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AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION VICTORIAN BRANCH

August 2024 Newsletter

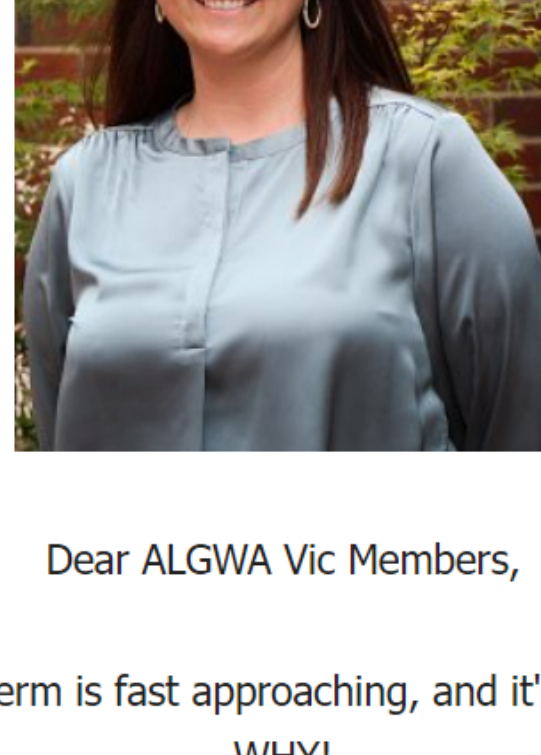
In the spirit of reconciliation, the Australian Local Government Women's Association Victorian Branch acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples as the Traditional Custodians of this land.

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.

A Message From Your President

Mayor Clare Williams



Dear ALGWA Vic Members,

The end of this council term is fast approaching, and it's time to think about your WHY!

I can assure you that ALGWA Vic is here to support you no matter your "why", whether you decide to stand for the first time, to stand again, or to pass the baton on.

We are proud of all our work and will continue to serve the sector, assisting you to thrive in your elected roles and beyond.

We will continue to foster connections with women all over Victoria, hosting regular online forums and mentoring. I encourage you to invest in yourself, look after yourself, and stay connected with ALGWA Vic at this time.

There's lots in this edition of our newsletter and we always welcome your feedback. Thank you for staying connected with us.

Warm regards,
Mayor Clare Williams

JULY EVENT RECAP

Workshop with Dr Louise Mahler

Lead With Gravitas



On 19th July, we welcomed Dr Louise Mahler, who presented a half-day workshop, 'Leading with Gravitas'. This energetic and thought-provoking session saw members of ALGWA Vic learn from a global expert in body language and communication to develop leadership and presentation skills for professional and personal growth.

ALGWA Vic members were involved from the beginning. Everyone was engaged with the workshop throughout the day, from jumping up on stage with Louise to practising new techniques with fellow members.

We want to thank Louise for being so generous with her time and energy and for providing us with some amazing tools for our professional repertoire.

ALGWA Vic would like to thank Manningham Council again for supporting this event as the venue host and LGPro as the supporting partner for catering.

"This is by far the best training and is definitely relevant to me. Simple techniques that I can apply straight away; I give it 10 stars out of 5."

- Julia (Participant)

[Access the event photo drive](#)

[A gift from Louise! See our workshop scorecard](#)

AUGUST ONLINE NETWORKING FORUM

Thursday 22nd August @ 7pm EST

Writing a Compelling 200-Word Statement

Join ALGWA Vic committee members Coral Ross AM and Helen Coleman OAM in this month's online forum. With the 2024 elections only months away, now is a great time to hear from those who have written successful and compelling statements.

Your 200-word statement is among the most important factors in a clean and winning election. This is one hour of intense tips on what to include and what to throw out.

SEPTEMBER ONLINE NETWORKING FORUM

Thursday 26th September @ 7pm EST

Winning at Life with Cr Karen Foster

Join Cr Karen Foster to learn strategies successful leaders use and confidence tips to banish imposter syndrome.

September is right around the corner, and we want you to maximise your planning, so join us for an exciting month of discussion and development.

We'll be joined by Karen Foster, the former Mayor and current Deputy Mayor of Moyné Shire. A first-term Councillor (and the only woman on her Council), she came to the role with a breadth of community leadership experience as a business owner, Non-Executive Board Director, and Chair. From her home in Port Fairy, she operates a leadership development consultancy. She acts as a coach and mentor for women.

In this online event, Karen will discuss how successful leaders create balance in their lives to stay on top of commitments while not sacrificing the good things in life. The concept of 'Imposter Syndrome', what it is and why we so often experience it will also be explored, along with strategies to reframe your thinking.

We are so excited to learn from this incredible woman!

2024 ALGWA VIC BURSARY AWARD UPDATE



The ALGWA Vic 2024 Bursary Award nominations have now closed. All nominees have been interviewed, and the judging panel is hard at work reviewing the applications.

We are excited to share that the 2024 ALGWA Vic Bursary Award winner will be announced at the LGPro Women's Dinner at Pullman Albert Park on Thursday, October 17th, at 7pm.

Finalists for this award will be notified this coming month.

This is an exciting chapter for ALGWA Vic as we partner with LGPro to bring this award alongside the prestigious Sally Isaac Memorial Scholarship Fund Award.

We are most grateful to Ventia's continued support of these awards and for making this an extraordinary night for all who can attend.

[Get in early! Book tickets here](#)



1000 WOMEN STANDING

Let's support 1000 women to stand for council elections in 2024

The Victorian Government's goal of achieving 50:50 gender representation in local government by 2025 is laudable. Currently, women make up just under 44% of councillors, with significant underrepresentation of young women, First Nations women, women from diverse backgrounds, women with disabilities, and gender-diverse people.

To meet this goal, we need a substantial increase in female candidates. The 1000 Women Standing movement, founded in 2021 by volunteer activists, supports this effort. With around 650 councillors to be elected in 2024, about 330 need to be women to achieve parity. Since one-third of women candidates are elected, around 1000 women must run.

To support this, individuals can stand for council, encourage others, organise community activities, promote leadership opportunities, and host forums to discuss gender equality.

[Read the fact sheet to learn more](#)

INTERN PROGRAM

Goodbye Isabella!



As my internship eases to a close, I wanted to reflect on my time with ALGWA Vic and the fantastic opportunity that was the intern program. Working alongside such passionate and dedicated women has been such a privilege and I am extremely grateful for the support and mentoring I have received.

Over the past few months, I have continually built upon and extended my skill set through the guidance of the program. From expanding my knowledge of local government, to learning what it takes to see strong representation of women in today's workforce, it has been a spectacular experience.

It has been a true privilege to be a part of the ALGWA Vic team, even if only for a short time, and I am incredibly inspired by how hard the executive works. Including but not limited to the organisation of fantastic events like the annual conference, Dr Louise Mahler and the mentoring program.

Thank you to Cr Michelle Kleinert for running the intern program and to former president Mayor Kylie Spears, current president Mayor Clare Williams and the executive for their demonstration of what strong female leadership looks like in 2024. Thank you also to the other interns Amelia and Hannah for making it a fun few months!

I look forward to keeping up with ALGWA Vic and its continued success and growth over the coming years. Thank you again for a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Isabella May

