



## AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION VICTORIAN BRANCH

### December Newsletter 2021

In the spirit of reconciliation, The Australian Local Government Women's Association Victorian Branch acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We acknowledge and respects their unique ability to care for Country, and their deep spiritual connection to it. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.



It seems hard to believe that we are in December already and the year is almost gone, what a year it has been!

Our most successful conference ever, and another fantastic Bursary awarded – congratulations again, Sonja Van Nieuwenhoven from Casey City Council, the amazing Coral Ross' Churchill fellowship research, so many zoom sessions that have enabled us to connect across the state, policy reviews, our updated strategic plan completed, and the start of its implementation occurring. We have welcomed and been delighted to work with more than 8 interns over the year and appreciate the contribution they make to our organisation. Additionally, Sandra Wilson completed research about our retiring female Councillors and we have made numerous submissions to Government committees about women in local government.

A huge commendation to our executive committee and executive officer for their continued commitment and dedication to supporting women to thrive, connect, and excel in local government.

We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. I hope everyone takes the opportunity to recharge and reflect.

We can't wait to see you all in 2022!

Warm regards,  
Cr Kylie Spears  
ALGWA Vic President

### Announcing who will host ALGWA Vic State Conference for 2023

2023 will be hosted by a metro council and we are so excited that Mornington Peninsula Shire Council will host the ALGWA Vic metro conference.



#### Mornington Penninsula Shire announced as the host of ALGWA Vic conference in 2023!

##### Quotes attributable to Mayor, Cr Anthony Marsh

"As a proud Australian Local Government Women's Association Victoria member, the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council is thrilled to host the ALGWA Victorian Branch Conference for 2023. Our conference theme will be *Connect, Inspire and Thrive*."

"Our Council is perfectly positioned to host the ALGWA Victorian Branch Conference. 272 women were elected to Victorian councils in 2020, the highest percentage of women (43.8%) in any Australian state. With seven females from a possible eleven councillors (63.6%), the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council has significantly contributed to this outcome."

##### Quotes attributable to Deputy Mayor, Cr Lisa Dixon

"We are also planning to move from the normal Friday/Saturday proceedings with the conference extending into the Sunday morning, concluding with brunch and a keynote speaker – leaving Sunday afternoon for delegates to explore the best of the Peninsula."

"Over the next 12 months we'll be assembling a line-up of inspirational guest speakers to celebrate women in local government and have our delegates feeling connected, energised and equipped to thrive into the future."

The dates, location and conference schedule of the Mornington Peninsula conference will be announced next year. Greater Shepparton City Council is hosting the 2022 conference.

[Click link to watch and here what Mornington will have to offer](#)

### Meet our newest intern



Hello to the women at ALGWA Vic, my name is Bianca Kendrick - a proud intern at ALGWA Vic as of November 2021. I have recently completed the penultimate year of my Bachelor of Arts Degree at the University of Melbourne, majoring in Politics and International Studies and Criminology.

Governance has been a long interest of mine - inclusive of the local government sector. It is positive to see the representation of many women in this sector expanding, as it is so important for gender equity in local government and our democracy. For this, I admire ALGWA Vic and am beyond grateful for the opportunity to make contributions within this space.

I have had the privilege of knowing Executive Officer Mayor Michelle Kleinert for some time now, since first meeting her whilst I was in high school. I am grateful for her ongoing support and empowerment, particularly through providing me with this incredible opportunity.

I look forward to continuing my engagement with ALGWA Vic and trust it will facilitate great professional and personal development into the future.

