



National Council of Women NSW Inc.

1896 — 2015

*Celebrating 119 years of women's achievements and
contributions to society*

***NCW NSW
RECOGNITION AWARDS
2015***

Profiles of Awardees

Awards presented by

Mrs Linda Hurley

Patron of NCW NSW

at the

Foundation Day Luncheon

with

Guest Speaker: Virginia Howard

Chair, Taldumande Youth Services Inc.

Cello's Restaurant, The Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, Sydney

August 6, 2015

FOREWORD

At this year's Foundation Day Luncheon, we celebrate 119 years of promoting the advancement of women. It was on June 26, 1896, that Margaret Windeyer called a meeting at Sydney Town Hall to discuss forming a National Council of Women in New South Wales (NCW NSW). As a result, the first General Meeting of NCW NSW was held on August 26, 1896, with Viscountess Hampden, wife of the Governor, accepting the position of President. She served in that position until 1899.

Eleven societies affiliated with NCW NSW in the first year, some with names unusual for today, eg. *Working and Factory Girls' Club*; *Ministering Children's Fresh Air League*.. Another, *Sydney University Women's Association*, may not be very different from the organisation affiliated with us today — Australian Federation of Graduate Women.

The work of the first Council was in advocacy for equal pay for equal work, the inclusion of 'domestic arts' in the school curriculum, and libraries and kindergartens for the young.

The five women we honour today with Recognition Awards share the common goal of working to advance the status of women and children. They display the diversity of their dedication to that goal and provide an example of the many different ways a goal can be reached. Each of them exhibits the strong characteristics of our founding leaders and I have great pleasure in introducing them to you today.

The Council congratulates them and thanks their nominators for bringing them before us for well-deserved recognition of their contributions.

Nola Barkl

President

MARLENE ARDITTO

Marlene's volunteer life commenced in infants' school in 1945 when she became a Red Cross Koala knitting squares and collecting pennies for the war effort. Later, she joined Junior Red Cross and enjoyed the skills she gained as a Brownie and a Girl Guide.

After leaving school, Marlene continued her association with Red Cross. She joined Jamison Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) in 1957, became Assistant Commandant in 1961, and transferred to the "Reserves" in mid-1970. Her duties as a VA were varied and exacting and included hospital and Blood Bank work, visits to ex-service patients in Callan Park, escort duties, publicity and fund-raising, and assisting in times of crisis, such as bushfire emergencies and with Cyclone Tracy evacuees. Frequently she manned phones during local and overseas disasters. When the VAD ceased operation, Marlene transferred to the VAD Club Branch. She has been President since 2011.

In 1990, Marlene joined BPW Ryde Hunters Hill Club. At various times, she served as President, Vice-President (Legislation, Workforce Participation and Membership) or Treasurer until the Club was disbanded in November 2006. Her main field of interest was "equal pay for equal work" for which she was awarded a Centenary of Federation Medal in 2001. As Club President, she organised seminars or public forums on "Pay Equity", "Women and the Environment", "Proposed changes to Adoption Laws" and "Enterprise Bargaining", and a luncheon and 50-year Time Capsule to celebrate the centenary of votes for women in NSW in 2002.

She represented BPW on the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board's Women's Consultation for four and a half years, was a delegate at the Women's Constitutional Convention in Canberra 2002, and represented BPW at meetings of the National Pay Equity Coalition and Women into Politics. Marlene assisted the BPW Co-Convenor of Jean Arnot Lunches from 1993 to 2004 – was BPW Co-Convenor from 2005 to 2012 – Treasurer from 1998 to 2012 and in 2015.

Marlene continues long associations with the Jessie Street National Women's Library, the National Trust Vienna Cottage Management Committee, the Jane Austen Society of Australia and the Needlework Tool Collectors Society of Australia.

Marlene's career was in Office Administration. In 1978, she commenced tertiary studies by distance education through Mitchell College, Bathurst and graduated with distinguished record in 1984, winning the College Prize for sociology/anthropology. Field work with women in north Indian villages was undertaken and her thesis culminated in the award of an MA from Sydney University.

*Nominated by
Sari Patricia Browne OAM JP*

BARBARA BULLEN

Barbara Bullen has been the Presbyterian Women's Association State President from 2012 to 2015 and has been a PWA member for nearly 50 years. During that time, she has acted as Branch President, Secretary and Treasurer and has held positions on State Council as Elective Member and City Vice President. Barbara is a Deputy Convener of our PWA Home Mission and Church Extension Committee and assists with the Market Committee, Dorcas Committee, and PWMU committee as a Prayer partner.

In her home church, where her husband Derek is the Parish Minister. Barbara is active as Pastoral Care visitor. Being a PWA member, Barbara is involved with the Dorcas Committee and is one of the women who makes sandwiches which are taken to Sydney parks and distributed to the homeless, with other comforts such as warm socks and beanies. Barbara also works with the Presbyterian Inland Mission that sends Padres to the outback to minister and care for those who at times have it tough.

Additional voluntary work for the church includes organizing functions and giving time as church secretary and assistance in Sunday School and the provision of school Scripture classes. This has led to her further work for youth groups. Barbara also gives her services to aid the Allowah Presbyterian Children's Hospital for intellectually disabled children by organizing Jazz evenings to raise money.

Prior to being involved in full time ministry with her husband, Barbara showed her desire to serve others as a member of Red Cross. Over a 20 year period, she taught First Aid Courses, as well as courses in Child Care and Babysitting through Red Cross at Newcastle and Hunter Valley High Schools, TAFEs and Newcastle University. Barbara travelled extensively teaching and examining First Aid and was actively involved in running Junior Red Cross Clubs in many primary schools. Continuously over this period, she also volunteered in the Red Cross door knock conducted in the Hunter Valley, Dungog and Wagga Wagga districts.

Now residing in Manly, Barbara does voluntary work as a volunteer Pastoral Care Co-ordinator for Manly Hospital, organising training, arranging speakers, and looking after the Pastoral Care Volunteers to prepare their rosters and to give them support. She is also a member of the Pastoral Care Board at Manly Hospital.

Barbara does enjoy scrapbooking and card making in her spare time and enjoys her garden that she created at The Manse in Manly.

*Nominated by Sylvia Johnson, Secretary
The Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia in NSW*

SUSAN FREESTONE

After completing a secretarial course at Liverpool Technical College (TAFE), Susan's career began as a Receptionist/Secretary to the Assistant Directors of the Geological Survey Branch of the Department of Mines. After working for four years on the Personal Staff of the Minister for Mines, Susan left Sydney and returned to work as secretary to the Town Clerk and Mayor of Camden Council. When her daughter, Amanda, commenced school, Susan utilised her secretarial background to assist at St Paul's Catholic Primary School, Camden, volunteering to train parents in computers and worked with students on basic Information Technology. There followed many years as the School Secretary, until leaving to complete a Bachelor of Arts (Computing) at the University of Western Sydney. Susan still works part-time in Catholic Education for the Diocese of Wollongong.

As a Parishioner of St Aloysius Parish, The Oaks, all her life, Susan is involved in the Reading Ministry, regular church cleaning and support of her Parish Priest. In this Sesquicentenary year of the Parish, Susan will lead members of The Oaks Branch in preparing a major exhibition of memorabilia for the celebrations. Susan has been married to Terry for 33 years and they live at Orangeville on part of the original family property where Susan's parents were orchardists, her great grandfather being a pioneer of the district.

For over 25 years, Susan has been a member of The Oaks Branch of Catholic Women's League (CWL) following in the footsteps of her mother at The Oaks, and aunts at other Branches, all being foundation members of their respective Branches. Susan was involved as a leader in a 'Train the Trainer' program for Members of CWL in New South Wales and has progressed to be President of CWL in the Diocese of Wollongong since January 2012, membership growing during her tenure with the inclusion of the Branches of the Archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn. Susan has also been Vice-President, CWLA New South Wales since January 2014, her role involving her in the organisation of the State Conference at Coffs Harbour in 2014 and currently on the co-ordinating committee for the Biennial Conference of CWLA.

Susan was a member of Quota International of Camden Inc for 30 years, including two terms as President and holding most positions on the Board of the Club, some on several occasions and Secretary/Treasurer of her District organisation. Her volunteer work during this time included assisting with the organisation of the Camden Antique Fair for 25 years, raising over \$250,000 primarily for local charities. Susan has also been a volunteer with the Camden Library Service of Camden Council for 11 years, once a month carrying out the Library Home Delivery Service to the elderly and sick.

***Nominated by
Margaret McEntee OAM
for Catholic Women's League Australia-NSW Inc.***

VICTORIA NADEL

Victoria has taken a guiding role in National Council of Jewish Women of Australia NSW Division since her time as Vice-President in 2008, receiving its Fanny Reading Certificate of Honour in 2009 and the Susan Cohen Community Services Award in 2010. Her service has increased since becoming President in 2011 from which time, and until 2014, she was also on the Board of Governors of the Jewish Communal Appeal and the Jewish Communal Appeal Women's Division; was representative on United Israel Appeal Women's Division; and on the Board of Wolper Jewish Hospital.

During her time as President, which ended in 2015, Victoria was on the Board of the *MUM FOR MUM NCJWA* program. This program is a supervised service of trained volunteers who support vulnerable mothers from over 50 nationalities. The volunteer visits the mother in the first year of her baby's life on a weekly basis, addressing isolation, anxiety and depression. Referrals include the Royal Hospital for Women, Karitane and Early Childhood Clinics. In 2013 the program won the *Woollahra Community Award* which recognises outstanding contribution to community as well as the 2014 *Well Being Award* from the Sydney Branch of Australian Psychological Association.

Under Victoria's presidency, NCJWA NSW conducted many successful projects, which included:-

- ❖ Raising almost \$40,000 for Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA) through Jewish Women's Breast Cancer Network (JWBCN) which has evolved to raise awareness, funds and support for gynaecological cancers as well as other cancers. Victoria has helped to organise many fundraising events for JWBCN, including the annual Pink Sunday major fundraiser, and several information and discussion events on healthy living.
- ❖ Reinvigorating its Status of Women program in 2011 with a number of successful events: showing the film *Too Sexy Too Soon* (Melinda Tankard Reist, 2013) alerting mothers and daughters about the bombardment of hypersexualised messages by the media to young women and how to deal with this onslaught; showing the award winning documentary *Brave Miss World (2013)* about Miss Israel, rape victim and activist, to over 200 people. This event was co-hosted with the Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia with Executive Director, Karen Willis OAM, addressing the audience.
- ❖ Supporting The Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia) which is dedicated to improving conditions for women who give birth at home in developing countries. In 2014, 1,000 kits were purchased for \$3 each and packed with items to reduce infection, consequently improving the mortality rate for mothers and children.

***Nominated by Miri Orden
National Council of Jewish Women of Australia NSW Division***

ANNE SHEEHAN MBBS

Dr Anne Sheehan graduated from Sydney University and has worked as principal in a General Practice in Wahroonga for 25 years, during which time she has shown a special interest in women's health and counselling, and, for many years, has taught and mentored medical students from Sydney University.

As well as being a member of the Australian Medical Association, Anne has been a member of Soroptimist International (S.I.) of Hornsby since 1998, taking on the role of President from 2003 to 2005 and President of S.I. Region of NSW from 2011 to 2014. From 2014, Anne has been the National Representative of S.I. Australia, a position she will hold until 2016.

Anne has been an active member of the Hornsby Homelessness Task Force since it was established in 2008 in response to a series of crises in Hornsby Park involving homeless people. The Task Force is a coalition of service organisations, NGOs, churches, State and local government representatives working together to share information and advocate on behalf of homeless people in the area. From 2013 to 2015, the Hornsby Homelessness Task Force has been involved in the project to establish the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter in Hornsby. It also facilitates regular lunches or morning teas for local homeless people to put them in touch with Housing NSW, resulting in housing for numerous chronically homeless people.

In her role as S.I. Australia National Representative, Anne represents the view of Australian Soroptimists to the Soroptimist Federation Board, and is involved in advocacy to decision makers in Australia on issues affecting women and children. Recent topics have involved children in immigration detention, including a postcard campaign to call upon the Federal Government, as signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, to release into the Australian Community all children held in immigration detention without delay, and a submission on the recent Metadata Retention Bill and its effects on women in situations of family violence.

Her other interests are her family and friends, music, theatre, Bridge and quilting.

*Nominated by Lesley Lawson, President
Soroptimist International Region of NSW*

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN NEW SOUTH WALES

Established in June, 1896, the objects of the Council are to bring together, by means of association, voluntary bodies, societies or associations of women and of women and men:

- To promote sympathy of thought and purpose among women of New South Wales
- To uphold the social, civil and moral values and religious freedom of the community
- To promote the interests and advancement of women and to secure their recognition in the community
- To promote such conditions of life as will assure to every family and child an opportunity for full and free development, and to uphold the family as the basic unit of society
- To form a link with National Councils of Women in other countries through the National Council of Women of Australia Inc. and the International Council of Women.

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR A RECOGNITION AWARD

- The nominee should be a person who has worked to advance the status of women and **who has not previously received official recognition.**
- The work of the nominee would most likely be marked by dedication and/or persistence.
- The nominee does not herself have to be a member of NCW but her nominator must be a member of an Affiliated Organisation or an Individual Member of NCW.
- Details in a written statement should explain:
 - How the nominee's efforts have advanced the status of women
 - What achievements were gained
 - Methods and/or activities used in the process of obtaining results

Assessment of entries is made entirely on the supporting statement accompanying the nomination.