



**AUSTRALIAN LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION  
VICTORIAN BRANCH**

**Spring into action as Elections are a reality**

*ALGWA Vic September edition:*



Another month has flown past. In a non-Covid-19 world, we would now have all come together at our conference hosted by the City of Yarra to celebrate Mary Rogers and 100 years of women elected in Local Government. In the current environment, understandably this has been postponed and times ahead are still not certain. We continue to work towards any opportunity that may arise to come together in some way shape or form by the end the year. Thank you to City of Yarra for their continuing support in acknowledging Mary Rogers and the 100 years.

What has been certain for our Executive committee is the commitment to support both current and potential future councillors to the next council elections.

Our 2020 Bursary event moved online this year and was a wonderful celebration and showcase for some of the amazing women we have working within our local government areas. It was inspiring to hear about each of their journeys thus far, as our finalists all spoke before the award was presented by our past president Cr Michelle Kleinert. Congratulations to Danielle Pepyat from Maroondah City Council, our 2020 Bursary Winner.

Thank you to everyone who attended. In particular, we thank Raylene Carr, our award organiser for the last 12 years, our judges Barbara Abley OAM JP, Tony De Fazio, Robin Matthews, and Pam McLeod, as well as the wonderful MC Barbara Abley. A special thanks to our intern Julie Rae who put the Bursary event together.

It has been lovely to hear from so many of you about how much you are enjoying the online forum series. We are so excited to have our first International speaker, Uruguayan Senator Carmen Sanguinetti, joining us; please see more details following. Carmen is an inspiration for all of us, and a lesson that no matter where in the world women of Leadership are, many of the challenges, struggles and triumphs are the same when we stay focused, stay true and surround ourselves with likeminded leaders.

So much in the pipeline ahead, and we are encouraged by your feedback and engagement. Please keep it coming.

I hope to see you on a Zoom soon, but in the meantime, stay safe, well and connected.

Warm regards,

Kylie  
President

[We value your support! Click to join ALGWA Vic](#)

## 2020 Bursary Award Winner Announced!

Congratulations to Danielle Pepyat from Maroondah City Council who became our 2020 Bursary Award Winner. It was an emotional speech of gratitude that Danielle gave, and it highlighted to all present in the online event that Awards like this are even more important today than ever before.

“I am humble, grateful and honoured to be receiving this award and know it will not only support my expensive studies moving forward but motivate and encourage me.

I believe my studies will be a great personal benefit in self-fulfilment, but will also greatly enhance my work and the organisation to improve their services to the community.

As the local government sector continues to work towards workplace gender equality, I'm proud to belong to ALGWA. I look forward to attending events to introduce me to a bunch of inspiring female leaders in the sector. I believe this award provides not only an opportunity, but encouragement for those who are looking to continue to progress within the sector and further educate themselves.

Thank you again for this amazing opportunity ALGWA Vic.

Danielle.”



ALGWA Vic would like to also acknowledge the exceptional finalists, and thank them for their wonderful words of what it meant to them to be nominated for the award:

- Diana Amato (Moonee Valley)
- Bianca Rich (Yarra Ranges)
- Benita Russell (Bass Coast)
- Renee Russel (Casey)

Thank you to the CEO's and Managers who encouraged all to nominate for the award. Do not underestimate the power of recommending a staff member to nominate, for positive culture and morale.

## ALGWA Vic upcoming events

### **Wednesday, August 26th 5:30 pm:**

Cocktails and Campaigning is back again and this time we are focusing on “More women for Local Government” and how to best equip candidates in light of this current covid-19 climate.

ALGWA President and host of this event, Kylie Spears, will be joined by Councillor Antonella Celi and Linda Bennett.

### **About our guest speakers:**

**Linda Bennett** has worked in local governments since the early 1980s in a range of service delivery and management roles. She was the Women’s Policy and Projects Officer with the Victorian Local Governance Association from 2000 - 2017. Her focus was on the civic participation and community leadership of a diversity of women at the local level. She has been involved in every Victorian local government election cycle since 2000 and in State-wide and local projects and campaigns to encourage women’s participation. Linda brings a passionate and strategic approach to the practicalities of improving gender equity and diversity in Victoria’s elected local governments, working from the 3 principles of the Victorian Local Government Women’s Charter – achieving gender equity, building diversity of women, and recognising their active citizenship.

**Councillor Antonella Celi** past professional background is in executive administration for PR and Marketing firms and practitioner in the complementary health and wellbeing industry. Cr Celi has run in five elections on the Mornington Peninsula and entered local government in 2010, 2012 and in 2016 elections and has since graduated to receive a Diploma in Local Government for Elected Councillors. In addition to being a local Councillor for ten years, Cr Celi is a former Mayor of Mornington Peninsula Shire and has held council-delegated positions to more than seven municipal committees and held positions of Chair of the Planning Services Committee; Municipal Health and Wellbeing Committee; the Positive Ageing Steering Committee; The Triple A Housing Policy Committee, the Arts Culture Advisory Committee and the Peninsula Reads Literacy Committee.



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**Thursday, September 10th 7:30 pm:**

ALGWA Victoria is bringing you a very special event from across an ocean to your zoom abode. All the way from Uruguay, we will be joined by Senator Carmen Sanguinetti as we speak candidly about empowering women and the charge, she is taking to make social impact at a high level dominated by males.

**About our guest speaker:**

**Senator Carmen Sanguinetti** is a Uruguayan politician from the Colorado Party in Uruguay. Elected in March 2020 to the Senate. Her policies centre around social life and inclusivity with her background in disability. No matter where in the world women explore leadership, our challenges and triumphs are the same.



[Book Now](#)

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**Monday, September 14th 5:30 pm:**

ALGWA Victoria presents **Cocktails and 300 words.**

**About the session:**

Hosted by our President, Cr Kylie Spears, we know very well those '300 words' are so important to your campaign. Where do you start? How do you make the best use of these words? Where can I bounce ideas and feel confident? Join our Cocktails and Campaign Online Forum with your cocktail of choice and ask away. This event is a great time for you to network, encourage and bounce off one another as we take the step together!



[Book Now](#)

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**Thursday, September 24th 5:30 pm:**

ALGWA Victoria presents **Cocktails to keep you focused.**

**About the session:**

As we approach the October election, now is not the time to stop. Pace yourself and keep the focus because it's not over yet. This session, hosted by President Cr Kylie Spears, will be all about keeping the motivation up and making sure you are in the best possible position for your campaign.

Bring your smiling faces as we talk strategies, answer your questions, and come together for women in local government.



[Book Now](#)

## Welcome to our newest 2020 intern...

ALGWA Victoria has a growing team of volunteers and interns who have helped expand our services and support to women across the state with an interest in local government.

### **Hear from Bernardita Beyhaut on her new position with ALGWA.**

My name is Berni Beyhaut. I was born in Uruguay in a loving family of 6 that I miss and cherish deeply. Being awarded the Vice-Chancellors Academic Merit Scholarship, I decided to come to Australia to complete a bachelor's degree in Philosophy and International Politics. I am passionate about human welfare and advancing social, as well as environmental, justice. I am a deep believer in the practical benefits of philosophy for the creation of a better world. I dream about investigating, interrogating and attacking our world's most troubling issues and crisis. My internship project with ALGWA Vic is to explore and seek grants. There is so much opportunity for this organisation, therefore seeking funding sources to enable us forward is paramount to reaching the vision and mission of ALGWA Vic 2020 executive committee.



*ALGWA Vic thanks Berni for arranging our September 10th special event with Senator Carmem Sanguinetti.*

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