

Victorian COUNTRY WOMAN



The Country Women's
Association of Victoria Inc.

care **empower** contribute

All women, all ages, all places

MARCH / APRIL 2025 | VOLUME 73 NUMBER 1



**The Country Women's
Association of Victoria Inc.**

care empower contribute

Join Us!



Photo Credit: Judie Gade

30 - 31 May 2025 STATE CONFERENCE 2025

Welcome to Shepparton!

This year, State Conference returns to regional Victoria. The conference will include an array of keynote speakers, debate on resolutions, voting on the special resolutions with important changes proposed to our constitution and much more. This is your opportunity to meet with members from across Victoria and to make a difference.

This year's State Conference Dinner will be something special. It will be held at Shepparton's renowned Museum of Vehicle Evolution (MOVE) with entry to the Loel Thomson Collection – one of Australia's most significant costume collections included in the cost. For a sneak peek at the venue go to <https://www.moveshepparton.com.au/>

So get your CWA friends together for what promises to be an inspiring, fun and memorable few days in Victoria's amazing Goulburn Valley region.

All members welcome

EVENT DETAILS

**State Conference 2025
and the Association's
97th Annual General
Meeting**

VENUE

**The McIntosh Centre,
Thompson Street,
Shepparton, Victoria**

**Conference Registration
Essential:**

Via your Branch

STATE DINNER

**6 pm (Exhibition
Viewing) for 7 pm
FRIDAY, 30 May**

**Museum of Vehicle
Evolution (MOVE)**

**7723 Goulburn Valley
Hwy, Kialla, Victoria**

Dinner cost: \$75 per
person includes two
course dinner, tea and
coffee and museum
entry (usually \$20)

Dinner bookings online
at:

[https://www.ticketebo.
com.au/CWA_Stateconfer-
ence2025](https://www.ticketebo.com.au/CWA_Stateconference2025)



The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc. - CWA

We respect First Nations Elders past, present and future and acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of First Nations peoples of the lands on which our members meet, and commit to building a brighter future together.

www.cwaofvic.org.au



The Country Women's
Association of Victoria Inc.

care empower contribute

Patron: Her Excellency Professor the Honourable
Margaret Gardner AC, The Governor of Victoria

Head Office Contacts & Staff (03) 9827 8971

Web cwaofvic.org.au

Reception reception@cwaofvic.org.au

A 0004857F | ABN 55 584 949 677

Office Administrator

Robyn Smith
cwaadmin@cwaofvic.org.au

Executive Director

Lynne Jordan
execdirector@cwaofvic.org.au

Membership Administrator

membership@cwaofvic.org.au

Accountant

accountant@cwaofvic.org.au

Bookkeeper

finance@cwaofvic.org.au

Reception

reception@cwaofvic.org.au

Magazine

cwamagazine@cwaofvic.org.au

**CWA of Vic Umina Bed and
Breakfast Contact**

03 9824 0239
bandb@cwaofvic.org.au

**Senior State Office Bearers
2023/2024**

State President

Jennifer Nola
statepresident@cwaofvic.org.au

Deputy State President

deputystatepres@cwaofvic.org.au

State Treasurer

Marie Vassallo
statetreasurer@cwaofvic.org.au

Honorary Solicitor

King & Wood Mallesons

Members of Honour

Mrs Betty Burgess OAM
Mrs Lyn Harris OAM
Mrs Noela MacLeod AO
Mrs Helen Wall OAM
Mrs Dorothy Ward OAM

State Vice President

Viviane Chemali

State Vice President

Peg Higginbottom

State Vice President

Sallyanne Matthews

General Board Members

Mary Grant
Roxane Harris
Amanda Millar

**Community & International Support
Committee**

Louise Taylor
chaircommunityinternationalsupport@
cwaofvic.org.au

Agriculture & Environment

Margaret Wood
chairagriculture@cwaofvic.org.au

Catering Committee

Prue McCredren
chaircatering@cwaofvic.org.au

Club Committee

Karen Jackson
chairclub@cwaofvic.org.au

Creative Arts Committee

Mary Grant
chaircreative@cwaofvic.org.au

**Communications & Magazine
Committee**

Amanda Millar
chairmagazine@cwaofvic.org.au

Membership Committee

Gwen White
chairmembership@cwaofvic.org.au

Social Issues Committee

chairsocialissues@cwaofvic.org.au

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

Associated Country Women of the
World (ACWW)

MARCH / APRIL 2025
VOLUME 73 | NUMBER 1

CONTENTS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| State President | 4 |
| Editor's Report | 4 |
| Membership | 5 |
| Creative Arts | 5 |
| Community and International Support | 6 |
| Open Day at Government House | 8 |
| Frida Kahlo Exhibition | 10 |
| Puzzle | 11 |

State Confernece Information

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Order of Proceedings | 12 |
| Information for Members | 13 |
| Resolutions | 14 |
| Proposed Constitution FAQ | 16 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Training for the New Group Presidents | 17 |
| Around the State at Group Conference | 18 |
| Around the Branches | 21 |
| Their Memory Lives On | 25 |



COVER PHOTO

From left to right: Michelle Fidler (Alphington Branch), State President Jenny Nola, Jeanette Fry (Virtual Branch) and Christine Mackiness (Point Cook Branch)

2025 DETERMINATIONS

Theme: Sharing Knowledge for a Secure and Sustainable Future

State Project: Video-conferencing Facilities
(Continuing from 2024)

Product/Resource: Industrial Hemp

Country of Study: Sri Lanka

Social Issues Focus: Advocating For Change

Thanksgiving Fund: Go Girls Foundation

Craft of the Year: Traditional Candle Wicking

STATE PRESIDENT



Jennifer Nola
State President

The year started with our state once again aflame over Christmas and New Year. Our members were out in force either fighting fires or supporting those who were or helping those who lost stock or property to take the first steps into the new normal of their lives. My gratitude and pride in the work those members have done is heartfelt.

I am also very grateful to all the members I have met over the past two months as I traveled around the state on my Group AGM & Conference rounds, 13 AGMs/Conferences with 3574kms traveled in 8 weeks. It was tiring but very rewarding for me and hopefully for the members I met on my travels. Busy is a part of any of the roles held by any member of the Country Women's Association of Victoria because there is so much to do on any given day!

Along with the damage caused by the fires I was saddened to see the state of our farmlands and the number of dry dams on my travels. We desperately need rain across Victoria whilst our CWA sisters in Queensland are suffering the worst floods in the interior of the state for over fifty years. Mother Nature is a fickle thing!

Like the rest of the membership, the Board, Staff, Committee Chairs and State Council have been working diligently over the past three months on many current issues for The Country Women's Association of Victoria. This includes reopening the B&B, attending Group AGMs and Conferences across the state, preparing for the annual audit, discussing proposed constitutional changes, making preparations for the State Conference 2025, organising and presenting cooking classes on some exciting themes, conducting Branch Executive training around the state, holding a face-to-face State Council meeting, dealing with the ATO and Banks on matters related to ABNs and bank accounts to name a few of those issues.

Whilst you might think nothing much is happening that affects you as a branch member, nothing could be further from the truth when you look at that list. Those 'down there' as I have heard the staff and our executive members referred to around the traps, are working flat out for our Association, the Association that we are all members of. As an organisation we are required to be compliant with all relevant government rules and regulations which anyone in business will tell you is time consuming. Throughout all of this we endeavour to keep our sense of humour intact, and I can guarantee every member that we are all working to improve processes and the outlook of the CWA of Victoria as we go about our work each week.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Shepparton as we have returned our conference to a regional area at your request. With the State Conference and our AGM imminent it is up to each and every member of the Association to acquaint themselves with the proposed constitutional changes. You, the members, were quite explicit in the strategic plan surveys and face-to-face workshops that you want the Association to be a relevant and credible contributor to social change, that you want a strong community presence, fit for purpose governance and risk management that will enable long-term commitments to the Association's longer-term priorities and to external parties. It might initially sound boring to you, but we need to ensure that the framework that governs the Association is relevant and appropriate to take us into the future. To do this some things must change to ensure that we have longevity, so please read the proposed changes which are aimed at bringing us in line with other CWAs across Australia and modern well run NFP charities as well as keeping us in tune with modern governance requirements into the future. The old attitude of "this is how we have always done it" will not ensure the long-term future of our much-loved Association.

EDITOR'S REPORT



Amanda Millar
Communications and
Magazine Committee

Dear Members

Well, another summer is over and we're into autumn already with the leaves turning red and gold where I live at Mount Macedon.

There's a big CWA year ahead and I know groups and branches are already abuzz with plans for creative arts, fundraising for the forthcoming year, attending State Conference in Shepparton and all of the many things we do.

A highlight of my year thus far has been visiting the Group Conferences/AGMs of the Polwarth, South Western and Henty Groups as the nominated Senior Office Bearer for this year. I think all our senior office bearers love visiting Group Conferences and always leave feeling uplifted after hearing of all the amazing achievements by our branches and also after meeting up with new friends and old as we tour the State. I'm also so glad that we've finally had a little bit of rain since then – noting just how dry it is in so many parts of our state.

Hope you enjoy this edition. It's a little late due to a few of our key contributors being unavailable. We'll be back again before State Conference with a big edition full of all the conference information needed to make the most of your visit to Shepparton in late May.

MEMBERSHIP



Gwen White
Membership Chairman

The Membership Committee continues to meet each month and committee members are proactive in looking at ways we can help branches and groups grow membership.

Recently we had a workshop at Umina. Several committee members, our State President, Executive Director, Robyn Smith, MOH Lyn Harris, and SVP Peg Higginbottom came together for a

wonderful day full of enthusiastic input from everyone with lots of ideas and suggestions for moving forward with the Strategic Plan to grow membership.

It is important for everyone to understand it is NOT just the Committee who work to increase membership; Branches must take the lead in their respective communities. They need to have a presence and see where the interest may be to form another branch; to look at ways to add a member to the Branch. Think of how many new members we would have if every branch increased by adding one. The Committee is here to help in any way we can.

I have included the summary of membership for the past year at the end of this report. While 2024 saw 10 new branches open, sadly we have seen the closure of the following branches: Euroa Forlonge, Burwood, May, Ballarat Dinner, Keilor Downs (members transferred to Niddrie), Werribee (3 life members will become companion members), Golden Night and earlier in the year Camperdown Evening, Lowanna Hills and Woomelang. Colac Night Owls have gone into recess.

We are exploring Sister Branches and have contacted all Group Presidents asking for the names of branches teamed with a sister branch, whether the relationships work and other branches who would like a sister branch. As I write I have the names of three branches wanting a sister branch and its imperative we sort these out as soon as possible so they can establish the relationship.

We are also looking at the area/suburbs covered by branches and thank you to the Group Presidents who have emailed this information. It's important that we have a clear picture so that inquiries are sent to the correct branch.

Finally, we are looking for short stories of what branches/Groups have done to successfully grow membership. Please share them with me at my email: chairmembership@cwaofvic.org.au

Membership Statistics 1-10-2024 – 11-03-2025

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| New members | 259 |
| Full memberships | 3,691 |
| Life Members | 66 |
| Junior Members | 209 |
| Total memberships – | 3,966 |
| Branches | 248 |
| New branches | Labertouche Blue Wrens, Penshurst, Strathfieldsaye |

CREATIVE ARTS



Mary Grant
Creative Arts Committee Chairman

Welcome back for another fun filled year of creativity.

Some reminders for dates for the diary.

- July 18 Closing date for Creative Arts Exhibition entries
- Aug 8/9 Creative Arts Exhibition Kyabram

Initial planning is in progress for the annual Junior members overnight camp at Umina

I am seeking approval from State Council to run the overnight Junior Camp Monday 7th Tuesday 8th July 2025. Our theme for this year "All Things Creative"

As this year is the 90th Creative Arts Exhibition we have staged we would like to make a special display highlighting this significant milestone. If you have any memorabilia or anything we could use please contact me chaircreative@cwaofvic.org.au

I am still interested in staging workshops in regional areas. If you have a suitable venue and, as a group, prepared to assist with the organisation, please let me know so we can get the ball rolling.

In February we held a very successful Basic Preserves workshop with 7 attendees, who all left laden with their freshly made preserves.

CANDLEWICKING

Please let me know if you wish to include Candlewicking in your Craft days.

Candlewicking, or candlewick is a form of whitework embroidery that traditionally uses an unbleached cotton thread on a piece of unbleached muslin. It gets its name from the nature of the soft spun cotton thread, which was braided then used to form the wick for candles.



- Originated in the United States during the pioneer era when fine embroidery threads were scarce
- Traditional motifs include flowers, insects, pine trees, and Pennsylvania Dutch or Colonial American designs



COMMUNITY AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE



Louise Taylor
Community and
International Chairman

I visited Sri Lanka with my husband Mark in November 2024. The trip was inspired by two things: my lifelong love of elephants, and the encouragement of many of my co-workers to visit their former homeland.

We booked a package tour that departed on Melbourne Cup Day. Sri Lankan Airlines was truly amazing and the best international flight that we have ever taken. We couldn't fault the service or punctuality. The tour from Trip-a-Deal was a well-planned introduction to a very interesting country.

The highlight was quite rightly seeing the elephants. The Sri Lankan subspecies is the largest and darkest of the Asian elephants. They have the binomial name of *Elephas maximus maximus*. They have patches of depigmentation, so their ears, face, trunk and tummy are pink. They are very pretty elephants. As 9% of the land area of Sri Lanka is designated as National Parks, we visited several areas where the elephants emerge from the jungle and walk alongside the road. Seeing them living peacefully and happily at both the Minneriya National Park and the Udawalawe Elephant Transit Home was a humbling experience. The baby calves were fluffy and adorable.

The food was another highlight. The curries were generally mild with a large emphasis on using vegetables. We enjoyed many beautiful meals. Mark loves curry a lot more than me, so I realised he was in his element when he tucked into fish curry for breakfast while I ate a plate of fruit. I enjoyed many plates of pineapple during our visit and even managed to fend off a very determined monkey who tried to take my bag of fruit on our walk back from the Dambulla Rock Cave Temple.

The weather was a very steady 30 degrees each day, but the humidity was often quite hard to deal with. It became cooler when we travelled into the highlands of the Uva Province to areas such as Nuwara Eliya, Kandy and Ella to see the tea plantations. It was fascinating to see the backyard vegetable



gardens in almost every house in these regions. The tea plantations were often planted on the edge of steep terraces and the tea pickers worked in arduous conditions.

Visiting the Fort at Galle and paddling in the Indian Ocean at Koggala were both wonderful experiences. I found shopping very challenging as I couldn't successfully barter, and it wasn't until we visited some shops in Nuwara Eliya that I was able to make purchases at the normal price. Most everyday items like soaps, biscuits and tea have the price printed directly on to the packaging. The constant badgering by salespeople at the historic sites was very disconcerting.

Sri Lanka was a lovely place to visit but as an emerging economy we witnessed a standard of living and working conditions that would not be acceptable in Australia. It made me even more grateful for what we have at home and the opportunities that we have.



OPEN DAY AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

26 January 2025



Amanda Millar
Communications and
Magazine Committee

Open Day at Government House for 2025 was another day of glorious weather, lots of pomp and ceremony, and a day when our CWA volunteers were greatly admired for their hard work, generosity and shone brightly even with the ever long queues of visitors awaiting cups of tea and scones, jam and cream.

Thanks to everyone who came and volunteered, who baked for the day and who travelled long distances just to join us.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the visit from our Patron – Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, The Governor of Victoria – who together with the staff at Government House indicated their great thanks to us for the day.

Thank you to everyone who made the day a great success.



Frida Kahlo: In Her Own Image Exhibition

Bendigo Art Gallery. Until 13 July 2025

“My painting carries with it the message of pain.”

- Frida Kahlo



Visitors to Bendigo in the coming months will have a unique opportunity to see the *Frida Kahlo: In Her Own Image* exhibition which opened to a packed and suitably colourful audience on Saturday, 15 March 2025. The latest international blockbuster exhibition to come to the Bendigo Art Gallery showcases the life of iconic Mexican artist Frida Kahlo (1907 – 1954) with a display of Frida’s own drawings, clothes and personal belongings on loan from the Museo Frida Kahlo in Mexico for the first time in Australia. Two of Kahlo’s paintings are also included in the current exhibition.

Considered one of Mexico’s greatest artists, Kahlo’s life was marred by pain. Having suffered polio as a child and having been badly injured in a bus accident at the age of 18 years, Kahlo had significant surgery on over 30 occasions during her life and suffered from poor health – both physical and mental. Her tumultuous personal life – including her marriage (twice) to renowned Mexican artist Diego Rivera – was likewise a subject which Kahlo drew heavily from in her works. Frida’s animals and symbols of her beloved Mexico feature prominently in her work. Kahlo’s popularity as both an iconic figure and as an artist has steadily grown since her death.

The exhibition makes for a great day out for members, branches and groups – including that the local restaurants and retailers go all out to celebrate the theme of the major touring exhibitions. Accordingly, expect a Mexican flavour on the menu at many of your favourite Bendigo eateries while the Frida Kahlo exhibition is in town. I know that my own branch – the Macedon Branch – have a forthcoming trip planned to the exhibition in the coming months.

This exhibition – focussed more on Kahlo’s life than her works – is a true splash of colour to lighten the winter months, and the staff of the fabulous Bendigo Art Gallery have once again done Victoria proud in the exhibition they are hosting for us to enjoy.

Amanda Millar
Editor



Amanda with Cr Shivali Chatley of the City of Greater Bendigo



PUZZLE

WORD SEARCH

WORDS STARTING WITH A

ABIDE
ABLE
ABOUT
ABOVE
ABSENT
ACCESS
ACE
ADULT
ADJOURN
AERIAL
AFRAID
AFTER
AGAINST
AGE
AGENDA
AIM
ALARM
ALTOGETHER
ALSO
AMBER
AMEN
AMBULANCE
AMOUNT
ANGLE
ANIMAL
ANKLE
ANT
APOLOGY
APRON
AQUARIUM
ARCADE
ARCH
ARCHITRAVE
ARGUE
ARISE
ARM
ARITHMETIC
ART
ASH
ASK
ATLAS
ATTEND
AUTO
AUTUMN
AWARD
AWAKE
AWAY
AXLE

N R U O J D A A T E C N A L U B M A
A T A Q U A R I U M A B A N T A C A
A A A P P L A S A S K A N O R P A R
B B U B A F R A I D E E D I B A A I
L S E L K N A O A W A K E A O B A S
E E E L X A A A G A I N S T O A D E
A N A A R M A R C A D E A V T E U A
A T D N S A M O U N T S E T U P L C
N O C U I S A S H O A G E P L E T I
G H C R A M A Y G O L O P A A A B T
L L A P L A A S A T T E N D B A S E
E D C N A M T L O A G E N D A R C M
T R C M A R A A A A B O U T A G A H
S A E U M A W A R A O T U A S U F T
B W S T E L A I T P R E B M A E T I
E A S U N A Y M A A E R I A L A E R
C S C A S E A R C H I T R A V E R A
A P A L T O G E T H E R L A L S O B

State Conference Collection for Foodbank Shepparton

Please
bring 1
kilogram
bags of rice
to donate



Photo by Seiya Maeda on Unsplash



The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc.

care empower contribute

THE 97TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.
WILL BE HELD AT THE MCINTOSH CENTRE, THOMPSON STREET, SHEPPARTON
ON FRIDAY 30 MAY 2025 AT 10.00 AM
(VOTING WILL COMMENCE AT 9.00 AM)

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
- NATIONAL ANTHEM
- COLLECT
- CONFIRMATION OF THE 96th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
- STATE TREASURER'S REPORT
- RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT
- ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE AUDITOR FOR 2025
- STATE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS Jennifer Nola
- RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE 2024 ANNUAL REPORT
- ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULT OF VOTING FOR SPECIAL RESOLUTION
- CONFIRMATION OF 2025/2026 STATE PRESIDENT
- PRESENTATION OF STATE PRESIDENT'S BADGE
- 2025/2026 GROUP PRESIDENTS
- 2025/2026 BOARD MEMBERS AND STATE OFFICE BEARERS

Patron: Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria

97th Annual General Meeting

Information for Members

ACCESSING DOCUMENTS:

The following documentation for the meeting will be forwarded to all Branches and Group Presidents no later than 9 May and will also be available on the member section of the website <https://cwaofvic.org.au/members>. If you need member login details they are in the January 2025 posting or contact your Branch Secretary.

- Notice of Meeting and Order of Proceedings
- Special Resolution
- Proxy Attendance Form and Proxy Voting Forms
- Special Resolution Voting Information
- Election Voting Information
- Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting

These documents will also be available by contacting Robyn Smith, Member Services Administrator, by email cwaadmin@cwaofvic.org.au or (03) 9827 8971.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION:

A Final Draft 2025 Constitution marked up with the proposed amendments, together with an Explanatory Table will be available in the members section of the website no later than 9 May. Frequently Asked Questions are also provided and a copy of these is included in this magazine for members information.

OFFICIAL AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

A copy of the Official Audited Financial Statements will be available on the member section of the website from 16 May 2025.

QUESTIONS RE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Members who have questions relevant to the business of the meeting are requested to submit these in writing to Executive Director Lynne Jordan at execdirector@cwaofvic.org.au before 5.00 pm on Friday 23 May 2025. Frequently raised topics will be addressed during the reports. Please note that individual responses will not be sent to members.

OFFICIAL ANNUAL REPORT:

A copy of the Official Annual Report will be available on the member section of the website from 26 May 2025.

APPOINTMENT OF PROXY:

To ensure that a quorum is present you are strongly encouraged to lodge a proxy form. A member may appoint another member as their Proxy for Attendance at the meeting and a Proxy for Voting. The Proxy Forms will be included with information sent to Branches and Group Presidents and also will be able to be downloaded from the website www.cwaofvic.org.au or can be requested by emailing cwaadmin@cwaofvic.org.au. Proxy forms sent by post or electronically must be received by the Association no later than 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting. You are strongly encouraged to return your proxy immediately and preferably by email to ensure your Proxy Forms are received by no later than 10.00 am on Thursday, 29 May 2025 and able to be counted.

STATE CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS 2025

RESOLUTION 1

Prioritising Prime Agricultural Zoned Land

MOVED: Prue McCredden, Chair Catering Committee

SECONDED: Margaret Wood, Chair Agriculture and Environment Committee

That the Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc. urges the Victorian State Government in setting its legislative agenda to prioritise the preservation and protection of agricultural zoned land in Victoria for primary production purposes in order to ensure food security.

Supporting Statement:

Prime agricultural zoned land is disappearing and is under threat across Victoria for a range of purposes including renewable energy projects, mining, construction of new housing etc. While many of these projects may be worthy in themselves, locals have been distressed by the lack of community consultation and absence of long term planning consideration in favour of short-term profits. The Association urges all levels of government to ensure that decision-making concerning repurposing agricultural zoned land does not occur without proper community consultation, and that primary production is recognised and valued for its contribution to Victoria's economy and stability.

RESOLUTION 2

Protection for Usage of Cash

MOVED: Mornington Peninsula Group

SECONDED: Gippsland Hills Group

That the Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc. calls on the Federal Government to increase protections and options for the continued usage of cash as payment for goods and services as it becomes less available in the growing tap economy.

Supporting statement:

The usage of cash to pay for goods and services has decreased in the face of the growing tap economy. While the availability to "tap and go" is very convenient for large swathes of the community, others are being left behind. Certain populations, such as the elderly, low-income families, and those without access to digital banking or smartphones, could be disproportionately affected. These groups may have difficulty adapting to a cashless economy due to limited access to banking services, lack of tech literacy, or financial constraints. Not everyone is comfortable with or able to use digital payment methods. People who lack access to smartphones, don't know how to use digital wallets, or have low tech literacy may struggle in a cashless economy. Many are uncomfortable with

tap and go, managing their budgets with cash. Rural, regional and remote families and businesses already have a services deficit and cannot shoulder more financial burdens with the refusal of cash.

RESOLUTION 3

Parent Visas

MOVED: Gippsland Hills Group

SECONDED: Mornington Peninsula Group

That the Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc. calls on the Federal Government to make the following changes to the current Parent Visa approval process (with specific regard to the 143 Contributory Parent Visa).

- (a) Increase the current annual cap on parent visas to 20,000 (from an estimated 8,500 annually), and
- (b) Revise the queueing system through the introduction of accelerated pathways to approval including demonstrated family ties to Australia, former residency and employment in Australia, and financial capability.

These changes are necessary to address the current 15 year wait time and backlog of over 140,000 applications, which is untenable for parent visas, and presents a significant and negative impact on Australian families, our productivity and economic growth.

Supporting Statement:

In Australia, parents are deemed to be immediate family for the purpose of migration. As such, the Department of Home Affairs offer routes to migration to the parents of Australian citizens and permanent residents who were born overseas, including the Contributory Parent visa (Subclass 143). This visa requires applicants to 'contribute' to their future lifestyle in Australia through fees and bonds that exceed \$100,000 AUD Australian. Applicants must also pass requisite health and police checks, and the Balance of Family Test (the majority of one's children must be citizens or permanent residents of Australia). Given the significant payments required, it is reasonable to assert that the vast majority of applicants are the parents of skilled migrants to Australia, who have sufficient financial security to fund their lifestyles, and contribute positively to the Australian economy¹.

Parent visas are subject to a cap and queue system, in which a limited number of visas (currently approximately 8500) are granted on a first come first serve basis. Recent data released to the Senate by the Department indicate a significant backlog of over 140,000 parent visa applications awaiting approval, resulting in a wait time of over 15 years^{1,2,3}. The department is currently processing 143 visa applications filed in March 2018 (upon application, the wait time was indicated at 3 years).

Given that the minimum age of application is 67, this is clearly untenable for parent visas. A recent migration review revealed that in the past 3 years close to 2300 people have died waiting for parent visas² (the majority of which also paid a non-refundable application fee in excess of \$5000).

The federal government's existing cap and queue approval process is clearly egregious and cruel. In addition to the stress of prolonged separation from loved ones, there is a likelihood that existing skilled migrants – who contribute to Australia's net productivity and economic growth – will be forced to leave Australia to be with their parents. In contrast, with the proposed changes, the current visa backlog will be appropriately addressed, offering certainty to families, and a net productivity gain to Australia.

Within the CWA of Victoria, we have members who have been waiting to bring their parents to Australia for over 7 years.

References

1. The Guardian "Nearly 2,300 applicants died waiting for a parent visa to Australia with processing times of up to 31 Years". 31 Dec 2024.
2. Australian Immigration News "Australia's Parent Visa Backlog: 2,300 Lives Lost Waiting for Approval". 31 Dec 2024.2.
3. Australian Department of Home Affairs <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/family-visa-processing-priorities/parent-visas-queue-release-dates>

RESOLUTION 4

Support for Small Livestock Producers

MOVED: Central Highlands Group

SECONDED: Agriculture and Environment Committee

That the Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc. calls upon the Victorian State Government to urgently legislate to ensure that small livestock producers in Victoria have ongoing access to kill facilities, specifically by removing barriers to allow for mobile and micro-abattoirs to offer services to these producers.

Supporting Statement:

The recent report from the *Inquiry into Securing the Victorian Food Supply* identified this issue as a mounting barrier to food security in Victoria with the recent decline in the number of commercial abattoirs in Victoria who are offering services to small-scale local livestock producers. This includes Hardwicks in Central Victoria which closed its doors to small livestock producers in December 2024.

The Parliamentary Inquiry made the following recommendation to address this issue:

Recommendation 27: *That Agriculture Victoria work with the Victorian Farmers Federation, PrimeSafe and commercial abattoirs to negotiate small livestock producers' ongoing access to kill facilities in the short-to-medium term. The Victorian Government amend the Meat Industry Act 1993 (Vic) to specifically provide for and define micro-abattoirs and the Victorian Planning Provisions to introduce micro-abattoirs (including mobile micro-abattoirs) as a Section 1 use in the Farming Zone, Rural Activity Zone, Green Wedge Zone and the Green Wedge A Zone. The Victorian Government support small scale livestock producers to establish micro-abattoirs (including mobile micro-abattoirs) in communities which can demonstrate a need for this critical shared agricultural infrastructure.*

Small-scale farming is fundamental to the maintenance of country life across Victoria. The State of Victoria is renowned for the production of high-quality food produce. The lack of abattoirs leads to a decrease in animal welfare as stock are transported longer distances for slaughter, processed through higher stress environments and mixed with cattle from other properties. The lack of competition leads to higher processing and transportation costs which are causing many small businesses to close. Urgent action needs to be taken in support of the agricultural sector to ensure that small-scale producers are not driven from the market in order to protect the livelihoods of these producers and the security of the industry in our State.

PROPOSED 2025 CONSTITUTION FAQ

The following questions have been asked by a number of members. Responses below, which were endorsed by the Board at their April meeting, are provided for members' clarification.

BOARD MEMBER AMENDED TO DIRECTOR

Q. Will Directors receive a stipend /payment?

A. No.

CWA is a volunteer member association. Currently Board members do not receive a stipend /payment. However, the State President does receive a small allowance and this will continue.

Q. Will Board members responsibilities/accountabilities change?

A. No

Responsibilities remain unchanged.

Being a Board member, regardless of nomenclature, is a serious undertaking with onerous legal responsibilities.

Q. Will Directors require insurance for decisions they make?

A. Yes

The CWA of Victoria already provides all Board Members with Director's insurance. This will not change.

Q. Will Board Member's roles change?

A. Yes

Currently General Board Members (GBM) are not members of State Council and therefore do not have voting rights. They can only attend if invited.

Q. If Board members become Directors will their duties change?

A. Yes

The position description for State Vice President and General Board Member will be consolidated into one with duties delegated to individuals according to their skill sets.

Q. Is CWA of Victoria Inc. being too corporate in making these changes?

A. No

Corporate means, "to form into a body" which CWA is. It is important that CWA of Victoria is governed well for the next decade. The reviewed Constitution aligns with modern governance practice, fairness and operational efficiency with a Board structure consistent with Best Governance Practice, in the Not-for-Profit Public/Private sectors.

During the Strategic Plan forums members requested that CWA modernise to meet the needs of members and the organisation's relevance in today's world.

Q. Do other NFP Charities use the same structure as CWA is proposing?

A. Yes

SUBCOMMITTEES NOW TITLED COMMITTEES

Q. Why are we cutting out committees?

A. Committees are not being cut out.

Subcommittees will become Board Committees with unaltered terms of reference and structure as determined by the Board from time to time. Again, this is aligning with modern governance practice.

TERMS OF OFFICE

Q. When are elections for Office Bearer positions held?

A. At Group and State AGM's.

If the incumbent steps down before the end of her term, the position becomes vacant and is filled as a casual appointment until an election is held at the relevant AGM.

The 3 year term was a request from the Group Presidents at State Council and from individuals. They wished to have the same term length as for the Board.

The 3x3x3 year Board terms are determined for individuals as time served in all Senior Office Bearer positions and when nine years is completed the Senior Office Bearer must resign, reflecting good governance practice.

NB: for further clarification of the election rules go to Section 10 of the amended constitution

Q. What if an Office Bearer is unable to fulfil her three-year term?

What if an Office Bearer does not want to serve the 3 years?

Will the three year term discourage members from nominating for Office?

A. The incumbent officer may step down at any time, which is already practice with the current two year term.

The three year term reflects the proposed term served by the Directors, reflecting good governance practice.

Q. What if you have elected a "bad" Senior Office Bearer?

A. What do you do currently?

If the Senior Office Bearer, including members of our Board, contravened our Code of Conduct or any other policy, the CWA of Victoria Discipline process would be used. This process has been used in the past and outcomes have included sanctions and suspension from Senior Office Bearer/Board positions. If the complaint is more serious and falls outside the remit of our disciplinary process, the matter would be referred to the Police.

The amended version of our Constitution has been updated to reflect a more succinct explanation and clearer process, in line with current Industrial Relations processes.

TRAINING FOR THE NEW GROUP PRESIDENTS FOR 2025/2026

The incoming GPs got together at *Umina* on Saturday, 29 March 2025 to start learning about the role and what it entails.

Everyone was on time, apart from me I'm afraid. Sorry about that, and very eager to start. State President Jenny Nola welcomed everyone and asked each lady to talk a little about their CWA journey. Whilst there were some similarities, there were also differences, so it should make for a great experience for everyone. Some have been a Group President (GP) before and were happy to talk about their experiences in the context of the training as the day progressed.

We had State Treasurer Marie Vassallo talk about how great she finds her role and how a GP's role fits in with the Treasurer's role. Marie was so good at explaining and so positive about her role, I for one have totally changed the way I look at the role of Treasurer. We broke for a beautiful morning tea and later lunch. Thanks so much to the ladies who prepared and served lovely food, tea and coffee.

After Marie left us, State President Jenny continued on going through what is required to do the role. There was lots of discussion, some brainstorming and a few quizzes all designed to help us get started.

Thanks so much to everyone who helped make the day a success, especially Jenny and Marie for their time to run the course.

One of the main things I take away from the day is that you are not alone. Both Marie and Jenny said that there is always someone you can call for help or just to discuss a situation. The other thing is that the GP is there to support the branches in each group so if you need help please reach out.

Joanne Legg



State President Jenny Nola conducts the GP Training



State Treasurer Marie Vassallo



Group President Training Day

AROUND THE STATE AT THE GROUP CONFERENCES



1. Eastern Goulburn Group with Guest Speaker Kim O'Keeffe MP Member for Shepparton
2. Three Generations Kiewa Valley Group Emma with her mother and daughter
3. Henty Group AGM and Group Conference
4. Captain Jodi Johnston of HMAS Mornington
5. South Western Group
6. State Treasurer Marie Vassallo (L) with Central Highlands Group incoming GP Christine Jessup
7. Three Generations Henty Group Carolyn, Megan and Charlotte
8. Polwarth Group





Country Women's Association East Wimmera Group Creative Arts Exhibition 2025

Friday 2nd of May 2025, 10am to 4pm.

Saturday 3rd of May 2025, 10am to 2pm.

At the St Arnaud Town Hall,

40 Napier St, St Arnaud VIC

*Official Opening and Awards –

Friday the 2nd May – 11am



\$10 entry

Morning tea or
Afternoon tea \$7
Provided by host
branch, Marnoo



Come and see the great
talents of the CWA ladies
from, Marnoo, St Arnaud
– Kara, Stuart Mill,
Charlton – Cabbaritta,
Bealiba, Wedderburn,
Birchip – Wirrim



Lovely handcrafts on display include
knitting, crocheting, embroidery,
dressmaking, patchwork, card making,
cooking, preserves, flowers,
photography, demonstrations and more.



Enquiries Barbara 0459 688 800
barbara.douglass@bigpond.com.au



AROUND THE BRANCHES

JUMBUNNA NIGHT - WHITTLESEA

Our January meetings are always interesting. The weather seems to know when our meetings are held. In past years we have had meetings in the community gardens and it's either been extreme heat or pouring with rain.

On 15 January 2025 we were potting plants or making a terrarium and the rain and wind arrived as we were beginning our activity.

We had a laugh and kept going with our activity; at least we had a little bit of shelter, but the rain still got us!!

Thanks for a fun time ladies.



NIDDRIE BRANCH

On Monday 20 January 2025, the Niddrie branch welcomed 8 of 9 transferring members from the now closed Keilor Downs branch. We started our year with a Welcome Back lunch at Taylors Lakes Hotel, which was a chance to socialise and introduce ourselves to our new ladies. Some are faces of old friends that we know from the past and others are new to us.

We hope that these new ladies will fit in well with Niddrie Branch and enjoy our activities and our various craft projects. Niddrie now has a total of 34 members. We look forward to achieving bigger and greater things through our support for the community and the Association.

Sue O'Loughlin
Social Secretary



BACCHUS MARSH DAY BRANCH

Our December meeting was followed by our Christmas lunch where once again there was food galore. Plenty of ham and chicken, and an array of salads and sweets. With everyone bringing a dish to share, there was much to indulge in and we certainly did.

2024 had been a long and eventful year. The effort and hours we put into markets and stalls, 4 fundraisers, gathering generous donations, emails and phone calls, driving from place to place to get paperwork and votes in order was well worth it.

A highlight was the presenting of Life Membership certificates and pins to two long-standing members, Karin Wilson and June Webb. Between them these women have contributed 80 years of CWA service to this point.

Do you know how hard it was to keep this a secret, especially from 2 ladies who are involved in EVERYTHING? It wasn't easy, but we somehow managed it. June knew about Karin, Karin knew about June, but this was something we were sure they weren't going to share with one another.

On the day, family members of both recipients trickled in; shortly after, our GP 'popped in' and by the time the reporter for the local paper arrived, well, I'm sure that the ladies were thinking that something was happening. Both were presented with their certificates and pins and then a few photos with each other and their respective families. It was a complete surprise to each of them. What a way to finish a long secretive year!



RODNEY JUNIOR BRANCH CELEBRATES THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

On 16 February 2025 past and present members of the Rodney Junior CWA branch gathered with members of our senior branch for a reunion and afternoon tea to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Junior branch forming. It was exciting to have some of the very first members able to join us. We had a display of photos and memorabilia from the first 10 years on one side of the room and the next 10 on the opposite side. It was lovely to see the girls reminiscing about the display and it gave the girls who are members now the chance to see what the Juniors before them had done.

Lyn Trezise and Gwen Ranson, the two Junior Co-ordinators who started up the branch all those years ago were present. Lyn is still a Co-ordinator and the one who arranges all the craft activities for the girls. Gwen's time as Co-ordinator was followed by Shirley Harrison (who has had five granddaughters attend Juniors), then Janice Barrette and Lynda Dellar has now taken on the role to assist Lyn. We have been very lucky that Jenny Corrigan (Harston Branch) whose daughter attends Juniors has been a very supportive helper over the years along with Lorraine Secomb from our branch. Both ladies bring a wealth of craft and cooking knowledge to teach our Junior members, along with Rodney senior members one of whom is rostered on to help each month.

Lyn had made a birthday cake to celebrate the 20 years, and along with Gwen cut the cake and then of course we sang Happy Birthday. Lyn was presented with a beautiful bunch of flowers by one of our inaugural girls, Jaymie Harrison, for all the time and effort she has put in for the Juniors over the past 20 years and then presented with a Certificate as a keepsake. It was a wonderful celebration for the first 20 years and we look forward to many more years ahead for our Junior Branch.



Rodney 20th Anniversary Juniors Lyn with Jaymie Harrison



Rodney Junior Branch 20th Anniversary Lyn Trezise and Gwen Ranson

CELEBRATING A 100TH BIRTHDAY AT UMINA

Doris Lanyon joined CWA after she married in 1947 and moved to a property outside Berrigan.

In 1951 the family moved to Sunbury and Doris transferred to Sunbury Branch. Another move in 1954 saw the family in Wycheproof. Doris was a busy mother with three young children and became a member of the Wycheproof Branch. Wycheproof was quite a large Branch at that time, so Doris put her musical talents to work conducting the branch choir having attended the conductor's course run by the CWA in Melbourne.

The family moved to Hamilton In 1960, and Doris joined the evening branch Grangeburn. Many of the members were younger mums and this was a great branch for Doris. Over the years she held all office positions and was Henty Group President from 1977 to 1979. The group had 16 branches at that time.

Doris once again conducted the choir and played piano duets. She also contributed to the Group exhibition with cooking, sewing, knitting, jams and especially her exhibition marmalade. She took prizes many times with her marmalade.

Over the years the younger branch members became the older branch members and Grangeburn branch folded. The CWA Hall was sold, and some members, including Doris, joined the Hamilton day branch. Doris continued to be involved with the branch and exhibited her knitted babies' jackets and booties until 2022. Doris won many prizes in all the sections she entered over the years. She last won in 2022 with knitted babies' clothes.

Doris moved into aged care in Glen Waverley in September 2023 and her membership was transferred to the Wangaratta Evening

branch where her daughter, Wilma Bright is a member. She didn't want to not be a member after 75 years as an active member and is now in her 78th membership year.

At her 100th Birthday, celebrated at "Umina" on November 24th, the State President Jenny Nola presented Doris with a certificate for service over 76 years. Doris saw it as a great honour to be recognised in this way. A Happy Birthday Certificate from Wangaratta Evening Branch was also presented.

Thank you to the CWA members for catering and to Jenny Nola for joining Doris's family and friends on the day.

Wilma Bright (daughter)



ROSEWHITE AND DISTRICT - BUFFALO RIVER

On 26 February members from the Rosewhite CWA Branch had a fabulous and creative morning at a beautiful property in Buffalo River!

Under the guidance, direction and encouragement of Mel (daughter of member Carol) we each created (from go to whoa) ceramic leaves from all sorts of trees. Mel will now add a touch of green and yellow to our works of art and fire them for us. Our plan is to create wind chimes.

We enjoyed morning tea – lots of deliciousness from Carol – on the veranda taking in the beautiful vista. We were all pleased with our efforts and look forward to completing the challenge. Arts and crafts are very much part of our branch.



ROSEWHITE FILM NIGHT

On Friday 21 March our Branch celebrated International Women's Day 2025 with a film night watching *Mrs. Harris goes to Paris*. Before the movie we had drinks and nibbles.

With approximately 30 people attending, it was a lovely way to celebrate with our local community. Everyone enjoyed the movie – “you could have heard a pin drop” throughout the movie. A very pleasant and relaxed evening was had by all.



LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION AWARDED TO JANETTE MASON

At the 2024 AGM of Rodney Branch, Goulburn Valley West Group, Mrs Janette Mason was awarded Life Membership for her outstanding commitment to CWA locally and at State level. This award is well deserved and well overdue. She epitomises the values and objectives of CWA through her work and service in CWA and the greater community.

Janette joined Rodney Branch in 1978 and has been a member for 45 years. She is the back bone of our Branch. She has held the executive positions of President, Secretary, Treasurer of Rodney Branch for 24 years in total. In addition, Janette has held positions as Group President, Group Secretary and Group Exhibition Convenor and at State level has been State Vice President, State Treasurer, Catering Committee Chairman and a member of State Council for six years. During much of this time Janette was also working, as well as travelling regularly to Headquarters in Melbourne to fulfil her state roles.

From her long and varied experience in a range of roles, Janette is a wise mentor to all CWA members who seek her counsel, always conducting herself with integrity and tolerance. Congratulations Janette.



COONAWARRA



Autumn

Maturity, wisdom, and the culmination of life's experiences

Photo by Johannes Plenio on Unsplash

Their Memory Lives On

CHRISTA BAUMANN

RODNEY Branch members were saddened by the recent passing of our much-loved member **Christa Baumann** who had only recently retired from our branch due to failing health. Christa had been a member for 24 years and was a passionate cook who loved gardening and grew all her own vegetables turning them in the most amazing dishes harking back to her German childhood. She always stepped up to help our branch whether it be for a street stall, our Scone Drive or catering. She was a great knitter and was always ready to support the charities our branch helped. Christa loved helping with our Junior CWA branch passing on her skills to the young girls.

Christa loved being part of CWA because of the friendships she had made over the years. She will be remembered for her kindness, generosity and her sense of humour. Christa always kept our members entertained with her hilarious anecdotes.

Christa, you will be sadly missed.

COLLEEN HALL

HARCOURT CWA members fondly remember Colleen Hall who passed away recently aged 95 years.

Colleen contributed so much to our branch with her extraordinary creative talents, her exquisite handwork and her sense of humour.

A friend to many. Rest in Peace, Colleen

GWENNETH JENNER

Mildura/Merbein Branch members remember with fondness **Gwenneth Jenner** who died on 4 February 2025, aged 97. Gwenneth joined the Merbein Branch in 2013.

Gwenneth held the position of International Officer and was well known for her exceptional craft skills.

In 2016 she ran classes in Ribbon Embroidery and from these classes an embroidery piece, completed by Gwenneth and other Branch members, now hangs above the mantelpiece in the Merbein CWA Hall, dedicated to the Mildura-Millewa Group.

JOAN TRUMPER

Members of OFFICER WOORINYAN Branch, families and friends remember with love and joyfulness our long serving member **Joan Trumper**, as a person who gave her all, when it came to CWA, community involvement and support. For many years Joan volunteered in the CWA Cafeteria at the Melbourne Royal Show. Joan loved meeting people; we reflect that this would have been such a new experience for her after growing up in London during the second World War.

Joan was an optimistic, friendly person with a big heart, helping anyone in any circumstance. Joan was a big cook and for many years owned and operated a local tearoom, often running functions for local families and helping with catering for CWA. She was also a member for many years of the local hall committee, sewing stage curtains and fundraising for over 100 seats to service the hall. Joan was a member when the CWA were key community leaders working towards recovery after the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires in Upper Beaconsfield.

Joan loved dressing up for special occasions and parties, fun days and bad taste days in CWA where everyone enjoyed a good laugh. Joan bought secondhand dolls from local opportunity shops, restored them, sewing and knitting new clothes and accessories to give to local children at Christmas. Many happy branch Christmas meetings and lunches with all the trimmings were held in her home. Participants from Minibah (a local disability support service) were also invited to these celebrations, where the CWA members entertained and enjoyed their company. Both CWA and her local community will miss her.

Vale Joan Trumper.

JO ALLEN

Jo Allen was a greatly loved and respected member of AVOCA CWA for three years. Her energy and commitment to the CWA sisterhood persisted even throughout her battle with terminal illness.

The women of the Avoca Branch remembered her and celebrated her life and contribution in a memorial event following her passing in 2024. Her enthusiasm for life, friendship, courage and resilience was an inspiration to all who knew her. She is sadly missed by us all.

Photo by David Kovalenko on Unsplash

JOYCE BUMPSTEAD

Members of OFFICER WOORINYAN Branch, families and friends remember with love and joyfulness our CWA Life Member of 65 years service, **Joyce Bumpstead**. A foundation member of the Woorinyan Younger Set, then a member of the evening branch and finally a daytime branch member, Joyce was part of all the changes that happen over such a long period.

Joyce and her husband Eric, owned and operated a local apple orchard and small fruit shop in Guys Hill for over 50 years. They worked as a team in the business and for the many years when Eric (OAM) was Captain of the Upper Beaconsfield CFA, Joyce was the Queen Bee and also a long serving CFA member. Joyce was a member when the CWA were key community leaders working towards recovery after the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires in Upper Beaconsfield.

An accomplished cook and baker, maker of legendary sponges, her creations were a firm favourite at many local events. Joyce stepped into the Group President role when a sudden mid-term vacancy arose. Group craft was held at the Bumpstead home for many years as a monthly evening session. An accomplished knitter, winning many competitions, she had a reputation for her competitive approach. Fundraising for CWA, CFA and other local causes was a strong suit for Joyce. Gardening was another passion, especially flowers. Joyce was a larger-than-life personality with a kind and generous heart, who loved and supported her local community. Both CWA and her local community will miss her.

Vale Joyce Bumpstead.

JOYCE MCDONALD

Well known, loved and respected life member of CWA, Joyce McDonald, member of the former Myrtleford Branch, passed away on the 11 December 2024.

If there was a position vacant in either the Myrtleford branch or the North Eastern group, Joyce would fill it and do a marvellous job. She was Group President from 1995 – 1997, again in 2000 – 2003 and once more in 2008 – 2010, not to mention being Secretary and Treasurer a time or two.

Joyce was well known by the railway porters at Wangaratta and Melbourne, and there was one man who asked her why her suitcase was so heavy. She replied 'It contains my dead husband's body'. She never lost her sense of humour.

A branch could always go to her for advice, and Joyce made regular visits to her group branches. She likened herself to an old mother hen. Joyce would take part on the floats Beechworth branch entered in the Easter Golden Horseshoe parade. Joyce worked and belonged to numerous organizations outside of CWA in her hometown of Myrtleford. She would be the first to get help to bushfire and flood effected people. Alpine Shire saw fit to award her the Shire Citizen of the Year Award in 1997.

Joyce is fondly remembered and loved.

MARGARET WILLIAMS

Members of SHERIDAN/KYABRAM branch were saddened to say farewell to one of our longest serving members, **Margaret Williams**, on 13 November 2024. Margaret's mobility had been a deterrent to activities for some time, but she continued to contribute to the last in whatever way she could.

Margaret joined our branch in 1970 and was always active, taking office as either Secretary or Treasurer over the years. For that, we are most grateful. At a Group level, Margaret served as Group Secretary on 3 occasions covering 6 years.

Her ideas were always worthy of note with many issues decided following Margaret's input. She also brought us lots of fun times when practicing for Music and Drama festivals.

Margaret was a most successful cook, not surprisingly taking out many prizes at Exhibitions. Knitting was also a regular pastime, initially providing garments for her young children whilst in later years charity knitting was a focus when her health issues allowed. She remained forever happy and joined in activities where she could.

Margaret was a notable, staunch member of CWA and a good friend to all who will be sadly missed, and long remembered. Rest in peace dear friend; we will miss you forever.

MELVA BURNS

Melva rejoined the AVOCA Branch four years ago after a long absence. Over the years she has devoted her boundless energy to many organisations in our community. Most notable was her work in cancer support and disability advocacy. Melva was highly skilled in all aspects of sewing and embroidery. She was also a keen golfer. She was renowned for her quirky sense of humour, quick wit and public speaking. Her enduring devotion to family and friends along with her many qualities accorded her great love and respect.

Sadly, Melva passed away after a short illness at age 87 in February this year.

Resting peacefully.

NELL WALSH

Vale **Nell Welsh**. BARNAWARTHA Branch is deeply saddened by the passing of our loved Life and Founding member on 14 February 2025. Nell's service in the CWA spanned 74½ years. Over this time, she held many Branch Office positions, was a committed contributor to all Branch activities and especially enjoyed music and dramatic performances at Branch, Group and State level.

Nell is remembered for her gentle manner, love of singing, drama and gardening along with insightful comment. In recent years she brought much laughter to our meetings as Sunshine Lady; so many jokes and funny stories.

Our thoughts are with her family. R.I.P. Nell.

PAT SURACE

DROUIN BRANCH is saddened by the sudden passing of our much-loved member **Pat Surace**. Pat enjoyed every day of her 12 years membership, learning more about CWA and what we do. She loved attending conferences and exhibitions. Her knitting was inspirational- such fine work worthy of the many prizes she received.

Our dear friend Pat will be sadly missed. She was a quiet achiever and a committed member of our branch and CWA Victoria.

VIOLET STEPHENS

Members of the GEELONG THURINA Branch were terribly upset to hear of the passing of a most loved member **Violet Stephens** on Christmas Night. Violet had been a CWA member for over forty years, though not always in Thurina Branch.

Violet was 109 years young and lived at home on her own until late October 2024. Raised in the Colac area, Vi was a sickly child so school was not so important. When she married Vi and Bill moved to Lorne where he was a fisherman and she worked in a relative's bakery.

Vi had strong morals, was a great homemaker and loved painting, sewing, crochet and knitting. She was a CWA member in Grovedale after moving there and always entered Group competitions, winning many prizes for her delicate craft. Many of her prize-winning articles were on display at her funeral still with entry tickets attached.

Vi treasured her time in CWA and the many friends she made. She so looked forward to receiving her magazine and would read each one more than once when she received it. Thurina members enjoyed catching up with Vi at home for visits and on the occasion she came to a luncheon where she was treated like a Queen.

A well-loved member who is sadly missed by us all. May she rest in peace.

DISCLAIMER

The appearance of an advertisement in the Victorian Country Woman magazine or the inclusion within this Magazine of any advertising material does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc. of the produce, services or investment so advertised or any editorial accompanying such advertisement.

All material published in Victorian Country Woman is subject to copyright provisions. No part of this publication may be reproduced without prior written permission from The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc.

The information contained within the Victorian Country Woman is given in good faith and obtained from sources believed to be accurate. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Association.

Please forward all Magazine correspondence to
3 Lansell Road Toorak 3142.

Design and layout: Debra Thompson Printed by: Focus Print Group



The Country Women's
Association of Victoria Inc.

care empower contribute

Raising and distributing funds
for disaster relief efforts

Advocating
on behalf
of our
communities

WE CONTRIBUTE

Volunteering
and stepping
up to do the
work in local
communities

Raising and
distributing funds
to organisations
that support
vulnerable women,
children and
families

Supporting disaster
recovery teams

Caring for
vulnerable
women,
children and
families

WE CARE

Reaching
out to
people who
are lonely

Fostering
friendship and
engaging with our
communities

Connecting
women
in their
communities

Informing and
challenging
decision-makers
to drive social
change

WE EMPOWER

Providing
support to
those who are
vulnerable or
disadvantaged

Offering programs
that empower
and provide
opportunities
to learn



**The Country Women's
Association of Victoria Inc.**

care empower contribute

Phone (03) 9827 8971

Address 3 Lansell Road, Toorak Victoria 3142 Australia

Reception reception@cwaofvic.org.au

www.cwaofvic.org.au