



## AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION VICTORIAN BRANCH

### September Newsletter 2023

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 respect 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.



What month it has been.

#### 2023 ALGWA Vic Bursary Award

Congratulations to our 2023 ALGWA Victoria Bursary Winner - Sophie Paterson from Glen Eira Council.

What a fabulous night we had celebrating 7 incredible Officers, at the SeaLife Aquarium. Thank you and well done, to all our wonderful finalists – Vanessa Bove, Lauren Lawford, Leonie Martens, Sophie Paterson, Elizabeth Spanjer, Sharyn Tilley and Vicki Tuchan.



It was fantastic to have the opportunity to partner with LGPro and our event sponsor Ventia to award this years Bursary.

Congratulations also to Vanessa Bove on being highly commended.

Thank you, our fantastic judges, – Barbara Abley AM - Chair, Pam McLeod – ALGWA Vic Life Member, Ronniel Milliken – President National Council of Women Victoria and Jill Brown – CEO of LG Pro for their time and expertise and to our keynote speaker Nadine Russell.

A huge thank you to our Bursary committee and particularly to our Executive Officer Michelle Kleinert.

#### My Voice, My Vote

I was honoured to be part of the adjudicating panel for the National Council of Women Victoria's My Voice, My Vote at State Parliament.

Wow! Listening to students from 16 different schools who spoke was inspiring. The research and thought that had been put into each presentation was a credit to them all.

I certainly encouraged them all to think about Local Government and being part of it, whether as a Councillor or Officer.

It further reaffirmed for us, if we are to encourage young women into local government then addressing actions of the cultural review is a must. ALGWA Vic will continue to advocate to address the many challenges and opportunities we outlined in our submission.

#### Operation Sandon Report

We have seen the release of the Sandon report and its recommendations. I know

many Councillors and Councils are now reflecting on what this means for each of us as we also wait for further State Government announcements.

ALGWA Victoria will continue to work with Government, LGV and our other peak bodies.

#### ALGWA Queensland State Conference

I attended the Queensland ALGWA conference during this month and came away with lots of take homes from the many thought-provoking presentations.

From the Gold Coast Council's Public Space Liaison Officer Program – working with their homeless population, to Ethical decision making and the perils and pitfalls of AI, we were challenged to think outside the square, respect the past, acknowledge the present and look to the future. Consider that being underestimated is a superpower, and remember Barack Obama said, 'Everyone's winging it some of the time'.

Have a wonderful month.

Warm regards,

Kylie

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## IN MEMORIAM

### Remembering Lesley Falloon OAM

1920 - 2023

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of a remarkable individual, Lesley Falloon OAM. Lesley's legacy as a trailblazer and advocate for her community leaves an indelible mark on the City of Sandringham and beyond.



Former Mayor of the City of Sandringham for two terms and dedicated Councillor from 1978 to 1992, Lesley's commitment to public service was evident in every facet of her life. She passed away peacefully in her sleep this August at the age of 103, leaving behind a life story that will forever inspire us.

Lesley's journey began as one of the first residents of Melbourne University's Women's College, where she embarked on a path of academic excellence. As a pioneering female biochemist at Melbourne University, she defied convention and blazed trails for women in the field. Her tenacity and passion opened doors for countless others, and her influence continues to ripple through generations of aspiring women scientists.

Among her many accomplishments, Lesley's efforts in leading the advocacy to save the Linacre Road trees in Hampton during the 1970s stand out as a testament to her unwavering dedication. This tireless campaign culminated in a historic victory in the Supreme Court of Australia, preserving a precious natural legacy for future generations.

Lesley was not only a champion for the environment but also an advocate for women's rights and empowerment. Her vision for a more inclusive and equitable society has left an enduring impact on the Bayside community and beyond. She embodied the qualities of courage, integrity, and compassion that inspire us all to strive for positive change.

In this time of remembrance, our thoughts are with Lesley's family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing her. We invite you to join us in honoring her legacy by continuing the work she started – advocating for a better world, fighting for equality, and embracing the spirit of service that defined her life.

Rest in peace, Lesley. Your legacy will continue to shine brightly in the lives you've touched and the causes you've championed.

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## 2023 ALGWA VIC BURSARY AWARD NIGHT

What a night to remember! The Bursary Award Night was a smashing success. Kudos to the dedicated applicants who are shaping their communities while pursuing education.

The turnout was phenomenal, underscoring the strong support for these bright stars. As we celebrated their accomplishments and aspirations, the atmosphere was filled with positivity and promise.

The 2023 Bursary Award night was a true celebration of community, education, and the spirit of achievement.





## 2023 ALGWA Vic Bursary Award Winner

Sophie Paterson

*'So thrilled to receive this award and the wonderful opportunities it opens up for the year ahead. Working in local government is really rewarding and it helps to be surrounded by a great team at Glen Eira.'*



**Sophie Paterson**  
Glen Eira City Council  
[in](#)

Sophie is a dedicated community advocate who focuses on fostering relationships and improving outcomes for local



communities, councils and governments. With experience as the current Advocacy Lead for Glen Eira and previous work in State Government as an electorate officer and chief-of-staff, she has been able to make a meaningful impact, particularly around progressing policy ideas that prioritise community health. Sophie is currently studying a Master of Public Health.

**Sophie received:**

- \$2,500 Cash Prize
- Full registration to the 2024 ALGWA Vic State Conference with a role as guest speaker
- Participation on the Judging Panel for the 2024 Bursary Award Nominations
- Access to one LGPro course of the winner's choice over the next 12 months
- Full registration to the LGPro Women's Professional Development Forum, including a ticket to the Women's Networking Dinner

**Prizes are valued at over \$7,500**

## **2023 ALGWA Vic Bursary Award Highly Commended**

### **Vanessa Bove**

*'Grateful and honoured to receive a High Commendation at the ALGWA VIC Bursary Award. It's incredibly motivating to be recognised for my contributions and I'm excited about the opportunities this award brings for my professional growth. Let's keep pushing boundaries and making a difference together!'*



**Vanessa Bove**  
Manningham Council  
[in](#)

Vanessa is a dedicated professional with a strong background in community development. She's passionate about fostering inclusive communities and has made significant contributions to the local government sector. Vanessa's commitment to excellence and continuous learning sets her apart, as demonstrated by her pursuit of ongoing education and participation in leadership programs. Vanessa's exceptional skills in project management, people management, and stakeholder engagement make her a valued asset for driving positive impact in the community.

**Vanessa received:**

- Full registration to the 2024 ALGWA Vic State Conference
- Full registration to the LGPro Women's Professional Development Forum, including a ticket to the Women's Networking Dinner

**Prizes are valued at over \$1,500**

**Thank you to our Supporting Partner, [LGPro](#),  
and our Event Sponsor, [Ventia](#)!**



## **Thank you to our 2023 Bursary Award Judges.**

ALGWA Vic would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution and unwavering commitment from all of our panellist judges who participated in selecting a 2023 Bursary Award Winner.

The 2023 Bursary Award Night Ceremony would not have been possible without your efforts. Thank you!



**Barbara Abley AM**  
Chair of the ALGWA Vic Bursary Award  
  
Former Mayor and Councillor at City of Greater Geelong



**Pam McLeod**  
2008-2010 ALGWA Vic President  
ALGWA Vic Life Member  
[in](#)



**Jill Brown**



CEO of LGPro



**Ronniet Milliken**

President of the National Council of Women Victoria



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## SEPTEMBER ONLINE FORUM

Thursday 21st September @ 7pm AEST via Zoom

### Hands Up for Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Have you ever considered stepping up as a leader in your community? Now's the perfect time to explore the roles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor in our upcoming online forum!

Join us for an engaging virtual conversation on Thursday 21 September, where we'll delve into the responsibilities and rewards of these crucial positions. Gain inspiration and confidence from the insights of esteemed past and current Councillors and Mayors who will be sharing their experiences.

Don't miss this opportunity to discover the impact you can make and the positive change you can bring to your community.

Mark your calendars and be part of this empowering event! See you there!

[Book now](#)

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## STATE CONFERENCE 2024

ALGWA Vic 2024 Annual State Conference will be hosted by  
Baw Baw Shire

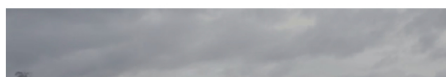
### Resilience & Reinvention



[Baw Baw Shire Council](#) is thrilled to announce it has been chosen to host the Australian Local Government Women's Association Victoria 2024 State Conference in April.

The *Resilience and Reinvention* themed conference will take place on **26 and 27 April 2024** at the West Gippsland Arts Centre in Warragul.

More details, including keynote speakers, will be released over the coming months.







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## INTERN PROGRAM

### Meet our new intern!



**Dua Haider**  
2023 ALGWA Vic Intern  
[in](#)

I am currently in my final year studying a Bachelor of Law/International Studies, majoring in Politics and Policy Studies at Deakin University. As a first generation Pakistani-Australian, my passion to pursue a career in law and politics began when I wanted to see more women of colour with diverse backgrounds representing their communities in the public sphere.

I chose to apply for the Admin and Marketing Internship with ALGWA Vic because I wanted to gain further insight into what it was like working for local government. Throughout the internship so far, I've had the amazing opportunity to work with Cr Michelle Kleiner OAM on the logistics behind the 2023 Bursary Award Night Ceremony. I developed the Bursary Night event planner, created the finalist certificates, as well as designed various social media posts advertising the Bursary Night Ceremony.

Interning at ALGWA Vic has been a worthwhile experience and I look forward to learning more about local government.

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