



*National Council of Women of NSW*

*1896 — 2017*

*Celebrating 121 years of women's achievements and  
contributions to society*

***NCW NSW  
RECOGNITION AWARDS  
2017***

***Profiles of Awardees***

*Awards presented by  
**Kim Boettcher***

*Solicitor with Seniors Rights Service  
And Deputy Chair, Sri Lankan Evidence Project  
International Commission of Jurists Australia*

*at the  
Foundation Day Luncheon*

*Cello's Restaurant, The Castlereagh Boutique Hotel  
169 Castlereagh Street, Sydney  
9 August 2017*

## FOREWORD

At this year's Foundation Day Luncheon, we celebrate 121 years of promoting the advancement of women. It was on 26 June 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 26 August 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 four 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 we 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.

*Cassandra Allan and Sally Fennell*

Vice-Presidents

Standing in for President Tricia Graham



## NADENE ALHADEFF

Using her professional skills as a graduate of Social Science, majoring in psychology with a postgraduate diploma in counselling from the Australian College of Applied Psychology, Nadene has volunteered for many years with Lifeline and helped with the training of volunteers at the Harbour to Hawksbury Branch. She has run numerous workshops on parenting, early childhood education., leadership, mindfulness, conflict resolution and communication skills. Nadene has also provided pastoral care/coaching for indigenous students at UNSW who were residing at Shalom College through the Shalom Gamarada Program.

Nadene has reached out to other areas of need in the following way:

Domestic Violence –

- Organised for a number of trainings of volunteers to attend Domestic Violence Training, including organising a group to attend a workshop by Karen Willis CEO of Rape and Domestic Violence Services in Balmain.
- Organised a team to walk and fundraise for the Full Stop Foundation in 2016 and raised over \$8,000.

Awareness Raising of Women's Issues –

- Screenings of films relating to women's social issues attracting an attendance of over 1000 people. Films included were: *Brave Miss World* dealing with Rape; *I am a Girl* dealing with women's challenges around the world; *Too Sexy Too Soon* dealing with Body Image; *Baulkham Hills Ladies Troupe* dealing with overcoming Trauma and Rape.

IVF Support Mentoring Group –

- Helping to set up an IVF support program for those going through IVF and supported by those who have been through IVF. Began the first training of eight volunteers.

Birthing Kits –

- Introduced the Birthing Kits concept to National Council of Jewish Women of Australia-NSW and helped organise the fundraising and packing of 5000 Birthing Kits over the last five years.

Girls Day Out –

- Beginning to set up with Maxine Bachmayer at NCJWA sewing groups to make menstruation kits for women around the world. This will begin next year.

Mum For Mum NCJWA

- Running the MUM FOR MUM NCJWA program for the past five years. This entails training, matching and supervising volunteers to provide emotional support to mothers by visiting them once a week for the first year of the baby's life. The program has been expanded from 14 to 70 volunteers, supporting over 400 mothers from 60 nationalities. The outcomes of the program are evaluated through exit interviews with every mother after receiving the program and they are published annually.
- This year Nadene expanded the program to the North Shore, recruiting and supervising a coordinator and setting up the first volunteers and referral contacts. It is already an enormous success with a waiting list of both volunteers and recipient mothers, with over 20 mothers already matched with volunteers.

*Nominated by  
Maxine Bachmayer, Director  
National Council of Jewish Women of Australia—NSW*

## **MARGARET BLOMFIELD**

Since 2000, Margaret has been a member of the Catholic Women's League Archdiocese of Sydney, an organization of women concerned with the promotion and protection of a woman's role in modern society, including the protection of the rights, welfare, education and wellbeing of women generally.

Margaret was one of the founding members of the Denistone Branch of CWL where she has held various executive positions, currently being Vice President. In 2004, she was invited to become a Council member of CWL Sydney Archdiocese. Continuously since then Margaret has served on the Board of Management having held various executive positions, more recently five years as Secretary and currently as Vice President.

In her role on the Board of Management, Margaret initiated and coordinated through the CWL branches a project to encourage teenage girls in Kenya to attend school. These girls often did not attend school following menstruation because they had no sanitary protection. Margaret arranged for CWL branch members to make towelling sanitary pouches and pads for these girls and obtained donations of appropriate underwear. The provision of these products has enabled the girls to attend school without embarrassment.

Since 2007, Margaret has also been a member of the Board of Management of Marian Court, a retirement village complex owned and operated by CWL Sydney Archdiocese.

With a family of four sons and seven grandchildren, Margaret has given time to school committees and tuck-shop activities. After her school involvement ceased, Margaret initiated weekly visits by a group of ladies to a local Nursing Home to provide companionship for the mainly female patients/residents and these visitations continued for a number of years.

In the early 1980s, Margaret and her husband were foundation members of the Juvenile Diabetics Foundation and remained involved with the Foundation. Margaret also was a constant monthly volunteer at Matthew Talbot Hostel.

Margaret's secondary school education was in boarding school in Bathurst. Since leaving school she has maintained her connection with her school friends through her involvement with the Ex-students Association. She continues to give emotional support to her old school friends.

*Nominated by  
Helen Cook, President  
Catholic Women's League Archdiocese of Sydney*

## **ROSALIND BRENNAN**

Ros is an Economics graduate and holds a Diploma in Education from UNSW. She taught Social Sciences at Fairvale High School for two years until 1978 when she completed a Reorientation Course for Infants and Primary Teaching. This is the year she began her family of four boys and began her involvement in service to their schools.

From 1979-1988, Ros was Assistant Coordinator of Petersham New Mums Play-group and was Secretary of Taverners Hill Infants School P&C. Her voluntary work at Ashbury Public School Canteen and Uniform Shop followed, together with her work for the Reading Recovery Program.

For seven years, Ros was Assistant Coordinator at The Great Synagogue Sunday School Breakfast Club and a volunteer with The Great Synagogue Women's Auxiliary by assisting with the preparation of the morning tea for every Sabbath and Festival. Scouting also found Ros serving as Secretary of the 1<sup>st</sup> Dulwich Hill Scout Group Parent Committee.

With her boys in secondary school at Concord HS, Ros volunteered in the Canteen and established an entire new school uniform and managed the P&C Uniform Shop for four years until 2000 when she returned to her profession in teaching from which she retired in 2015.

Whilst teaching full time, Ros reached out further to assist in many ways –

- ❖ Established a Knitting Club where students volunteered to knit jumpers for AIDS babies in developing countries, as well as knitting squares for blankets for Wrap With Love
- ❖ Coordinated Operation Christmas Box with 130 Year 7 students for two years
- ❖ Took the role of Student Representative Council Coordinator for eight years
- ❖ For 15 years was Student Volunteer Program Coordinator for students in Years 7-10, encouraging them to volunteer their services in their own time, after school and during holidays
- ❖ Undertook Student Fundraising Coordinator for organisations including Sydney Legacy, Cancer Council, Red Nose Day, World Vision 40 Hour Famine and Sponsor a Child, Loaves and Fishes Kitchen, Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea, RSPCA Cupcake Day, Harmony Day...and many more.

Since her retirement in September 2015, Ros has been more involved in The Great Synagogue Women's Auxiliary and was elected as its President in May 2016. She regularly volunteers as an Assistant Tour Guide for its many Open Days.

In 2016, Ros became a Legatee with Western Suburbs Legacy to support war widows and she also undertook the role of Fundraising Coordinator for Legacy Badge Week.

Ros still finds time to knit Trauma Teddies to donate to sick children at Westmead Children's Hospital.

***Nominated by Sari Browne OAM JP, member  
The Great Synagogue Women's Auxiliary***

## **BARBARA CLARK**

Barbara had the benefit of growing up in a family with devout parents. Living in Como, she went to the local school, completing secondary education at Jannali Girls' High. Her parents established the Como Presbyterian Church where Services were initially held in the School of Arts until their church building was completed.

In 1958, Barbara was the first scholar to take her place in its Sunday School and followed on with Young Worshipers League, Pathfinders, Presbyterian Fellowship Association (PFA), and Ladies' Physical Culture Club. She was the PFA leader for a few years and was a constant helper with Church activities, events and fetes.

She used her musical gifts by playing the organ for Evening Worship and singing in choirs, for example with the Sutherland Shire Combined Churches Choral Group for a performance of 'The Messiah' and, more recently, in the Sydney Town Hall.

Barbara's first employment was as an Assistant Nurse at the Pitt Wood Nursing Homes. She commenced her General Nursing at Sutherland Hospital, graduating as a Registered Nurse in 1969. After years of involvement with her children's schools when she gave service as a parent helper with children who had reading and literacy problems, Barbara completed a Nurses' Refresher Course and worked as a Registered Nurse in Ambulatory Care at Liverpool Hospital for sixteen years. She graduated with her Master of Nursing Degree in 2007 and retired in 2014.

During those years, Barbara was an exemplary team member and shared her knowledge of new techniques and treatments with her colleagues.

Despite her busy nursing life, Barbara has given time to the needs of women and children through her work with Liverpool Presbyterian Church since 1975, where she joined the Sunday School Auxiliary, and later the Presbyterian Women's Association in 1983. She became President of the Evening Branch for two years and was the Day Branch Secretary from 1987 to 1995 when she became Branch President, in addition to Secretary and Treasurer roles at times. Her service has included being the Representative of Hawkesbury South Presbytery Group and also of Sydney South Presbytery Group and supporting all Standing and Special Committees of the PWA where she currently holds the position of State President.

In this role, amongst many other duties, Barbara attends sixteen Presbytery Group Rallies annually as well as Bible Study and Craft Camps and 'Teach and Train' Women Seminars. Through this outreach, Barbara encourages women in their service to others. The PWA is grateful for Barbara's commitment and dedication in the various roles which she does willingly and always to the best of her ability. Barbara's enjoyment and talents extend to craft work and she belongs to The Abbey Girls of Australia, working in a tiny Craft Shop once a month. However, her great love is her children and grandchildren, often baby sitting and delighting in their company and in their achievements.

*Nominated by Anne Ball, representing  
Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia in NSW*

**SELECTION CRITERIA  
FOR A RECOGNITION AWARD  
PRESENTED ON FOUNDATION DAY**

- 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 National Council of Women of NSW but her nominator must be a member of an Affiliated Organisation or an Individual Member of NCW NSW.
- 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.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN  
OF 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.









