

**The National Council of Women NSW  
and  
BPW Australia**  
Thank You for attending today's Luncheon  
to honour these wonderful women.



**The National Council of Women NSW  
and  
Australian Federation of Business and  
Professional Women**

## **24th Annual Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon**

**Honouring ladies in their 90<sup>th</sup> year and older  
For service to their community**

**Friday 6 May 2016  
The Strangers' Dining Room  
Parliament House, Sydney**



**Miss Jean Fleming Arnot, MBE FLAA  
(1903-1995)**

## **BUPA AGED CARE AUSTRALIA**

Bupa Aged Care is Australia's largest private provider of residential aged care, with 70 homes caring for over 7,500 residents. Here at Bupa, we offer the full range of care, including respite and specialised dementia care, so you can be confident that we will continue to help care for you if and when your needs change.

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The addition of a GP in some of our care homes and our expertise in dementia care are just some of the ways we commit to person-first care, which means we put the individual first and their condition or illness second.

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**Contact your local Bupa care home**

- Chair, Public Relations Committee, Wolper Jewish Hospital, 1992
- Vice-President, International Council of Jewish Women, 1999-2003.
- Honorary Treasurer, International Convention of the International Council of Jewish Women, 2002
- Volunteer at the Sir Moses Montefiore Home for the aged boutique for 19 years (still current)
- NCJWA National Honorary Life Vice President

Zara was awarded an OAM in 2006 in recognition of her lifetime commitment of service to the Jewish and wider community and, in particular, National Council of Jewish Women Australia. Zara's energy, intelligence and unfailing good humour make her an outstanding individual who has contributed much to Australian society.



### **Bupa Aged Care Services**

Has generously provided financial support for the 24th Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon

This booklet contains the stories of those ladies in their 90<sup>th</sup> year and older who received Certificates of Appreciation

at a ceremony held in conjunction with the

## **24th Annual Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon**

on 6 May 2016 in the

Strangers Lounge, Parliament House  
Sydney, NSW

These histories outline the efforts these ladies have made over many years to improve the conditions for women and children in their communities

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### *Pan Pacific South East Asia Women's Association NSW Group*

Representative for Individual Members	1994-1996
National U.N. Representative Secretary	
PPSEAWA-NSW Group	22.08.01-26.03.03
President	24.03.04-18.04.07
Secretary	2007-2013
Created a Life Member	2014

### **Zara Young OAM**

Zara Young OAM was born in 1926 and has been a member of National Council of Jewish Women of Australia since she was fifteen, having held the NSW Presidency twice: from 1976-1979 and again from 1988-1989. She also served as NSW Vice President from 1970-1976 and 1989-1995, as well as holding numerous positions on the National Board. Zara has represented Council on the Jewish Communal Appeal (JCA) Women's Committee and the Board of the Wolper Hospital. For many years Zara was chair of NCJWA Wolper Committee. In addition, she was chair of the NCJWA NSW Thrift Shop in Crown Street. Zara is currently trustee and chair of the NCJWA NSW Charity Trust.

In addition to her leadership roles at NCJWA, Zara has held the following positions:

- Volunteer and fundraiser for many charities (e.g. Meals on Wheels, Smith Family, Salvation Army)
- On the Board of Governors of JCA 1969-1976 and 1988-1989 and has been a key worker for the JCA for over 30 years.
- Past delegate on Jewish Board of Deputies, member of Public Relations Committee and founding member of Women in Action sub-committee
- Past Member, NSW Division, United Nations Association Executive, Australia

## Marjorie Wood OAM

Marjorie has provided wonderful service to the community and these are listed below:

### *Girl Guides Association*

Assis. Leader	Kogarah Guide Co.	1942-1943
Tawny Owl (Assis. Leader)	Bexley Brownies	1943-1944
Brown Owl Leader	Kingsgrove Brownies	1945-1961
Brown Owl Leader	1st Bexley Brownies	1947-1960
Tawny Owl Assis. Leader	1st Bexley Brownies	1961-1964
Brown Owl Leader	1st Pyrmont Brownies	1965-1970
Brown Owl Leader	1st Bexley Brownies	1970-1973
Commissioner	Bexley District	1973-1976
Lieutenant Assis. Leader	Sydney Cadets	1956
Brownie Adviser N.S.W	N.S.W. State	1956-1962

Secretary National Admin. 1976-1985

Secretary National Council 1990-1993

President Bexley Trefoil Guild 16/09/1997-  
10/03/2001

Assis. Secretary Bexley Trefoil Guild 20/03/2001-2015

National Joint Committee Secretary

Aust. Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides 1990-1993

Long Service 30 YEARS Leader 1972

### *Service*

Good Service Certificate, Merit Medal 1962

Red Kangaroo 1975

Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal 1977

O A M Award 1998

### *Qualifications*

Gained 7 Warrants

Pack Holiday Permit 1957

Training Certificate 1956

Training Diploma 1959-1973



**Jean Arnot (right), 1964**

National Archives of Australia, A1501, A5216/1

## **Miss Jean Fleming Arnot, MBE, FLAA (1903-1995)**

Jean was educated at Fort Street Girls High School and hoped to attend University and study science. This could not be realised due to her need to assist financially in her home. She started as an apprentice librarian at the State Library in 1921. Through application, study and hard work she progressed to become acting Mitchell Librarian and head cataloguer at her retirement in 1968.

As the family bread-winner Jean became aware of the disparity between male and female rates of pay. This led her to undertake the campaign for equal pay for equal work from the early 1930s.

For 42 years, Jean Arnot earned less than male employees – even subordinates. Sadly, it was only in the last five years of her employment that she benefited from her efforts to achieve equal pay for equal work in the Public Service.

Jean took an active role in many women's organisations, her trade union and professional association. She was President of the Sydney Business and Professional Women's Association and National President of the Australia Federation of Business and Professional Women.

She was also very active in the National Council of Women, NSW. She was President and Vice President for over nine years, during which time she wrote the history of NCW NSW. Jean was elected Honorary Life Vice President of the NCW.

Jean was Honorary Life Vice President of the Pan Pacific and South East Asian Women's Association and a member of the Board of Directors of The Women's Club.

Jean was awarded the MBE in 1965.

of Australia and on some of these trips, mainly to the Northern Territory, June had the opportunity of accompanying her husband for about six months each winter season, as camp cook.

The first of these trips was to Tennant Creek in 1950, setting out from Canberra in old army vehicles via Broken Hill (to see a *real* mine) and on to Adelaide to pick up stores, providing their own food for the six months away. The vehicles were loaded onto The Ghan north of Adelaide for Alice Springs and then continued by road to Tennant Creek. The old Mines Office house was camp that year but later trips to the Pine Creek, Katherine area were under canvas and not in any township. It was a great way to see outback Australia and meet its people. However, six months in the field and six months in Canberra was not ideal with two young children (born 1952 and 1954). So June became a stay-at-home mum in the late 50s, with Bruce away for half the year.

In 1964 the family moved to Sydney and, as their daughters finished school, June returned to study herself, graduating in Social Welfare to work with the Cystic Fibrosis Association where she set up the Family Support Programme, one of the first of its kind in Australia. June became involved with volunteering during Canberra days, transporting the disabled. In Sydney she was a volunteer guide at the Sydney Opera Centre and is a long time supporter of both the Sydney Opera Company and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

After opening their house to Servicemen on R&R from the Vietnam War, June was also involved in the AFS Scholarship Programme. With her husband in Legacy, June joined the Women's Auxiliary of Sydney Legacy and still finds this involvement satisfying.

June has travelled extensively, both locally and overseas, and in this her 90th year, she has the happy opportunity to visit Darwin and return to Adelaide on The Ghan reminding her of the big adventures of the 50s.

As the newly-qualified Jill developed a taste for travel, she joined a practice in Hobart from where, riding pillion on her flatmate's motorcycle, they explored Tasmania (no helmets required!). Later, a liner took them to England where Jill worked for the Dr Scholl chain and was based in Bristol – her scientist companion suffered the indignity of receiving a miserable percentage of the wage earned by male colleagues.

Initially, Don Tait, a podiatrist working in a cubicle next to Jill's, was fascinated that she was an Aussie – later an engagement resulted! The pair returned to Australia for a Brisbane wedding and later had two daughters. Apart from time off when their girls were young, Don and Jill often worked together, eventually purchasing a podiatry practice in Ashfield. Following Don's sudden death, Jill carried on at the practice, and retired aged 60.

In the mid-1970s Jill joined BPW Ryde, a group active in lobbying the powers that be on issues relating to pay equity; the establishment of women's refuges; adoption law reform; and workplace discrimination, particularly during pregnancy.

After retiring, Jill enjoyed travelling, grand-parenting and voluntary work with groups including Meals on Wheels, The Benevolent Society and Riding for the Disabled.

## **June Walpole**

Born in Gosford, NSW on 13 January 1926, June was Captain of the Girls School at Gosford High School before gaining her Leaving Certificate. She worked at Brisbane Water District Ambulance until 1949 when she married Bruce Walpole, a Rat of Tobruk, after he graduated in Geology from Sydney University as an early participant of the CRTS scheme. Married life began in Canberra with the Bureau of Mineral Resources.

Teams of geologists worked on mapping the geology of the top part

## **History of the Jean Arnot Luncheon**

In 1993, the National Council of Women of NSW (NCW NSW) and the Federation of Business and Professional Women of Australia (BPW Australia), and supported by the State Library, joined together to plan the celebration for Jean's 90th birthday. Because of the great success on that occasion and at Jean's suggestion the Committee decided to continue with a Jean Arnot Annual Luncheon which remembered Jean's contribution to the struggle for equal pay.

The Lunches were initiated by Val Buswell OAM (BPW Australia) and Joan Elliston AM (NCW-NSW). Following Miss Arnot's death, the luncheons continue to honour all women in their nineties who have worked for women and their communities. Val and Joan were co-convenors until Val's passing in 2005 and Joan continued this tradition with great distinction, assisted by Marlene Arditto and others until 2012.

The organisation of the 24th Luncheon is by fantastic volunteers from NCW NSW, BPW Australia and with State Library support provided by Richard Neville (Mitchell Librarian).



## **Dorothy Stewart Artis**

Dorothy Stewart Artis (nee Smith) was born on the 27th April 1925 to land owning parents in the Upper Murray, whose first son Gordon was born three years earlier. For educational reasons the parents sold their property and bought another outside Albury. This meant the children had a three mile ride on ponies to primary school and later by cycles seven miles to secondary school. Later Dorothy rode pillion behind Gordon on the motor bike to country dances in all her finery.

At age 18 Dorothy decided to train as a nurse at Albury Base Hospital. Brother Gordon joined the Army and was sent to New Guinea. At Nursing Graduation ceremonies young army officers from Bonegilla army camp were detailed to escort the nurses. William Robert Artis was one of these young men who had returned after five years service in the Middle East. Later he was posted north for one year. On his return Dorothy & Bill married on 7th September 1946 and bought a house in Turrumurra. Two daughters were born there.

When the girls were at school Dorothy joined the Auxiliary of John Williams Hospital where children with long term illnesses were sent from Camperdown Hospital.

After 12 years the house was sold and land bought in Warrangi Street, Turrumurra. The next plan was Bill volunteering to join the United Nations as military observer in India and Pakistan. He left in April 1958. Dorothy and the girls followed in May when Carolyn was 10 and Judith eight, travelling via the old P&O Strathaird with some worldly goods and paying the full fare. The next two years were a wonderful experience for all. The United Nations became a large part of their lives for the next 10 years.

On return, a new house was built on the land in Turrumurra. In 1975 a Care Centre at St Margaret's Uniting Church in Turrumurra began.

Joan's time in Sydney has been taken up with voluntary and charity work. Joan organised various fund raising ventures at "Eryldene" Camellia Garden at Gordon. Including an Annual Card Day and PNG lunches. She is a Life Member of the "Eryldene Trust". In 1975 following Independence of New Guinea, the Prime Minister of New Guinea presented Joan with a "Certificate for her Service to New Guinea".

A great deal of Joan's time is currently spent at Lindfield Bridge Club where she has been a volunteer worker. She has catered for many functions, an Annual Christmas dinner and countless weekend functions following Bridge Days. Joan helped raise money to launch the Lindfield Bridge Club Library. She is also a Life Member of Lindfield Bridge Club. Joan continues to play Bridge several times a week.

During the Second World War, Joan's husband Monty served with the AIF in the Middle East, PNG and Milne Bay. Joan joined the Sydney Legacy Women's Auxiliary in 1996 and is still an active Member. She assists with Legacy lunches, Card Days and Legacy Badge day.

## **Jill Tait**

Jill was born in Inverell in 1926. Her primary schooling was by correspondence with secondary studies completed at boarding school in Warwick, Qld. Her mother discouraged her from a nursing career ("too hard and poorly paid") and, as typing/shorthand did not appeal, her first employment was teaching English to 4<sup>th</sup> class boys at a prep school.

Deciding people everywhere had two feet which from time to time needed professional attention, Jill moved to Sydney and trained as a podiatrist. The career choice was a good one – not only did podiatry have pay equity, but casual and locum work were readily available in Australia and overseas.

## Joan Stobo

Joan's parents came from families who had lived "on the land" for several generations, her father from North Western NSW and her mother from Queensland. They met at a house party of mutual friends who owned a holiday home in the Blue Mountains. Her parents were married in August 1921. They lived on a Copra Plantation "Aruligo" on Guadalcanal in the British Solomon Islands.

Her twin sister Ann and Joan were born in Sydney on 22nd August 1925 and taken back to the Solomon's by ship when only a few weeks old. Ships travelled from Sydney to Guadalcanal every six weeks. There were no planes pre-war. Sadly, in 1929 her little brother Peter died from Cerebral Malaria. This tragedy together with the Great Depression was the reason her parents left the Islands to live in Australia. They bought a cattle and sheep property in the wilds of Queensland on the Condamine River. Here, as young children, they learnt the meaning of "work". In 1930 her young brother Colin was born. Boarding school in Toowoomba was the only choice for schooling. Joan attended Queensland University. She studied Medicine for a year before switching to Science. It was now wartime and Joan taught Chemistry and Physics part-time at a private school.

Joan married in 1948 and her daughter Jennifer was born in 1950. She then divorced and remarried in 1958 in Port Moresby. Her next home was in P.N.G where her husband, Monty Stobo, was the Chief Inspector for Burns Philp and Co. They first lived in Madang, then Lae and finally Rabaul. Monty and Joan travelled by ship to England and Europe for a delayed six months honeymoon. When they returned to Australia, Monty was asked by Burns Philp to return to Rabaul as manager of the company. Their son Peter was born in August 1960 and Richard in 1965 in Toowoomba where Joan's parents lived.

In 1968 Joan and Monty returned to Australia to live in Killara and daughter Sally was born in 1969. Whilst looking after her family

From its inception, Dorothy volunteered there for the next 38 years. In this time they added two grandsons, three granddaughters and eight great grandchildren.

Bill was a Legatee, (Inner Suburbs) and after his death in 2000 Dorothy joined the Women's Auxiliary and the "Blue Bells".

The friendships and support of these ladies over the last 15 years has been most appreciated.

## Tania Borec

Tania Borec was born in Bobroidy, near Lviv in Ukraine in 1925. Her early years focused on learning. The Second World War disrupted her education and her family ties. Her life was changed forever in June 1942, when she was taken by the Germans to work as forced labour on a farm in Lignitz, Germany. She left behind her parents, whom she never saw again, and a brother. A younger sister was born later.

Working in Germany, she came to understand hunger and deprivation. In late 1944, as the war was ending, she and many others trekked 100kms west to seek safety in the US occupied zones, to escape the Soviets. From Marienbad she was taken by the US administration to Bayreuth Displaced Persons (DP) Camp, where she stayed until 1949. In the camp Tania began to change from an apprehensive young woman to a confident one, sure of her role in life. With renewed hope she joined the Ukrainian Scouts and the Ukrainian Women's Association, matriculated and married Yuriy (George) Borec in 1948. In 1949 they migrated to Australia as Displaced Persons. On arrival in Sydney, she began a family, built a home and immersed herself in every facet of Australian Ukrainian community life.

She was involved in a lot of charity work for the disadvantaged Ukrainian diaspora in Poland and South America, and nurtured a strong relationship with “Wrap with Love”. She was also a founding member of the Ukrainian Youth Association in Sydney, where she worked in the development and education of children and youth.

Tania Borec has always passionately championed Ukrainian issues, promoting Ukraine’s distinct culture and heritage. She is a respected and valued senior member of the Australian Ukrainian community and a family matriarch, with children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Tania continues to keep in touch with her global network of women and maintains a journal. She is a modest woman but her deeds attest to a lifetime of service.

### **Helen Burgin OAM**

Helen was born in Wollstonecraft on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1926. She was educated at Wenona, North Sydney and Seaforth TAFE and obtained a Certificate in Business Management. Helen was a Councillor on Warringah Shire Council (1974-77) and was owner/proprietor of Inigo – a gift and toy shop.

Her marriage to Kenneth Burgin produced four sons. Following Ken’s death, Helen became a member of the War Widows Guild (NSW) where she served as a Welfare Officer for some time. Today, Helen’s strong commitment to family values revolves around the lives of her boys and their families.

Helen has always been committed to community work with a particular interest in issues relating to the welfare of women and children. Helen was founder/foundation member of Meals-on-Wheels (Warringah) and the Women’s Resource Centre (Manly Warringah), She has served as a member/office bearer on countless committees including that at her local Methodist Church, Legacy Rosemary Club, Bringa Women’s Refuge (Dee Why), Seaforth TAFE College, Elanora Community Centre and

### **Merle Phillipps**

Merle Phillipps was born on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1917 in Thornton Qld. In 1935 at 18 years of age, she commenced General Nursing Training at Brisbane General Hospital. During WWII, Sister White, or Whitey as she is still known to her nursing friends, enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1942 as a Lieutenant and was trained in blood and transfusion techniques. As the only female staff member she was sent to the north of Australia to work and live on an ambulance train, blood grouping all troops from Mt Isa to Brisbane. Her role also involved tutoring and lecturing in this field at major centres along the way. Post war she contributed to repatriation nursing at Heidelberg Hospital, Victoria.

After marriage, Merle raised a family and was a support person during her husband’s career in ASIO, both overseas and in Australia. She has been an active member of War Widows, Probus and bridge clubs and a world traveller.

### **Gladys Springfield OAM**

Gladys has been an active member of Quota International, Campbelltown since 1962 and has served as District Governor in 1972-1973.

As well as taking on many roles within Quota, currently being President of her club, she is also involved in her local Historical Society, Deafness Forum Australia and Probus.

Gladys participates in many local events, enjoys knitting for the needy and helping the disadvantaged people in her community. She still takes an elderly lady shopping on a regular basis!!

Gladys has three children, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren, all of whom are very proud of her achievements.

president in her rallying work.

Soon, Maria was transferred to Skyville migrants' camp where she was elected president of the local Ukrainian Women's Association. Under her 3-year leadership, several events were organised which included Christmas and Easter festivities and a concert celebrating the Ukrainian November uprising.

Maria and her husband eventually settled in Cabramatta. Here she became a founding member of the Natalia Kobrynska Branch of UWA NSW, the branch being founded by Stefania Berehulak. Maria was an active member of this branch for over 54 years while working full-time and raising three children. She held many positions including president for 10 years and later as deputy president, treasurer and secretary. All the members were very supportive of one another and the members grew in confidence and self-reliance. The branch celebrated everyone's birthday. Maria, riding on a push-bike, would deliver a bouquet of flowers to all. Maria was involved in organising lectures for the Ukrainian community on historical topics and preparing countless exhibitions of Ukrainian arts in venues such as schools, shopping malls, libraries, town halls and shop windows. The branch participated in an international exhibition and won first place.

Funds raised by the branch after 1991 were used as humanitarian aid to Ukraine. The branch members sent parcels with food and clothing to Ukrainian orphanages; they bought two wheelchairs; they funded the publishing of schoolbooks; supported a competition in Ukrainian language; and sent aid to victims of natural disasters. Many members including Maria Moskal taught in Ukrainian schools.

When the Natalia Kobrynska branch disbanded owing to its members becoming too frail and elderly, Maria Moskal transferred her membership to the Kharyttia Kononenko branch, which she continues to support to this day. Maria Moskal is an outstanding, iconic figure in the Ukrainian Women's Association for whom it has great respect and affection.

Library, Dalwood Children's Home and Elanora Heights and Narrabeen High Schools.

Helen is a passionate collector – thimbles, dolls, aprons and indeed “anything that takes her fancy”! As Helen thoroughly researches the origin and history of pieces in her collections, it is fascinating to hear her speak in detail about seemingly humble items.

Helen was a Foundation Member of the Needlework Tool Collector's Society of Australia (founded in Melbourne in 1987), and in 1993 she established the Sydney group of the Society. Helen remains an enthusiastic member of NTCSA, and is also a member of the Sydney Doll Collector's Club.

In recognition of her lifetime of community service, Helen was awarded an OAM in 2000.

## **Meryl Caldwell-Smith AM FACN**

Born in Melbourne in 1926, Meryl went straight into nursing after leaving school despite having gained university entrance.

During her nursing career, Meryl gained certificates in General Nursing, Midwifery and Infant Welfare in Victoria; Mental Retardation, Research and an Administration Diploma in NSW and Premature Baby Care in the UK. She was Matron Karitane Mothercraft Training Centre; Superintendent of Nursing at Grosvenor and Marsden Hospitals; Chair NSW Nurses Registration Board; Director, Division of Nursing, NSW Dept Health; Chief Nursing Officer, SES Nursing Reserve.

Meryl was a Florence Nightingale Scholar in 1962 and was awarded a Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship in 1971 to study aspects of mental retardation care and staff training. In 1985 she was awarded membership of the Order of Australia. She has been an active participant in many nursing organisations, holding office and later becoming a Life or Honorary Member.

At Meryl's suggestion in 1983 a working party was set up to ensure the professional interest and standards of nurses supporting people with intellectual disability. This led to the formation, in 1989, of the Professional Association of Nurses in Developmental Disability Australia.

In 1993, Meryl became a Fellow of the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses and became the College's first Life Member in 1988. Meryl was involved with the Board of Censors until 2011, assessing applications for Fellowship. She became the first Patron of the College, a position she held until 2007, when she asked to be relieved of the position.

Meryl has also been very active in Soroptimist International, being President of Woollahra and County of Cumberland Clubs; Senior Vice-President of the Divisional Union of NSW, Leader of the Australian Delegation attending the International Conference in London in 1960, President of the Council of Soroptimist Clubs in the South West Pacific 1971-1973, Archivist for SISWP 1992-2002. Meryl was awarded Honorary Life membership of the Federation of SISWP in 2012. In 2015 she became a consultant to the Soroptimist clubs in Africa helping to form an African Federation.

In her retirement, Meryl has remained an active member of Soroptimist International, travelling down to Goulburn by car, initially, and lately by train to attend the Goulburn club meetings. She has continued to attend meetings of the Region of NSW, and still attends the biennial Conference of Clubs, the last being held in Kuching, Malaysia 2014.

In her local area of Bowral, Meryl is involved with the National Trust, The Highland Singers, public officer and supporter of the Central Service Office of the Southern Highlands and the Rodmell Foundation. Meryl is also an Honorary Member of the Bowral Show Society and an active member and volunteer of the Southern Highlands Community Hospice Project formed in 2011.

was conscripted, became a prisoner of war and his whereabouts were unknown to the family for a long time.

Maria married at age 19 years. The couple fled Ukraine seeking freedom and peace. They traversed war-torn Europe finally reaching Germany where they joined the ranks of thousands of displaced people in a refugee camp. By this time they had been blessed by the birth of their first child. Unfortunately, most countries offering visas preferred single people or childless couples. Maria and her husband waited patiently. Australia was the first country prepared to accept young families.

On arrival in Australia, the couple were separated. Maria's husband was sent to fulfill a two-year government contract, while Maria and her son were sent to Cowra migrants' camp. Like most other women in the camp they did not know where their husbands were. The Ukrainian women decided to band together for security and support but they also missed their homeland. They wanted to ensure that their children would not forget their Ukrainian language, their history and traditions. A school had to be established to teach the children their heritage. Thus the Ukrainian Women's Association was born. The driving force of the organisation was Irena Pelenska, who co-opted Maria Moskal as secretary.

The Ukrainian women formed a school at which reading and writing were taught as well as dancing, singing and embroidery. Meetings were held and concerts were organised. Several were so impressive that they were attended by the CEO of the camp. In 1951 on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Federation, the Ukrainian dance group was invited to participate in the festivities in Canberra. Their lively dancing and colourful costumes enlivened the programs in many town halls across the state. Maria performed her duties diligently as secretary making contacts, responding to invitations, writing concert programs and accompanying and supporting the

In the early 1960s, Mary and husband Bob moved to NSW, building their home in St. Ives, then a very new suburb. Having two sons, they became deeply involved in all aspects of community life, amongst other things, helping to provide their primary school with the first school library in NSW. They were involved in building the Scout hall and supporting the local groups, as their boys grew up. Mary has always been a volunteer, always ready to help, always a kind word. She was on the committee for the American Field Scholarship, which gave teenagers a year with an American family. Also, the Americans came here and Mary was much sought after as the peacemaker and counsellor in settling in some of these visitors.

Mary has long been a volunteer with the St Ives Neighbourhood Aid, where she drove people to medical appointments and hospital visits until very recently. Each Christmas she would make 90 or so little cakes for all the “clients’ at the party.

As a ‘committed joiner’, Mary always fully supported all her chosen groups, being a reliable and active member. She was in two Probus Clubs, a garden club, two book groups, a croquet club, where she was on the social committee, the Ku-ring-gai Historical society, the Jane Austin Society, the Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women’s Association ,where she was a delegate at several overseas conferences and the Australian Federation of Graduate Women, being President and committee member of the local branch.

Mary enjoys theatre, films, ballet, travel and is always supporting her many friends and her caring family.

Mary is also a current Member of Girl Guides Association (NSW) Ku-ring-gai Trefoil Guild.

## **Maria Moskal**

Maria Moskal was born in Western Ukraine in December 1924. Her father owned a small business which enabled Maria and her brothers to attend school. She completed high school just as WWII was declared. Her father

## **Mary Cantrall**

Mary Cantrall was born on the 1st September 1926 and grew up in Lane Cove. Mary had sixty seven and a half happy years with her husband John, and has two children and three grandchildren. As a girl, her sense of charity was evident in the assistance she gave the nuns who taught her at school.

Over the years Mary was involved in school tuckshops, on the committee for Guides and Scouts, and participated in Neighbourhood Watch, delivering their newsletters each month.

Mary was a loyal member of Catholic Women’s League Randwick for 32 years. During that time she held the position of President three times, and also held the position of Treasurer. For many years Mary was instrumental in organising fundraising events including mini fetes, fashion parades, and day trips. Mary’s wonderful sense of caring for others was evident in her organising of trips to a Rooty Hill nursing home to entertain the residents, as well as hosting the local Randwick nursing home residents at Christmas Parties.

During Mary’s many years as a CWL Archdiocese of Sydney councillor, Mary’s exceptional organisational skills in setting up for meetings and gatherings were a great asset to the organisation. Mary was twice Vice President of CWL Sydney and assisted the Treasurer in her role. In 2009, Mary was awarded Life Membership of the Catholic Women’s League Australia for her dedication and continuing work in its role of supporting and encouraging women’s standing in society.

Mary’s devotion to Randwick Parish is evident in her involvement as a regular participant in parish life, St Vincent de Paul Society, CWL Randwick, and for a twelve month period, cooked a weekly dinner for the Priests. Mary was also a great supporter of World Day of Prayer. In 2008 Mary hosted two girls from the Philippines who were attending World Youth Day.

Mary’s love of baking was appreciated by those around her, as on

many occasions she provided delicious cakes and slices, particularly at CWL gatherings. Mary was also a prolific seamstress, often making clothes for her children and grandchildren. Her love for fashion is still evident, with her enjoying frequent trips to David Jones in the city.

## **Beryl Capp**

Beryl Capp is a feisty 92 year old. She was born on the land outside Gresford NSW. She had an elder brother and was the middle of 2 sisters. Beryl and her younger sister are the only two remaining. Her younger sister will be 91 in July.

After leaving school Beryl began working and training as a cook at Burlington's one of the local mills in Maitland. After her training she was employed as chief cook at Bradmill cotton mills at Rutherford near Maitland. To get the job, she had to pass a test making meringue. She still has the certificate to show for this. This was where she met her husband, John, and they have been happily married for 61 years.

Beryl says she is still living and working on the land now at Lochinvar near Maitland. She is a keen social bowler and enjoys this immensely. She had two sons, one now living in Gloucester and the other in Newcastle. She is proud of her extended family of grandchildren, great grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

## **Isabel Conolly**

Isabel Conolly was born on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1926. She was an only child of Scottish parents. Her father came to Australia in 1923 - the day after they got married. Her mother followed arriving in April 1925, so she was almost a honeymoon baby! Isabel had a wonderful life. She went to West Cessnock Primary School and the Congregational

its role of supporting and encouraging women's standing in society.

Her dedication and commitment to helping achieve social justice, particularly for women and children is inspirational to CWL members.

Mary is a prolific reader and enjoys the theatre and cooking. The family "Steak and Kidney nights" are legendary as are her Christmas cakes.

## **Edna Millett**

Edna (nee Chock Ching) was born in Dubbo in 1923. She was the third eldest of five children and grew up in Wellington NSW. She worked in the family business and during the war years worked in the munitions factory in Wellington. During this time she met and married Bill Millett. Bill was transferred to Bathurst where their daughter Wendy was born. Their second child Greg was born four years later after the family had moved to Greta near Maitland.

Edna became involved with the CWA where she became secretary. She was Secretary of the P&C at Greta Public School and Treasurer of the Boy Scouts. She also supported many other community organisations including Maitland Police Boys Club; Maitland Boys High and Maitland Girls High; Greta Anglican Church; Neighbourhood Council; Telarah Public School; and North Sydney Boys High.

Edna always supported her own family in all their activities and interests. She is cherished by her three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

## **Mary Minns**

Mary was born in Adelaide but grew up in Western Australia, studying dentistry at the University of Western Australia and becoming one of the earliest women to practice.

## **Mary Melville**

Mary Melville was born at Dulwich Hill on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 1926. Mary spent many happy hours helping her father in his (WE Harris) grocery store where she honed her mental arithmetic skills, which she still uses to this day. After leaving school she worked in a legal office, was married in 1949, and has been engaged in activities associated with her family and Church all her life. She raised six boys and five girls and was involved with scouting, netball and activities of her children's schools through Parents' & Friends' Associations, tuckshop duty, and secretary from time to time for three schools they attended at Kingsgrove.

Mary joined the Catholic Women's League in 1990 at the Kingsgrove Branch and became a Councillor of the CWL Sydney Archdiocese in 1992. She is still delightfully active with both these organisation in community-based projects, particularly supporting charities and organisations with fundraising and handy work, such as Wrap with Love rugs, raising money for charities, including the Aboriginal community Kuri-Ngai Partners, women's refuge, children's missions, Cana Communities and other aid projects.

Mary held the role of Treasurer in CWL Sydney from 1999-2002 and she continues to support and mentor the Executive on financial matters. From 1992 Mary has been Secretary of the CWL Kingsgrove Branch and Acting President on many occasions. She actively involves herself in fulfilling these roles, thereby helping to ensure the continued viability of the branch.

Since 2002, Mary has represented the CWL Archdiocese of Sydney at Australian Church Women NSW (ACW). Its aim is to unite Christian women across denominational barriers and to create opportunities for effective mission for all church women through fellowship, encouragement and co-operation.

In 2009, Mary was awarded Life Membership of the Catholic Women's League Australia for her dedication and continuing work in

Sunday School, then to Cessnock High School, leaving there at 14 to start work in the local Co-op store. She worked there for seven years. During this time she met her husband Bob at a friend's house. They were married for 59 happy and busy years. She and Bob bought their first home in West Cessnock, while Bob served his apprenticeship as a fitter at BHP. Their first daughter Judy was born in 1948. Bob then got a job in the mine at Bellbird, where his best friend was killed in a mine accident. Bob had to leave the mines then, so they bought a newsagency in Kearsley where their second daughter Kath was born in 1953.

They moved to Newcastle in 1954 ending up in another shop at Jesmond, where they stayed for 4½ years. As Isabel's mother was unwell they returned to Cessnock where Bob went back into the mines. This was not a good time and Bob was in six pits in two years. They went back to another shop in Cardiff.

After this time they returned to Cessnock again to take care of her mother and stayed. Isabel had a very full life in the Cessnock area. She was canteen supervisor at Cessnock West School from 1969-1982; a member of VIEW Club; President of the Probus Club; and a very keen bowler at East Cessnock Bowling Club.

They bought their caravan in 1964 and had many holidays in Forster. Twenty three years ago they moved into the Masonic Retirement Village in Cessnock, making life easier for both of them. Isabel's husband died nine years ago and she says she is blessed with a wonderful family.

Recently she bought an iPad which has opened a Pandora's box for her. She plays Words with Friends, loves Facebook, and has taught herself to type.

## **Domna Daciv**

Domna was born on 26.10.1926 in Svatov, Luhansk region of Ukraine. From an early age, Domna Daciv (nee Krasik) came to know the

meaning of hardship. Her siblings, two grandparents, and aunt all starved to death in the Communist-induced famine in Ukraine from 1932-33, now known as the Holodomor. When war broke out in 1941. She was sent to work in a forced labour camp in Germany. Here she met her husband, Ivan Daciv and their daughter Marusia was born. The family immigrated to Australia after the war, arriving at Bathurst migrant camp in 1949. The couple worked hard to buy their own home in Bankstown.

Domna became involved in Ukrainian society from the onset. She was for many years the treasurer of the Federation of Ukrainians in Australia and for the Ukrainian Women's Association Princess Olga branch. Domna also worked tirelessly for the Union of Ukrainian Societies in Australia. Domna was instrumental in working collectively with others to publish the magazine, 'Our Word', and due to her efforts many books and magazines of the Ukrainian diaspora, collected by her over the years, have been sent to Ukraine.

She has shared her love of Ukrainian decorative art by donating artefacts to Ukrainian museums in Melbourne and Adelaide, and also to the Mitchell Library in Sydney.

Domna was a founding member of the Ukrainian Narodny Hall in Lidcombe, the Saint Volodimir Church in Canberra, as well as a benefactor for the monastery in Lidcombe and the memorial commemorating the 1000 years of Christianity in Ukraine. She has worked voluntarily for the Ukrainian Welfare Association and in the Sisterhood of the Saint Pokrova church in Lidcombe.

Her joy of life was expressed in singing in the church choir, the 'Boyan-Surma' choir, the 'Ivasiuk' choir and the women's choir 'Sutsvitya'.

A highlight in Domna's life was her visit with her family to her homeland in 1980. Here she established a connection with the Ukrainian association 'Prosvita' in Luhansk. Funds raised by her

recognises her personal mentoring program where new players are taken under her wing, encouraged and educated into the game. Many Sydney women golfers owe their start to Thora.

Thora is the proud mother of three children (two teachers and one doctor), eight grand-children and four great-grandchildren.

## **Betty Mclean**

Betty Mclean has served her local community wherever she has lived. She has been particularly concerned with caring for the young and for the elderly and those disadvantaged by ill health. Much of her community service has been through her connection with her local church.

Between 1956-1970 Betty was involved in Teaching Sunday School, Confirmation class and School Scripture as well as leading Girls' Brigade for 15 years at Oatley.

From 1974 -2003 she was Superintendent of the Junior Sunday school, taught Sunday School and was involved in various committees including Missions, Parish Council and ESL for 10 years. She carried out a Nursing home ministry for 20 years, visiting in hospitals, nursing homes and those needing home visits at Sylvania Heights during this time.

A move to Dapto in 2003 saw her providing hospitality and leading a home group, as well as being involved with various groups in the church as needed. She undertook Pastoral Care Education at Wollongong Hospital in 2008 and continues to be involved in hospital, nursing home and home visiting at Dapto right up to the present.

Betty has been a valued member of Mothers' Union since 1956.

very few members now, it managed to raise AU\$ 27 000 for the needy in Ukraine last year.

At the age of 92 years, Irena Krucko with her all-consuming passion to help the poor, continues to work and is an inspiration to all members of the Ukrainian Women's Association.

## **Thora Lyons**

Thora Audrey May Lyons (nee White) was born on 27 June 1923 at Quorn, South Australia, one of six girls and two boys. Drought moved the family to Port Augusta where she started school and then on to Tarcoola on the Nullabor Plain.

Her father, the unofficial mayor, involved his children in every organisation – the Progress Association, CWA Comforts Fund, church, school and hospital (built in 1948, too late to save a sister who died at 16 months). The young made their own fun and Thora was playing bridge at 10 and golf at 15.

Thora married Joe Lyons at Tarcoola in 1947. She says she had lofty ambitions but he swept her off her feet – he was a wonderful dancer! They moved immediately to New South Wales where he re-trained in the State Railways. They had 13 moves, culminating with Joe as Stationmaster at Chatswood for 14 years. In each town Thora was involved in voluntary work and community activities. She was social secretary at each of the children's primary schools, then Treasurer at St Patrick's College and President of the P & F at St Joseph's Convent, Goulburn. She and Joe taught dancing at Catholic Youth Clubs and Thora trained debutantes at Molong and Santa Sabina and was a member of the Catholic Women's League.

Thora is a Life Member of Chatswood Golf Club. She represented the Club as a Pennants player for over 25 years and was Vice-President and on the Women's Committee. The Thora Lyons Cup

women's association are still sent there to foster the traditions and language of the region. The Ukrainian newspaper, 'The Free Thought', has been sent to 'Prosvita' for 60 years in order for them to keep in touch with the community here in Australia.

Each significant anniversary of the Holodomor, when Domna lights a candle to commemorate those that passed away, has always been emotionally taxing for her. Domna has known personal grief more recently due to the death of her husband and also daughter. But Domna was able to cope with her heartache by encouraging her two grandchildren to pursue their education at Ukrainian Saturday schools and later by graduating from university.

We acknowledge Domna's untiring dedication in all spheres of Ukrainian community life, but her most important contribution has been her contagious passion, resulting in an ability to sweep others along with her in pursuit of working for the country she loves so dearly - her Ukraine .

## **Esther Doyle AM**

Esther Doyle was born on 9th January 1926. Esther is a devoted mother of three, proud grandmother of six and great grandmother of seven. She was married in 1949 to James Doyle (deceased 2010).

Esther Doyle personifies the ideals aims and objects of Catholic Women's League to which she has dedicated most of her life . In addition to being a member of the Catholic Women's League Sydney Council since 1959, she has held the positions of President of CWL Archdiocese of Sydney, CWL NSW and CWL Australia.

Esther was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (AM) on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 1987 for Services to the Community through Catholic Women's League. During her term of Office as Sydney Archdiocese President, Esther visited many parishes and addressed the women

and increased the branch membership from 57 branches in 1980 to 72 branches in 1985.

Esther was instrumental in tackling issues of concern to CWL, which were pursued by making submissions to Government, appearing before Parliamentary committees and addressing the membership of CWL at State and National conferences to encourage the membership to be a voice for the voiceless.

Esther was invited to sit on many committees and Boards: Board of Western Suburbs Hospital, Sydney (1982-87) including a year as Senior Vice Chairman; Member Women's Health Policy Review Committee (1984-85); Board of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and Area Health Services (1986-88); Secretary of the Board of Management Marian Complex Strathfield (1990-to present day); Board Member of St Mary's Villa Concord Hostel and Nursing Home (1986-1993); Appointed to National Women's Consultative Council 1988; Member of National Working Party on the Portrayal of Women in Advertising (1989-90); Executive Member of Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission (1991-1993).

In December 1985 Esther was awarded the Papal Honour- Grand Cross "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" *The Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal is an award of the Catholic Church. It is also known as the "Cross of Honour". It is given for distinguished service to the Church by lay people and clergy. It is the highest medal that can be awarded to the laity by the Pope.*

In 1990 Ashfield Municipal Council awarded Esther with a Citizenship Medal. Esther's interests are reading, cricket and she continues to be a mentor to the members of CWL.

## **Barbara Dreverman**

Barbara joined the Women's Pioneer Society in 1998 as a Pioneer

In the early 1950s, Irena became involved in scouting activities. Initially, she was a cub mistress, a guides instructor and for many years, secretary for the Federal Executive of the Ukrainian Scouts. She also held the positions as CEO of the Cub Division and later of the Senior Scouts.

The Committee in Defence of Human Rights in Ukraine was founded in Australia in the early 70s and Irena became a member. Working in co-operation with Amnesty International, their mission was to give moral support to imprisoned dissidents and secretly support their families financially. In 1990 the committee financed visits to Australia of several Ukrainian dissidents to inform the Ukrainian community of their horrific experiences. In 1991, with the declaration of Independence of Ukraine, financial aid was permitted openly. Irena Krucko was involved in raising funds which the public supported enthusiastically. Financial aid and parcels of food and clothing were sent regularly to the physically handicapped and homeless dissidents and their families until it was disbanded in 2010.

Her mother had been a dedicated member of The Ukrainian Women's Association and Irena Krucko decided to follow in her footsteps. She became a member of the Kharyttia Kononenko branch focused on humanitarian support of the poverty-stricken. Initially the branch supported post WWII Ukrainian families in Brazil and Argentina. Thereafter, aid was sent to refugees remaining in Austria and Germany. Finally, with the Declaration of Independence of Ukraine, Ukrainians in the homeland became the main focus of their charitable aid. This was particularly necessary at the time of the Chernobyl disaster.

In recent years the Kharyttia Kononenko branch, with Irena Krucko as its secretary, has helped widows with families whose breadwinner has been killed in the war against Russian forces in Eastern Ukraine. They have also financed the procurement of surgical instruments for military hospitals. Although the branch has

## **Irena Krucko**

Irena Krucko was born in 1924 in Druhobych in Western Ukraine at a time when war was being fought between the USSR and Germany on Ukrainian soil. On matriculating from high school in 1943 Irena enrolled in Lviv University to study Pharmacy but her studies were suddenly terminated with the entry of the Communist army into Western Ukraine. The Communists closed tertiary educational institutions and banned all Ukrainian organisations.

Irena Krucko and her family fled Ukraine and under the ravages of war finally reached Germany. Shortly after their arrival in Dresden in May 1945, the Armistice was declared. The American forces transported all the refugees to Bavaria and Irena's family joined 2000 Ukrainian refugees in a camp for displaced people in Mittenwald. All social and medical support was readily available in this camp.

In 1946 the German government reinstated tertiary education, guaranteeing all student expenses. Irena took advantage of this generous offer and in 1948 completed her Bachelor of Pharmacy degree. It was impossible for foreigners to find employment in Germany so Irena's family took up the offer of visas to Australia.

On arrival in Australia, Irena fulfilled her two-year contract to the government, working in Callan Park Mental Hospital. Then she began working professionally. Within two years Irena's family managed to buy a house- having fled Ukraine carrying one suitcase each. They all obtained Australian citizenship.

Ukrainians began to organise themselves as an ethnic group. Schools, halls, churches were built and ties were forged with Australian organisations. In 1950, the Ukrainian Women's Association was accepted into the ranks of the National Council of Women of NSW.

With the establishment of Plast, the Ukrainian scouting organisation

Member. Her professional background included bookkeeping and secretarial duties where she developed skills which proved to be of great value to the WPS.

After attending the first meeting Barbara was elected to the executive where her organisational skills were available for planning many lunches and wonderful tours by members to places with pioneer historical significance.

Barbara assumed the role of treasurer in 2005 and continued in the role until her retirement at the AGM in 2012. She remained on the executive until 2013.

As a regular attendee of all our functions and support of WPS activities she was recognised by the members of the Pioneer Society with a "Vice Presidency" of the society in 2011 for her exemplary service. Since retiring from her treasurer's role Barbara has continued to attend on a regular basis in the company of her husband Arthur.

We salute a tireless worker who has continued to support The Women's Pioneer Society and in her 90<sup>th</sup> year is a worthy recipient for recognition at the Jean Arnot Luncheon

## **Françoise Gilroy**

Françoise Gilroy was born on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 1926 and grew up in Sydney to French parents who had migrated to Australia from northern France after World War I. Her father was a member of the French wool buyers group in Australia.

After her marriage Françoise moved to Canberra with her husband. They had eight children together and the youngest was only three when her husband died tragically young of a heart attack in 1967. Needing to support her family, Françoise took a job as a

physiotherapist at the Royal Military College Duntroon where she worked until her retirement in 1992. As a single supporting mother in the 1960s she had a hard time juggling work and family at a time when child care was difficult, if not impossible, to find.

After retiring, Françoise moved back to Sydney where she settled in Mosman and embarked on her new life, a life which has involved her in extensive voluntary community work. Nonetheless she also found time to write an excellent autobiography *Mon Histoire: Memoirs of a French Australian* which was published in 2009 by Inkstone Press.

Françoise has been a loyal member of her local Catholic Women's League branch for many years and currently holds the position of social welfare officer.

Françoise has been at the heart of the Lower North Shore Stroke Recovery Group since it began in the early 1990s. For over a quarter of a century almost every Tuesday morning Françoise has been a volunteer at the Club assisting with administration by providing tea, coffee and cakes, as well as leading members through the exercise session which follows their speech therapy session.

Françoise has 18 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Although Françoise has recently given up her daily early morning swim at Balmoral Beach, she still continues to enjoy her daily walks.

## **Betty Greentree**

Born at York, WA, on 15 February 1925, Betty grew up in a vineyard. She remembers being given a penny by her father to pick a kerosene tin of Black currants. She had a horse named Totti. Her work was being a credit supervisor. She met and married Keith Greentree in Western Australia during WWII.

## **Pauline Griffin AM**

Pauline Griffin was born in Sydney on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1925. After obtaining the Leaving Certificate at Abbotsleigh, she attended Sydney University graduating with a Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Social Studies in 1947.

Pauline was employed as a Social Worker in Adelaide and in the then Department of Immigration, before joining Bradmill Industries Limited in 1953 where she became Personnel Manager.

From 1975 –1990 Pauline was Commissioner of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission. From 1978 –1998 she was a Member of the University Council of the ANU and was Pro-Chancellor from 1991–1998. In the 1990s Pauline was Chair of the National Committee on Discrimination in Employment and Occupation and was a Member of the 4<sup>th</sup> National Women's Consultative Council.

Pauline was a Charter Member of the Zonta Club of Sydney from 1966 –1997, a Member of the Board of Barnardo's Australia and of the Fullbright Foundation.

She attended the Second Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conference in Canada in 1962, and was a Delegate to Meetings of the O.E.C.D. in Paris in 1973 and the I.L.O. in 1974 and 1985 in Geneva.

Pauline was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia in 1988 and an Honorary Doctor of Letters was conferred by Macquarie University in 1990.

## **Gladys (Irene) Hammond**

Born on 16 February 1921 in Sydney and married a Sergeant Major in WWII. Worked as an office clerk. Now a widow and like to paint.