**ALGWA – VICTORIAN BRANCH.**

**1st ANNUAL CONFERENCE,**

**Y.W.C.A. BENDIGO, 3rd – 5th APRIL 1964.**

Extracted from available sources by Cr. Helen Harris OAM, 2016.

Theme: *The role of local government in the community.*

Registration for full conference 15/-; casual attendance fee 5/- per
session. Cost of official dinner £1, Saturday luncheon 9/6, picnic lunch Sunday 6/-.

**Friday 3rd April**

The conference commenced at 8pm with an official opening by the Mayor of Bendigo. This was followed by a Panel of women active in local government, Crs Christine Wiseman, Nola Barber, Zillah Crawcour, ex Cr Shirley Burke, Miss M. Brennan, Miss N. Porteous, and Mrs. E. McCallum ‘Why women in local government?’

**Sat 4th April**

Mr. A.N. Walls, Town Clerk, Box Hill, President of the Victorian Division of the Australian. Institute of Municipal Administration. ‘The role of local government in the community.’

This was followed by Discussion groups for an hour, then another hour of reports from the discussion groups.

After lunch, Professor R. Sharwood, of the Law School, ANU Canberra, spoke on ‘Local government, the law and the citizen’. This was followed by discussion.

Resolutions made were:

1. The possibility of introducing the ‘Garbag’ method of rubbish disposal.

2. Whether Municipal Councils should be responsible for the service of visiting elderly citizens.

3. Whether Municipal Councils can make better use of the 3% income for miscellaneous purposes allowed by Sec. 246 of the Local Government Act.

4. There should be better publicity and public relations to increase the knowledge of the work and functions of Municipal Councils among citizens and ratepayers.

5. Franchise – various suggestions, eg full adult franchise with or without compulsory voting. It was recognised that some reform is necessary as the majority of women do not have a vote in Victoria.

6. Education – there should be increased stress on Local Government affairs in the School Curricula, visits to Councils etc.

A questionnaire on franchise was to be prepared by Mrs Hallenstein and Miss Porteous.

An Education Sub-Committee was formed, convened by Cr Nola Barber, with members Mesdames Gordon and Stretton and Misses Porteous and Monteith.

An Excursion took place at 5pm, showing former mine dumps converted to parks and playgrounds, and an official dinner was afterwards held at the City Family Hotel.

**Sunday 5th April**

A Panel of speakers active in local government, (unnamed) chairman Mrs. R. Hallenstein, President ALGWA Vic. Branch. ‘Further horizons in local government.’

The Conference concluded with a picnic lunch, and an excursion to Eppalock Weir.