



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

VICTORIAN BRANCH

January Newsletter 2023

The National Conference, 2023

Hosted by ALGWA Vic



Join us for the 2023 National Conference hosted by ALGWA Vic and the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council from 17-20 May 2023 at RACV Cape Schanck Resort in Victoria.

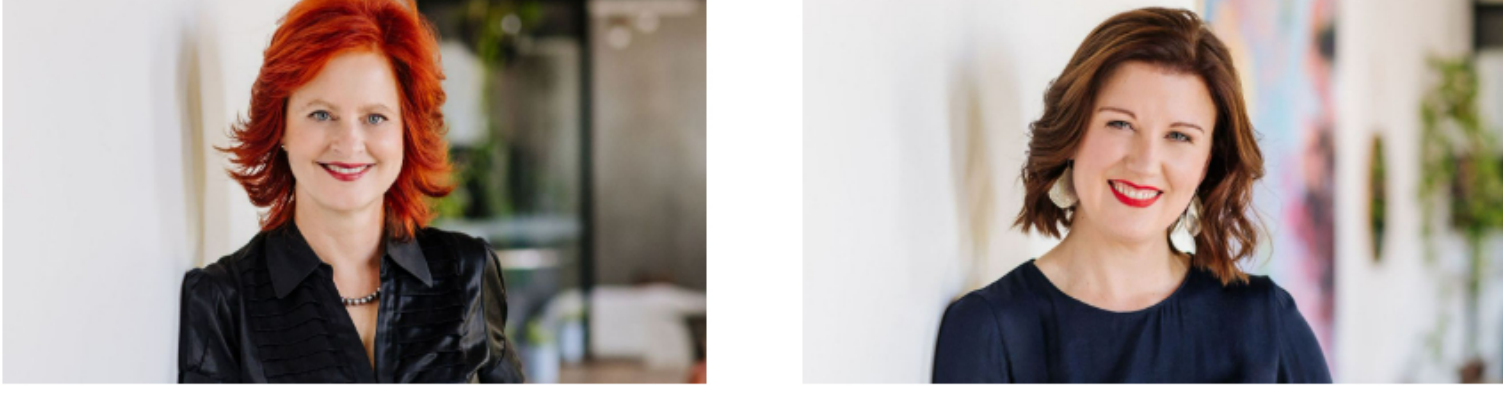
The Conference brings councillors and officers together from across Australia to advance female participation in Local Government and spotlight issues facing women in the sector.

Delegates draw inspiration from thought-provoking presenters, network with other attendees, and benefit from the tremendous peer support offered by ALGWA Vic.

FEBURARY ONLINE FORUM

Thursday 23rd @ 7pm EST

Code of Conduct. Resetting for a new year with Justitia



Sarah Rey and Melissa Scadden are partners at [Justitia](#), a multi-award-winning law firm based in Melbourne that has worked with Councils since 2006. They focus on helping Councils create healthy and dynamic workplaces where people can thrive, whether through employment law advice to CEOs and HR teams or governance support to Councils.

Justitia has a keen interest in early intervention strategies for workplace conflict and building individuals' capacity to engage effectively in difficult conversations. Melissa and Sarah have acted as Arbiter or Mediators on numerous Councillor Code of Conduct disputes and, more recently, supported many Councils with refreshing their Codes of Conduct and building effective working relationships.

Justitia has sponsored the three last ALGWA Vic conferences, and Melissa, Magda, and Sarah have been privileged to contribute to the conference programmes. Justitia is a MAV accredited legal services provider and collaborates with VLGA to provide training and other support to Councils.

This online forum will be about how we continue building effective working relationships with our fellow councillors.

Don't Delay. Book it in now

MARCH ONLINE FORUM

Thursday 23rd March @ 7pm EST

Building Positive Teams



Lydia Wilson is the current Chair of the Panel of Administrators established to act as the Whittlesea City Council. Her role is to ensure the council is governing in the best interest of the local community and meeting its statutory obligations.

During these years, Lydia has built and continues to forge strong relationships and connections within the council and externally.

Lydia has experience working in Local Government, including as a CEO, on many Boards and Advisory Committees. She has a wealth of knowledge to share.

Lydia will share her reflections on the last two years, what has been achieved and how she has done this. You can't do anything by yourself in Local Government. Get the tips you need to achieve all your desire for your community.

Book it in Now

Exciting news from our former interns

As ALGWA Vic continues the internship program in 2023, we start with celebrating more success stories.



In 2020 I was introduced to ALGWA Vic through another ALGWA Vic intern named Phoebe, who I had met at a United Nations International Women's Day event. Being two uni students interested in government, Phoebe was kind enough to share her experience with me and point me in the direction of ALGWA Vic. From there, I had the pleasure of meeting Michelle, the Executive Officer for ALGWA Vic and joined the organisation as a policy intern, providing advice to ALGWA's Vic social media, financial and volunteering policies.

A memorable moment during my time at ALGWA Vic was working to put together the 2021 annual conference held at Yarra City Council. It was amazing to see all the behind-the-scenes work that goes into such a community-orientated event, and it felt very special to be a part of it. Hearing from speakers Nyadol Nyon, Samantha Rathnam, and Helen Haines was an incredible experience and reaffirmed my enthusiasm for seeing greater diverse representation in government.

Since then, I have worked with the Victorian Government as a Policy and Engagement Officer in the Local Government Portfolio. I have been able to support the Hon. Melissa Horne, Minister for Local Government and have worked closely with the Gender Equality Advisory Committee. The Advancing Women's Leadership Summit, an event attended by the Hon. Julia Gillard OAM and delivered by the Committee, will forever remain a proud highlight. I'm excited to continue working for Local Government Victoria in a new role as a Policy and Coordination Officer, supporting the work of the Department and the Local Government Mayoral Advisory Committee.

My experiences with ALGWA Vic led to my appreciation for local government and its important role in serving and engaging the public.

I hope to continue to find ways to serve the community throughout my career better, and I thank ALGWA Vic for initiating that.

Regards to all.

Lara Christensen



When my study abroad trip in Milan, Italy, was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I knew I needed to find a way to make up for the lost time in my studies. I decided to jump into the Australian semester after it had started and catch up on units, and an internship would be a great way to gain some practical experience while also working towards my degree.

I started searching for internships in my field of interest, and that's when I came across the ALGWA Vic. I was immediately drawn to the organisation's mission of promoting and supporting women in local government, and I thought an internship with ALGWA Vic would be a great opportunity to learn more about the field and gain some hands-on experience.

I applied for the internship and was thrilled to be accepted. Working with Michelle and my fellow interns ignited a passion for local government, and I enjoyed learning about the various issues and challenges facing communities and working on projects that made a difference.

The internship with ALGWA Vic also helped me build my skills and experience, ultimately leading to a graduate role with Victoria's Big Build starting in February.

I'm so excited to take the next step in my career and continue working on important projects that positively impact my community.

See you all at the National Conference!

Carri Holloway

