

# *NCWACT Newsletter*

## *Issue 318*

## *August 2013*

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### **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Preparations for our seminar 'Homeless Women' are proceeding however the date has had to be changed to 31st October 2013 as Margaret Findlater Smith, our convenor has been invited to participate in a two day workshop 'Negotiating Australia's Future' on the original planned date.

Margaret and I attended the launch of the April edition of 'Parity' by the Federal Minister for Health Tanya Plibersek at Parliament House. Mark Butler, the Federal Minister for Housing and Homelessness also addressed the gathering and we had the opportunity to meet people representing organisations providing services for homeless people.

We have not heard whether our grant submission to the ACT Women's Grant Program has been successful.

The President's Lunch was held on 22 May in the marquee at The Southern Cross Yacht Club on the lake shore. A very pleasant venue, good food and service and excellent company. Sixty members and friends attended. Special thanks to Jean Hodgkinson, Laurayne Bowler, Roslyn Dixon and Margaret Findlater Smith for their contribution to make the event run so smoothly. Thank you too to The Thursday Friendship Group at Addicted to Fabric for their generous donation of a beautiful quilt for the raffle, and to Wabi Sabi Designs, and NCWACT members, Rita Dodson, Wendy Gray, Jean Hodgkinson and Roslyn Dixon for their donations. Louise Doyle, Director of the National Portrait Gallery was the guest speaker who spoke about her role and her vision for the Gallery's future.

Guest speakers during the past few months have included Wendy Rainbird (National Adviser - Environment) who reported on The Society for Human Ecology Conference which she had attended earlier in the year. Candice Smith, recently arrived in Canberra from South Africa spoke about 'The Thinking Environment' encouraging members to think and listen and give time for all to express their thoughts and ideas. Janne Graham a consumer member of The Australian Advisory Committee on Prescription Medicines (ACPM) spoke about the processes involved in medicine regulation - safety issues, access and appropriate use of medicines .

Roslyn Dixon, Coral Fleming and I attended the Forum: 'Thinking Globally: Acting Locally' on 3 July hosted by The Ministerial Advisory Council on Women which celebrated the historical agreement made at the 57th meeting on the Status of Women to eliminate and prevent all forms of violence against women and girls.

The speakers were Ms Penny Williams, Australia's Global Ambassador for Women and Girls, Ms Rebecca Vassatori, Non-Government Organizations Delegate and Dr Helen Watchirs, ACT Human Rights and Discrimination Commissioner.

In May Mary Kirk facilitated a session with members of the National Executive to update the Strategic Plan. At the Constituent Council meeting of NCWACT on 11 July 2013 the revised document was accepted.

June Laszlo, a Life Member of NCWACT has moved to Brisbane to be closer to her family. June contributed to NCW in many different ways over many years. Her knowledge, expertise and wisdom have served the organisation extremely well. We will miss her at our meetings and functions and extend our good wishes to her.

In closing I would like to express my thanks to the NCWACT Executive for keeping things going so efficiently during May while I was out of action. I look forward to catching up with everyone at the AGM on 12 September, 2013.

Wendy Saclier

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### **FREE BULKY WASTE PICK UP**

For Pension concession card holders

Valid for ACT residents only

Call us now on 6249 7974

We will pick up TVs, Computers, Furniture, Mattresses, White goods, Bicycles and more (2 cubic metre limit)

To be eligible you need to have one of the following concession cards

Current Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card; Department of Veterans Affairs Gold Card; An Action Gold Card; Seniors MYWAY Card (over the age of 75)

Please note – conditions apply

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#### Presidents Lunch

#### Raffle results

1 Handmade Quilt Fabric	Donated by Thursday Friendship Group at Addicted to Constance Aronsen
2 Cedar Jewellery Box	Donated by Wendy Gray David Biles
3 Handmade Necklace & Purse	Donated by Wendy Saclier Sally Davis
4 Royal Doulton Plate	Donated by Jean Hodgkinson Lyn Johannson
5 Van Gogh Print	Donated by Roslyn Dixon Julie Morris
6 Handmade sewing bag	Donated by Wabi Sabi Designs Beryl Evans
7 Potted Orchid	Donated by Rita Dodson Jessie Middlemiss

Our thanks to all who donated such beautiful prizes for the raffle.

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#### *SOME PERKS OF BEING OLDER*

*Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the weather bureau.*

*Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.*

*You quit holding in your stomach no matter who walks into the room.*

*You enjoy hearing about other people's operations.*

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# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF ACT INC

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the National Council of Women of Australian Capital Territory Inc. will be held at the Yarralumla Uniting Church Rooms, Denman Street, Yarralumla, on Thursday 12 September 2013 at 12 noon when a light lunch will be served, and the meeting will commence at 12.30pm.

All affiliated organizations are reminded that their two delegates will be eligible to vote at the normal business of the AGM but only if organizations are financial. All Associates are also urged to attend as you now have an individual vote.

The printed Annual Report will be available at the meeting.

### **Nominations for 2013-2014 Executive.**

Nomination for all officers and executive of the Council are now called for and are required to be in the hands of the Secretary not later than 29th August. The positions to be filled are: President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Co-ordinator of Standing Committees, Roll Secretary and two Committeewomen.

The present office holders are listed on the back page of the newsletter. All delegates and associate members are eligible for nomination to any position.

The nomination form below may be used for any of the positions mentioned. Please complete and return to the Secretary, NCW ACT, PO Box 3028, Manuka ACT 2603 by 29th August 2013

**National Council of Women of ACT Inc.**

**Nomination Form 2013-2014**

I nominate.....for the position of .....

Signed ..... (Nominator)

I second the above nomination Signed .....(Second)

I consent to the above nomination. I am a delegate for .....

I am an Associate member.(delete whichever is inapplicable)

Signed .....(Nominee) .....(Date)

## HEALTH

Children. The report “A Snapshot of Early Childhood Development in Australia 2012” showed the ACT as having the highest national level of children “who are developmentally at risk” in the key area of physical health and well being at 16.9%. The Report also showed the ACT had the third highest rate of “developmentally vulnerable” children at 10.6%. Child immunisation Health Communities Report shows Canberra as having the highest full immunisation rate amongst one year olds as 94% and above average immunisation rates among two year olds (94%) and five year olds (92%),

School Canteens ACT ACT school Canteens have produced the worst nutritional results of a nationwide analysis of food available to students by online advocacy group The Parents Jury. (CT 3.3.2013). There is debate about the causes for this.

After 25 years ACT School Canteen Association is closing down because of lack of volunteers, financial pressures and overregulation.

Project Dinnertime a free activity for seniors living in the ACT during Seniors Week in March 2013. Run by Nutrition Australia to demonstrate that healthy eating is achievable and affordable and to improve skills as well as teaching about food related issues.

Obesity Concerns about the increasing prevalence in communities generally continue. Canberra Hospital is considering offering weight loss surgery such as gastric banding in response to the ACT’s growing levels of obesity.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics about 66.8% of Canberrans are overweight or obese. One in four is considered obese, with the ACT the fourth fattest state or territory. The percentage of overweight Canberrans jumped to 38.4% (latest COAG report) – the highest of any State or Territory and 3 points above the national average.

Wood fires Concern again expressed about the use of wood fires for heating in Canberra’s winter.

Ambulance callouts Alcohol and prescription drug overdoses rather than illegal drug use, were behind more ambulance callouts in 2011-12. The ACT ambulance service was called out to 2163 cases of alcohol abuse, 644 prescription drug overdoses ( mostly a combination of multiple drugs, paracetamol and antidepressants) and 112 overdoses of illicit drugs ( mostly heroin and psychostimulants).

Hospitals and the elderly Rise in admissions of people aged 85 and over is placing pressure on hospital beds. In the ACT, the number of available public hospital beds compared to population increased slightly, from an average of 2.5 per 1000 people in 2007-08 to 2.6 per 1000 in 2011-12. The Institute of Health and Welfare Report showed that the number of overnight public hospital admissions in the ACT had increased from just under 33,000 in 2007-08 to 41,000 in 2011-12. The report also indicated that the ACT had the highest-paid full-time public hospital nurses in Australia.

Full-time nurses in the ACT's public hospitals had average salaries of \$112,000, compared to \$105,000 in the next-highest Northern Territory and a national average of \$89,000.

Sue Schreiner

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**Note to all Advisers that the closing date for their annual report is 30th August. please Write a one page report typed in Verdana 10 of the highlights of their 4 reports since the last annual report and send to Margaret Smith who is collating the Annual report please.**

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**Roslyn Dixon wants all to know that she is a JP and willing to sign documents for those who require it. Her phone number is 6169 3506**

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The upcoming **Seminar on Homelessness and older women** will be held at the Southern Cross Club Woden on 31 October - 10am to 4pm with lunch included. details will be published later. Cost for the day will be approximately \$40.00  
Expert speakers in the field with possibly some solutions shown to an ever increasing problem in our community

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## **Social Issues    Child, Youth and Family Report**

### **National Youth Week 5 – 14 April**

The ACT had many activities and information outlets for National Youth Week. I will outline just some of those that are available. The Junction Youth Health Service gives information on health care and support for teenagers between the ages of 12-25, it has a focus on homeless youth and the services are free. Available to help are GP's, nurses, pediatric care, antenatal care and counseling. Our Place is an accommodation service for young homeless people aged between 16-21. Youth Education Program provides educational appropriate assistance. Cyclops ACT support young people between ages 10—18 who care for a family member with a disability of any kind. Litmus Program assists young people caring for a family member with a mental illness. ACT Anglicare Foster Care provides services for young children aged 0-18. Youth Law Centre ACT provides a confidential service free as well as a referral service to youth aged between 12-25. In addition to the services outlined there were many activities that young people could participate in.

### **Vaccination**

New research has revealed that young babies whose mothers have been vaccinated against whooping cough are 50% less likely than other infants to contract the illness. Whooping cough can be fatal and an outbreak which began in 2008 sparked a temporary government program to protect infants by vaccinating parents and grandparents to create protective “cocoon.”

### **“Triple P Positive Parenting Program”**

This program is currently in ACT Child Care Centre's as well as in 25 other countries and has been translated into 17 different languages. It is an evidence based program that aims to help adults understand and manage their child's behavior and to become confident parents. The founder and director of the Program Professor Matt Saunders at the Family Support Centre at the University of Queensland has spent three decades developing the program and it has grown into the world's leading parenting resource. The program is now being criticized by other researchers as not being very effective. Professor Mark Dadds from the UNSW and Phillip Wilson, of the University of Aberdeen found no convincing evidence that the program is appropriate for all children or that the benefits are long term. A separate study, published in the International Journal of Violence and Conflict, found Triple P made little difference to the behavior of 146 children who took part. Professor Saunders rejected suggestions that the program was ineffectual and unproven he suggested that the intervention had not been implemented properly.

### **Diet Dangers**

The “Warburg Effect” is a fallacy according to Professor Stefan Broer a nutrition expert at the ANU. This has arisen because some people believe there is a link between cancer and the intake of quantities of sugar and carbohydrates. The so called effect describes a process whereby cancer cells consume up 200 more times more glucose than other cells in the body. Eating less sugar does not stop cancer cells from growing. Therefore, reducing carbohydrate in the belief that you can stop a cancer growing is a mistake. Coupled with this belief is that there should be a reduction in fruit intake as fruit contains sugars.

Roslyn Dixon

***A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.***

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## ACT HOUSING REPORT      July 2013

Recent events in Canberra have highlighted problems of homelessness and housing affordability. Media reports have re-emphasised the connection between lack of affordable housing to homelessness and poverty in the community. During the past month we saw many high profile CEOs in Canberra sleep rough in a city square in the middle of winter to increase awareness of homelessness in our affluent community and to experience first-hand the discomfort and difficulties of sleeping rough in subzero temperatures if only for one night.

Recently WIN television's local Stateline program looked at homelessness in the territory, showing in a featured story that a homeless person can turn his life around and become a successful business man with a normal home and family if he gets support from someone who, at a critical stage in his life takes the time to care, talk to him and give him a helping hand. The program focussed on the difficulties faced by life on the street and how easy it was for anyone to slip between the cracks in our society and end up there without a roof over his/her head, in constant fear of physical harm, no security and dependent on handouts from volunteer agencies for food and sustenance.

In February 2013 the Canberra Times reported on a "Safe Shelter" plan to accommodate people overnight in church halls. When initially proposed it was opposed by the then Minister for Community Services who voiced concerns over health and safety requirements. However thanks to the determination, perseverance and help of believers in the plan, negotiations resulted in permission to run a pilot program at St.Columba's Uniting Church Hall in Braddon. After months of opposition the Safe Shelter pilot program is running out of this hall from 15 May to 25 September 2013. It provides crisis accommodation to homeless men giving them one night a week shelter where they are warm and safe. 17 volunteers received training initially with more being trained. Volunteers need a huge amount of understanding of people, that because they're homeless they are not criminals. They are just people who don't have anywhere to live.

The most recent ABS census figures recorded in 2011 had 1785 Canberrans listed as homeless. This pilot project, targeted at homeless men over 18 years will accommodate up to 8 people as well as volunteers from 7pm to 7am. Although operating only one night a week it is hoped more churches will open their doors once the pilot has proved successful and make their halls available other nights of the week.

The July issue of Anglican News contained a report from Anglicare which claimed that housing costs were pushing students into poverty and lack of affordable housing was making increased demand on charities. A pilot study by Anglicare ACT suggested housing stress is being experienced by the overwhelming majority of tertiary students living independently in Canberra and this is leading to serious poverty outcomes such as homelessness, food insecurity and malnutrition. Anglicare ACT surveyed over 200 students from ANU,UC,ACU, and CIT with 87% of those living independently indicating some level of housing stress and 13% experiencing indicators of severe rental stress such as falling behind in paying rent.

One student featured in a Canberra Times article at the end of June 2013, who found herself with the threat of being on the streets after a family breakdown, tried couch surfing, boarding and finally through a community organisation was able to connect with "Our Place" a housing project run by Anglicare and Barnardos which provides students at risk of homelessness with safe, secure housing at 25% of her income for rent. She successfully finished her secondary school and is happy and now studying at university ---something she attributes to the support she received from "Our Place".

They have stories of students sleeping in 24hr places around campus (libraries and computer labs) because they have no other place to go. ACT Shelter will be discussing the issue of cost of student accommodation further at a student housing forum on 26 August 2013.

A national report by ACOSS found 66% of housing and homelessness services are confronting rising resource gaps. The Australian Community Sector survey released on 1 July analysed data from more than 500 agencies. It showed access to housing is still the greatest unmet need for welfare clients. The ACT Director Susan Helyar said Canberra reflected the national results and better responses are needed to reduce harm and improve lives. Access to affordable housing that is suitable, stable and secure long term, is the biggest challenge people living on low incomes face in Canberra. The \$ 5.9million cut in funding by the Commonwealth will hit the Canberra social welfare sector badly despite moves by the ACT government to absorb some of the cuts. There will still be a shortfall of \$ 2.6million needed to be put back in from some other portfolios and action needed to be taken before October when the extension on funding agreements is due to expire.

On the positive side, the ACT government has introduced some measures in the 2013 budget which will help people struggling to find affordable housing.

Plans for a pilot disability housing project in the ACT are progressing . “Project Independence” will deliver supportive housing for people with mild intellectual disability. The ACT government is partnering to deliver the project providing the land and \$3 million to build the dwellings at two sites in Harrison and Latham. Up to 10 residents will live in the three dwellings proposed for each site. A third site at Phillip will be built later with funding from the money made from the two initial locations. The government is preparing to lodge the development applications for both sites before the end of 2013. Secondly in its 2013 budget the ACT government allocated \$7.6 million in funding for the Common Ground Supportive Housing program including the construction of a supportive housing complex targeting singles and couples who are homeless or at risk. The facility will offer affordable housing and on-site support to address the causes of social disadvantage. We will follow the progress of this project with great interest. Thirdly as part of its ongoing tax reform program which will eventually see the abolition of stamp duty the ACT government will cut stamp duty on property purchases and offset the loss of income by increasing residential rates by an average of approx. 10%

Finally there are six Canberra suburbs where it is cheaper to buy than rent despite the rental rates dipping in the last twelve months. Crace residents would save the most with figures released by R P Data on Friday 12 July showing homeowners could save almost \$300 each month compared with renting. Other suburbs Casey, Forde, Holder and Evatt are among the 692 in Australia where it is cheaper to pay back principal and interest than rent, whereas no suburbs qualified a year ago. The comparisons are based on 30yr mortgage with a variable interest rate of 5.4% and 10% deposit

Canberra rents have risen about 9% in 3 years but interest rates seemed to be the critical factor in these statistics. The median asking rent for ACT units is now \$410 a week, down 6.8% in a year with house rents down 1% to \$480 a week

.CORAL FLEMING

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## **News of Country Women’s Association**

Canberra members enjoyed the State Conference at the Town Hall in Moree in June. The last conference held there was in 1924. Among the speakers were the Governor of NSW Professor Marie Bashir, Pip Courtney and Sam Bailey a quadraplegic farmer from nearby.

Members also enjoyed a visit to a Cotton farm and a Pecan Nut farm

All four Canberra branches were represented at the Group Cultural Day at Bredbo. The next Group meeting on August 6 will be in CWA rooms in Adaminaby.

A Fete will be held in the CWA rooms , Barrie Drive, Civic on Friday August 16, organised by the Canberra day Branch.

More information on all these activities from the CWA delegates to NCW ACT Phoebe Bischoff and Lynne Lawton

P Bischoff

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### [Innovation at the heart of ECOSOC](#)

The 2013 High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is taking place on 1-4 July in Geneva. The Secretary-General's report emphasizes that science, technology, innovation and culture are critical to the achievement of the MDGs and a successful transition to sustainable development. A Thunderclap campaign running since April has helped youth bring their voices to the world's leaders. [Read More](#)



### [The world is making big strides towards achieving the MDGs](#)

Several important targets of the Millennium Development Goals have or will be met by the 2015 deadline, but progress in many areas is far from sufficient, according to this year's Millennium Development Goals Report launched today by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. [Read More](#)



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## **Generation Next - The Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People Playhouse Canberra 14 June 2013**

The days proceedings were opened by Dr Ramesh Manocha the founder of Generation Next from the University of Sydney. Generation Next is a National Education Program aimed at educating parents and professionals about mental health issues and ways to address the challenges facing young people.

The program (14 speakers) covered a wide range of topics and the standard of presentation and the information provided was excellent. To make my perceptions useful to members I thought it best if I make a brief comment and list the relevant websites so that you can access the topics of interest

Maggie Hamilton: The Corporate Takeover of Childhood - addressed the issues of advertising and corporations impacting on the lives of children, the pressures on parents purchase choices, the celebrity phenomenon and its influence in buying power. A researcher in this field Maggie is also the author of 'Secret Girls Business'.

[www.maggiemhamilton.org](http://www.maggiemhamilton.org)

Paul Dillon: Drugs Alcohol and Young People - Current Trends and Issues. The author of 'Teenagers Alcohol and Drugs' provided statistics related to alcohol and drug use and although the problem is of concern he offered a balanced view and posed questions seeking solutions.

[www.darta.net.au](http://www.darta.net.au)

Steve Biddulph: The Five Stages of Girlhood - Author of 'Raising Girls' and 'Raising Boys' and other publications spoke about the stages under the headings: Security(0-2 years) Exploring(2-5 Years) People Skills(5-10 years) Finding your soul(10-14) and Stepping into adulthood (14-18years).

[www.stevebiddulph.com](http://www.stevebiddulph.com)

Prof. Debra Rickwood: Helping Young People in a Mental Crisis - covered the crises affecting young people, when to suspect a mental health problem and how to reach out to help young people.

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

Kerry Stirling: Good Grief- talked about the normality of grief, the kinds of grief and how to support people who are grieving. "Grief changes and surprises you."

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

Andrew Fuller: High Impact Conversations with young people-creating a Lot of Change in a Short Period of Time - discussed the different ways in which men and boys and women and girls communicate. Andrew offered advice on different communication situations - parents talking to daughters and sons, what works and doesn't work in conversation with young people, the empowerment of language and how to use questions.

[www.andrewfuller.com.au](http://www.andrewfuller.com.au)

Ruth Knight: Girls with a Purpose - discussed four ways to help girls flourish through "Identity, Mastery, Healthy Relationships and Generosity"

[www.pillarsofbestpractice.com](http://www.pillarsofbestpractice.com)

Dan Haesler: Great Expectations - talked about Mindset, how we use language to engage with children and particularly how we use praise.

<http://danhaesler.com>

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Speaker for A/Prof. Jane Burns : Resilience Resources Online - involved research exploring the role of technology in young peoples lives - how and the way the internet is used by young people. Major issues concerning young people was also addressed.

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

Susan Mclean: Staying Safe on Facebook in Australia - The speaker is a leading cyber safety expert who discussed Facebook in relation to Privacy, Reporting and Safety.

[www.cybersafetysolutions.com.au](http://www.cybersafetysolutions.com.au)

Kidsmatter/Mindmatters presentation - The work of KidsMatter - a Primary Schools Mental Health Initiative and MindMatters a resource for the wellbeing of secondary school students was outlined.

[www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary)

[www.mindmatters.edu.au](http://www.mindmatters.edu.au)

There was also an opportunity to experience the value of meditation with reference to the publication 'Silence Your Mind' by Ramesh Manocha M.D. as well as participation in Drumming and Percussion with Tim Orgias.

Various organisations provided information fact sheets - [headspace.org.au](http://headspace.org.au) ,

[www.youthbeyondblue](http://www.youthbeyondblue) , [mindmatters.edu.au](http://mindmatters.edu.au) , [kidsmatter.edu.au](http://kidsmatter.edu.au) , National Eating Disorders

Collaboration - [www.nedc.au](http://www.nedc.au) , Black Dog Institute - [www.blackdoginstitute.org.au](http://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au) , Young and Well Cooperative Health Centre , Affirm Youth Ambassadors (Get your school involved) - email:

[affirm@affirm.org.au](mailto:affirm@affirm.org.au)

Lifeshouse Project Inc - [www.lifeshouse.org.au](http://www.lifeshouse.org.au) , Seasons for Growth- [www.goodgrief.org.au](http://www.goodgrief.org.au) ,

Australian Childhood Foundation - [www.childhood.org.au](http://www.childhood.org.au)

Al-Anon/Alateen - [www.al-anonlateen.org/australia](http://www.al-anonlateen.org/australia) , ACER Education - [www.acer.edu.au/edu-shop](http://www.acer.edu.au/edu-shop) , Girls with a purpose-[www.lifeshouse.org.au/gwap](http://www.lifeshouse.org.au/gwap)

I would highly recommend attendance at this seminar for all, when Generation Next returns to Canberra next year.

Wendy Saclier

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## ONE SMALL STEP WOMEN CAN DO TO PROTECT THEMSELVES

We all carry our mobile phones with names & numbers stored in its memory. If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency?

Hence this 'ICE' (In Case of Emergency) Campaign.

The concept of 'ICE' is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations.

As mobile phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name 'ICE' ( In Case Of Emergency).

The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents there were always mobile phones with patients but they didn't know which number to call.

He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose.

In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as 'ICE'.

For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc

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## ENVIRONMENT & HABITAT REPORT.

### Renewable Energy in the ACT

Minister Corbell has advised that the 90 % renewable energy target will be introduced into legislation this year. This is welcome news. Information provided by the Minister also indicates we did achieve the 2012 target of 15% renewable energy by 2012. At the moment the only reporting mechanism of our achievements in meeting our renewable energy targets is via the annual [Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#) . The most recent publicly available data, however, is two years old, with the most recent inventory available being for 2009-2010. It states that renewable energy use has increased from 11 % in 2009 to almost 13 % in 2010.

We'd like to see 'real time' reporting of both our greenhouse gas emissions and our delivery of the renewable energy target. This is flagged as a possibility in the ACT Government's [Action Plan 2](#) , which states that the government will work towards:

more comprehensive online data reporting with at least 90% of emissions reported within six months of the end of each reporting year;

real-time, or near real time, reporting of Territory electricity and gas consumption and renewable energy generation at the Territory or network area level to support enhanced community engagement;

reporting of major indirect emissions including air-travel, and

more detailed reporting on fugitive emissions from industry and other sources.

In 2011-12 our renewable energy use was made up of 5% from the ACT Feed-in-Tariff, 29% Greenpower purchases, 44% of our share of the national renewable energy target and 22% NSW hydro. ( Ref. Conservation Council ACT)

### ACT's Solar Farm

Sprawling out across 50 hectares and billed as Australia's largest, the Royalla solar farm could double its photovoltaic array to 100 hectares if stage two is built next year, according to planning documents. The ACT government called in and approved stage one of the project at Tuggeranong last week, saying it would reduce carbon emissions and generate enough solar power for 4400 homes.

Plans lodged under Commonwealth environmental guidelines refer to a two-stage project, with construction beginning on the second stage in February next year, doubling the 20-megawatt project to 40. The National Capital Authority has also given approval for a 40-megawatt farm. But proponent Fotowatio Renewable Ventures says there is no plan for stage two. The ACT government has not received nor approved a second stage application.

Dr Blakers said the ACT government's plan for large-scale renewables to generate 90 per cent of the territory's energy consumption by 2020 would have an impact and was in line with a national trend. "Wind and PV will probably comprise 100 per cent of new generation capacity for the foreseeable future - perhaps no new base load coal, oil, gas or nuclear power stations will ever be built," he said.

A spokeswoman for Environment Minister Simon Corbell said ACT solar farms would sell electricity directly into the national market. "Successful solar farms will be paid the difference between the feed-in tariff rate they were awarded and what they earn from selling their eligible power into the national electricity market [NEM]," she said. "This will be paid by ActewAGL Distribution, who will pass on the cost to ACT electricity consumers. This difference is expected to reduce over time as NEM prices increase." (Ref.Canberra Times, 10/7/14)

SolarShare is an initiative of SEE-Change, whereby community members can invest in a community solar farm. It was launched in May, and by early July had surpassed its expected target, and has \$544,000 committed by interested people. See: <http://solarshare.com.au>

### Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainability Awards.

1.The [Canberra Indian Mynah Action Group](#) won the overall top award for their trapping program as well as the Community Action, Partnerships and Culture category award, and the Environmental Stewardship category award. Due to their innovative trapping program, the Indian Mynah has been reduced significantly in Canberra. Mynah's have a significant impact on biodiversity, taking over nesting hollows

from native birds and possums, killing chicks and destroying eggs of native birds, and also preying on endangered insects and skinks.

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2. Friends of Aranda Bushland - Commendation, Environmental Stewardship.

3. SEE-Change - Winner, Environmental Advocacy and Innovation category for their innovative youth program 'Centenary 2020 Vision: Imagining a Sustainable Canberra'.

What is happening?

As part of the Centenary 2020 Vision Competition, schools and colleges are invited to study one of [19 sustainability topics](#) in the context of the broad question, 'How will Canberra reach the ACT Government's 2020 greenhouse gas emission reduction target (ie reduction of 40% on 1990 levels by the year 2020)?' The aim is for students to develop a deep understanding of the topic that allows them to come up with their own proposals for local action to meet this target.

Based on this preparation, ACT school students are invited to represent their proposals for the kinds of changes Canberra could make over the next seven years (to 2020) to meet the emission reduction target in a medium of their choice, eg artwork, videos, models, writing, performance, design etc.

Schools may submit up to four (4) of their best entries from each of the following year categories: Kindergarten-Year 3, Year 4-Year 6, Year 7-Year 8, Year 9-Year 10, Year 11-Year 12.

Competition closing date: 23 August 2013

Centenary Parliament of Youth on Sustainability

On 2 and 7 November 2013, school students from all over the ACT will come together for the Centenary Parliament of Youth on Sustainability to discuss how we will meet our emission reduction targets and the way towards a sustainable Canberra. The aim of the Parliament is to produce an agreed statement, or White Paper, by ACT's school students about how they think we can become a sustainable city. All schools in the ACT are invited to send two representatives from each of the following year bands (as appropriate): Kindergarten - Year 3; Year 4 - 6; Year 7 - 9; Year 9 - 10; and Year 11 - 12. (Ref. SEE Change)

Wendy Rainbird

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*"The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed, lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work instead of living on public assistance.*

*- Cicero, 55 BC*

*so, evidently, we've learned nothing in the past 2,067 years !!!*

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## **Executive 2012 - 2013**

<b>President</b>	<b>Wendy Saclier</b>
<b>Vice Presidents</b>	<b>Margaret Smith, Coral Fleming</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Laurayne Bowler</b>
<b>Assistant Secretary</b>	<b>Roslyn Dixon</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jessie Middlemiss</b>
<b>Roll Secretary</b>	<b>Jean Hodgkinson</b>
<b>Convenor of St Committees</b>	<b>Roslyn Dixon</b>
<b>Committee Women</b>	<b>Wendy Gray, Helen Raymond</b>

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

13 August = International Left handed day

30 August international Day of the Disappeared

**Seminar at Southern Cross Club Woden October 31**

## **NCW ACT Meeting Dates 2013**

### **Executive**

Monday 5 August at 10 am  
Monday 2 September at 10 am  
Tuesday 1 October at 10 am

All executive meetings will be held in the Board Room at QE11 Hospital in Curtin

### **Assembly**

Thursday 8 August 2013 Noon  
**Thursday 12 September 2013 AGM Noon**  
Thursday 10 October 2013 Noon  
Thursday 14 November 2013 Noon

All Assemblies are held at Yarralumla Uniting Church Centre Denman Street, Yarralumla  
Meetings commence with Lunch at 12 noon followed by the meeting, usually over by 2.30 pm

**NCW Adviser's Meeting**      **Contact Ros Dixon** Ph 6169 3506  
**Thursday July 18**  
**Thursday October 17**

## **NCW NEWSLETTER - November 2013 - CLOSING DATE for items of interest**

The next newsletter will be produced in October 2013 for November 2013

**Please send items to the editor**

**Jean Thomson OAM** before **12 October 2013** to [elabeach@thomzone.com](mailto:elabeach@thomzone.com)

or (02) 62813396

*This newsletter has been printed with the kind assistance of the office of Ms Gai Brodtmann, Member for Canberra.  
The views expressed in this newsletter may not reflect those of the member.*