

# 2023 Annual Report



**The Country Women's  
Association of Victoria Inc.**

**care empower contribute**

Advocating on behalf of  
our communities

**WE EMPOWER**

Providing support  
to those who are  
vulnerable or  
disadvantaged

Raising and  
distributing funds  
for disaster relief  
efforts

Reaching  
out to people  
who are lonely

Fostering friendship  
and engaging with  
our communities

Supporting  
disaster  
recovery  
teams

Volunteering and  
stepping up to do  
the work

**WE  
CARE**

Informing and  
challenging decision-  
makers to drive social  
change

Connecting  
women in their  
communities

Caring for  
vulnerable  
women,  
children and  
families

Offering programs  
that empower and  
provide opportunities  
to learn

**WE CONTRIBUTE**

# OFFICE BEARERS

## **Patron**

Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria

## **BOARD OF THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC. 2023-2024**

### **State President (Chair)**

Jennifer Nola

### **Deputy State President**

Joanne Alderman

### **State Treasurer**

Marie Vassallo

### **State Vice-Presidents**

Sarah Barnbrook, Viviane Chemali, Peg Higginbottom, Vivien Speight

### **General Members**

Helen Christie, Mary Grant, Roxane Harris, Noela MacLeod AO, Amanda Millar

## **STATE COUNCIL 2023-2024**

### **State President (Chair)**

Jennifer Nola

### **Deputy State President**

Joanne Alderman

### **State Treasurer**

Marie Vassallo

### **State Vice-Presidents**

Sarah Barnbrook, Viviane Chemali, Peg Higginbottom, Vivien Speight

### **Community and International Support Committee Chairperson**

Marilyn Tangey

### **Agriculture & Environment Committee Chairperson**

Margaret Wood

### **Catering Committee Chairperson**

Pam Mawson

### **Club Committee Chairperson**

Karen Jackson

### **Creative Arts Committee Chairperson**

Mary Grant

### **Communications and Magazine Committee Chairperson**

Amanda Millar

### **Membership Committee Chairperson**

Gwen White

### **Social Issues Committee Chairperson**

Sally Ann Matthews

## **MEMBERS OF HONOUR**

Mrs Betty Burgess OAM, Mrs Noela MacLeod AO, Mrs Helen Wall OAM, Mrs Dorothy Ward OAM

## **OTHER POSITIONS**

### **Historian Archivist**

Noela MacLeod AO

### **Curator Archivist**

Marion Dewar

### **Editor**

Amanda Millar

### **Auditor**

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

### **Solicitor**

King & Wood Mallesons

## **GROUP PRESIDENTS**

### **Ballarat District**

Jennifer Peters

### **Bass**

Agnes Veldhuizen

### **Beaufort**

Melissa Morrison

### **Bendigo Northern**

Lyn Turner

### **Central Highlands**

Mel Pritchard

### **Central Murray**

Kate Ismail

### **Central Victoria**

Heather Delmenico

### **Central Wimmera Mallee**

Prudence McCredden

### **Diamond Valley**

Stephanie McCall

### **East Gippsland**

Jenny Tuck

### **East Wimmera**

Pamela Brightwell

### **Eastern Foothills**

Mirjana Angelov

### **Eastern Goulburn Valley**

Helen Sands

### **Echuca**

Marion Heywood

### **Fraser**

Pamela Crockett

### **Geelong**

Lesley Johns

### **Gippsland Hills**

Beronia Jarvis

### **Goulburn Valley West**

Janette Mason

### **Henty**

Shelagh Dawson

### **Hume Goulburn**

Margo Galloway

### **Kiewa Valley**

Lisa Chick

### **Latrobe Central**

Vicki Start

### **McDonald**

Helen Paraskevas

### **Mildura/Millewa**

Moya Murphy

### **Mitchell**

Jenny Curley

### **Moira**

Judith Lockwood

### **Mornington Peninsula**

Jodi Johnston

### **Murray Valley**

Liz Kaylock

### **North Eastern**

Barbara Ireland

### **North Gippsland**

Lesley Stergiopolous

### **Omeo/Tambo Valley**

Kate Commins

### **Polwarth**

Amanda Bettess

### **South Gippsland**

Bev Smith

### **South Western**

Sue Long

### **Upper Murray**

Adele Buchanan

### **West Gippsland**

Ann Laws

### **West Wimmera**

Helen Torey

# CONTENTS

---

State President	4
Board Members 2023	10
State Vice Presidents' Reports	10
State Presidents	14
Groups and Branches as at 31st December 2023	15
State Treasurer's Report	18

*Inserted after page 20*

Annual Financial Report for the Financial Year  
ended 31 December 2023

Agriculture & Environment Committee Report	21
Club Committee Report	22
Communications and Magazine Committee Report	23
Community and International Support Committee Report	24
Creative Arts Committee Report	25
Curator Archivist Report	27
Historian Archivist Report	28
Membership Committee Report	29
Social Issues Committee Report	31
Group Reports	34

# STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

---



Jennifer Nola  
State President

Members of Honour, Distinguished Guests, Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me immense pleasure to present the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual State President's report for The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc. (CWA) for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2023.

For me, who believes in the concept of lifelong learning I can confidently say that the year did not disappoint in any way, shape or form! I have learnt more than I can recall about our Association, the people who make it up, the work we do across the state of Victoria and the need for our support to the communities of Victoria as I have gone about my days in the office. Thank you to every member for the commitment and contribution you have shown to the ongoing success of CWA. Without you we don't have an Association and cannot do the wonderful work we do in our communities.

The theme for 2023 was Caring Women Take Action, and it was very evident right throughout the year that the women of The Country Women's Association of Victoria had taken these words to heart and demonstrated their action in spades!

January saw the Government House team swing into action once again in the old kitchen, ensuring a very successful event for the last Open House event before Governor Linda Dessau AC CVO retired. A wonderful community event where we are always warmly welcomed.

February was a busy month with Past State President Pam Mawson and her Senior Office Bearers travelling around the state attending Group AGM's and Conferences. This is a very enjoyable part of the role for me as I find getting out of the city and into the countryside is good for my soul and I thoroughly enjoy meeting our members and learning more about what they are doing in their part of the state and the issues they are facing.

Our theme and our State Project, Disaster Recovery, worked hand in hand as was evident to anyone who witnessed the outstanding event that was held at the Community Hall in Rochester at the end of April. This was 'post pineapple' as the locals called it, or for us, post the devastating October 2022 floods that affected all but a few homes in the town. A fifty strong contingent of CWA members from all over the state headed to Rochester armed with knee rugs, beanies, scarves, care packs, scones, slices, kid's activities, vouchers for various local businesses and more than 130 fruit cakes (the townsfolk missed out on Christmas cakes as most had no means to bake them) and much more. With half an hour to go I was incredibly stressed that I had a huge team of CWA members, and would any residents turn up? Well, this day turned out to be the first community gathering in six months, the joy on

people's faces when they arrived and were greeted with our unbridled CWA hospitality was heart-warming. What was to be two sessions on the Friday morphed into one long full day of community service like we haven't seen in a long time. This was followed up with a very busy Saturday morning session to top off the event. Thank you to all who participated, it was a wonderful experience for all involved and made me very proud to be the State President.

May was an exciting month as many members headed to Melbourne International airport on their way to Malaysia for the ACWW Triennial World Conference. The highlight of the conference was the official dinner at the Royal Palace hosted by Queen Azizah of Malaysia. The cultural show of the night was something to behold. The kindness of the Malaysian people was very welcome and appreciated. The Victorian delegation led by then State President Pam Mawson and ACWW Community & International Chair, Marilyn Tangey were disappointed to learn the conference was being held without the audited ACWW financials being available for delegates to consider, something that would never happen in Victoria. I detoured via Singapore for some earnest exploring and unbelievable dining experiences with Essendon Branch President and friend, Jane Carbone and had the joy of meeting up with other Victorian members while we were there. So lovely to see a familiar face in a foreign country!

The ACWW Community and International Committee led by Chair Marilyn Tangey worked consistently and tirelessly to process and deliver the donations in kind regularly sent to Umina's 'Aladdin's Cave' for those in need. Some of the organisations that are recipients of our goods are hospitals, prisons and homeless organisations. Of course, many more donations are distributed to the needy directly from branches in their local communities. This work is very much appreciated across the state.

The State AGM and Conference was delayed until June 16 due to the ACWW conference being held in May. It was with great pride and delight that I took the helm of the Association at this auspicious time.

The first major task was the Strategic Plan which was started under Past State President Pam Mawson's tenure when 450 delegates participated in round table discussions at the 2023 State Conference. The work undertaken to prepare our Association Strategic Plan for the next four years was a monumental task and we are extremely grateful to the state government for the grant that enabled this work to be carried out to such a deep level. Cath Smith of Changesmith Consulting led five face-to-face workshops held around the state at Echuca, Ballarat, Frankston, Newborough and Toorak and a Zoom session which was attended by one hundred and sixty-four members from ninety-five branches. Thank you to all the Board members and State Office Bearers who supported me at these sessions by ensuring they were represented. This was followed by an online survey which yielded 824 responses and Branch consultation packs which were distributed across the state. All members had the opportunity to contribute, and I was overwhelmed by the response which included survey results from members as old as one hundred and one who are clearly still passionate about our association. Further work was conducted at State Council sessions in

September and November and with the staff and Board. The final piece of the puzzle was the interviews completed with our key stakeholders. So much input to be reviewed which led to a final document to be put to the board for approval in January 2024. This document is unique in that all members had the opportunity to input to it, a new focus for the association. It will provide the focus for the direction the association takes in the next four years with great membership ownership of the content after all the consultation. Well done to all our members!

July saw the CWA descend upon St Arnaud for the State Exhibition where our members abilities are celebrated for all to see. As unofficial keepers of heritage crafts (my opinion) the quality and standard of handcrafts and home industries entries is always inspiring and well worth the trip to view it all. We were enthusiastically welcomed to the town by Councillor Dr Eddy Ostarcevic PhD who loudly sang the praises of the local CWA members and the work they do in the local community.

Our Creative Arts Photography competition was once again a success with some amazing photos entered by our members. So much talent out in member land. Thank you to Heather Scott for her work in coordinating this competition.

The State Exhibition coincided with Open House Melbourne back at Umina which was well supported by the public and our volunteers who provided tours, Devonshire teas and staffed the CWA shop over the two days of the weekend. Another great community event that lets people explore what CWA is all about and to learn about the history and worth of our beautiful head office property named Umina from an architectural and historical perspective.

In September the Catering Committee and a huge team of volunteers converged on the Royal Agricultural Society Showgrounds for the Melbourne Royal Show. The income generated from this event is vitally important to the operation of the Association and I am extremely grateful to Committee Chair Pam Mawson, and our Volunteer Coordinator Viv Speight, our cooks, day helpers, Umina bakers, and all of those who donated money, goods, and their time in any way during this time. Thank you to the MRS staff who we work closely with each year to make this event a success.

Our Archivists, MOH Mrs Noela MacLeod AO (Historian) and Mrs Marion Dewar (Curator) have been kept busy throughout the year providing a very valuable service to our members and the community. They answer questions posed, catalogue and safely store our minute books, write up personal histories, answer obscure questions posed by all and sundry about the Association and its members. Thank you to both of them for their diligent and valuable service.

Our Agriculture and Environment committee proposed our product for the year would be 'Pomme Fruit' which covers a range of apples, pears, nashi and quinces and this was enthusiastically explored by our members. Recipes were published in our Country Woman magazine so members could experiment with new dishes. Branches held meeting dinners with both savoury and sweet dishes based on Pomme Fruit. The creativity of our members

is quite inspiring, and the enjoyment had in holding these events is evident in the reports and photos that were sent to the Communications and Magazine committee for our Country Woman magazine. After all fun, friendship and learning are key aspects of the CWA experience.

Our country of study, Namibia encouraged many branches to explore new dishes at their international day luncheons and to incorporate them in their menus. Despite the advent of the internet, our country of study is still a very much enjoyed part of CWA life allowing us to learn about and experience life from other countries. Food is always a vital part of this learning!

Speaking of food, our Club Committee led by Karen Jackson and supported by her dedicated band of helpers continued the fortnightly Pop-Up shops at Umina which has developed what could be called a cult following of local residents. A call to the ABC each fortnight also helped boost attendances. The Club committee also capably and tastily catered for state council meetings (including the GP Christmas Dinner), International day, and various other events at Umina.

Our Social Issues committee chair, Sallyanne Matthews led the committee in actively collecting information on 'Improving Access to Essential Services'. The banking sector continues to provide great concern to the members across the state with the removal or reduction of services and the ever-increasing complexity of conducting banking. The committee continues to collect and collate examples of the difficulties and frustrations members and the community experience in this sphere of life so we can add to our submissions to government.

The Thanksgiving Fund recipient for 2023 was Women's Housing Limited. With women fifty-five and over being the fastest growing cohort of homeless in Australia and the scourge of family violence not showing any signs of abating this was a timely and appropriate recipient. The money raised by our members for Women's Housing will enable their work of providing low-cost housing to vulnerable women and children at risk of homelessness to continue as well as advocating for their housing needs.

The bi-annual Agriculture and Environment Committee Festival of Gardens was well supported by branches across the state. A big thank you to all the hard-working gardeners who opened their gardens to the public and allowed the Association to raise much needed funds for branches and head office.

The end of November saw our Group President's converge on Umina for the last State Council meeting for the year (two are via Zoom and two are face-to-face). Further work was done on pulling the final threads of the Strategic Plan together as well as confirming the 2024 State Themes and Senior Office Bearer visits to the Group AGMs. An early Christmas Dinner was deliciously prepared by the Club Chair Karen and her band of helpers including the assembled GP's and Senior Office Bearers. A small reward for the dedicated work provided to the Association throughout the preceding year.

I have been kept busy reviewing and investigating requests for Welfare & Emergency payments from all over the state. There is a very clear need for assistance from organisations like ours and it is very evident that the community members have little in reserve for when a crisis strikes their lives. It is very satisfying to be in a position to provide direct monetary assistance to vulnerable women children and families.

The Membership committee led by Chair Gwen White has worked diligently to explore new ideas to encourage people to join the CWA. In conjunction with our new Communications Toolkit new enquiry forms have been distributed and many branches and groups are starting to use the Join Us brochures in their local areas. Gwen never goes anywhere without an enquiry form in her bag. Maybe we all should do the same! Several new Branches were opened in 2023 and sadly a number have closed, mostly due to the age of the members who are no longer able to hold office. Membership is the responsibility of all members not just the committee so please encourage your friends, daughters, sisters, cousins, aunts and neighbours to explore the possibility of joining our wonderful Association. Your Association!

Work continues to improve our communications with the Magazine being revamped and the introduction of the e-Newsletter. The Communications and Magazine Committee, under the leadership of Amanda Millar, have worked tirelessly to meet deadlines and to gather interesting and informative articles for each edition. New ideas for themes and content are always welcomed. Our literature competition continues to amaze me with the standard of the work entered. A challenging job for the judge to pick the best in each category.

Our last big event for the year was the State Fare held on the wettest December day in years. The marquees struggled not to collapse with the weight of the rain that pooled on their tops. Our external stall holders and our branches and members tried to stay dry as we sold our Christmas Cakes, Christmas Puddings, Shortbreads and Mince Pies, Devonshire teas and other goodies to the enthusiastic public who were queuing before opening time to ensure they didn't miss out. My most sincere thanks to everyone who participated in this event either at Umina or locally in their own community. These events assist the Association to continue to operate and support our members.

The value of the work carried out by the members of The Country Women's Association of Victoria has been very conservatively estimated to be in the vicinity of \$30 million dollars. Please do not underestimate the value of the contribution you make to the state of Victoria. So don't forget to complete your volunteer hours and donations in kind summaries each year.

Much of this work would not be possible without the support of our small but dedicated office staff capably led by Executive Director Lynne Jordan and our stalwart Office Administrator Robyn Smith who is such a vital cog in the wheel of our day-to-day operations. I appreciate the kindness and friendship of the staff as I traverse life in the office and the knowledge that is imparted every day. Very little happens in the Association that doesn't involve staff input in some way and for their support and dedication I am extremely grateful.



My thanks to our partners at King Wood & Malesons, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, Kidman’s Partners, Marcus Swinburne from Telstra, Katie Paynter from Sefton’s, Cath Smith from Changessmith Consulting, Coles Supermarkets, Deb Thompson and Focus Print.

Finally, my most sincere thanks and appreciation to my husband Steve and my family, my friends and fellow branch members in Essendon, my very supportive Mitchell Group members, my Board for their support and friendship during the year, along with the Deputy State President, the State Vice President’s, Senior Office Bearers, State Executive and State Council members. To all the members who have dropped what they were doing to help when asked, I say a huge thank you. We cannot do the work we do without you onboard as a part of the team. Lastly, each and every member is a vital part of the CWA team in Victoria. Don’t ever forget there is no I in TEAM, so we need every one of you to be on board for this exciting team journey we are on as we continue to be Caring Women who Take Action!

## BOARD ATTENDANCE

### 01.01.2023 – 16.06.2023 Attendance

State President Pam Mawson	5/5
Deputy State President Jennifer Nola	5/5
State Treasurer Heather Scott	5/5
State Vice President Sarah Barnbrook	4/5
State Vice President Mary Grant	4/5
State Vice President Amanda Millar	5/5
General Board Member Joanne Alderman	4/5
General Board Member Viviane Chemali	5/5
General Board Member Lyn Harris OAM	5/5
General Board Member Sandra Webb	4/5
Executive Director Lynne Jordan	5/5

### 17.06.2023 - 31.12.2023 Attendance

State President Jennifer Nola	7/7
Deputy State President Joanne Alderman	7/7
State Treasurer Marie Vassallo	7/7
State Vice President Sarah Barnbrook	6/7
State Vice President Viviane Chemali	7/7
State Vice President Peg Higginbottom (appointed 15.08.23)	4/4
State Vice President Vivien Speight	7/7
General Board Member Helen Christie	6/7
General Board Member Mary Grant	5/7
General Board Member Roxane Harris	6/7
General Board Member Noela MacLeod AO	4/7
General Board Member Amanda Millar	6/7
General Board Member Sandra Webb (resigned September 2023)	4/4
Executive Director Lynne Jordan	7/7

# BOARD MEMBERS 2023

## SENIOR OFFICE BEARERS



**STATE PRESIDENT**  
Jennifer Nola



**DEPUTY STATE PRESIDENT**  
Joanne Alderman



**STATE TREASURER**  
Marie Vassallo

## STATE VICE PRESIDENTS



Sarah Barnbrook



Viviane Chemali



Peg Higginbottom



Vivien Speight

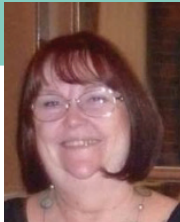
## GENERAL BOARD MEMBERS



Helen Christie



Mary Grant



Roxane Harris



Noela  
MacLeod AO



Amanda Millar

# STATE VICE PRESIDENTS

---

## SARAH BARNBROOK

It has been a remarkably productive year, and I am deeply grateful to all the members who have made it possible. Your contributions, whether it was providing friendship at branch meetings, volunteering in your local communities, fundraising for local causes, or supporting Association activities, have been instrumental in our success. Your dedication and hard work have truly made a difference, and I am honoured to be a part of this association where ‘many hands do indeed make light work’.

Over the last year, I have attended Board Meetings, State Council meetings, Strategic Plan feedback sessions and subcommittee sessions, represented the State President at the United Nations of Australia Status of Women Committee attended Victorian Healthcare Week, and was the State representative at Bamawn and Kangaroo Flat branch closures with Service Certificates ceremonies. I have attended Merchandise and Communications and Magazine committee meetings as well.

I also attended Victorian Healthcare Week, an immersive experience for the healthcare industry and anyone interested in health. The event featured speakers who were experts in their field and covered a diverse range of topics. For me, the most notable sessions were on Leveraging Technology & Care Models Innovation to improve Senior Independence and Outcomes within their homes and Bringing Mental Healthcare into Home Care: Early Detection & Evidence based Treatment of Depression in Seniors.

I supported the Christmas Fare and Government House for Australia Day. I also took the lead in managing Victorian Racing Club baking and merchandise stalls, including baking for Anzac Day. Thank you to each member who assisted in these stalls, which required a high volume of baking.

I visited Swan Hill, Mildura, Beaufort, and Ballarat Group AGM Conferences. Meeting members across the state, hearing your stories, and sharing your friendship is my favourite part of being a State Office bearer. Thank you for making me feel so welcome.

I participated in Advocacy Day and I attended the International Women’s Day Panel event held at Umina on our birthday. It was inspirational to hear the points of view for the different women, with diverse backgrounds and stories to share.

One of the highlights of my year was attending the launch of our Strategic Plan. This vital document was exclusively developed through member input. It has been a long journey for the Association, but it is well worth it, and it gives us a compass for the next four years.

I want to give special thanks to our hardworking staff. They work tirelessly to help us all achieve our goals. The team may be small, but they are mighty.

---

## VIVIANE CHEMALI

It is with great pleasure that I present my report as State Vice-President for the year ending 31 December 2023. It has been a busy and enjoyable time.

As a Board member, I have also been involved in a variety of projects/activities. This includes the registration of our organisation in the Victorian Container Deposit Scheme (CDS Victoria), the new waste and recycling project aimed at reducing waste, energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. I am pleased that the CWA of Victoria is now part of the scheme. I hope that our members will continue to support the scheme.

Other activities I have been involved in include the Not for Profit Sub-Entity project, the branch office bearers' training and renewal of the Branch Basics. I provided support at the Melbourne Show at the merchandise table in September last year. And as a past Membership Chair, I have continued to attend membership committee meetings.

A lovely highlight has been the opportunity to visit three groups, Bass, Gippsland Hills and South Gippsland, as part of the Conference rounds to conduct their AGMS. Groups can be different in their approaches to community activities, while at the same time working in a similar fashion towards fulfilling the aims of the Association. Each Group was so welcoming and supportive, and I do thank them for that.

As a Board member, it has also been a privilege for me to support the development and finalisation of the Strategic Plan 2024-2028. This was a significant milestone for the organisation, and I am pleased to have been part of the work that led to the finalisation of the Plan.

I have continued being the contact for Travellers Aid thus, providing members with regular updates about the work of the organisation both in the magazine and at State Council. I hope that this information has been valuable for our members travelling to appointments not just in Melbourne, but also in other areas where Travellers Aid operates.

It has been an honor to be a State Vice-President and a member of the Board. Thank you for your support and commitment to our Association.

---

## PEG HIGGINBOTTOM

I took up my role as State Vice President in September 2023.

It is an honour to be a part of our wonderful organisation's leadership team.

It has been a busy and enjoyable three months.

Mentoring the first Group Presidents has been enjoyable

and working as a member of the Board on the development of the Associations, Strategic Plan 2024-2028

It has been a privilege to represent you as a State Vice President and a member of our Board. Thank you for your support and commitment to our great association.

---

## VIVIEN SPEIGHT

It is with great pleasure that I present my report as State Vice-President's for the year ending 31 December 2023. It has been a busy and enjoyable time.

As a board member, I have attended the CWA of Victoria board meetings during the year and supported the work of the board. I have supported the registration of our organisation in the Victorian Container Deposit Scheme (CDS Victoria), the new waste and recycling project. I am pleased that the CWA of Vic is now part of the scheme. I hope that our members will continue to support the scheme.

I have attended membership committee meetings, and provided support to the work of the committee. I also volunteered at the Melbourne Show at the merchandise table in September last year.

As the contact for Travelers Aid, I provided members with updates about the work of the organisation at State Council meetings. I hope this information has been valuable for members travelling to appointments not just in Melbourne, but also in other areas where Travelers Aid operates.

It has been an honor to be a State Vice-President and a member of the Board. Thank you for your support and commitment to our Association.

# STATE PRESIDENTS

Lady Mitchell CBE.....	1928-29-30, 31-32	Mrs B Burgess OAM.....	1999-00-01
Mrs J S Fraser OBE.....	1930-31	Mrs J Weller.....	2001-02-03
Mrs R G Beggs.....	1932-33-34-35	Mrs P Pither-Mills AM .....	2003-04-05
Miss E Grice .....	1935-36	Mrs N MacLeod AO .....	2005-06-07
Mrs W E Sargood .....	1936-37-38	Mrs H Wall OAM.....	2007-08-09
Mrs O A Hicken OBE JP ...	1938-40, 45-46-47	Mrs H Christie .....	2009-10-11
Mrs A C Bennet.....	1940-41-42	Mrs C Clay .....	2011-12-13
Mrs H G Marfell OBE JP .....	1942-43-44-45	Ms D Coombe.....	2013-14-15
Mrs N Welsh .....	1947-48-49	Ms M Crichton.....	2015-16-17
Mrs G O Dorward .....	1949-50-51	Mrs L Harris OAM .....	2017-18-19
Mrs J N Spittle.....	1951-52-53	Mrs M Dewar.....	2019-20-21
Mrs N S F Hedditch OBE .....	1953-54-55	Mrs P Mawson OAM.....	2021-22-23
Mrs V B Jane .....	1955-56-57	Mrs J Nola.....	2023-24
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		

# GROUPS AND BRANCHES AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

## **BALLARAT DISTRICT GROUP**

**Group President:** Jennifer Peters

### **BRANCHES (8)**

Bacchus Marsh, Ballan & District, Ballarat Dinner (Night), Melton Owls (Night), Scarsdale, Sebastopol, Spa Centre, Webbcona.

## **BASS GROUP**

**Group President:** Agnes Veldhuizen

### **BRANCHES (7)**

Cowes, Glen Alvie, Grantville, Loch, Phillip Island Twilight, Wonthaggi Owl Women, Woodleigh Vale.

## **BEAUFORT GROUP**

**Group President:** Melissa Morrison

### **BRANCHES (6)**

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

## **BENDIGO NORTHERN GROUP**

**Group President:** Lyn Turner

### **BRANCHES (5)**

Axedale (Night), Bendigo, Dingee & District, Golden Night, Old Church on the Hill.

## **CENTRAL HIGHLANDS GROUP**

**Group President:** Mel Pritchard

### **BRANCHES (11)**

Craigieburn, Gisborne Day, Heathcote Night, Kyneton, Kyneton Twilighters, Lancefield, Macedon, Mount Macedon Moonlighters, Romsey, Sunbury Stars, Woodend Eves.

## **CENTRAL MURRAY GROUP**

**Group President:** Kate Ismail

### **BRANCHES (5)**

Baulkamaugh (Night), Cobram Nocturnals,

Nathalia Night Watch, Tallygaroopna, Youanmite.

## **CENTRAL VICTORIA GROUP**

**Group President:** Heather Delmenico

### **BRANCHES (9)**

Castlemaine, Dunolly, Harcourt, Heathcote, Maryborough, Newbridge, Newstead, Phoenix Chewton, Sutton Grange.

## **CENTRAL WIMMERA MALLEE GROUP**

**Group President:** Prue McCredden

### **BRANCHES (8)**

Beulah, Cowangie, Dunmunkle, Hopetoun, Murtoa, Rainbow and District (Night), Willenabrana, Woomelang.

## **DIAMOND VALLEY GROUP**

**Group President:** Stephanie McCall

### **BRANCHES (5)**

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

## **EAST GIPPSLAND GROUP**

**Group President:** Jenny Tuck

### **BRANCHES (3)**

Bairnsdale-Amaroo, Orbost, Paynesville Toonalook.

## **EAST WIMMERA GROUP**

**Group President:** Pamela Brightwell

### **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, Mooroolbark, Ringwood, Wanallock, Wandin.

### **EASTERN GOULBURN VALLEY GROUP**

**Group President:** Helen Sands

#### **BRANCHES (7)**

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

### **ECHUCA GROUP**

**Group President:** Marion Heywood

#### **BRANCHES (3)**

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

### **FRASER GROUP**

**Group President:** Pamela Crockett

#### **BRANCHES (5)**

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

### **GEELONG GROUP**

**Group President:** Lesley Johns

#### **BRANCHES (15)**

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

### **GIPPSLAND HILLS GROUP**

**Group President:** Beronia Jarvis

#### **BRANCHES (10)**

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

### **GOULBURN VALLEY WEST GROUP**

**Group President:** Janette Mason

#### **BRANCHES (6)**

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

### **HENTY GROUP**

**Group President:** Shelagh Dawson

#### **BRANCHES (8)**

Burswood (Night), Hamilton, Hamilton Evening (Night), Hawkesdale, Heywood Evening (Night), Koroit (Night), Port Fairy (Night), Wattle Hill Creek (Night).

### **HUME GOULBURN GROUP**

**Group President:** Margo Galloway

#### **BRANCHES (7)**

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

### **KIEWA VALLEY GROUP**

**Group President:** Lisa Chick

#### **BRANCHES (3)**

Kergunyah (Night), Kiewa District, Wodonga.

### **LATROBE CENTRAL GROUP**

**Group President:** Vicki Start

#### **BRANCHES (12)**

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

### **McDONALD GROUP**

**Group President:** Helen Paraskevas

#### **BRANCHES (4)**

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



## **MILDURA/MILLEWA GROUP**

**Group President:** Moya Murphy

### **BRANCHES (4)**

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

## **MITCHELL GROUP**

**Group President:** Jenny Curley

### **BRANCHES (9)**

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

## **MOIRA GROUP**

**Group President:** Judith Lockwood

### **BRANCHES (6)**

Benalla, Boorhaman, Corowa, Swanpool,  
Thoono, Yarrowonga/Border

## **MORNINGTON PENINSULA GROUP**

**Group President:** Jodi Johnston

### **BRANCHES (7)**

Frankston, Frankston South, Mornington,  
Pearcedale, Peninsula Belles (Night), Rosebud.

## **MURRAY VALLEY GROUP**

**Group President:** Liz Kaylock

### **BRANCHES (5)**

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

## **NORTH EASTERN GROUP**

**Group President:** Barbara Ireland

### **BRANCHES (8)**

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

## **NORTH GIPPSLAND GROUP**

**Group President:** Lesley Stergiopoulos

### **BRANCHES (7)**

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

## **OMEQ/TAMBO VALLEY GROUP**

**Group President:** Kate Commins

### **BRANCHES (2)**

Benambra District (Night), High Country

## **POLWARTH GROUP**

**Group President:** Amanda Bettess

### **BRANCHES (5)**

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

## **SOUTH GIPPSLAND GROUP**

**Group President:** Bev Smith

### **BRANCHES (2)**

Fish Creek, Yarram.

## **SOUTH WESTERN GROUP**

**Group President:** Sue Long

### **BRANCHES (11)**

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

## **UPPER MURRAY GROUP**

**Group President:** Adele Buchanan

### **BRANCHES (3)**

Cudgewa, Kurrajong (Night), Tallangatta.

## **WEST GIPPSLAND GROUP-**

**Group President:** Ann Laws

### **BRANCHES (7)**

Berwick, Casey Dinner (Night), Cranbourne,  
Monbulk, Monbulk Lady Night Hawks, Noble  
Park, Officer Woorinyan

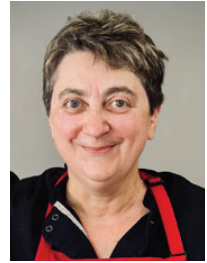
## **WEST WIMMERA GROUP**

**Group President:** Helen Torey

### **BRANCHES (4)**

Dimboola, Horsham, May, Nhill Twilight  
(Night)

# STATE TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**Marie Vassallo**  
State Treasurer

It is my pleasure to present the 2023 financial 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 2023 and the accompanying Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2023 For The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc in this official annual report. These statements have been audited by our independent auditors Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu.

Our 2023 results show an uptick in monies raised through both State and local events as well as increased interest income. These have not quite reached pre-pandemic numbers but the results are encouraging.

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 the Association's total assets were \$6,641,220. 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<sup>st</sup> December 2023, our current liabilities of \$1,107,556 consists of membership paid in advance, provision for employee entitlements, Endowment Fund (life members), trade and other payables and accruals.

It is well publicised that interest rates rose in 2023. and The Association has received the benefits from this rise. Our operational investment income in 2023 includes that from the Main account term deposits and cash management account was \$96,388 The investment interest received from our Special Purpose Term deposits was \$96,214 for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. This is an increase in total of \$67,734 for our operational investments from our 2022 interest received. The increase in Special Purpose interest received of \$68,485 has had a positive impact on our ability to distribute special purpose disbursements, with a number of our bequests only allowing the interest to be distributed. In 2022 we distributed \$8,850 from the CWA Educational fund. In 2023 we were able to increase the disbursement from this fund to \$25,800. The Alice Stewart Post graduate Agribusiness scholarship is another example of this where in 2022 \$1,500 was distributed and in 2023 distributions were \$4,500.

The Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive income for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 shows a total income of \$1,552,695 a total expenditure of \$1,415,012 leaving a surplus of \$137,683 in the combined Main and Special Purpose Accounts.

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 \$2,496,744 as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

In 2023 The Association continued to provide benevolent assistance to vulnerable people and families across the State.. The money provided as Welfare and Emergency payments is a combination of generous donations from our members and the general public. The State saw a number of natural disasters including both floods and fires. Our members have rallied and continue to provide assistance, even when the media cycle has shifted to the next story. The work in providing relief through natural disasters which our State is prone to, and unexpected difficulties that Victorians face, will continue in 2024.

Our members and the general public have continued to support our Special Purpose funds with donations of \$12,125 for Educational Grants, \$45,178 for Emergency fund and \$26,159 for welfare fund. In 2023 we continued to provide support to primary, secondary, tertiary and post graduate students through our Educational grants. In total throughout 2023, the Association awarded \$42,300 in Educational Grants. These grants included \$800 in the name of the Colac CWA Educational fund, \$2,200 in the name of Mrs AA Gibbs, \$6,000 in the Rural Nurse scholarship, and \$1,500 in the Diamond Jubilee Residential Grant

Our membership base is the foundation of our Association. Revenue received from Membership subscriptions in 2023 of \$298,120 is higher than in 2022. We saw a number of new branches formed in 2023 in a number of communities where branches have not been located 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 number of our planned events in 2023 did not go ahead, and others had a lower than expected return. Pleasingly, our largest fundraising event, The Melbourne Royal Show showed strong community support. As in previous years, the Show provided an excellent outlet for our CWA merchandise, with showbags, tea towels, cookbooks and other items being very popular. Not to mention the scones! Thank you to the 140 volunteers who worked so hard to achieve these great results. Other events that had a strong community response included Open Gardens, our Christmas Fare and our fortnightly Pop Up Shops at Umina. Our income through merchandise and goods sales was \$113,037 again a strong result. Finding a supplier of our tea towels was a challenge in the later half of 2023 which resulted in less stock on hand which impacted on our sales.

Our application for an exemption from Land Tax is still being considered by The Commissioner of the State Revenue Office. We would like to thank our solicitors King & Wood Mallesons for the pro-bono work they did for us in 2023 in relation to these submissions. We are hopeful of a resolution to this matter in 2024. The Association has again received exemptions from the major component of council rates for most of our properties.

Our B&B remained closed to the public for all of 2023. Members have been able to stay when working at Association events, which was a great help in enabling events to take place. Maintenance and renovations are continuing and plans, including a new booking system are well on the way to reopen in 2024.

All our members continue to contribute to their communities and other organisations which support vulnerable women, children and families. Our Branch returns show that our members raised a total of \$371,221 which is slightly up from 2022 which has been donated with the following breakdown.

Local donations: \$337,202 (an increase of 69% from 2022)

National donations: \$28,324 (a 300% decrease from 2022)

International donations: \$5,694((50% down from 2022))

Included in these local donations, branches and groups provided local schools with scholarships and grants for educational expenses to the value of \$37,004. This brings to a total of \$73,904 distributed in the name of The Country Women's Association of Victoria to support the young people in our communities in gaining their education and following their dreams.

Thank you to all members for the many hours of volunteer work and support that you all provide to each other and our communities. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank my predecessor, Heather Scott for her work in this role in the first half of 2023 and whose work I have continued to build upon.

2023 has shown we are a resilient, supportive and resourceful group of women continuing to strive for the wellbeing for our communities and vulnerable women, children and families.

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

Special Purpose Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31  
December 2023

# **Special purpose financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023**

	<b>Page</b>
Auditor's Independence Declaration	1
Independent auditor's report	2
Declaration by Members of the Board	5
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income	6
Statement of financial position	7
Statement of changes in equity	8
Statement of cash flows	9
Notes to the financial statements	10

Ms. Jennifer Nola  
The Board Members  
The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc  
3 Lansell Road  
Toorak  
VIC 3142

8 May 2024

Dear Chair

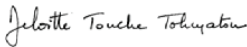
## Auditor's Independence Declaration to The Country Women's Association of Victoria Incorporated

In accordance with Subdivision 60-C of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, I am pleased to provide the following declaration of independence to the members of The Country Women's Association of Victoria Incorporated.

As lead audit partner for the audit of the financial report of The Country Women's Association of Victoria Incorporated for the year ended 31 December 2023, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of:

- (i) the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Yours faithfully



DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU



**Isabelle Lefevre**  
Partner  
Chartered Accountants

## 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 2023, 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, notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information and other explanatory information, and the declaration by the Directors.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of The Country Women's Association of Victoria Incorporated is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012* (the "ACNC Act"), including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 31 December 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022*.

### *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 auditor independence requirements of the ACNC Act and 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* and the ACNC Act. Our report is intended solely for the members of the Association and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the members and the ACNC. 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 2023, 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* and the requirements of the ACNC Act. 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.
- 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*

DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU



**Isabelle Lefevre**

Partner

Chartered Accountants

Melbourne, 8 May 2024

THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED

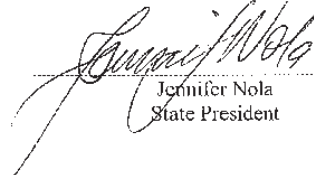
DECLARATION BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 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* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 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 signed in accordance with a resolution of the board members made pursuant to s.60.15 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022*.



.....  
Jennifer Nola  
State President



.....  
Marie Vassallo  
State Treasurer

Melbourne, 8 May 2024

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

**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Revenue	2(a)	872,360	652,299
Other income	2(b)	680,335	709,342
Administration expenses		(801,375)	(728,647)
Employee benefits expense		(459,416)	(384,681)
Repairs and maintenance		(21,596)	(42,040)
Scholarships		(42,300)	(23,032)
Donations		(10,489)	(4,953)
Welfare		(6,500)	(7,100)
Emergency Relief		(6,454)	(21,500)
Projects and Thanksgiving		(27,951)	(34,986)
Finance costs		(4,146)	(3,712)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(34,785)	(30,032)
Surplus before tax		137,683	80,958
Income tax expense	1(a)	-	-
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<u>137,683</u>	<u>80,958</u>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<u>137,683</u>	<u>80,958</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

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

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2023 \$</b>	<b>2022 \$</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash	3	980,842	827,638
Short term deposits	3	1,981,213	1,978,703
Trade and other receivables	4	80,818	59,973
Stock on hand at cost	5	30,341	40,124
Investments - Special Purpose Funds	7	2,754,763	2,571,132
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>5,827,977</b>	<b>5,477,570</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	6	804,088	801,506
Right of use asset		9,155	18,310
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>813,243</b>	<b>819,816</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>6,641,220</b>	<b>6,297,386</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	8	683,291	500,656
Members subscriptions paid in advance		188,992	193,258
Provision for employee entitlements		138,547	96,326
Endowment fund – Lifetime memberships		86,169	90,565
Lease liability		10,557	10,043
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,107,556</b>	<b>890,848</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Lease liability		-	10,557
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>10,557</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,107,556</b>	<b>901,405</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>5,533,664</b>	<b>5,395,981</b>
<b>MEMBERS FUND</b>			
Accumulated surplus		3,036,920	3,014,786
Reserves – Special Purpose Funds	12	2,496,744	2,381,195
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS</b>		<b>5,533,664</b>	<b>5,395,981</b>

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 2023**

<u>Notes</u>	<u>Accumulated surplus \$</u>	<u>Special Purpose Funds \$</u>	<u>Total \$</u>
Balance at 1 January 2022	2,959,837	2,355,186	5,315,023
Surplus for the year	80,958	-	80,958
Total comprehensive income for the year	80,958	-	80,958
Transfer to/(from) Special Purpose Funds	(26,009)	26,009	-
<b>Balance at 31 December 2022</b>	<b>3,014,786</b>	<b>2,381,195</b>	<b>5,395,981</b>
Surplus for the year	137,683	-	137,683
Total comprehensive income for the year	137,683	-	137,683
Transfer to/(from) Special Purpose Funds	(115,549)	115,549	-
<b>Balance at 31 December 2023</b>	<b>3,036,920</b>	<b>2,496,744</b>	<b>5,533,664</b>

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 2023**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from members and customers		1,364,352	1,204,208
Interest received		181,909	45,958
Finance costs		(4,146)	(3,360)
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,175,208)	(1,102,466)
<b>Net cash generated by operating activities</b>	9(b)	366,907	144,340
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Repayment of lease liability		(10,043)	(7,217)
<b>Net cash used in financing activity</b>		(10,043)	(7,217)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(28,212)	(27,576)
Net proceeds from/(purchase of) investments in term deposits		5,535	(177,554)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		(22,677)	(205,130)
<b>Net (decrease) / increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		334,187	(68,007)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year</b>		3,421,304	3,489,311
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	9(a)	3,755,491	3,421,304

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*, and under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 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 *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 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 Accounting Standards Board (the AASB) that are relevant to its operations and effective for and accounting period that begins on or after 1 January 2023.

The application of these amendments did not have any material impact on the disclosures or the amounts recognised in the entity's financial statements.



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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Note 1: Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)**

**New and revised Australian Accounting Standards in issue but not effective**

There are no new and revised Australian Accounting Standards, Interpretations and amendments that are not yet effective and that are expected to have a material impact on the Association's financial statements.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2023.

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.

**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)**

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.

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)**

**(I) 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.

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Note 1: Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)**

**(m) Comparative figures**

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

**(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 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 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. If a lease transfers ownership of the underlying asset or the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the Association expects to exercise a purchase option, the related right-of-use asset is depreciated over the 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  
OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Note 2(a): Revenue</b>		
Membership Subscriptions	298,120	288,731
Magazine income	250	491
Accommodation income	7,537	5,314
Donation income – Operational	3,193	4,222
Grant income – State Government – Victoria	205,209	153,279
Donations income – Special Purpose Funds – Other	165,449	143,879
Investment income – Operational	96,388	28,654
Investment income – Special Purpose Funds	96,214	27,729
	872,360	652,299
<b>Note 2(b): Other Income</b>		
Catering income	243,144	236,358
Sale of merchandise and goods	139,123	176,364
Event income	148,226	143,618
Miscellaneous income	126,077	136,190
Registration fees	23,765	16,812
	680,335	709,342
<b>Note 3: Cash and Term Deposits</b>		
Cash on hand	9 5,390	721
Cash at bank	9 975,452	826,917
<b>Total cash</b>	980,842	827,638
<u>Interest Bearing Term Deposits at amortised cost (i)</u>		
- National Australia Bank Limited	536,839	534,329
- Westpac Banking Corporation	517,789	517,789
- Bank of Melbourne	926,585	926,585
<b>Total Term Deposits</b>	9 1,981,213	1,978,703
<b>Total Cash and Term Deposits</b>	9 2,962,055	2,806,341
 (i) Term deposits have maturity periods of over 90 days, however, can be withdrawn with a maximum of 31 days-notice.		
<b>Note 4: Trade and other receivables</b>		
Trade debtors	9,063	7,142
Provision for doubtful debts	(1,359)	(2,045)
	7,704	5,097
Sundry debtors	23,586	23,238
Interest receivable	30,011	14,711
Prepayments	19,517	16,927
	73,114	54,876
	80,818	59,973
<b>Note 5: Stock on Hand – At Cost</b>		
Office and retail goods	35,833	45,346
Provision for obsolescence	(5,492)	(5,222)
	30,341	40,124

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Note 6: Property, Plant and Equipment</b>		
Freehold land - at cost	402,544	402,544
Buildings – at cost	441,668	441,668
Less Accumulated depreciation	(146,620)	(143,640)
	295,048	298,028
CWA vehicle – at cost	22,219	22,219
Less Accumulated depreciation	(17,182)	(15,923)
	5,037	6,296
Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment – at cost	700,776	672,565
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(599,317)	(577,927)
	101,459	94,638
<b>Total Property, Plant &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>804,088</b>	<b>801,506</b>

**Note 7: Investments at amortised Cost – Special Purpose Funds**

- Cash at Bank – restricted (i)	9	793,436	614,963
Interest Bearing Term Deposits – restricted (i)			
- National Australia Bank Limited		321,840	315,000
- Commonwealth Bank		125,000	140,000
- Westpac Banking Corporation		642,625	640,000
- Bank of Melbourne		848,444	848,444
- Bendigo		-	-
		1,937,909	1,943,444
Other Assets/(Payables)			
- Accrued Interest		23,418	12,725
<b>Total Special Purpose Funds</b>		<b>2,754,763</b>	<b>2,571,132</b>

- (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.

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Note 8: Trade and other payables</b>		
Trade creditors	34,975	24,221
Accrued expenses	368,534	226,217
Disbanded branches	14,876	15,801
Prepaid income	26,292	22,893
Other liabilities	147,591	168,782
Deferred Grants – State Government – Victoria	88,724	42,742
Deferred Grant – Commonwealth Government	2,299	-
	683,291	500,656

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Note 9: Notes to the statement of cash flows</b>			
<b>(a) Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents</b>			
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	3	5,390	721
Cash at bank	3	975,452	826,917
Short Term Deposits	3	1,981,213	1,978,703
Cash and cash equivalents – Association		2,962,055	2,806,341
Cash at bank – Special Purpose Funds - restricted	7	793,436	614,963
		3,755,491	3,421,304
 <b>(b) Reconciliation of surplus for the year to net cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Surplus for the year		137,683	80,958
Interest on lease liability		-	352
Depreciation		34,785	30,032
Provision for bad and doubtful debts		(686)	(1,315)
 <b>Changes in net assets and liabilities:</b>			
Decrease /(increase) in assets:			
Trade and other receivables		(17,570)	(27,857)
Accrued interest		(10,693)	(10,425)
Inventories		9,783	20,598
Other assets		(2,590)	(1,392)
 (Decrease) /increase in liabilities:			
Trade and other payables		178,370	52,747
Provisions		42,221	5,550
Endowment fund		(4,396)	(4,908)
Net cash flows provided by operating activities		366,907	144,340

**Note 10: Subsequent events**

Since the end of the financial year, no event has occurred which materially affects the financial statements.



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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Note 11: Contingent assets and liabilities**

As of 31 December 2023, the Association awaits the outcome of their application to the Commissioner of Victorian State Revenue Office (SRO) for exemption from Land Tax payments, in relation to the financial years ended 31 December 2022, 31 December 2023 and going forward.

The State Revenue Office advised the Association on 25 March 2024 that the application is still being considered and that the Association would not be issued any further land tax assessments until the matter was finalised.

As at 31 December 2023, the outcome of the application is unknown.

The result of the application will impact amounts payable, if any, for Land Tax for the years ended 31 December 2022 and 31 December 2023 and in subsequent periods. As the final amount payable is unknown, no quantification of the potential contingent liability can be provided.

The outcome may result in a reversal of previously accrued amounts.

**Note 12: Related Party Transactions**

**(a) Payments to key management personnel**

The Association paid employment benefits to only one member of key management personnel in the year ended 31 December 2023, and is therefore exempt from the requirement to disclose payments to key management personnel.

**(b) Other related party transactions**

In the year ended 31 December 2023, the Association did not enter any material related party transactions.

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

**Note 13: Reserves – Special Purpose Funds in Equity**

The following table shows the movements of the Special Purpose Funds for the year 2023.

Special Purpose Funds 2023 - Reserve	Balance 1 January 2023 \$	Donations, Grants and Legacies \$	Transfers from Retained earnings \$	Interest \$	Total \$	Administration \$	Disbursements \$	Balance 31 December 2023 \$
Emergency Relief Fund	413,330	45,178	-	16,932	475,440	-	6,454	468,986
Welfare Fund	230,245	26,159	-	12,388	268,792	-	6,500	262,292
Education Grants Fund	256,593	12,125	-	12,250	280,968	7,697	25,800	247,471
Colac CWA Education Fund	179,024	-	-	7,163	186,187	1,790	800	183,597
Central Highlands Ruby McCullough Scholarship	153,692	-	-	5,742	159,434	1,537	-	157,897
AA Gibbs Educational Fund	87,925	-	-	3,806	91,731	2,638	2,200	86,893
Elsa Mary Grice Education Grant	427,427	-	-	17,150	444,577	4,274	-	440,303
Food Technology Scholarship	30,601	-	-	1,215	31,816	306	-	31,510
Sarah Amiet (nee Nicholson) Award	60,503	-	-	2,210	62,713	605	-	62,108
Alice Stewart Post Graduate Agribusiness Scholarship	107,038	-	-	3,807	110,845	3,211	4,500	103,134
International & Community Support Fund	65,537	479	-	-	66,016	655	-	65,361
Post Graduate Environmental Scholarship	52,161	-	-	7,119	59,280	1043	1,500	56,737
Diamond Jubilee Resident Grant	13,775	-	-	1,000	14,775	276	1,500	12,999
Rural Nurse Post Graduate Scholarship	146,527	-	-	5,434	151,961	4,396	6,000	141,565
Thanksgiving Fund (2022)	20,303	-	-	-	20,303	609	19,694	-
Thanksgiving Fund (2023)	-	29,553	-	-	29,553	-	-	29,553
ACWW Pennies for Friendship	32,244	2,608	-	-	34,852	1612	-	33,240
ACWW Women Walk the World	3,679	1,421	-	-	5,100	184	-	4,916
Valerie Fisher AO OBE Memorial Educational Fund	10,649	-	-	-	10,649	106	-	10,543
Waverley Harris World Conference Fund	5,363	-	-	-	5,363	-	2,500	2,863
State Project 2023	-	47,927	-	-	47,927	-	-	47,927
State Project 2020; 2021, 2022	41,048	-	-	-	41,048	2052	21,287	17,709
State Project 2017	187	-	-	-	187	187	-	-
State Project 2013 - 'What Can I Do' (Family Violence)	10,940	-	-	-	10,940	547	-	10,393
B&B Upgrade	32,404	-	-	-	32,404	976	12,681	18,747
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,381,195</b>	<b>165,450</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>96,216</b>	<b>2,642,861</b>	<b>34,701</b>	<b>111,416</b>	<b>2,496,744</b>

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

**Note 13: Reserves – Special Purpose Funds in Equity (continued)**

The following table shows the movements of the Special Purpose Funds for the year 2022.

Special Purpose Funds 2022 - Reserve	Balance 1 January 2022 \$	Donations, Grants and Legacies \$	Transfers from Retained earnings \$	Interest \$	Total \$	Administration \$	Disbursements \$	Balance 31 December 2022 \$
Emergency Relief Fund	372,250	51,461	-	11,119	434,830	-	21,500	413,330
Welfare Fund	217,965	16,876	-	2,504	237,345	-	7,100	230,245
Education Grants Fund	257,928	10,407	-	977	269,312	3,869	8,850	256,593
Colac CWA Education Fund	179,822	-	-	1,539	181,361	1,533	804	179,024
Central Highlands Ruby McCullough Scholarship	154,065	-	-	1,938	156,003	2,311	-	153,692
AA Gibbs Educational Fund	90,328	-	-	1,152	91,480	1,355	2,200	87,925
Elsa Mary Grice Education Grant	428,935	-	-	5,608	434,543	6,434	682	427,427
Food Technology Scholarship	30,957	-	-	108	31,065	464	-	30,601
Sarah Amiet (nee Nicholson) Award	61,126	-	-	294	61,420	917	-	60,503
Alice Stewart Post Graduate Agribusiness Scholarship	109,837	50	-	299	110,186	1,648	1,500	107,038
International & Community Support Fund	66,114	415	-	-	66,529	992	-	65,537
Post Graduate Environmental Scholarship	55,725	-	-	272	55,997	836	3,000	52,161
Diamond Jubilee Resident Grant	16,913	-	-	116	17,029	254	3,000	13,775
Rural Nurse Post Graduate Scholarship	150,014	-	-	1,763	151,777	2,250	3,000	146,527
Thanksgiving Fund (2020), (2021)	31,423	-	-	-	31,423	247	31,176	-
Thanksgiving Fund (2022)	-	20,303	-	-	20,303	-	-	20,303
ACWW Pennies for Friendship	17,899	14,882	-	-	32,781	537	-	32,244
ACWW Women Walk the World	1,636	2,092	-	-	3,728	49	-	3,679
Valerie Fisher AO OBE Memorial Educational Fund	10,811	-	-	-	10,811	162	-	10,649
Waverley Harris World Conference Fund	5,489	-	-	39	5,528	165	-	5,363
State Project 2020; 2021	32,589	27,393	-	-	59,982	978	17,956	41,048
State Project 2017	193	-	-	-	193	6	-	187
State Project 2013 - 'What Can I Do' (Family Violence)	11,278	-	-	-	11,278	338	-	10,940
B&B Upgrade	51,899	-	-	-	51,899	1,557	17,928	32,404
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,355,186</b>	<b>143,879</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,728</b>	<b>2,526,793</b>	<b>26,902</b>	<b>118,696</b>	<b>2,381,195</b>

# AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

---



**Margaret Wood**

Agriculture and Environment Committee Chair

The Agriculture and Environment Committee have had a busy year as usual, touching on a variety of subjects- Bees, BioSecurity, Our Ocean, High price of meat in Supermarkets when the cattle and lamb prices were low and some farmers had to shoot their sheep, and looked into the possibility of Genetically Modified Bananas.

We helped with the Festival of Gardens.

Leanne Menegazzo on our Committee sent us a video on harvesting all different types of products and produce with all the latest harvesting and packaging gear.

We sent out Pome Fruit recipes and have sent out Pulses recipes for the Product/Resource Pulses for 2024.

We had a Resolution in 2023 and Kate Commins for Omeo/Tambo Valley Group worked on a Resolution on Fuel Reduction Burn Targets for 2024 State Conference.

We are on the Worksafe Committee Agricultural Safety Reference Group which is very interesting, and work with The National Centre for Farmer Health and AgVic.

I would like to thank all our Committee for the great work they have done over the year, State President Jenny Nola for all her help, Joanne Alderman Past Committee Chair, Lyn Harris OAM, Leanne Menegazzo, Prue McCredden and Meg Parkinson, Minute Secretary Kate Commins, Judie Gade, Mandy McMahan, Peg Higginbottom.

If you have anything you would like us to look into please let us know at [chairagriculture@cwaofvic.org.au](mailto:chairagriculture@cwaofvic.org.au) If you would like to join our Committee just write to the State President Jenny Nola.

# CLUB COMMITTEE REPORT

---

I am delighted to present the Club Committee report for 2023.

PopUp has once again been a great success with raising in excess of \$20,000.

We catered for State Council, VRC (Scones and Anzac Biscuits) which were delivered to the Flemington Race Track.

Open House is always fun with many in attendance, enjoying a Devonshire Tea.

Melbourne Royal Show was extremely busy but fun was had by all.

Then followed Seniors Week which was extremely low on numbers. Thanks to Viv Speight for running the week.

Christmas Fare, well it rained and then it poured but in saying that we had a great day.

After Christmas Fare we have our final PopUp for the year and sell the remaining Christmas Cakes, Puddings and Shortbreads.

The garden looked spectacular and I take this opportunity to thank the Garden Volunteers for all they do.

As some of you would know the oven in the kitchen died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November making it some what difficult to produce all the food that is required, for Christmas and POPUPS but somehow we did it.

In conclusion I would like to thank my absolutely amazing team of ladies who come every fortnight, making sausage rolls, biscuits, cakes, soups and scones.



**Karen Jackson**

Club Committee  
Chairperson

# COMMUNICATIONS AND MAGAZINE COMMITTEE REPORT

---



**Amanda Millar**  
Chairperson,  
Communications and  
Magazine Committee

The new Committee was formed and first met in September 2023. The Committee immediately set a priority of improving communication – both within and outside the organisation – and to shift the future focus towards digital content while still ensuring the magazine remains available in printed form for members who continue to want a hardcopy. This included developing a 10-point Communications Plan to update and expand the Association’s communications footprint in Victoria.

The newly named Communications and Magazine Committee notes the following key achievements in 2023:

- Produced two (2) printed magazines – being October/November 2023 (Theme: Showtime) and December 2023 (Theme: Christmas/Summer);
- Due to production lead times, we were also required to produce much of the content for the February/March 2024 magazine (Theme: International Women’s Day) prior to the summer break;
- Introduced and produced three monthly e-Newsletters in October, November and December 2023 to ensure that content which is time dependent reaches our membership more quickly and without the cost of printed collateral; and
- Increased the rate of the Association’s social media posts (FaceBook) to improve internal and external information flow about Association activities, priorities and events.

In 2023, the Committee commenced work on refreshing the look of the magazine to align with the Association’s new communications toolkit as designed by Seftons. Another change was to introduce photographs of women to the front cover to better reflect the Association’s focus and purpose.

The Committee has sought to improve the quality and relevance of the content of the magazine including introducing themes per edition, articles on women’s health, “In the Spotlight” interviews, a feature on different aspects of food and a refreshed “Around the Branches” section of the magazine to showcase and share great ideas from our branches and groups.

I acknowledge and thank the stunningly dedicated Committee members: Jane Dewildt (Deputy Editor), Jenny Tuck (Deputy Editor), Agnes Veldhuizen (Committee Secretary), Danielle O’Farrell, Judie Gade, Paula McGavin, Joanne Legg and Sarah Barnbrook. We thank the Association’s hard-working staff, particularly Executive Director Lynne Jordan and Member Services Administrator (& Everything to All Members) Robyn Smith, and some fantastic external providers – particularly desktop publishing specialist, Debbie Thompson, and printers, Focus Print.

I particularly wish to acknowledge Sarah Barnbrook who served as Acting Chair and Editor for the first half of 2023. Having stepped into the role until another office bearer could be identified, Sarah carried a heavy workload which led to some delays in magazine production in the first half of the year.

---

## COMMUNITY AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE REPORT

---



**Marilyn Tangey**  
Community and International Support Committee Chairperson

I am pleased to present this annual report. My two-year term as chair of this committee has now been completed. I am indebted to the members of the committee who contribute to the work of CWA in supporting communities across Victoria. I know the next committee chair will receive the same support that I have enjoyed from the committee members.

The committee has been renamed to reflect that much of our work is in supporting communities. The work of members across the state is appreciated. We receive many bags of knitted, crochet and sewn articles every month, towels and toiletries, as well as sewing notions, materials and children’s clothes. I have endeavoured to write emails of thanks to Group Presidents and/or to include Branch contributions in the Magazine. Here I apologise for any thank you that I missed.

We cannot forget the contributions made by members to support families after the devastating floods of October 2022. Throughout 2023 Branches, Groups and State aided communities in a variety of ways – goods, coffee and chat, craft activities, monetary. For some communities such as Rochester the devastation is still very evident and CWA support was considerable.

In May 2023 many of our members travelled to Malaysia for the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) Conference, an event that has been summarised and discussed a

great deal. Prior to departure, an information session and lunch were held, and this was hosted by Viv Speight. The next major event for ACWW is the South Pacific Area Conference in 2024.

ACWW has a representative on the United Nations Status of Women committee and to reflect and respect that involvement, this committee promotes two campaigns.

- *16 days of Activism against gender-based violence*, Nov 25-Dec 10 each year.
- *Women Walk the World*, April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Every year a 'Country of Study' is chosen. In 2023 Namibia was that country, a small nation in southwestern Africa. Many thanks to Glenys Ball and Ellen Roche for contributing articles for the magazine, aimed at assisting international officers in putting together some information for members. International events were held by many Groups and Branches. A lunch planned by the committee was cancelled by the restaurant due to family illness. Hopefully in future years this tradition will be re-established.

The Christmas Fare day was very wet but we carried on in a rain soaked gazebo, raising some important funds for our Association. Stamps and coins are still being collected and sold to a trader, the money being set aside for ACWW, Women in Action Fund. The rest of our work does not raise any money – donated goods are distributed to the most disadvantaged in our community. The monetary value is estimated to be \$36,000; the kindness index of these donations is immeasurable. The recipients cannot thank the donors in person, and this committee is most grateful on their behalf for all goods received.

---

## CREATIVE ARTS COMMITTEE REPORT

---

Creative Arts on the go early in the year. Our first Committee meeting for 2023 was held late in January followed by the Annual Judges update weekend, ably facilitated by our Senior judges. These updates are an annual fixture and badged judges are expected to attend.

One of our popular Craft workshops was held in March where participants learnt the art of Wet and Dry Felting. Another popular workshop offered in November was Tips on Christmas Baking. A decision was made to open these workshops to the general public as well as our own members. This move has proven to be to our advantage. A further workshop was offered covering advanced Nuno Felting and Slow Stitching, but this one wasn't fully subscribed to, so we had to withdraw it.



**Mary Grant**

Creative Arts  
Committee  
Chairperson



It is our aim to increase the offerings of these workshops as well as expanding into the Home Industries domain. These are advertised on Facebook, the website, the E-Newsletter and in the magazine, so keep an eye out for them.

We meet at least 5 times a year and our agendas are always very full as there is a lot going on within Creative Arts. We offer regular training for new judges in both sectors and presently we have a group of 2023 trainees honing their skills and knowledge, eagerly awaiting their final assessment to allow them to be presented with their Judges badge.

The early part of the year is very busy allocating our judges around the State to judge at local Group and Branch Exhibitions. CWA Victoria is very appreciative of the dedication and skill these judges bring to the judging table and we thank them very sincerely for their work.

The big event – The State Creative Arts Exhibition. A lot of planning is needed to successfully stage this event. Exhibition planning starts early in the year.

Our 2023 Exhibition was held in St Arnaud and was a huge success. Many thanks to the Wimmera Groups who assisted us in staging this event. Thank you to the Exhibition staging team, judges and volunteers who all work together to bring this spectacular collection of Handcrafts and Home Industries entries for you to enjoy. Our exhibition highlights the many talents our members have and it is great to see them all together. The venue for 2024 was announced at the Exhibition and Moe was the successful applicant.

We continue to have a presence at Melbourne Royal, stationed in the Spotlight pavilion, where we demonstrate the art of braid making. Kumihimo is a simple Japanese form of braid making. This is very popular with all ages- Dads included.

2024 lends itself to a very busy year, as we will be trying some different ideas and approaches in an endeavour to provide what, you, the member would like to see from us.

I extend my thanks to Helen Ryvitch who was at the helm of this dynamic committee until changeover in June 2023. Thank you, Helen.

# CURATOR ARCHIVIST REPORT

---



**Marion Dewar**

Past State President  
Curator Archivist

The work of the Curator Archivist continued throughout 2023. Tasks included answering enquiries, checking the materials against the database entries, receiving minute books from branches and groups and rehousing returned minute books.

The request for photos and information in 2022 about our catering at the Royal Melbourne Show for the 175th Anniversary Book of the RASV was fulfilled. A copy of the book, published in time for Melbourne Royal 2023, was donated by a member of the Association and is now in the archives.

A request for information was received (and fulfilled) in April from the Australian War Memorial as the Second World War galleries were in process of redevelopment. It began with a question about the sheepskin vest.

An address was delivered to the Prahran Mechanics Institute (PMI) Victorian History Library Inc. on the history of the Association in May. A similar address was delivered to the Waverley VIEW Club in September.

Members of The Needlework Tapestry Guild of Victoria Inc. came to view the tapestries of Mr Peck in August, giving the opportunity to further explain our connection and the origin of the T.P. Peck Trophy for the best piece of Canvas Work in the Creative Arts State Exhibition.

An address was delivered to Berwick Branch in December following a request for information about the origins of the branch.

Branch, family or community members requested details of 36 members, branches, groups or aspects of the Association. Reasons included family or community history, branch or group celebrations, service certificates and obituaries.

When writing minutes, please write legibly, include the full names of all present at each meeting, the names and dates of joining of new members, all activities of members and the branch or group (including community activities) and any interesting items about members.

As completed minute books should be forwarded to Head Office for safekeeping (it is also a legal requirement that the Association retain minute books) it is a good idea to bring your member and branch or group history up to date before doing so.

# HISTORIAN ARCHIVIST REPORT

---



**MOH Noela  
MacLeod AO**  
Historian Archivist

During the past year I have had many requests for historical information, in most cases I have been able to do the research at home as I have an extensive collection of past magazines Annual Reports and minutes.

I find it very interesting returning to read old copies of the “Country Crafts” and later with the name change the “Victorian Country Woman” magazines. They were packed so full of excellent reports and information which makes it so easy to discover what I am seeking out.

Every time I read these I find something that I have not noticed previously. So I make a note on the front cover of the magazine of the page and article name. In a notebook I record the page number in the minutes and if it is a resolution, the names of the mover and seconder and the information therein.

We are so fortunate that the information in the various state minute books is so extensive that you actually feel that you were present at the meeting. Secretaries do not be afraid to have extensive information when writing the minutes of your meetings – remember that someone in the future like me will be reading the minutes for information. Please record in your minutes who was actually present at the meeting and use full names and not just Christian names.

Our predecessors lead very interesting lives and many of their stories are on record.

As we lead up to our centenary in 2028 I would like members to speak to some of the older (and younger) members in your branch to record “Her Story” before it is lost, and send it to the office. In the time leading up to the centenary we will be publishing these stories in the magazine. I have quite a few at the moment, but I would like stories from members at the grass root level. Everyone has a story – Please discover it and send it to us, it is over to you.

# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

---



**Gwen White**

Membership  
Chairperson

It is with great pleasure that I present the Membership Report for the year 2023.

The year was a busy year and continually presents a challenge to the members of the membership committee to find ways to encourage growth in our branches both in the city and regional areas.

In the early months of the year, the committee met monthly and tried to instigate ways for branches to work around increasing costs and to support members in branches with ideas to help those finding it difficult to purchase a membership. We contributed articles for the magazine on a regular basis with hints for branches to implement some ideas. We tried to encourage members to contribute thoughts on ways they might need support from the committee and share what they are doing. If you are a branch with huge growth please share with me your secret to increasing membership.

One of our greatest achievements was producing our geographical maps (with thanks to Mel Pritchard) plotting the branch locations. It involved a lot of work and mapping skills and was inserted in the Oct/Nov 2023 magazine.

We opened a new branch in Barwon Heads with 20 plus young women eager to be involved in their local community. This was with thanks to Lyn Harris OAM, who contacted Gwen White to consider opening the branch for the Geelong Group. Viv Chemali worked with Joan Graham, the GP for Gippsland to open a new branch in Berwick. The interesting part is the person behind the branch was not a CWA member at the time. She joined at the inaugural meeting in April 2023 along with 22 other women.

Members continued to provide valuable updates about local events taking place such as a round table discussion for branch presidents within a group, groups holding Association Day events, high teas, catering for all kinds of events, raffles, information nights etc etc...All attesting to members creativity and spread of activities.

The newly established Moonlighters Branch has 22 members.

In July I became the Membership Chair along with 9 other members sharing an interest in growing membership. These members represent branches in the city and in regional Victoria. In addition to growing our membership I see it as being vital that we look after our present members and keep their interests close in heart at the same time.

In August I attended a STUDENT VOLUNTEERING WORKSHOP in Canberra via zoom. It was an interesting and engaging session with young people about their thoughts on volunteering and why or why not volunteer with any organisation. It was quite an eye opener to say the least.

Group Presidents were all contacted and asked to let the committee know how we can aid them particularly in our rural areas. It is important that these members feel wanted and cherished by CWA Victoria and perhaps we need to visit regionally more often than just at AGM time. When Senior Office Bearers attend AGMs we really don't have time to sit and chat with members and get a real feel of how they are going. I would love to get out and visit branches and get to know you.

I think it is important that we find ways to introduce CWA to young teenagers either through working with schools or starting junior branches. Perhaps holding information nights aimed at younger women.

The Committee continues to discuss issues facing growth and the challenges faced by branches and groups in society today. We rely on branches to promote CWA at their cake stalls, sausage sizzles and markets and hope they are using the Tool Kit accessible online.

We hold stalls at the local shows, State Conference and State Exhibition. We did not attend the Quilt Show as it was felt it was too expensive for little return. We use the theme "Join Us" and continue to enjoy talking to community members about CWA. We had a few Committee members help at the Melbourne Royal show in September. In December we had a stall at the Christmas Fare and despite a wet blustery day we did have about 10 Expression of Interest Forms filled out, some resulting in new members for CWA.

Sadly, following branch AGMS we had 4 branches close: Bamawm, Drung South, Dreeite, and Dean. There are several others struggling which we hope to help revive before the next AGMs in October. It is important for Group Presidents to notify me if they have a struggling branch so we can try to help before they close.

In December we opened the Sunbury Day branch and are up and running after a few hiccups.

I would like to thank the Membership Committee for the dedication and passion in trying to grow CWA membership throughout Victoria and for their support during the year. The support of you our members and the work your Group Presidents do is invaluable to the organisation as a whole. Thank you one and all and please remember to be KIND.

**Membership Statistics as at 31 December 2023**

Full Members	3655
Life Members	77
Junior Members	189
Total Membership	3921

**Number of Branches** 276

Number of Groups	37
------------------	----

**New Branches formed in 2023:**

- Barwon Heads
- Berwick

# SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE REPORT

---



**Sally Ann  
Matthews**

Social Issues  
Committee  
Chairperson

It is a pleasure to present the Social Issues Committee Annual Report 2023 and share with you our work over the 12 months.

The Committee was chaired Sally Ann Matthews, committee members are Judee Lockwood, Olivia Harwood, Jennifer Tuck, Catherine Oldenburger, Gaye Lamb, Vicki Start, Margaret Banks and ACWW and Community Support Chair Marilyn Tangey.

The Committee meet on the last Monday of the month at 7pm by zoom. Zoom allows members from across the State to participate in this vibrant committee. I thank all committee members for your active participation and your encouragement and support of each other.

The theme continued in 2023 to be “Safe Home for All”. Joining with the ACWW/ International and Community Support Committee we encouraged members to support the 16 Days of Activism and support walks around the State. Some members walked in the city walk, others in their suburban streets wearing orange to support that, “Together we can end violence against women”, and to make each woman’s home a safe place to be.

“Improving Access to Essential Services” was the theme from June 2023. This gave us the opportunity to ask our members for information on services that were difficult for them to access. Banking, transport, health, digital skills, and housing were highlighted by members across the State.

We acknowledge communities across Victoria have been affected by bank closures, but it is the more remote communities that are most affected due to long and tedious trips to the nearest bank, lack of fast internet and public transport and the level of skills and trust that are needed by these community members to navigate on- line banking.

The Committee identified that the restricted access to banking across the towns and suburbs with bank closures and the move to on-line banking affected access to those most vulnerable in our communities and put forward two resolutions at State Conference.

## **Resolution 1**

*That the Country Women’s Association of Victoria Inc urges all levels of government to initiate policy settings which enhance the growth of community-based banks and other local co-operatives to ensure continuing access to face-to-face services in rural and regional communities.*

## Resolution 2

*That The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc urges the banking sector to ensure that rural communities continue to have access to face-to-face banking services in Victoria within reasonable travelling distances.*

We are collating information from members to support these resolutions.

In April, we travelled to Rochester to give the residents a few special days where they could relax and enjoy each other's company away from the caravans, tents and rented premises and the woes of dealing with insurance companies. We provided knitted goods, fruit cakes and toiletries to make each resident feel special, they enjoyed massages and manicures and children loved the pencils and colouring books. The positive impact of CWA friendship in the town and the members across the State supporting this event, made this event one that will not be forgotten by our members and the town. We celebrated "Women Walk the World" by walking around the streets of Rochester, seeing the flood damage, and meeting the residents. How humbled we were to be invited in to see the damage in homes and to hear the stories. We were saddened to know that many residents would never return.

Quilts from the Heart Bayside, gifted beautiful quilts to be distributed to vulnerable women and children and these have been given to McCauley House, Cottage by the Sea and Mooroopna residents.

The Annual Camp held in July school holidays is themed to work with a State Committee and the theme of 'Recycle, Reuse, Re- purpose', fitted well with Social Issues. What are we going to do with all the waste that we create each year? How are we going to solve the throwaway consumerism that we live with daily? How do we address food waste? What changes can we make?

Mary Grant had a timetable that only a teacher could plan, it was absolutely filled with wonderful experiences for the girls and adults. Everyone was happily engaged in the activities and created wonderful products, exploring techniques, and engaging in learning new skills.

Olivia Harwood planned a very successful Women's Health Day in Bairnsdale and has provided the plan to the Committee for use by members planning a similar event.

In October we had the opportunity to meet with the Latrobe Health Advocate, Jane Cameron and she shared that women need to have friends, to participate and to feel needed for their mental health, how fortunate are we to have our CWA, to have great friends and feel the warmth of caring women. Our conversation with the Latrobe Health Advocate highlighted that across the State the needs to access essential services are great but it is evident that regional and rural populations are at greatest risk. Digital connectivity, transport and social connection were identified as areas that our organisation can assist in.

Homelessness for women over 55 is growing, an age group that may not have adequate savings, employment options and superannuation. In Warragul at an Aged Care facility, they are repurposing 4 units to be made available for homeless women over 55. These units were being used as storage facilities. The community has come together to volunteer resources to make this happen and Latrobe Central Group will be providing their refuge packs to the women. Committee member, Vicki Start is following this closely and shares with us the progress on the units.

The Committee presented to State Council, the proposed theme for 2024, “Advocating for Change”.

We look forward to working with our members to bring positive change and create partnerships so we can continue to make a difference to the lives of vulnerable women, children and families in Victoria.



# GROUP REPORTS 2023

---

## BALLARAT DISTRICT

The year started with a move to new rooms as the old building was no longer habitable.

We held a successful Art & Craft Exhibition with many of the winning entries going on to win prizes in the State Creative Arts Exhibition. Our highlight at the State Exhibition was winning the Syme Cup for our entry.

Another highlight was when the State Book of Honour was won by a member from the group.

---

## BASS

In April 2023, we had a very successful creative arts and craft exhibition, with many beautiful and artistic entries. Towards the end of the year we had a couple of open gardens with 2 members opening their gardens, with lots of lovely comments about the beautiful gardens on display, and we also had a stall at both our gardens. All our branches celebrated their individual Christmas celebrations with a lunch.

---

## BEAUFORT

This year the Beaufort group have continued their community involvement with all branches hosting or supporting local events including fundraising for defibrillators in Waubra and the Christmas tree festival in Stawell. I hope that all branches feel they have contributed to our Group and continue to do so, helping keep the CWA values true to our community. Landsborough Branch will be looking to restart this coming year after overcoming some hurdles.

---

## BENDIGO NORTHERN

Kangaroo Flat Branch celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday but unfortunately could not form an executive to continue in 2024, although most members continue their CWA journey in another branch. Branches have supported Bendigo Northern Group efforts throughout the year to raise the profile of CWA with involvement in the Bendigo Sustainability Festival, catering for various activities throughout the Municipality and being a part of the Seniors Festival. The Group continues to celebrate CWA Sunday, in conjunction with Women Walk the World. Events in Bendigo to raise awareness of gender-based violence were supported by members. We supported statewide events - State Conference, Melbourne Show and State Arts and Crafts Exhibition in St Arnaud. Numbers did not increase, enthusiasm for Group events is on the rise.

---

## CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

Central Highlands group continues to thrive, with the reopening of the Sunbury branch providing companionship and fun once more for the women who've been really missing it. All branches were pleased to show their work at a very successful Creative Arts Exhibition in April, and every branch's contribution to their town in whatever form it takes ensures they are a well-loved and valuable addition to their community.

---

## CENTRAL MURRAY

---

## CENTRAL VICTORIA

---

## CENTRAL WIMMERA MALLEE

Central Wimmera Mallee group have enjoyed a successful year of fellowship. Various branches have joined in with each other to go on trips and visit one another. All branches have been supporting their local communities by supporting local shows, nursing homes and schools.

---

## DIAMOND VALLEY

Diamond Valley Group had a busy year, running a successful Creative Arts Exhibition in March, undertaking an ACWW fundraising walk in April, hosting two lively conferences in February and August and providing a number of opportunities for members to come together to share in fun and friendship at social events.

In addition to the many causes supported by its branches, Diamond Valley Group continued to work together to create 'Mastectomy Packs' - which consist of a cushion, drainage bag and small gift - which are provided to women who have undergone breast surgery. The packs are gratefully received by their recipients and offer relief and support.

---

## EAST GIPPSLAND

Each of our Branches: Bairnsdale-Amaroo, Orbost, and Paynesville Toonalook had successful outcomes during 2023 – baking, cooking, friendship, along with separate and a joint fundraising event. Sadly, our Buchan Gelantipy and District Branch was unable to reestablish itself. Hopefully 2024 will, with our continuing endeavours inspire the broadening of our membership.

---

## EAST WIMMERA

The East Wimmera Group had a busy year craft wise. In May we held our bi-annual Creative Craft Exhibition in Charlton. We also held two group craft days during the year which were well attended. July saw East Wimmera Group host the State Creative Craft Exhibition. Our members had many entries and took out some of the major prizes.

---

## EASTERN FOOTHILLS

I cannot believe that a year has passed since I was elected to be Group President for the Eastern Foothills Group. Thank you to previous Group President, Lyn Riley, for her assistance during the year when I was unable to be present. We have been very busy planning for our craft fair, with some meetings to make sure that all goes well. I am hoping to organise a few more social outings as for our Christmas lunch we had over 60 members turn up. We had a wonderful time at York on Lilydale. Women Walk the World is coming up and we are so looking forward to it.

---

## EASTERN GOULBURN VALLEY

Eastern Goulburn Valley Group is a close supportive Group of 7 branches. We have a friendly monthly Group craft day.

Under the guidance of previous GP Cathy Shields the Group held a successful Creative Arts Exhibition in April 2023.

Members supported the Group ACWW Woman Walk the World at Victoria Lake in Shepparton and CWA Church Sunday at the Shepparton Uniting Church At the beginning of my term the Group were first in the Home Industries at State Creative Arts Exhibition.

Group members actively participated in the CWA 5 year strategy review.

In October the Eastern Goulburn Valley Group provided traditional catering at the Shepparton Agricultural Show.

To cap off the year in December a successful Christmas Pop Up Shop was held with individual branch stalls and well patronised Group CWA Christmas Cake and Pudding Sales.

---

## ECHUCA

Although our Group has diminished to 3 branches, two of the branches have increased their member numbers, which is heartening to see. Our Group conferences were very well attended showcasing our involvement in the community. Our Group craft day in conjunction with a nearby group saw over 60 combined members, sit, sew, chatter and learn new craft ideas. Elmore Field days was a three day showcase of the numerous talents our Group has to offer, the selling of club merchandise is always popular. We have had a busy and fruitful 12 months.

---

## FRASER

Fraser Group Branches strongly supported all State activities, local communities, members, and families. The Group currently consists of 5 evening branches – Ashburton, Boroondara, Port Phillip, Richmond, and Umina, all with active programs and a warm welcome. Fraser Group celebrated a 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday this year with an Afternoon Tea full of joy, support, and friendship.

---

## GEELONG

The Geelong Group held a very successful Craft Exhibition early in 2023. We all got together for a lovely afternoon tea, enjoyed a movie night, Rachel's Farm, followed by a yummy supper.

Branches have been busy with some innovative fund-raising ideas such as a sponge making class, Teddy Bear Hospital etc.

---

## GIPPSLAND HILLS

---

### GOULBURN VALLEY WEST

Goulburn Valley West Group has 6 branches, 85 members. Yearly activities include 2 conferences, Women Walk the World, group creative arts exhibition, group lunch, and monthly craft. Monthly notes distributed to all branches containing State, Group and Branch information.

---

## HENTY

Members in our Henty Group have enjoyed a good year by helping with/participating in many events in their local communities – some for the first time, others long established ones. Several of our Branches have welcomed new members.

Donations have been generous both locally and to State causes. Our two Group Conferences were well attended by all Branches. We are now looking forward to an even better 2024.

---

## HUME GOULBURN

The Hume Goulburn Group had a very successful Creative Arts exhibition in March with many beautiful pieces displayed. We celebrated Women walk the world with

a guided tour around the Yarck township followed by a service awards presentation. The year was concluded with a fun Christmas lunch in Yea.

---

## KIEWA VALLEY

The Kiewa Valley Group has 3 Branches – Kiewa, Kergunyah and Wodonga. Each Branch works actively in their own Community and has increased their membership during the past 12 months. Our main activities over the past year include a Craft and Activities Day where members iced and boxed biscuits for the State Fare, learnt how to Crochet, do Slow Stitching and Card Making. Members from the Kiewa Valley, Upper Murray and North East Groups worked together in holding a successful Craft Exhibition in conjunction with the Wodonga Show Society in March.

---

## LATROBE CENTRAL

---

### MCDONALD

With pleasure McDonald Group reached a milestone 50th birthday, a celebration luncheon was attended by McDonald's first GP Margaret Jones with past members joining us to share their stories.

Our branches are flourishing and our reputation as dynamic women is spreading in our community. Inspirational women again doing CWA proud.

---

### MILDURA/MILLEWA

At the Australia Day celebrations at Merbein, the CWA Members were presented with a Certificate and Medallion, naming them as Community Group for year 2022.

Jeanette Ellis this year was presented with a 70 year CWA membership badge and certificate.

The Group supports local charities: Victims of Sexual Assault, Families with children requiring specialised treatment in Melbourne, also those in need of special aids for everyday life. Other charities are supported also.

The CWA and Friends Choir are again travelling to Swan Hill in May, to join in their Choral and Drama Festival.

---

## MITCHELL

---

### MOIRA

2023 for us was fairly quiet besides our half yearly and AGM. We only had two group functions – our International lunch in August and then our Orange Day Lunch in late October.

On both these occasions our Corowa branch does a raffle where the money raised goes to a charity. International lunch the money paid for postage to send products up to a pop up charity shop in remote NT. Orange Day to Orange the sky.

---

## MORNINGTON PENINSULA

This year saw the election of a new Group President, Jodi Johnston from Frankston South branch.

We had Rosebud East branch amalgamating in part with Rosebud branch, forming a 'Superbranch'. (And they are...)

Mornington Peninsula Group had an exceptionally successful representation at this year's State Creative Arts Exhibition.

---

## MURRAY VALLEY

---

## NORTH EASTERN

The Branches have been active in their communities with support and fundraising events. Norma Judd, Barnawartha Branch, received the Noela MacLeod trophy and Certificate of Merit for her plum pudding at the 2023 State Creative Arts Exhibition in St Arnaud. In December we baked biscuits for Legacy Widows and held a successful Christmas Fare in Wangaratta.

---

## NORTH GIPPSLAND

As this is my final year as GP of North Gippsland I have found it to be a very challenging position to hold, but also very rewarding, learning more about the Association, meeting and making new friends that will last a lifetime. In our Group we had a very successful Exhibition, plus a few Group functions where we came together as a family, enjoying each other's company.

---

## OMEQ/TAMBO VALLEY

Omeo/Tambo Valley Group continues to develop social connections in the community. Meetings are held monthly during the evening at Benambra and in the morning for High Country. Both branches have welcomed new members (3 and 2) to our gatherings and appreciate the range of skills, enthusiasm and experiences that they bring. A full program of catering brings in funding which supports a number of local organisations as well as State CWA.

This year we have experienced unpredictable weather events- a long dry winter led into record rainfall during spring

and early summer. There was local flooding, torrential rain and some wild storms. The exceptional growth of pastures and bush have caused concern for fuel loads in the forests for next season.

Bushfire Recovery funding has enabled the development of better infrastructure in readiness for Bushfires in the future. Mental Health continues to be a focus and is supported by CWA branches. A local history project will be rolled out to enhance social interactions as part of this.

---

## POLWARTH

---

## SOUTH GIPPSLAND

South Gippsland Group has enjoyed time together in 2023 with branches raising money from Stalls and Raffles, WWW viewing Yarram's Murals by Hesco, Association Day: A talk on Lightning Ridge Opal. Sent State Conference delegates, catered dinner and supper for singing groups and audience, Corsets and Crinolines at Yarram was informative and fun. The end of year breakup was South Gippsland Group visit to Gippsland Art Gallery in Sale, Annemieke Mein's room a favourite.

---

## SOUTH WESTERN

South Western Group members have had an excellent year with many branch and group activities enabling donations to worthwhile community groups. A feelgood moment was when the Group Project donation added enough to Warrnambool SES funds for them to purchase a hydraulic lifting machine to assist with local rescues.

---

## UPPER MURRAY

The 3 member branches are working both together and within our small communities to encourage women of all ages to be the person they wish to be. We have worked together with the groups in Kiewa Valley and North Eastern to host the creative arts event at the Wodonga show and will be repeating our performance next year, although bigger and better.

---

## WEST GIPPSLAND

West Gippsland Group branches have been extremely busy in the past 12 months. The fruits of their labour were shown at their AGMs with lists showing their generous donations of both funds and goods to the local communities. They are all a significant presence in their communities.

---

## WEST WIMMERA



**The Country Women's  
Association of Victoria Inc.**

**care empower contribute**

**Phone** (03) 9827 8971

**Address** 3 Lansell Road, Toorak Victoria 3142 Australia

**Reception** [reception@cwaofvic.org.au](mailto:reception@cwaofvic.org.au)

[www.cwaofvic.org.au](http://www.cwaofvic.org.au)