



December 2013

# Newsletter

## President's report

The end of the year always seems to come about so quickly, and I hope that you manage to get a break over the festive period.

This year has been very busy for the Victorian branch of ALGWA.

In May we held our annual conference in Euroa, in the Strathbogie Shire. *Going Bush in 2013*. The conference, organised by Cr Colleen Furlanetto, was a smorgasbord, showcasing local entrepreneurs and leaders along with State and Federal politicians. A question and answer session with six local female Mayors was very popular.

Together with the VLGA, we ran a workshop for Victoria's female mayors. This was a half-day workshop in the middle of the Mayoral term, and was very well received. Thank you to Metro Vice-President Helen Coleman for organising this event. Plans are underway for the next female Mayor's workshop, which is likely to be on 15 May 2015.

The branch also co-hosted, with the National Council for Women Vic, a delegation from China. We were grateful that MAV provided accommodation for our meeting. The Victorian Branch

supported the Constitutional Recognition Campaign by providing \$1,000 to MAV for the Fund. This money has now been returned as the referendum was not held, due to the timing of the Federal election.

Following the AGM in 2011 members indicated they were in favour of the ALGWA re-joining the Women's Participation in Local Government Coalition (WPILG). ALGWA (Vic) formally re-joined the Coalition last December and has been an active member. In March we held a joint celebration of the Coalition's Women's Charter Awards and the 50:50 Gender Equity Awards at the City of Boroondara.

Before we re-joined, the Coalition had undergone a review by the Williamson Foundation. Following the review the Coalition approached both MAV and VLGA to jointly take it over. ALGWA was involved in the discussions with both MAV and VLGA. It has been agreed that they will take over the Coalition and ALGWA will play an integral role.



Some current ALGWA committee members and former committee members cut the cake at 50th anniversary celebrations in October at Melbourne Town Hall.



(L–R) Deputy Lord Mayor Cr Susan Riley, Victorian ALGWA president Cr Coral Ross, WLA scholarship winner Cr Narelle Sharpe (see p. 7), and ALGWA committee member and event organiser Helen Relph.

In October our branch celebrated its 50th birthday. A couple of events were held, one rural and one in Melbourne, to mark this milestone. I thank our secretary (and professional historian) Helen Harris for researching our history and for organising the first celebratory event.

This was held in September in the City of Greater Geelong. We were delighted to have former Victorian and National President Priscilla Pescott speak at the event. Priscilla's mother Zillah Crawcour was a founding member of the association and also a former President. Together they have been members for almost all the 50 years of the branch's existence. We were grateful to the City of Greater Geelong for hosting the event.

Our second event, a cocktail party, was hosted by the City of Melbourne at the Melbourne Town Hall. The event was held between the annual MAV

conference and dinner and attracted large numbers. Deputy Lord Mayor Susan Riley welcomed all attendees, and I outlined what was happening in Australia and the world in 1963, when the branch was formed. Australia's population was 11,055,000; Robert Menzies was Prime Minister, Henry Bolte was Premier; internationally the most memorial event was the assassination of President Kennedy; in Britain, it was the year of the Great Train Robbery and the Profumo case and trial. Sports wise, Australia retained the Ashes; Margaret Court became the first Australian woman to win Wimbledon, and in the VFL, Geelong defeated Hawthorn 109-60. If you went to the movies you would have seen Hitchcock's *The Birds*, *Cleopatra* or *Dr No*. Gregory Peck won the Oscar for Best Actor for his role in *To Kill a Mockingbird*; Anne Bancroft won Best Actress for *The Miracle Worker and Lawrence*

of Arabia was the Best Picture. A newish group called the Beatles had hits with *She Loves You* and *Please, Please Me*, while Cliff Richard was singing *Summer Holiday* and *Bachelor Boy* and the Beach Boys were *Surfing in the USA*. And apart from ALGWA Vic, there were a couple of notable births – Elle McPherson and Brad Pitt.

I went on to give a brief history of the Victorian branch and gave a special welcome to two former office bearers, Priscilla Pescott, president (1981–83), and Pauline Burren, secretary (1972). A pianist entertained on the historic piano, used by the Beatles when they were given a civic reception at the town hall in 1964. An article about the event subsequently appeared in *LG Focus*. Thank you to Helen Relph for organising the event.

### Bursary award

Our last event for the year, in November, was our Bursary Award, combined with a special afternoon tea at the historic Windsor Hotel. The Windsor was chosen because of a link with the beginnings of an organisation for Victorian women Councillors. In 1952 a small group of women Councillors met at that venue and formed the Victorian Women Councillor Committee. Unfortunately the organisation lapsed after two years, primarily because arranging meetings was difficult, with many members living in the country, and it was not until 1963 that the idea was successfully revived and the Victorian branch of ALGWA established. The Windsor Hotel was therefore a most fitting venue to conclude our year of 50th commemorations. Maxine Morand, former Minister for Women's Affairs and now CEO of the Breast Cancer Network was



Some of the participants in the Bursary Award event at the Windsor Hotel.

our special guest and presented the Award (a cheque for \$1000) to Marie Downie. Marie is a Human Resources Coordinator with Baw Baw Shire Council, having begun her career as a customer services officer. She is undertaking a Master's degree in Employment Relations through Griffith University and plans to complete her degree by 2015. Thanks go to the Bursary organising committee Cr Raylene Carr, Pam McLeod and Cheryl Bromfield. Helen Harris should be thanked also for organising the Windsor Hotel event.



(Left) ALGWA president Coral Ross, Maxine Morand and Bursary winner Marie Downie; (Above) Further participants at the Windsor, with Marie Downie.

This year the Victorian branch has written and produced a new brochure. I thank Helen Harris for leading this project. A sub-committee of Pam McLeod and Cheryl Bromfield reviewed our constitution. The branch has also secured merchandising products, including a USB and a micro cloth displaying ALGWA colours and logo. The merchandise has been available at all our events, and some has been recently mailed to new members and those we haven't seen at events. If you haven't received the products, please check with Council staff in the new year, and contact us if you have missed out. Planning for the new website is proceeding; thank you to those members who have submitted photographs, we welcome more, particularly of Councillors in Council meetings.

We have also met with the Minister of Local Government, the Hon Jeanette Powell, to highlight issues raised by our members.

In October and November Councils elected their new Mayors. This round resulted in a drop in the number of female mayors, from 30 to 20. We hope to see most at our annual female Mayors workshop.

We are grateful that Cr Raelene Carr has been our "official" photographer, and that Cr Colleen Furlanetto has also provided images. We thank them both for their efforts.

Lastly, I would like to thank the hard working ALGWA executive. As a team, we all work well together. Despite the tyranny of distance, we have managed to meet regularly and hold teleconferences. I would like to thank Pam McLeod for hosting many of our meetings this year. I would particularly like to thank Helen Harris for the huge amount of work and countless hours she does as Honorary Secretary.

I wish you all a safe and happy 2014, and look forward to catching up with many of you in the New Year.

**Cr Coral Ross**  
**President**

**A 1963 Christmas advertisement from  
*The Australian Women's Weekly***

Being presented with a carpet sweeper for Christmas would trigger a somewhat different response in today's world!

a gift that says  
"MERRY CHRISTMAS"  
every day of the year!

*Magic*

... a Christmas gift that just can't be forgotten! On silent nylon bearings, MAGIC MINUTE glides easily across your precious carpets gently coaxing out dust and dirt. Most important, Magic can't harm furniture because its balloon-type bumper protects wherever you clean! Magic Minute is soundly constructed to last longer. This Christmas give her a Magic Minute carpet sweeper. She'll say, "Just what I've always wanted," and mean it. A choice of three colours—Jade, Sapphire and Topaz, and a lifetime of service for just

**£4'18'6**

Magic Carpet Sweepers have a  
**LIFETIME GUARANTEE** against faulty manufacture.



# National Council of Women of Victoria



*"Caring Women Make a Difference"*

## 53rd Annual Women's Australia Day Ceremony

at the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden

King's Domain, Melbourne, (Melways 2F K10)

**Thursday January 23, 2014**

**Time: 10 am for a 10.30 am start**

*Trailblazing Women and the Law*

**Speaker: Professor Kim Rubenstein**

BA LLB Hons (Mel) LLM (Harvard)  
Director of the Centre for International and Public Law,  
ANU Public Policy Fellow,  
ANU College of Law



Our supporters: City of Melbourne, Guides Victoria,  
and the Australia Day Council (Victoria).

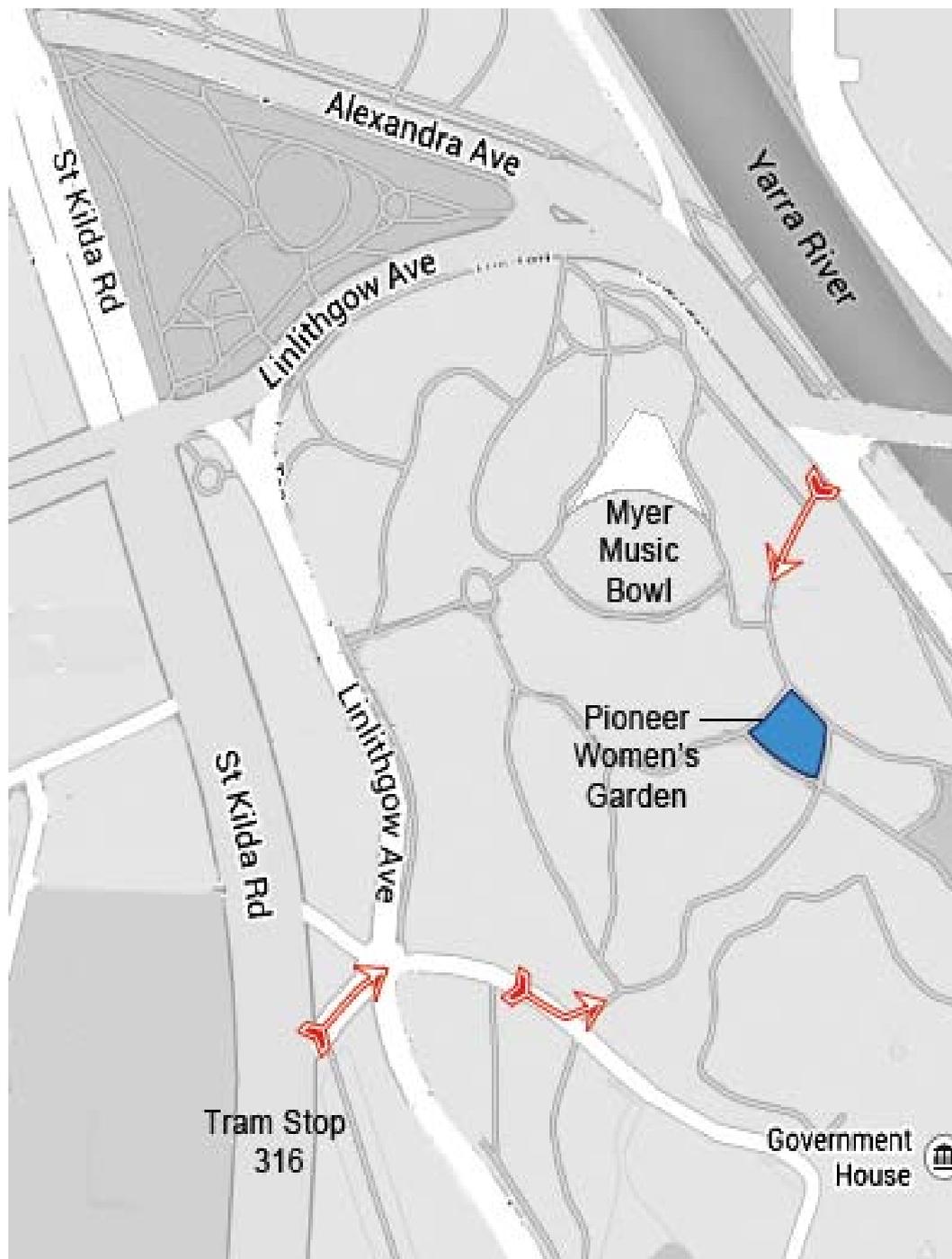
There is no charge for this event but please let us know of your intention to attend by close of business Thursday January 16, 2014. Ph: 9421 1602 or 0439 365 688. If you need disabled access via the pathway on the North side of Government House Drive just before the main gates, please let us know. (Please see map overleaf)

=====  
Clip and post to NCW Victoria, PO Box 18186, Collins St East 8003 or email [ncwvic@bigpond.com](mailto:ncwvic@bigpond.com)

**Yes I/we plan to attend the 2014 Annual Women's Australia Day Ceremony at the Pioneer Women's Garden on Thursday January 23**

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_





Map courtesy Macadvice

A more detailed map of the King's Domain area is available at <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/ParksandActivities/Parks/Pages/Parklocation.aspx#maps>

For more information about the Annual Australia Day Women's Ceremony including list of speakers since 1961 please consult the entry at the Australian Women's Register Website - <http://www.womenaustralia.info/biogs/AWE0664b.htm>. Sources used to compile this entry include: Norris, Ada Champions of the Impossible- A history of National Council of Women of Victoria 1902-1977, Hawthorn Press, 1978 and *Forty years on : women still pioneering : a collection of speeches from the Australia Day Women's Ceremony, Pioneer Women's Garden, King's Domain, Melbourne, National*

## Women and Leadership Australia Scholarships

Women and Leadership Australia is a national initiative committed to supporting the presence of women in business and community leadership roles. WLA is based on the belief that women represent an enormously under-used national resource. It offers an advanced Leadership Program.

The WLA National Scholarship Committee offered two scholarships of \$11,000 to **Australian Local Government Women's Association** members. Two applicants were awarded the scholarship:



**Cr Narelle Sharpe -Moonee Valley City Council [L ] and  
Cr Nora Lamont - Maroondah Shire Council**



Women and Leadership Australia offered a further two scholarships for our members, to support their participation in the Advanced Leadership Program through the Industry Ambassadors Initiative.

Applications for 2013 for both of these scholarships have closed for this year, but consider applying in 2014. During a career-defining 12-months journey, students accelerate their career progression and become part of an exclusive cohort of exceptional women. Designed in sympathy with the challenges of fulltime employment, the program focuses on applied learning outcomes to quickly optimise leadership capacity. During the program, WLA's expert trainers work one-on-one with students to assist them to achieve real-time personal and organisational goals.

“This program addresses what’s really happening within the leadership pipeline. It’s about identifying and nurturing leadership potential and working together to give women the opportunities they really want.” Suzi Finkelstein – Executive Convenor, Women & Leadership Australia. For further information please contact Shaun Zapadlo on 1300 735 904 or email [szapadlo@asam.edu.au](mailto:szapadlo@asam.edu.au).

### ALGWA Victoria Branch Executive Committee

President — Cr Coral Ross [[coral.ross@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:coral.ross@boroondara.vic.gov.au)]

Metro Vice-President — Cr Helen Coleman

Rural Vice President — Cheryl Bromfield

Secretary—Cr Helen Harris OAM [[helen.harris@whitehorse.vic.gov.au](mailto:helen.harris@whitehorse.vic.gov.au)]

Treasurer—Jean Wise OAM

#### Committee Members

Helen Relph

Cr Colleen Furlanetto

Cr Jennifer Yang

Pam McLeod