BEAUFORT

Beaufort Group members, through the COVID pandemic, managed to volunteer their time and show their kindness in many ways in a caring manner. Providing morning tea to frontline workers, writing letters and phone calls to the elderly, knitting and crocheting warm articles for the disadvantaged.

Branches also provided meals to Blaze-Aid workers after the bushfires at Lexton in February and provided breakfasts for school students. BBQs and scone drives were held. Shortbread was distributed in the communities prior to Christmas.

Sadly, two branches closed but hopefully they will continue on as virtual members.

Thank you members for your friendship and kindness. My best wishes to the incoming Group President for a wonderful term as Group President.

BENDIGO NORTHERN

During 2020 Bendigo Northern Group was involved in some important activities. We created a display of CWA craft in a shop front, which gained many positive comments. Our Greta was on the local radio spouting good news about CWA branches. We were represented on the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee, giving us a voice to the City of Bendigo.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

Central Highlands Group was pleased to launch our year in March 2020 with a wonderful event to celebrate International Women's Day - Inspiring Women of the Macedon Ranges featuring a panel of high profile guests including Justice Lesley Taylor of the Supreme Court, Dr Jacqueline Ogeil of the Woodend Winter Arts Festival and Dr Ngaire Elwood, Director of the Cord Blood Bank. The packed event was an uplifting night which raised \$1,500 in support of the bushfire relief efforts in Gippsland. The Group supported the development of our vibrant new evening branch – Woodend Eves – but, on a sadder note, Trentham Branch voted to close in late 2020 and will be much missed by our Group. Post the COVID-19 lockdown, our Group was proud to host four Scone Pop-Up stalls in October selling over 1,400 scones across various towns and farmers' markets – and we ended the year with a hugely successful Christmas Pop-Up Market on 5 December making a profit of just over \$5,000 thanks to the support of our local Macedon Ranges community. Our Group – consisting of 11 local branches – was very proud of all of our efforts and achievements in supporting each other through this unprecedented time and continuing to fly the CWA flag proudly in our local region.

CENTRAL MURRAY

Five branches in a geographically large group, with one day and four evening. A well received and well attended February Conference. There was fierce competition in public speaking! Plus craft and novelty sections. Branches host monthly craft days. Technology was a boon during Covid. Happily welcoming new members, our innovation was a Christmas Lunch with an International Speaker.

CENTRAL VICTORIA

The Group was lucky to be able to hold and enjoy our successful Creative Arts Exhibition in Maldon. It was run over two days and attracted great interest. Zoom training and well attended meetings included the Botswana International Day and Half Year Conference held on the same day, just a little late, in October. Members contributed to our entry in the Syme Cup and were gratified by the feedback. We were able to showcase CWA and ACWW through our "Winter in Maldon" window, winning \$200, with the funds being forwarded to the Association. It was a difficult but successful year.

CENTRAL WIMMERA

Members kept in contact with one another via phone and email. Halls Gap Cottage was closed for a period of time due to Covid but has reopened under Covid Safe rules. Bring on 2021 and what it may bring to us.

DIAMOND VALLEY

During the year, all branches functioned on a smaller scale, with most using Zoom, (many for the first time), phone calls and when permitted personal visits. Craft featured with most members and many UFOs were completed and new projects commenced. Members undertook the new challenges with great CWA spirit. Looking forward to a great 2021.

EAST GIPPSLAND

East Gippsland is proud of the work of its members, particularly when times are tough, and have we had some tough times lately. We are made up of five branches, with the newly formed Buchan and Gelantipy District holding its first meeting in April. Bengworden celebrated its 70th birthday and Bairnsdale Amaroos its 90th birthday. The Group continued to host 'Drop in and have a Cuppa Days' in the area; and it was through one of these at Buchan that we discovered the need to support women and their families in the area and the Buchan and Gelantipy District branch was formed.

EAST WIMMERA

From eight branches, Wycheproof Phoenix didn't leave the nest after it struggled for twelve months. This brings East Wimmera to the magnificent seven.

One junior member was awarded both the Shire and Charlton Youth Citizen of the Year.

We achieved eight winning entries in the Literature Awards and the Emilie Wilson Cup was awarded to a Wirrim member. A Marnoo member won the State Photography Shield and five scholarships were awarded within the Group.

Wirrim finally celebrated their 50th birthday and also won the Group's Book of Honour.

40 little knitted teddies were given to juniors, friends and CWA branches to connect members.

Not a bad effort for 113 members and 23 juniors.

EASTERN FOOTHILLS

The last year has been very difficult, due to Covid 19. We were in touch with all the branches, from time to time. I managed to start a new branch, Gully Golden Girls. I hope the new incoming Group President, finds the role as enjoyable as I have.

EASTERN GOULBURN VALLEY

The Eastern Goulburn Valley Group was affected like all other groups and organisations with COVID19. However, our Group participated in the scone challenge and Christmas Pop-Up shop.

FRASER

Fraser Group Branches spent much of 2020 unable to meet due to pandemic lockdowns. Activities were put "on hold" due to "Work from home" directives. Zoom and other digital platforms, email and phone calls, were all used by Branch members to meet online and keep in touch. The immediate need for fabric face masks got Branches sewing, selling, and supplying free masks to those in need. Clothes, towels, blankets, and donations to Food banks followed. Plant cuttings eventually reached bushfire areas. Sewn scrubs, hospital gowns, and knitted goods were donated to local organisations. and meals shared with neighbours. Financial donations reached local communities and Head Office. Fraser Group Branch members when possible continued to strongly support state activities; answering emergency calls for volunteers, particularly for the Pop Up Shops and the Christmas Baking effort. Sadly, two day Branches closed: Docklands-our newest Branch, and Whitehorse; leaving 6 Branches in Fraser Group. When Lockdowns ceased, Al Fresco meetings became popular. Members look forward to continuing their involvement at all levels in CWA, and to growing our Branches again.

GEELONG

Geelong Group has 16 branches. Welcome back Galena. Members have come through a difficult time with flying colours as they support each other and their communities. We look forward to a brighter future.

GOULBURN VALLEY WEST

Although there were many restrictions throughout the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Goulburn Valley West Group, consisting of seven Branches, continued to keep their members occupied and together. Many craft items were completed for the Show Bags and Branches continued to raise and distribute funds to those suffering from bushfire and drought.

We really appreciated gathering together face to face for the Spring Conference.

HENTY

While Covid cancelled most events for 2020, two Branches helped out with a pop up stall for the Christmas Fare in Port Fairy. And a couple also had a go at the State Beat the Scone Record in September. Many Branches kept themselves busy crafting, being able to send items to Head Office for community use.

HUME GOULBURN

The branches within Hume Goulburn Group achieved great things during this difficult period. Our branches contributors to the CWA Scone Challenge as well as the Christmas Baking Pop Up Shops and were able to donate good sums of money. Well done members!

KIEWA VALLEY

We got off to a flying start in 2020 with our Morning Melodies Show with Rodney Vincent and Lucky Starr which was a great success and raised \$3,500 for the Bushfire Appeal in North East Victoria. Fortunately, we held the concert the day prior to lockdown in Victoria. During lockdown members within our Branches kept in touch via emails and newsletters from our State President as well as continuing to support Hilltop Cancer Accommodation Centre and Head Office. The Kiewa Valley Group became a strong team working together to help our Communities and as we discovered the power of this CWA Group working on a joint project is outstanding.

I have made some wonderful friends during my 2 years and gotten to know many of you a little better.

MCDONALD

The last 12 months has seen our 5 branches contribute in various ways to our local community, CWA head office and ACWW. They all kept in touch and supported each other during the Covid lock down. Our monthly craft group has recommenced with a focus on teaching skills that members can take back to teach at their branches.

MILDURA/MILLEWA

Moya Murphy took over as Interim Group President following the passing of Group President Glennis Williams. The Group members did what they could to keep in touch - some Branches held meetings early in the year, other Branches kept in touch by phone. All Branches held their annual meetings, under Covid restrictions. We can only hope for better times to come.

MOIRA

Moira Group Branches kept in touch during 2020 by phone and email.

Yarrawonga and Border Branch members celebrated their 90th Birthday quietly, in the laneway next to their Clubrooms.

Corowa members were able to carry on as usual, across the Border, but required a Past Group President, who lived within the Border Bubble, to chair their AGM.

The branches are Benalla, Boorhaman, Corowa, Swanpool, Thoona, and Yarrawonga and Border.

MORNINGTON PENINSULA

Our year started with a flurry of activity with many members responding to the call for nests and pouches for bushfire injured wildlife. Red Hill Show in early March was much busier than expected. Being located this year next to the arts and crafts pavilion was fantastic with lots of opportunity to meet new people, promote CWA and sell cookbooks! Then it felt like the world changed. We went into lockdown, our creative arts exhibition was cancelled, and we scrambled to cope with the restrictions. Some branches explored new technology to keep in touch, others managed with phone calls and snail mail. What shone so brightly was the way branches kept in touch with members and supported each other.

NORTH EASTERN

2020 was certainly a challenge for everyone. Sadly, we had a Branch go into recess, but the other nine Branches all completed the year in good stead. Fundraising was recommenced after the lockdowns and all Branches did very well overall. Membership remains strong with increases in some Branches. Our Group supported the Scone Challenge Drive and the local Christmas Pop Up Shop was a great success. Congratulations to all Branches for supporting each other with emails, zoom meetings and dropping off the State President's Newsletters to members not on email.

CWA Aprons proved very popular within our Group, and we also made some for members across the state. Great for promoting ourselves at markets and events. Wangaratta CWA Hall is looking very fresh with the completion of painting the hall and getting the floor sanded and polished. We are all looking forward to a great 2021.

NORTH GIPPSLAND

I was very pleased to have been able to attend Umina for F2F Group President training with 7 other members during March 2020 in the early days of COVID-19. The year had some positive notes with our Group gaining a third place in the Syme Cup Competition for Handcraft which we were all thrilled about. Bundalaguah and Giffard Branches contributed to this entry. Our Christmas Group break up was held at the Knob Reserve at Stratford. It took the form of a casual picnic where members brought their own drinks and food. It was a lovely relaxed way to finish the year.

OMELO/TAMBO VALLEY

The year 2020 has been unique. Omeo/Tambo Valley members have found new and creative means to contribute to and support our community. Members made extra efforts to keep in touch by phone and email. There was much distribution of reading material and vegetable produce - a bumper year for silver beet! Masterclasses by zoom were great fun. High Country President Jean George celebrated her 90th Birthday at a COVID-safe party. The lockdown provided time to reflect after the bushfires and the drought - and time to read Marion's newsletters and also to explore new skills from the CWA website!

POLWARTH

Polwarth Group survived the COVID-19 pandemic and kept the contact with branch members through telephone calls, Zoom chats and a cuppa in the Memorial Square when possible. One branch printed a monthly newsletter informing others of how they were spending lockdown and supplying photos and project ideas for those who needed motivation.

The Group continued supporting the Breast Care Nurse with cushions and petrol vouchers for women travelling for treatment.

Heart cushions, veggie bags and Foster Care Bags for the children returning to their families containing essential clothing and gifts were prepared by members. The packs were presented to BYFS and were gratefully accepted.

Donations were forwarded to the Association for the Emergency Fund, the Scone Challenge and the Christmas Fare.

We farewelled the Colac Branch after 89 years of service to CWA at the Group Christmas Lunch where the Colac members were presented with a gift and flowers.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND

The South Gippsland Group began 2020 as a three branch Group including Fish Creek, Foster and Yarram Branches. Our Group President and Secretary were elected as Evie Buckley (Yarram) and Bianca Stefani (Fish Creek). Activities planned for the year included Women Walk the World at Port Welshpool Long Jetty (post-poned to 2021) and successful participation in the Statewide Scone Challenge. Throughout the unanticipated year of 2020, ongoing contact was maintained with the three Branches, however members of the Foster Branch voted to go into recess in December 2020. South Gippsland Group looks forward to the future with the Branches of Fish Creek and Yarram representing the CWA in this beautiful region of south east Victoria.

SOUTH WESTERN

A friendly Group with 10 Branches that worked together to produce a number of PPE gowns for nurses, 1000s of facemasks, 100s of vegetable bags, lots of rugs, beanies, and scarves. These are distributed to the local communities and also to State Office as requested. Capably lead by Mrs Sandra Webb and her past Secretary Mrs Bev Byron and her new Secretary Mrs Sue Long.

UPPER MURRAY

Well we have had a bit of a year. At least it ended well. We had a de-stash market with Kiewa Valley Group in Wodonga and everyone had a great day there. We had our Christmas lunch at the Koetong Hotel (under new management) which was wonderful. Hopefully this year will be much better.

WEST GIPPSLAND

Throughout the Covid-19 restrictions the branches of West Gippsland Group have supported their members and their communities. We were delighted when we were able to meet face to face again and make plans to continue the great work of the Association. Each branch has shown great resilience in going forward with a positive attitude to face new challenges.

WEST WIMMERA

Wow, what an interesting and challenging year we have had. Our group went from meeting on a lovely sunny day in Nhill in February with State President and Deputy State President to needing to grow by becoming competent zoom participants and utilizing other means of communication so as to keep in touch with each other and Association happenings.

Whilst mid-March saw the beginnings of lock down and curtailing of life as we knew it, especially our ability to fundraise and socialise as we had in the past, more was to come in July. This necessitated the need to become more innovative with virtual morning teas, pop up shops, use of newsletters, phone calls - to name a few.

As a group and as individuals we have improved our capacity to embrace change and make it work for us. I believe this has enabled us to better connect across many spectrums. Through innovations undertaken by the branches a number have increased their memberships whilst continuing to meet their charitable contributions and thus improving our overall functioning.

YARRA VALLEY

Yarra Valley Group branches worked as usual in areas of helping the communities to adjust to the Covid and lock down. Friendship, meals and care given where needed. Zoom from Marion, Pam and others most appreciated.

