



NATIONAL COUNCIL of WOMEN WA Inc

*Dedicated to the Advancement of Women and Their Families*



PATRON: Hon Kerry Sanderson AO

VICE PATRON: Janet Davidson AOM JP

PRESIDENT: Marion Ward

SECRETARY: Helen McDonagh

Act TREASURER: Sally Warner

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## President's Message

October 2014



Dear Members

It is with great pleasure that I am able to advise you all that Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AO, Governor of Western Australia has consented to be Patron of National Council of Women of Western Australia. I am sure you will all join with me in extending a warm welcome and our hopes that we will meet with her in the not too distant future

This year has flown by with breathtaking speed and although I have been busy there is so much more which I had hoped to achieve.

This month saw the Observance of the International Day of Poverty and also the acknowledgment of the "needs of children". Many of our children require our ongoing concern and support but when I reflect on the suffering of the children in war torn countries the needs of children would seem almost insurmountable.

Since my last message to you National Awareness Day Expo has been held at Garden City. Council was allocated a stall and with Helen McDonagh and Merrill Cole helping out on the afternoon we were able to network with the public and other support groups present.



Merrill, Helen & Marion at Garden City

Affiliate member Girl Guides held their Jamboree and I, as your representative, attended the very interesting opening of that event. It is refreshing to attend a function where the participants are so young and interested in their activities.

Congratulations to the organisers of the Jamboree which was to spread over five days. My thanks to State Commissioner Dr Brenda Hamlett for her kind invitation.

### ***Launch of the Perth Beijing + 20 review.***

*This review was presented by Ms Julie McKay Executive Director of Australian National committee for UN Women and held at the University of WA. The presentation was well attended so much so that the organisers were required to change to a larger venue.*

*Many of the attendees were young women but it was interesting that three of the more mature women had attended the World Congress of Women held in Beijing in 1995.*

*Thirty two thousand women gathered together to talk about the issues they faced and what could be done. It was a momentous occasion remembered by those who attended as a sea of mud, rain and women. From this event came the Beijing Platform of Action, the blueprint for the issues affecting women around the world*



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*This has been reviewed every five years and in 2015 the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March will devote the entire session to a review of BFA and where we are now.*

*Ms McKay stated that good progress had been made with many issues but not enough.*

*Ms McKay quoted the "He for She" campaign where male champions of change was important. I suggest that members may wish to research further information on this subject.*

Affiliate member Australian Church Women held their "Fellowship of the Least Coin" service in the beautiful Wesley Church. This is an annual celebration of the collecting of 5-cent coins and I admire the volunteer who has the task of counting and banking all those coins.

Another very important date was the National Council of Women Australia AGM. held by teleconference 13 October. The reports of that meeting are available in the office and I would urge you all to take the time to read them.

A very good news story is the appearance of Life Member Judith Parker at recent functions. The last few months have been extremely difficult for Judith and it is wonderful to know that her days are happier. Judith, we look forward to having you with us again.

Each year I attend the Remembrance Services held in Albany and this year I will have the honour of placing the NCWA wreath on the Nurses Memorial during the ANZAC Commemoration of the Expeditionary Forces departing from King George Sound. The soldiers service will be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November and the Nurses Memorial the day after.

Secretary Helen had completed her work for us but I must tell you that Helen was so committed to her task that she insisted on completing our 2015 calendar. Many thanks Helen. Merrill Cole has been learning some of the secretarial tasks and when she returns from the UK hopes to continue with that work. This newsletter has been compiled by Merrill in the UK – one of the huge benefits of the internet.

September General Meeting speaker Captain Angela Bond RAN Commander of Stirling Naval Base gave us a very strong and positive view of her role in the Navy, and as wife and mother of four children. Captain Bond spoke of the "gender" issues which she had encountered from time to time, and how they were dealt with. I hope those members present enjoyed her address as much as I did.

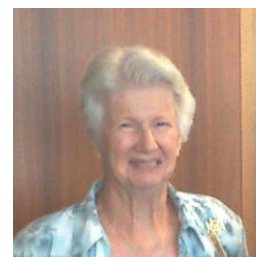
It is important for any members wishing to attend the Christmas Lunch which follows a short General meeting on the 24 November that your money is in the office at least 14 days before the event. If paying with cash please put your money in an envelope with your name on it. Office staff is sometimes depleted and receipts will be written when time is available. I look forward to enjoying this last meeting of the year with you. RUAH will be invited to collect your donations which I am sure will provide comfort for women needing assistance.

Marion Ward

## MEMBER PROFILE

**Joan Shenton**

**Adviser: Nutrition  
Book club coordinator**



**B**orn in England in 1930, I lived an untroubled innocent childhood life until one day in 1939 the sirens wailed and the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War broke out, though we saw very little change in our life style until the fall of France in 1941. Then, because the authority were expecting the Nazis to invade England and our town could be one of the landing beaches, all children were to be evacuated. Our whole school was sent to Worcestershire where I stayed in several different homes until the invasion threat passed and we came back to home in 1943.

It was a spartan life then and rationing and high prices was still a way of life until I left England in 1951 as a 10 Pound Pom for Australian shores with my mother and brother in January arriving in early March in a heat wave to drive to Boulder.

I had done my examinations Hospital, then Lonsdale could also be



nursing training in England and was able to take West Australian registration in June of that year. I spent the next two years working in Kalgoorlie District went to Melbourne to do midwifery training at the Queen Victoria Hospital in Street. The motto on my hospital badge reads "By Women for Women", which for NCW.

Once midwifery trained I decided it was time to explore the world, so I took off first for the UK by ship and spent a couple of years travelling on the Continent occasionally returning money. Then the influx of immigrants, changes in the ways of life people, memories of the vastness of Australia and the wide open back through homesickness to return to Australia which I have



to the UK to earn and so many spaces drew me never regretted.

I returned to Boulder as my mother was still there and spent many years involved in further study, community and church activities, getting married, I have many experiences to to treat injuries, an underground plane in which all died, a dreadful the visit from the Queen, the medical requirements of the surgery are but a few.



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My journey within NCWWA began as a delegate from Mothers' Union Australia in May 1996. I had got to know Paddy Firstenberg from being on various committees with her is very persuasive. I joined Executive a year later and I was Judith Parker during her term as President. We had several years which culminated in our last move to this office at Rod Evans in 2005 which I did with the help of Denis and Alison Hagan. In 2 1/2 days we had the workings of NCWWA in operation.



and as you all know she also Vice President to homes during these

I was humbled by the presentation of Life membership in 2010 and enjoyed assisting with helping with the Centenary Exhibition in that year. Currently I enjoy being an Advisor on Nutrition and keeping an eye on the Book Club

Joan

**Constitutional recognition is the key to reducing racism in the community and taking a positive step forward in the reconciliation process, according to 2014 Senior Australian of the Year and former Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, The Honourable Fred Chaney AO.**



Mr Chaney delivered the annual **Distinguished Scholars Lecture** on 'Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians', hosted by The University of Notre Dame Australia Fremantle, on Wednesday 17 September 2014. Speaking to more than 280 guests, Mr Chaney said there were significant challenges and lengthy consultations ahead to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution.

He said recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution would improve the social gradient of their health as "the constant demeaning of individuals on the grounds of race is so destructive".

"We (as Australians) have established that the past is a foreign country. There is still a lot to do but we have plenty of allies," Mr Chaney said during his lecture.

"Constitutional recognition would mean that there is a slightly lower chance that we would keep our hands around the throats of Aboriginal people."

Mr Chaney also took questions from the audience on improving non-Indigenous peoples' awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, spirituality and language; how to be an effective force in reducing racism in the community; and the possibility of an Indigenous Head of State. Dr Philip Matthews, says the event's success was underpinned by the quality of Mr Chaney's lecture and the mentality of most Australians who are ready to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution.

**NCWWA vice President, Bridget Faye attended this address and gave a short report at the executive meeting.**

## WA Habitat

Adviser

Laurel Pearce

### Homelessness

Chief Justice Wayne Martin has urged the State Government to develop social welfare programs to help homeless people rather than build more prisons to lock them up. Increasing funding to programs aimed at reducing homelessness and associated problems such as mental illness, substance and domestic violence is more likely to reduce crime and make the community safer than money spent on police, courts and prisons.

A recent audit of the homeless in Perth showed a very high level of chronic disease, mental illness and substance abuse among those who slept rough. Of the 168 interviewed in detail, many had been homeless for more than 6 months, a quarter were under 25. A high number of homeless adults had a history of foster care. Aboriginal people made up one third of the people interviewed.

Figures highlighted during homeless week show nearly 10,000 people are homeless in WA every night, 25% of them are children.

Dr Andrew Davies, Director of Medical Services and Mobile GP says that WA's good economic times have increased homelessness, because many people coming to WA, in search of work, have missed out. The Mobile GP service provided 12,000 consultations for disadvantaged people last year. The number was rising about 3000 per year.

A Federal Government inquiry into Affordable Housing has been told that up to 50 cars camp in Kwinana car park every night during summer months. Green's \Senator, Scott Ludlum says there are people who have fallen off the ladder in one of the least affordable housing markets in the world. He claims the problem will get worse with the recent axing of \$500 million of Federal Government programs, including the National Rental Affordability Scheme and the National Partnership agreement on Homelessness.

Jonathon Shapiera, a senior public service worker, lived in a vehicle when unable to fund a rental property. He has made a submission to a Senate Inquiry into affordable housing and has included views of homeless people. He calls for a range of practical solutions including transforming former detention centres into homeless accommodation, setting up shelters similar to caravan parks, and turning major Centrelink offices into a one stop shop for the homeless.

Shelter WA has received a big grant to undertake policy advice, stakeholder engagement and influencing services for the WA Housing authority. They have recently made a submission to the City of Cockburn Housing affordability and Diversity Strategy. They are setting up packs for homeless people.



## Anti Poverty week

18 – 26 October 2014

Our Charity of Choice is **Ruah**

*Ruah's Women's Services team offers a range of programs to support women and children in the community. The programs provide assistance to women and their children who have experienced domestic violence to:*

- Stay safely at home;*
- Find crisis support services, or;*
- Find accommodation services.*

*Ruah runs a refuge for women and children, as well as a refuge for sole Aboriginal women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.*

<http://www.ruah.com.au/>

**Please bring donations of basic feminine needs to the NCWWA office on Mondays or at meetings throughout the year and they will be passed on.**





**We are very pleased to announce....**

**The Governor of Western Australia, Her Excellency the Hon Kerry Sanderson AO has consented to be our Patron. Kerry is the first woman appointed to the role of Governor of Western Australia.**

The Australian businesswoman and former public servant said she was pleased to have been appointed, Governor of Western Australia

"I really look forward to engaging with people throughout the state," she said.

"I'm passionate about science, particularly encouraging people to study science at school and scientific research, and also jobs for our children and so I'm interested in working with business and looking at things such as international competitiveness.

"Most of all I look forward to engaging with the people and knowing what they care about and looking at ways of supporting that."

Ms Sanderson described the appointment as "humbling" and "daunting" and said she had initially been hesitant to take on the role.

However, she said on reflection, she had always taken opportunities as they were offered and decided she should do the same with this role.

"This is a great opportunity to engage with people, to learn more and to support the good things because Western Australia's such a great place to live," she said.

Ms Sanderson will become the state's 32nd Governor when she is officially sworn in to the three-year role on October 20.

When asked how she reflected on being the first female appointed to the role, she said she did not distinguish between men and women.

"I think both do very good jobs in different ways so I would more look at it that I'm pleased to be the first woman in some ways as a role model but I think I just do the work in the same way and I've always worked with both men and women and enjoy that," she said.

Mrs Sanderson was WA's former agent general in London and was chief executive officer of the Fremantle Port Authority for 17 years.

Premier Colin Barnett has congratulated the Governor-designate, saying she will do an outstanding job.

"Kerry Sanderson is eminently suited to undertake the role and I congratulate her on her appointment," he said.

"Mrs Sanderson has had a distinguished career in the public sector and is widely respected throughout the community for her business acumen, her commitment to science and learning and her active involvement in the work of several charities.



"I am very confident that Mrs Sanderson will excel in the role and continue the excellent contribution that Malcolm McCusker made in the position."

Mrs Sanderson is currently the independent chairman of the State Emergency Management Committee and holds several non-executive director positions in the commercial sector as well as roles in the community and not-for-profit sector.

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***NCWWA extends our warmest wishes and welcome to our Patron.***

***Marion Ward  
President***

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**DATE OF NEXT GENERAL MEETING**  
and  
**CHRISTMAS LUNCH**



Monday 24 November 2014

Short General Meeting  
at  
11.30am

Rod Evans Community Centre  
160 Hay St East Perth

Followed by Christmas Lunch  
at  
12.00 md

\$20 per person  
Friends welcome

**Seniors Week 2014**

9 – 16 NOVEMBER

A luncheon will be held

**Dawson's Garden Centre**

Forrestfield  
160 Hale Rd

Friday 14 November 2014

**NB: Date in last newsletter was incorrect!**

Tim Parker will give a guided tour  
through the historical garden

*Lunches purchased individually*

*11.30am*

*Please register your name at the office if you wish to attend.*

**If double clicking does not work for you to open face book and the website right click the icon and choose " open hyperlink"**



**BOOK CLUB**



The next book club will be held at  
Rod Evans Community Centre

Wednesday 18 February 2015

Summer season reading  
is a selection of books by

**ELIZABETH JOLLEY**

Kindly donated to the book club  
By Janni Goss

*Monica Elizabeth Jolley AO was an English-born Writer who settled in Western Australia in the late 1950s. She was 53 when her first book was published, and she went on to publish fifteen novels (including an autobiography and a trilogy), four short story collections and three non-fiction books, publishing well into her 70s and achieving significant critical acclaim. She was also a pioneer of creative writing teaching in Australia, counting many well-known writers such as Tim Winton among her students at Curtin University.*

Lunch available on order

*For further information Phone  
Joan Shenton 9364 6830*

**Dates for your diary**

Date of the next

**Standing Committee Meeting**

is Saturday 15 November

@ Rod Evans Community Centre



Our annual

**International Women's Day Luncheon**

is to be held on

Monday 9 March 2015

@ Rod Evans Community Centre