



National Council of Women - ACT

President's NEWSLETTER, February, 2017 - Issue 332

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2017. I would encourage you to let me know of anything that you think might be of interest to our very varied members.

Kate Muir
Editor

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1. President's Report



The year has begun well for our members. We welcomed Wendy Altamore as a new Associate Member and also new delegates for the YWCA, Joanna Le and Mishka Martin.

At the first Council meeting we had as our speaker Dr. Helen Watchirs, the current President and Human Rights Commissioner. Helen is a most interesting speaker and I was pleased to see that so many of our members were present to hear her speak. NCW ACT has agreed to support the YWCA in sponsoring 20 girls to their *She Leads College Conference* and two young women for *She Leads*

Conference.

As a preliminary notice we will be holding our **Presidents' Lunch** at the Woden Southern Cross Club on **Wednesday 10th May**. Our speaker will be **Maryanne Gore** who is the **2016 Canberra Business Woman of the Year**. Please put this date in your diaries. Further details will be given closer to the time.

In June NCWA is holding its Mid-Term Conference in Canberra at the Rydges Hotel in Canberra Avenue. We will be supporting some members to attend this Conference but I would encourage others to attend. Unfortunately due to a clash of dated I am unable to attend but the ACT contingent will be ably led by our Vice-president Wendy Saclier.

At our next Council meeting on **9th March** we will have a speaker from **Communities at Work** and I hope that we will have many interested NCW members to hear about the work of this organisation.

2. Report for International Council of Women- Conseil International des Femmes - Executive Committee Meeting - Taipei, Taiwan

Please note that these are only highlights and there was a lot more work undertaken at our state/territory and local levels by our own NCWs and their NGO Affiliate and individual members. Internal NCW Australia:

- Updated - Strategic Plan 2015-2018 to include Values: Integrity; Leadership; Advocacy;
- Representation. - established sub-committee of main Board – National Council of Young Women of Australia (NCYWA)
- Website update and increasing use of social media by NCW Australia and its Constituent Councils

The structural changes required, within many institutions and workplaces, to bring about gender equality in Australia are still many and varied. How can we do this?

- Ask – Do I have the full list of candidates? (e.g. everyone who is eligible) Not just the high profile, well known, usual candidates.
- Bring – ‘good men’ along with us.
- Have – the conversations with men in our family, home, workplace rather than just amongst ourselves. It is how we bring up our sons (and grandsons), interact with our fathers, uncles, brothers, godfathers, husbands, friends, colleagues, bosses and staff.
- Seek - to link funding (e.g. government funding sources) to gender equality outcomes?
- Dare – our young women to dream and show them positive role models across all fields of endeavour and encourage them to use their voices for gender equality.
- Work – sector by sector, organisation by organisation to show where gender equality can bring about gains for all.

A lot of work has gone into several areas of concern and this information is available from Helen Raymond, the headings include

- Status of Women
- Sustainable Development
- General Wellbeing
- Communication

3. Huairou Commission Quito Round Up

This has been a journey **20 years in the making**. Commissioned by the UN Habitat in Beijing in 1995, The Huairou Commission found its foot at the Habitat II Conference in 1996 and has been working to engender the human settlements sphere ever since. We spent the last two years tirelessly involved in the Habitat III process, both developing policy affecting women and leading civil society engagement. The Quito conference was the culmination and celebration these efforts.

Returning for Quito, Huairou Commission is stronger than ever. With renewed motivation the are linking the new Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goal to grassroots led programming on the ground positioning women leaders at the centre of implementation and monitoring.

For further information on the Huairou Commission about women, homes and community you can go to Huairou. Org website

4. Confronting the Challenges of Ageing through Social Innovation

A report has been received from Chaletty Choesyana Taulu, the ICW-CIF Ageing Advisor on the research and cooperation project of the Wuropean Union named 'Social Innovation on Active and Healthy Ageing for Sustainable Economic Growth (Sifor AGE).

An international Conference was held in Barcelona last year and a White Paper was produced.

This White Paper is '***Making Choices for a Society for All Ages. A White Paper with recommendations for decision makers***' It can be downloaded, through a user-friendly interface, from the project's official website, to be accessed via <http://www.siforage.eu/publications.php> where it is located, as a PDF file, under the tab "Publications".

Whilst this conference and paper focussed on Europe there is much that is relevant to Australia. Those wishing to read the ICW-CIF Ageing Advisor, review should contact Helen Raymond for a copy.

5. New Human Rights Toolkit for Women and Girls with Disability

On the eve of International Human Rights Day, the 10th December, Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA) released their Human Rights Toolkit for Women and Girls with Disability, including resources focused on key human rights issues women and girls with a disability in Australia.

Over the previous 18 months, the WWDA worked with a range of women and girls to prioritise several key human rights issues. These include:

- The right to freedom from all forms of violence;
- The right to decision-making;
- The right to participation;
- Sexual and reproductive rights; and
- Economic empowerment

Further information and the Toolkit is available at WWDA.org.au.

6. Task Force on Domestic Violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities

The National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance (NATSIWA) supports the call for a national taskforce to combat the shocking rates of violence against Aboriginal women and children.

There is trans-generational trauma that impacts on how our communities cope in society and the transference of violence to our families. Alcohol and drugs also fuels domestic and family violence in communities. Men and Women

groups that directly address these issues need government support. We need to intervene to prevent the scourge of inter-generational violence and trauma from continuing to impact on the future of our children to stop ongoing cycles of abuse. The men are going into jail for domestic violence with anger management and alcohol and drug abuse issues which exacerbate violence in communities. This scourge also plays a role in the future of our children and the trans-generational cycle of abuse.

For further information on this initiative please go to natsiwa.amsws.org.au

7. National Council of Women Habitat Report – Wendy Rainbird

“Cities are the epicentres of human activity. They cover [less than 2% of the earth’s land surface](#) but generate [about 70% of GDP](#) and house [more than half](#) the human population. The importance of cities is only going to increase in coming decades as another [2.5 billion people move to urban centres](#). This intense production and consumption requires huge quantities of natural resources. Cities account for more than 60% of global energy use, 70% of greenhouse gas emissions and 70% of global waste. Current practices are depleting the Earth’s finite resources, changing its climate and damaging its natural ecosystems. With our planetary life support system [in the red](#), we need to put cities on a serious resource diet.”

“The [New Urban Agenda](#) adopted at the [Habitat III](#) conference outlines a vision for sustainable urban development. These [global guidelines](#), along with the related UN [Sustainable Development Goals](#), recognise the need to use resources more efficiently. Habitat III included a [number of sessions](#) on resource efficiency and associated tools and [initiatives](#). Organisations such as [UNEP](#), [UN-Habitat](#) and the [European Commission](#) and its [research centres](#) typically led these events. The New Urban Agenda includes many references to efficiency and reduced consumption in cities.

We must now act urgently to translate words into actions. This will ease pressure on ecosystems and produce a range of co-benefits, including health, wellbeing and resilience, also gender issues in decision making.

Areas being looked at are:

- How do we create more resource-efficient cities?
- Learning from those who already live on less;
- Co-benefits of resource efficiency;
- Working together for better solutions; and
- Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy.

For further information please contact Wendy Rainbird.

8. Where Will the Jobs Be? Seminar run by NCWA

A full report (with pictures) on our Seminar last year is now available and can be read online. Please contact Helen Raymond for a copy if you would like one.

9. Introduction to Two of our Affiliate Members

I did say that I was going to introduce some of our Affiliate Members, I am starting with the YWCA because of our new partnership arrangement that our President has talked about in her report. The Canberra Mothercraft Society is a long term member and supporter of the NCWA, so this month I am also introducing them.

9.a YWCA

Here is YWCA's reason for being.

YWCA Canberra is a feminist, secular, not-for-profit organisation that has provided community services and represented women's issues in Canberra since 1929. Through their national Member Association, YWCA Australia, they are part of the World YWCA network, which connects 125 countries across the globe.

Their history of supporting women and girls in Canberra through the Great Depression, the Second World War, and the rapid social and cultural changes Canberra has experienced in recent years, continues to inform and influence our work.

Today they provide quality, innovative services for women, girls and families in the ACT and surrounding regions. They work in the areas of children's services, community development, housing, youth services, personal and professional training, women's leadership and advocacy.

As a membership-based, non-religious organisation, we encourage the participation of people of all cultures, beliefs and ages in our movement. Strengthened by diversity, we welcome members who are committed to recognising and celebrating the value of every human being.

Their vision:

Women shaping our communities.

Their purpose:

Empower women, young women and girls to achieve equality for all.

One of the important things they have done, is to create the **YWCA Clubhouse** in Tuggeranong. This is a Techie Clubhouse supported by a number of large ICT companies and others providing money and equipment to enable kids in the area to have access to high quality technical ICT equipment and people. I have had the opportunity to see this Clubhouse in action and it is an extraordinary space for both primary and high school students to learn within. As you know one of my interests is girls in STEM. This Clubhouse helps create the sort of excitement that encourages girls to participate. The Clubhouse puts out

a regular newsletter, which I would encourage you to read if you are interested in Girls in non-traditional roles.

9.b Canberra Mothercraft Society

The Canberra Mother Craft Society was formed in 1926 (90 years ago) to support infant welfare. It was one of the many women's organisations which formed around the National Council of Women in the ACT to meet the needs of public servants being transferred to the new capital city.

It is a residential facility for families staffed by a team which includes medical professionals. The Canberra Mothercraft Society focusses on families and children and helping them connect with their communities.

Through the Queen Elizabeth (QE11) Family Centre and CMS community development program they deliver primary health care services in a modern, flexible, effective and responsible way. The services extend to partners, grandparents, friends and other primary carers. CMS provides day care, home help, child and family health clinics and day stay at QE11

10. Mid-Term Conference of NCWA

The Mid -Term Conference of NCWA will be held at the Rydges Hotel in Canberra Avenue in June this year between 14th and 16th June.

11. Presidents Lunch

The Presidents' Lunch will be held on 10th May at the Woden Southern Cross Club. Invites will come out in March.

12. Useful Information:

Office Bearers for 2016 – 2017:

- President: Helen Raymond
- Vice President Wendy Saclier
- Secretary Laurayne Bowler
- Treasurer Coral Fleming
- Committee Juanita Flett, Jenny Jarvis, Margaret Findlater-Smith.
- Roll Secretary Jenny Jarvis (temporary)
- Newsletter Editor Kate Muir

Dates for the Diary:

- International Women's Day 8th March 2017

Dates for the NCW ACT Meetings 2016 – 2017:

Council 2nd Thursday of each month

- All Assemblies are held at Yarralumla Uniting Church hall, Denman Street, Yarralumla
- Meetings commence with lunch at 12 Noon, followed by the meeting
- Meetings conclude at 2.00pm

Life Members

- Mrs Julia BILES
- Mrs Rita DODSON
- Mrs Beryl EVANS
- Mrs Coral FLEMING
- Mrs Monica GLENN OAM
- Mrs Jenny JARVIS
- Mrs Wendy SACLIER
- Ms Margaret SMITH
- Mrs Margery SMYTH OAM
- Mrs Jean THOMSON OAM

Affiliated Associations

- Anglican Women's Diocesan Council
- Australian Church Women Inc
- Canberra Mothercraft Society
- Country Women's Association (CWA)
- Girl Guides (ACT and SE NSW Region)
- Mother's Union Diocese of Canberra. Goulburn
- National Council of Jewish Women Australia (Canberra)
- Pan-Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA ACT) Inc
- St Andrews Evening PWA
- Salvation Army ACT and NSW
- Soroptimist International of Canberra Inc
- View Clubs of Australia
- YWCA Canberra

13. Editor Information

I hope you found this edition interesting. Hopefully as I learn my way around it will just get better and better. Any ideas that you may have around any women's issues or comments will be gratefully received. Also should you want to make a comment about the content please do not hesitate to let me know. My email address is katemuir@yless4u.com.au. Please put '**NCW**' in the heading so I know not to delete it as spam.

Kate Muir,
Editor