



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA

"Women working together can achieve anything." - Dr Fanny Reading

2019
ISSUE 2

HANUKKA
EDITION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Our final Newsletter for 2019 and so much has happened since my last message.

Our 2019 AGM (my first in this role) generated healthy

interest and debate around topics included in our Strategic Plan Objectives. It is good to witness such levels of engagement and a revitalization of the interactions between the Sections and National. National's improved Facebook and Instagram performance over the 12 months leading to the AGM, was noted and Debby Kloot congratulated for facilitating this. In this period we saw an increase in hits from women of all ages. Facebook followers up 68% in the year; with 78% of Facebook followers being women, of which the largest single group is aged 65+ at 22%. All this before we benefited from the buzz generated by our National Conference!

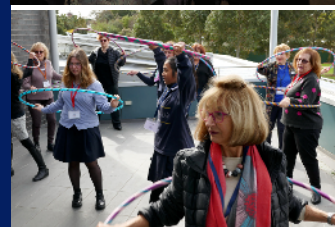
My thanks and appreciation to our Hon. Treasurer, Sharlene Lustig and Board member Robyn Lenn OAM who stepped down at the 2019 AGM. Happily, Sharlene is continuing to support NCJWA Board's work. A big welcome to new National Board member, Janet Merkur from NSW.

Many months of planning and preparation culminated in our very successful National Conference, "Women Unlimited" in September. With over 100 attendees, a stellar line up of speakers and panels and excellent media cover in Australian Jewish News, Facebook, and other social media. We managed to attract a younger audience as well as our loyal membership.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



The NCJWA quadrennial conference was held in Melbourne in September, entitled "Women Unlimited". Over 100 delegates attended over the two-day event, hearing from many speakers and panels, including NCJWA National President Negba Weiss-Dolev, and an inspirational keynote address by Melinda Tankard-Reist of Collective Shout.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT.

Special thanks to the Conference organising Committee (Di Hirsh OAM, Shirley Glance OAM, Roslyn Gunn, Debby Kloot, Annette Sweet and myself) and all the other volunteers involved.

The third day of Conference focused on Strategic Planning for NCJWA's leadership, resulting in a series of focused resolutions to drive and guide our activities in the coming years.

Our proposed new NCJWA Constitution has received endorsement by our member Sections and will, hopefully, be adopted at an Extraordinary General Meeting in February next year. My sincere thanks and congratulations to our hard-working and tenacious Constitution sub-committee, headed by Di Hirsh OAM with Belinda Plotkin & Melinda Jones.

NEW ZEALAND 90TH



L-R: Judith Boock, Susan Arons, Vivien Brass OAM, Shirley Payes

Vivien Brass OAM was guest speaker at the 90th anniversary dinner for the Council of Jewish Women of New Zealand. Vivien is photographed with Shirley Payes who has handed over the Presidency to Susan Arons and Judith Boock who is the President of the Wellington Branch.

**HAVE A HAPPY AND
SAFE NEW YEAR!**

THE NCJWA NATIONAL OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED FROM
19/12/19 UNTIL 20/1/20



I was very encouraged and energized by the overwhelming support expressed by our Section Leadership, at our 2019 National Conference, for a cohesive and contemporary branding for our organisation. I would like to thank Victoria Section for taking the lead on this and look forward to seeing the outcomes.

NCJWA is greatly dismayed at the further delay in the process of bringing Malka Leifer back to face court in Australia. We support the brave sisters Dassy, Nicole and Elly and all the victims in this difficult time and hope that in the new year justice will prevail.

2019 is drawing to an end and much has been achieved by NCJWA both by National and the Sections and there are many ambitious plans for 2020 for us to look forward to. Whilst our world is going through a tumultuous time, I am hopeful that in 2020, humankind will once again rise to the occasion and build a better future for us, our children and grandchildren.

I wish you and your loved ones a Happy Chanukah.

Have a restful and healthy break and come back refreshed and energized for another exciting year.

Negba Weiss-Dolev
National President

NCJWA.ORG.AU

REPORT BY WA PRESIDENT JENNY FEIGENBAUM

Thank you

We have had a number of young women join our section this year. We look forward to their contribution to our section in due course.

Thank you to all our members and supporters for a wonderful year.

Thank you to all the Committee members. You have done a terrific job this year.

Ester Steingesser, on behalf of NCJWA WA, was a main organiser of International Holocaust Day in January, with UNAA, Holocaust Institute of WA, and Courage to Care WA.

International Women's Day was celebrated with a special lunch in March at Jenny Faigenbaum's home.

On Anzac Day Thelma Gunzburg, who served in WW2, represented NCJWA WA at the Anzac Day Dawn Service in King's Park.

Our main 90th anniversary celebration was our Mother's Day brunch at the Jewish Community Centre, attended by 65 people who enjoyed delicious kosher food by Cafe 61. Rebbetzin Odeya White spoke about the privileges and responsibilities of being a mother.

We were delighted to welcome Negba Weiss-Dolev to our 90th Anniversary AGM. It was a terrific occasion with visitors from many other WA associations attending.

In November family and friends watched the movie Mrs G, the story of Lea Gottlieb of Gottex Swimwear. Organised by Louise Wingers and Sarah Olden.

Mitzvah Day, co-ordinated by Jenny Faigenbaum was celebrated at Deanna Blacher's home. Women came together for the fourth year, to make housewarming baskets for Orana House, a women's refuge which NCJWA WA supports.



Some of our Natanya Group Members



L-R: Jenny Faigenbaum, Sarah Olden, Negba Weiss-Dolev, Louise Wingers, Valerie Frank and Deanna Blacher-Cohn – Our National President with our State Committee at our 90th AGM.

Taking care of business

Sarah Olden remains our Office Manager working two sessions per week, - Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings.

Our two groups, Natanya and Shalom continue to meet monthly. These meetings are very popular social and educational outings.

Two years ago, NCJWA WA started *Reading Out Loud*, run by Shelley London, based on similar programs in NSW & Victoria.

A team of approx. 8 ladies regularly visit the Jewish Aged Care facility, the Maurice Zeffert Home and read or chat to the residents.

The MZH residents look forward to seeing the Reading Out Loud Volunteers on a weekly or fortnightly basis.



Some of our Shalom Group Members, July 2019

#MakeSpaceforHer Campaign Launch



L-R: *Lindy Susskind, Bianca Janover, Anna Serry, Moran Dvir*



L-R: *Debbie Dadon AM, Helen Shardey (ARZA)*



L-R: *Jeremy Leibler (ZFA), Brian Samuel*



L-R: *Susie Ivany OAM, Dr Ann Wollner, Dr Susan Feldman*



L-R: *Miriam Bass, Anna Serry, Carol Schwartz AO, Lee Ann Bassar*



L-R: *Ronit Joel, Keren Zelwer*

FANNY READING SPEAKER



Nancy K Kaufman, former CEO of NCJWA in the USA, is our 2019 Fanny Reading Human Rights keynote speaker.

A thought leader and advocate, Nancy recently stepped down as CEO after 8 years at the helm of NCJW USA. She re-energised this 125 year old organisation into a force for advancing social and economic justice for women, children and families and safeguarding individual rights and freedoms in both the United States and Israel.

Nancy spent time with staff and volunteers at both NCJWA Vic in Melbourne and NCJWA NSW in Sydney.

GENDER EQUALITY PLEDGE

The first stage of the #MakeSpaceForHer campaign is our Gender Equality Pledge. Community organisations have been invited to sign a Gender Equality Pledge, signifying their commitment to embrace gender equality as an important value throughout their organisation - in governance, management, staffing and volunteers and throughout programs, services and public forums.



Anna Serry, the chair of the Advocacy Subcommittee and Keren Zelwer, a member of the

Advocacy Subcommittee, presented the NCJWA Vic Gender Equality Pledge at the plenum of each of JCCV, ZFA and Zionsim Victoria and we are thrilled to say that it was passed unanimously. Organisations who sign up are able to use this stamp on all their communications to show that they are committed to gender equality.

SECTION NEWS

BRISBANE

Our monthly get togethers have been enjoyed by both men and women. Topics ranged from Travels along The Silk Road, our very own published poet Anna Jacobson and the influence of Jewish refugees on the architecture in New Zealand.



Our Race Day lunch was enjoyed by a very happy group of people. The annual raffle was won by an elated Eleanor.

Filled bags were donated to Share the Dignity during their November/ December drive and donations have been made to a number of local charities.

Gail Paratz was presented with her National Award for her multi-faith involvement and Lorraine Jacobs was presented with her Honour Badge.



L-R: Lorraine Jacobs, Sheila Levine

GOLD COAST

A very well attended Yom HaShoah Memorial was held, with NCJWA Gold Coast as one of the sponsors. Special guest speaker was Alex Ryvchin, prominent speaker and writer on the Arab-Israeli Conflict.



CANBERRA

We held a women's health event that was well attended, with talks from three leading health professionals - bone health by Pharmacist Jaylee Lewis, muscle strength by physiotherapist Kylie Cook, and nutrition by dietitian



Romy Hurwitz. The talks were informative and engaging followed by numerous questions and a delicious afternoon tea. A raffle was held, with prizes kindly donated by committee members, Debra Hurwitz, and Kylie Cook from SportsCare and Physiotherapy in Weston.

NCJWA NSW were privileged Emmy award winning Gayle Kirschenbaum took more than 100 people at NCJWA NSW along on a brave mother-daughter journey in her documentary film "Look At Us Now, Mother", in an effort to understand emotional abuse and whether it can ultimately be forgiven. A Q & A with Gayle followed the screening.



L-R: Helene Greenbau, Carol Kirschenbaum, Gayle Kirschenbaum, Nadene Alhadeff



Gayle Kirschenbaum during Q&A after the screening of "Look At Us Now, Mother"

NEW PROGRAM

Cuddle Bundles is a new program, an initiative to provide gifts of babywear to mums in any community in need.



Cuddle Bundle volunteers L-R: Celia Trakman, Ella Lazor, Michele Brandenburger



AGM

L-R: Barbara Shotland (Hon. Treasurer) Janet Merkur (Co-President) Peter Wayne (Hon. Solicitor) Maxine Bachmayer (Co-President) Miri Orden (Co-President)



Jana Gottshall Memorial Library event

Gael Hammer facilitated conversation with internationally renowned theatre producer and director Moira Blumenthal and co-producer Lyndi Adler.

NCJWA National

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MORE NATIONAL CONFERENCE PHOTOS

