

President's Message April 2024

Dear Members

Much has been happening during the last few weeks. International Women's Day (IWD) saw a number of Women's organisations celebrating the day with a range of activities on the day and in the lead up to the 8 March 2024. Easter has come and gone for another year- I hope everyone had a restful break over the holiday and had the opportunity to catch up with family and friends.

The WA Women's Hall of Fame (WAWHOF) held its awards ceremony on the evening before IWD with sixteen women in eight categories being inducted into the WAWHOF. Four women were also inducted into the WAWHOF Roll of Honour posthumously. The WAWHOF was first established in 2011 in recognition of the Centenary of International Women's Day. Details about the awardees are included later in this Newsletter.

A Cocktail Party to celebrate the launch of a Touring Photographic Exhibition of the inspiring women honoured in this year's WAWHOF was held at Brookfield Plaza in Perth on International Women's Day hosted by Dr Anh Nguyen. The Touring Photographic Exhibition will be seen at a number of locations in Perth and Regional Western Australia over the next twelve months. Locations include

- The Grove Library Peppermint Grove- 25 March -6 April

- AH Bracks Library Melville 8-21 April
- City of greater Geraldton Library 29 April- 19 May
- Vancouver Arts centre Albany 6-16 August
- St John of God Subiaco Medical Centre 17 September-30 October
- Bunbury Museum and Heritage Centre November-January



The Metropolitan Cemeteries Board recently launched the 'Walking with Western Australian Women Historical Walk Trail' with Twenty -two (22) points of interest. Sixteen (16) women being inductees of the WA Women's Hall of Fame. The trail will be added to in future years.



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Australia's 3G Networks are closing soon- TPG Telecom (Vodafone) Telstra and Optus have announced the closure of their 3G Networks. This closure will happen in stages with the TPG Telecom-owned Vodafone network closing from December last year. As older 3G devices and some older 4G phones may be impacted, AMTA urges all Western Australians and Australians to prepare by upgrading their affected devices to ensure they have a connection to faster 4G and 5G mobile services.

Telstra will switch off its 3G network on **30 June 2024** and **Optus** will switch of its network in **September 2024**. Devices such as tablets, mobile broadband modems, smart watches, some home security systems and other connected devices might also be using 3G services.

The Labor Government has announced it will pay superannuation on the government payment of Paid Parental Leave from 1 July 2025. Taking time out of paid work to care for children is a normal part of working life for both parents. Paying super on Government PPL will help normalise parental leave as a workplace entitlement like annual and sick and reduce the impact parental leave on retirement incomes. Further details on the measure to pay superannuation on Paid Parental Leave, including cost, will be released in the Budget.

The Australian Government, along with State and Territory Health Ministers, is increasing the number and diversity of bone marrow donors on the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry. Australia's pool for bone marrow donors is small which makes Australia heavily reliant on overseas supply.

About 135,000 people are living with a blood cancer or blood disorder in Australia. Bone marrow donations are crucial for life-saving treatments for those people who have leukaemia and a range of other blood cancers.

The release of the WA ScamNet Year in Review has revealed that scam records were shattered last year with 1,398 Western Australians victims reportedly fleeced of \$21,995,489 in 2023 up 36 per cent from 2022.

WA ScamNet Year in Review report released:

- Scammers steal record \$22 million from West Australians in 2023;

- Facebook cons drive higher reporting numbers up 62 per cent;
- Artificial intelligence scams an emerging issue for this year and beyond.

The figures from the WA ScamNet report show why it's important for consumers to take time to consider whether a sale or offer online is legitimate or a request to share personal information is genuine. Payment methods are also crucial to look out for. The best way to protect yourself is to treat 'too good to be true' offers with scepticism.

Western Australian Seniors Card members must ensure they are registered to receive the 2024 Cost of Living Rebate. WA members must register by 31 May 2024 to receive this year's payment, which will be made in late July. Previously registered members do not need to re-register unless their bank details or circumstances have changed. WA Seniors Card members who have not yet registered have received a reminder letter to apply.

In addition to the Cost of Living Rebate, the WA Seniors card offers some valuable State Government concessions and rebates in Australia, including free off-peak public transport, concessions on local government rates and water service charges, and the \$400 Safety and Security rebate.

WA Rural Women's Award winner for 2024 is regional businesswoman Mandy Walker.

Mandy's project is to help Wheatbelt businesses participate in the defence industry supply chain. Mandy runs a mechanical and engineering business in Wongan Hills with her husband servicing the agriculture, transport and mining sectors. Mandy will receive a \$15,000 business development bursary towards her project and will represent Western Australia at the national AgriFutures Rural Women's Award in August.



Parkinson's disease currently affects about 150,000 Australians with an additional 14,000 being diagnosed with the disease every year according to Parkinson's Australia. The exact cause of Parkinson's is unknown and there is no known cure for this debilitating disease.

Treatments only address symptoms, not disease progression. To date no biomarkers exist for diagnosis or measuring progression. Sadly, Parkinson's disease is now the fastest growing neurological disorder globally. For the first time there is now a memorandum of understanding between all the states for a comprehensive and collaborative national plan on tackling Parkinson's.

World Immunization Week is being celebrated in the last week of April. Its aims to highlight the collective action needed and to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs recently tabled the report on its inquiry into the recognition of unpaid carers. The Committee examined the challenges faced by unpaid carers and options for reforming the Carer Recognition Act 2010 (the Act). Unfortunately, to date the Act has not adapted to how public service agencies and the associated providers interact with and support carers. This is because the Act is unenforceable, contains weak and vague statements and relies on a voluntary and inconsistent reporting system. The report makes twenty-two (22) recommendations including improving carers' access to the support they need such as respite options.

NCWWA has recently written to the WA Health Minister calling for an urgent review of the Patient Assisted Transfer Scheme (PATS) following a dramatic reduction in health services in rural and regional Western Australia. Maternity services at the Carnarvon hospital, which services surrounding towns in a vast region, along with a reduction in services at hospitals in Narrogin, Wyndham, Bridgetown and Manjimup force more people to travel to Perth for treatment and to seek financial assistance from PATS. A number of regional families are struggling to pay to travel to access services they need purely because the PATS does not go anywhere near funding their 'out of pocket' expenses.

PATS only subsidises commercial accommodation up to \$102.75 per night for the patient and \$15.00 for an approved escort. The WA subsidy for fuel for eligible patients is just sixteen cents (16) per kilometre. In New South Wales it is forty cents (40) per kilometre. Western Australian patients should not be faced with exorbitant costs especially at this time with a cost of living crisis.

Robyn Nolan

Movie Afternoon

The Way, My Way

Sunday 19 May 2024

3:30 pm for 4:00pm

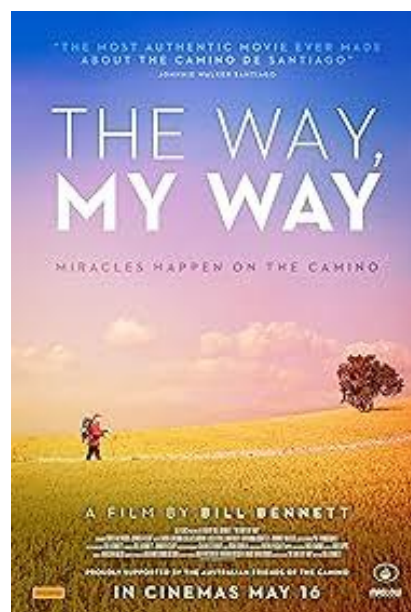
Windsor Theatre

Nedlands

A charming captivating true story of a stubborn self-controlled Australian man who decides to walk the 800 kilometres-long Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route through Spain.

The cast includes Chris Haywood, Lakshmi, Pia Thunderbolt and Jennifer Cluff.

An RSVP with payment is essential to confirm attendance – details later in the Newsletter



WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

The WA Women's Hall of Fame (WAWHOF) was first established in 2011 in recognition of the centenary of International Women's Day held annually on the 8 March.

The number of WAWHOF nominations has continued to increase each year. In 2024, the WAWHOF Awards recognised the achievement and contribution of the following women in Western Australia in eight categories:

ARTS:

Jessica Gethin

Conductor, Educator Presenter and Ambassador

Kankawa Nagarra

Artist and Teacher

BUSINESS:

Esme Bowen

Deputy Chair Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA

Libby Lyons

Non –Executive Director

COMMUNITY:

Dr Sandy Chong PhD

Leader, Educator, Businesswoman, Founder and Changemaker

Rachael Hain

Co-Founder Dress for Success Western Australia

CULTURE:

Di (Dianne) Ryder OAM

Respected Noongar Elder

Sandy Dann

Radio Broadcaster

EDUCATION:

Associate Professor Lorraine Hammond AM

Teacher Literacy

Rebecca Prince-Ruiz OAM

Founder Executive Director Plastic Free July

HEALTH:

Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Rakoczy PhD

Molecular Biologist

Sue Morey OAM

Nurse Practitioner Respiratory Medicine

SPORT:

Celia Waugh

Life Member Surf Lifesaving WA

Colleen Kluwen

Aerobics and Calisthenics Pioneer

STEM:

Captain Carol Dooley

Foreign-Going Unlimited Ship Master, Pilot and Marine Manager

Emeritus Professor Carolyn Oldham

Teacher Environmental Engineering



NCWWA STEM BURSARY 2024

After a very competitive process with a number of outstanding applications the 2024 NCWWA STEM Bursary has been announced.

Jessica Sarich is the recipient. She is studying third year Bachelor of Science (Actuarial Science) - a discipline that applies mathematical and statistical methods to assess risks involved in financial planning and decision making at Curtin University.

Jessica is a resident of St Catherine's College and along with her studies she is juggling two part-time jobs and supports the residential community by mentoring first and second year students during their degree transition.



ANZAC DAY

Anzac Day is our day of National Commemoration. On Thursday 25 April 2024 the Australian War Memorial will mark the Gallipoli landings in 1915 as well as commemorating all Australians who have served and died in military operations.

Anzac Services will be held across Australia, in major cities and smaller towns.

A number of services will be held at International War Memorials including:

- Gallipoli, Turkey
- Villers-Bretonnax, France
- Hellfire Pass Kanchanaburi, Thailand
- Sandakan Memorial Park Sabah, Malaysia

The 2024 Anzac Day Schools Awards are calling on Schools across the country to explore the theme

“Discover the stories of veterans in their local community”

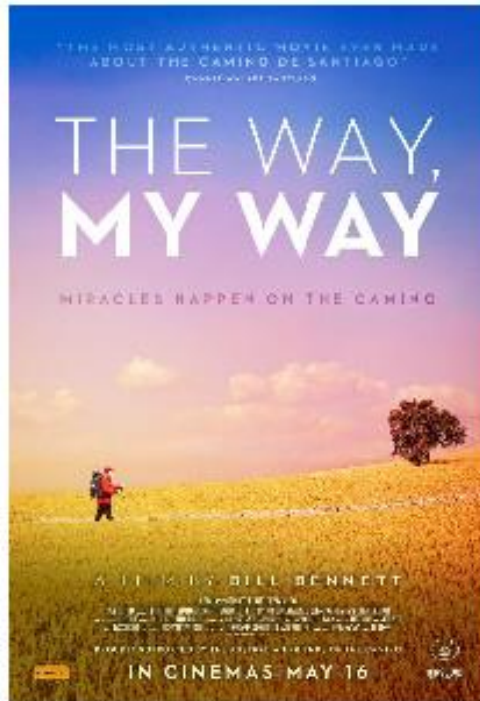
The Theme aims to deepen students understanding of Australia’s wartime history by encouraging them to connect with local veterans.

Visit anzacportal.gov.au/adsa



Movie Afternoon

The Way, My Way



Sunday 19 May 2024
Time 3.30 pm for 4.00 pm
Windsor Cinema
98 Stirling Highway Nedlands
\$25 per person

The Way, My Way

This is a charming, captivating true story of a stubborn self-controlled Australian man who decides to walk the 800 kilometre-long Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route through Spain. He does not know why he is doing it... But one step at a time it will change him and his outlook on life forever. Based on Bill Bennett's novel of the same name.

Cast

Chris Haywood, Laura Lakshmi, Pia Thunderbolt, Jennifer Cluff

An RSVP with payment is essential by Wednesday 15 May 2024 to confirm attendance – numbers are limited!

BOOKING FORM

Contact: Robyn Nolan email: robymn@bigpond.net.au mob: 0417 917 294

Sally Plummer email: plummers@iinet.net.au mob: 0411 868 995

YES I will be attending the NCWWA Movie Afternoon Sunday 19 May 2024

TOTAL AMOUNT: _____ (\$25pp)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

Please indicate the names of your guests

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

PAYMENT

CASH

BANK TRANSFER

BSB: 036 034 Account number: 559683

Acc name: National Council of Women WA

Use your **name** as your reference

CHEQUE: payable to:

National Council of Women WA

PO Box 6224, East Perth 6892

I am unable to attend but I wish to

DONATE Amt \$ _____