



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION VICTORIAN BRANCH

April Newsletter 2021



First of all ALGWA Vic wishes you a happy and healthy Easter.

I know you have been receiving all our correspondence about our upcoming conference hosted by the City of Yarra. This is an extremely special conference to us at ALGWA Vic. 2020 marked the centenary of the first woman elected to local government in Victoria. Following the election of Mary Rogers in November 1920 to Richmond Council, more than 2000 women have followed in her footsteps, although the road has not always been straight or easy.

In the centenary year, the highest percentage of women (43.8%) in any Australian state were elected to Victorian councils.

Whilst Victoria might be leading the country in female representation, there remain huge cultural, conduct and retention issues. Similar to federal politics, local government needs to change its structures and cultures to move in the 21st century to continue to attract and retain women at the decision-making table.

This conference will provide insights and perspectives into the current state of play and the way forward. Look out this coming week for another update about the conference.

We believe our theme for 2021 is so appropriate for us all as we build the foundations of our next four years in local government. Culture is so important in any workplace and local government being no exception, it starts with you as individuals. It's with a culture that we set the standard for our next four years together. Conduct provides a basis for positive culture and we can't underestimate how important this is in today's environment. In light of the Gender Equality Act, respectful relationships are a significant part of conduct. And retention, so important we play a part in 50/50 by 2025. We know retention is the key to building strong foundations that enable us to continue the journey of achieving this target.

One month out and we have record numbers registered, we can't wait to see you all face-to-face. If our online forums are any indication, WOW! We cannot contain the anticipated vibe.

Registrations are limited and **early bird ends this week April 8th**.

Warmest regards,

Mayor Kylie Spears
President ALGWA Vic

Vale Margaret Nicholls Allnutt JP CMC



Marg Nicholls

28.02.21

It is with deep sadness that ALGWA Vic shares the news of the passing of Life Member, Margaret (Marg) Nicholls-Allnutt JP, CMC who passed away on 28 February 2021 after a fierce battle with pancreatic cancer.

Marg has been a long time member of ALGWA Vic and was a Councillor for the North/West Ward for the City of Oakleigh from 1989 to 1994 and served as Mayor in 1994. Marg was also a wedding celebrant for many years bringing a very special personal touch to her weddings. She was also a member of the Association of Civil Celebrants of Victoria Incorporated.

Marg touched many people over her life and we celebrate her life of love, laughter, caring, travel and fun. Marg is survived by her husband Dennis and her four sons, in-laws, grandchildren and friends.

Marg retained an interest in ALGWA Vic, we were blessed to have her on one of our online forum series in 2020.

April Events: Online Forum Series



Former Councillor's Online Forum

Thursday 22 April 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Life after council – talent & energy repurposed

Whether you made the decision not to re-stand at the 2020 elections, or you had the decision made for you, life post-local government is an adjustment.

ALGWA Vic will provide a safe space for women who are no longer councillors to share reflections on time as a councillor and any ambitions to stay connected and contribute to public life explore opportunities that may or may not have presented themselves connect with others to relish the new things discovered and enabled post-council.

Hosted by former Mayors, ALGWA Vic Vice President Metro, Sandra Wilson and ALGWA National Vice President, Coral Ross who will both update you on the exit survey of retiring councillors ALGWA Vic conducted in October. The reasons given for not re-standing, and present to you the consolidated knowledge and experience lost to local government by women who no longer occupy a seat in the Chamber.

Share the opportunities ALGWA Vic is exploring to draw on the talent bank of former female councillors in a world where gender equality is still a pressing goal.

Thursday 22 April 2021, 7:00pm-8:00pm

[Click Here To Register](#)

Annual General Meeting 2021

In accordance with the ALGWA Vic constitution and on behalf of the ALGWA Vic executive committee, I am pleased to provide "Notice" of ALGWA Vic's Annual General Meeting (AGM)* which will be held via Zoom on Wednesday 19 May 2021 at 11:30am.

We invite and encourage you to attend the ALGWA Vic AGM. Please join us in sharing the achievements of ALGWA Vic in the last year and our vision for the next 12 months.

Any inquiries please contact Executive Officer Cr Michelle Kleinert via email at admin@algwa.com.au

Wednesday 19 May 2021, 11:30pm-12:30pm

[Click Here To Register](#)

Bursary Award Nominations Are About To Open

Danielle Pepyat, the 2020 Bursary Award recipient will be a speaker at our conference this month. Thus officially opening this year's nominations.

1 May 2021 - Bursary Award nominations officially open at the conference

12 July 2021 - Close of nominations

20 July 2021 - All nominees will receive confirmation of the nomination

23 Aug 2021 - Finalists notified

20 Oct 2021 - Bursary Award Event - **Winner Announced**

[2021 Bursary Award Brochure](#)

The ALGWA Vic Volunteer & Intern Program

ALGWA Vic is excited to have the team of interns and volunteers join our conference and support the amazing efforts of Yarra City Council. It will be a wonderful opportunity for our team to gain experience and assist on the day with various tasks to ensure the conference success.

So much work is happening behind the scenes, thanks to the dedication of all involved. You will see first hand the commitment of the team and we are sure you will acknowledge the talent we are bringing into the ALGWA Vic fold.

