



ALGWA NSW Newsletter



2010 Year of Women in Local Government

Creative— Strong— Inclusive— Diverse

ALGWA National Mentoring Network Program

Following a national workshop, ALGWA has received a grant to set up two mentoring programs, one for Councillors and a more structured programme for council officers.

Mentoring Network

The program will consist of ALGWA members as mentors providing support, assistance, knowledge and information. A mentor could assist other Councillors within their own State or provide assistance to Councillors in other states which might be of a similar size or have similar issues or skills. It is proposed as an informal arrangement. Contact could be made by phone, email or face to face. This would be decided by the two participants. It could be a one off query or something that is ongoing for a period of time. The list will be updated annually and a report provided to the National Board on the success and use of the Network across Australia and within a State.

How it would work

Each state will have a list of available mentors. This would be provided in hard copy or electronically.

The mentee would be able to choose someone from the list that they would be interesting in talking to. The state branch would guide the mentee to an appropriate mentor if necessary.

It is proposed that each state send out a letter to existing ALGWA members.

Each state would develop an info pack based on a template for those willing to be national mentors.

A launch of the project is proposed for July. Letters will be sent to all female councillors announcing the launch. Promotion of the Mentoring programme will be done at the ALGWA National Conference in November.

Are you interested in this programme?

Information: algwa.org.au



Karen McKeown
President
ALGWA NSW
Ambassador for Year of Women in Local Government [YOW]
Member of Joint Ministerial Advisory Committee for Women

What is your council doing to celebrate the Year of Women in Local Government? Share it with us. We will put it on ALGWA's website and in our Newsletter.

Issue 18

May/ June 2010

Inside this issue:

Gender balance in politics and corporate sector. 2

Helping women get back into the workforce 3

Rural Women's Network work and Rural Woman of the Year 4

Councillor profile 5
Leia Thiele

ALGWA NSW Executive 6

Visit ALGWA for NSW for news and upcoming events
www.algwa.org.au

The ALGWA National Biennial Conference will be hosted by the City of Ryde, NSW November 25-27 2010 to conclude the celebrations for the Year of Women in local Government.

The Conference will include the national launch of the ALGWA 50:50 Councils for Gender Equity Accreditation and Awards Programme. This ALGWA initiative to boost women's participation in Local Government as both elected representatives and senior managers is a key element of the 50:50 vision launched by ALGWA in April 2009.



Councils can join ALGWA for \$200 annually and benefit from discounts for ALGWA conferences, workshops and courses.

Details of the National Conference and ALGWA membership for councils and individuals on line:

algwa.org.au

Barbara Perry– NSW Minister for Local Government- says most councillors are older men.

When Barbara Perry spoke at the ALGWA NSW Conference in March, she quoted from a survey of 148 Local Councils, [the Candidates and Councillors Survey,] conducted by the Division of Local Government, which found that following the last elections in 2008, only 27% of councillors were women and only 23% were mayors.

Young women between 18 and 29, made up only 4% of councillors.

The most common age group for all councillors was 50 to 59, followed by 60 to 69.

Ms. Perry said , “Although women make up about half the population, they only make up about a quarter of councillors. This has remained largely unchanged.”

Other findings from the survey show that significant groups of people in our communities are not well represented in Local Government. English was the first language of 91% of councillors and only 1.6% were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.



“I hope that 2010, the Year of Women in Local Government, may be the catalyst for more women to consider standing.” Hon. Barbara Perry

Catriona Noble– mentor for Women CEOs

“The new boss of McDonalds Australia, Catriona Noble, has celebrated her elevation by offering to become a mentor to women keen to rise to the top of the corporate ladder.

She is the only woman member of the Business Council of Australia, which has launched a mentoring service programme-named C-Suite Initiative– which aims to improve Australia’s deplorable record of women in execu-

tive roles. McDonalds now has women in half of its senior positions.

The gender imbalance in Australia was highlighted in a recent survey by Sphinx, a networking site for women leaders www.spinxx.com.au

Only 10% of senior positions are held by women.

Only 25% of the nation’s CEOs are women.

Only 8.3% of women are on corporate boards.



Sex Discrimination Commissioner’s Vision for Gender Equality



Elizabeth Broderick- Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner- says that it is time for radical change to achieve gender equity on corporate boards.

She says that Australian companies should be given a maximum of five years to increase the number of women sitting

on their boards or else government should legislate to force them to do so.

Just 8.3% of board members in the nation’s top 200 companies are women.

She advises companies to set 3-to-5 year targets to address the gender imbalance, with annual reports on the progress towards those targets. If they are not being met satisfactorily, the government should introduce quotas.

Australian and Afghani Women are equals in political representation.

With only 27% in the Senate, Australia is on par with Afghanistan, but doing better than the US [16% in Congress] and Britain [close to 20%] Doing much better are Sweden [46%] and Rwanda [56%].

“A 17% pay gap and scandalously low representation of women in parliament and on corporate boards means that even in Australia, there is still a long way to go to achieve true equality,” says Prof. Louise Chappell, a researcher in gender and politics at the University of NSW.



Hon. Maxine McKew MP- Parliamentary Secretary- guest of honour at the ALGWA Networking Breakfast

Date: Tuesday June 15th

Time: 7.15– 8.30 am

Venue: National Convention Centre— 27-31 Constitution Ave. Canberra.

Bookings: adfuller@bigpond.com

The Australian Women’s Register is a rich and growing source of information about women and their organisations. You can use it to find biographies of women, and organisations, archives and publications dealing with women’s issues. www.womenaustralia.info

Women in Local Government Forum-
May 6th 2010-
Swiss Grand- Bondi
jane@lgmansw.com.au

2010 YEAR OF WOMEN
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Forum has a full day programme including keynote speakers and workshops aimed at developing a better understanding of the opportunities for women in Local Government.





Suited For Work

Look good | Feel confident

Recently the Sustainability Unit at Penrith City Council held a very successful clothing collection for not for profit group *Suited For Work*. The group is an incorporated association run entirely by volunteers. Its mission is to support women experiencing difficulties in achieving self-sufficiency and financial independence. Suited for Work is also a great example of a truly sustainable program with benefits in the environmental, social and economic spheres.

Suited for Work offers support to women by: providing appropriate clothing and styling advice for women who may be seek-

ing to re-enter the workforce after a period of unemployment; developing skills in the areas of interview technique and résumé writing; and supporting and advising women as they move through the job application process.

Women from Council showed their support by donating a wonderful variety of work wear which included shoes, handbags and even sunglasses. Thanks to the generosity of Council staff five boxes of clothing were collected for distribution. The clothing drive showed a great example of corporate social responsibility in action.

Women helping other women build self esteem and gain independence



Penrith Women looking good., feeling confident. An idea for your community.

Bicycles 4 Democracy- Providing transport for Cambodian women elected representatives.

The **Bicycles 4 Democracy Campaign** was initiated by Kate Hamilton, Director of Australian Programmes, Institute for Australian Studies Abroad, Butler University, with the support of UNIFEM Australia [United Nations Development Fund for Women.] Kate met Nanda Pok [pictured at right] at an International Women's Day breakfast in 2008 and learnt from her of the Cambodian training programmes for women aspiring to be elected to local and state government. Nanda suggested that the best way of supporting the women was to provide them with transport to connect them with their constituents—in their case, bicycles.

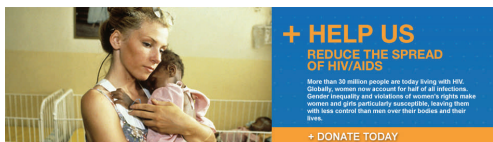


Hon. Chou Bun Eng, Cambodian Secretary of State and Mrs Nanda Pok, Executive Director of Women for Prosperity at the National Round Table for Local Government, presented forty five bicycles to Cambodian women councillors.

Up to date, forty five Cambodian women councillors have received bicycles through Bicycles 4 Democracy. The target is fifty four. You can donate as an individual, or encourage your council to join others who have donated.

Donating is easy:

Go to the UNIFEM Australia website: www.unifem.org
Click on donate. Enter credit card details. This will generate a tax receipt number. Forward a copy to projects@ifsa-butler.net
IFSA Butler keeps details of your payment to cross check with UNIFEM Australia. When there are 10 donations, the Treasurer sends them to Nanda Pok, who will buy the bicycles. You will receive confirmation of your donation, which is tax deductible.



UNIFEM is an international organisation promoting human rights, political participation and economic security

Helping Young Women Stand Up Against Violence-

Stand Up 4U is a free DVD [from the office For Women] for young women, on the early signs of potentially abusive relationships. It demonstrates behaviour which is controlling, isolating and undermines confidence.

The DVD aims to raise awareness of the need to develop healthy relationships. It also pro-

vides details of where young women can get more information and support if they need it.

The DVD has been designed for young women to watch on their own, or in a group. It is also designed to be used as a resource by teachers, youth workers and other professionals working with young women.



See the movie on line: www.women.nsw.gov.au

Respectful Relationships Campaign and National Survey- addressing violence against women

Tanya Plibersek, Federal Minister for the Status of Women, announced the launch of a media campaign that promotes positive relationship messages to young people. Over nine million dollars will fund community projects to work with young people about ethical behaviours and how to engage in relationships based on mutual respect.

Ms. Plibersek said that nearly one in three women experience physical violence in their lifetime. To prevent violence against women in the future, we need to change attitudes and behaviour, and one of the best ways is to educate our young people. This initiative will reach them in the media spaces they inhabit, with a significant online component and as well as print and radio. The message conveyed will

be that all forms of violence are unacceptable, including bullying, cyber bullying, harassment, stalking, sexual abuse and domestic violence. Young people will be taught the importance of communication, trust, and consideration for others.

The Australian Government is investing forty two million dollars on projects to reduce violence against women, following key recommendations from the Time for Action Report. A National Plan is being developed to reduce violence against women and their children. The Plan will coordinate a national violence prevention agenda across all states and Territories and across public and private sectors.



Tanya Plibersek launched the National Survey on Community Attitudes to Violence against Women in April.

She is pictured at the launch with **Todd Harper**, White Ribbon Ambassador and CEO of Victorian Health. He emphasised the important role men can play by talking about the issues with their peers, family and communities.

Information on White Ribbon website: www.whiteribbon.org.au

Lana Mitchell– Rural Woman of the Year

Lana Mitchell, of Gundaroo, about 30 ks north of Canberra, is the Rural Woman of the Year 2010.

“Lana started her commercial cut-flower venture at Gundaroo in 2005, specialising in the Australian native Flannel flower. Through her business, Back Creek Country, she exports to the USA, Europe, UK and Japan as well as providing for the Australian market.

She is a board member of Wildflowers Australia, member of RIRDC's Wildflowers And Native Plants Advisory Committee, and a member of New Rural Industries Australia Interim Management Committee. She is also Editor of the Australian Flower Industry magazine.

Lana's long-term vision is that the Australian wildflower industry comes out of its infancy through effective marketing, promotion and the establishment of sustainable floriculture practices. She wants to see Australian wildflowers and foliage become more popular within florists and consumers, here and overseas.. She hopes to use the Award bursary for an international study tour within Europe and the UK to research how flower industry associations build and grow their market share.”



Lana Mitchell-
Flannel Flower Grower-
Rural Woman of the Year 2010
Story and photo from NSW
Dept. Primary Industries:
dpi.nsw.gov.au

The Rural Women's Network (RWN) is a state-wide government programme within the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI).

The RWN works in innovative ways to share information and promote action on rural women's issues, often in partnership with individuals, groups and non-government and government agencies. The small RWN team works with a community based State Advisory Committee (SAC) co-chaired by NSW DPI's Director-General and a community representative. RWN team State Advisory Committee.

Start of the Rural Women's Network

In May 1991 a Rural Women's Conference was held in Parkes. Participants identified the need for rural women to have more opportunities to network, share ideas, access information and have a voice in decision making. As a result, the RWN was set up in 1992.

What the RWN can do for you

- Provide information and promote activities via The Country Web newsletter, monthly email update and website.
- Send information packs, give presentations or facilitate workshops at women's events or local gatherings.
- Provide contacts for guest speakers and workshop presenters on a wide range of topics.
- Work with you in issues-based projects, support your proposal or help connect you with relevant individuals, groups or agencies.

Projects and activities

A large portion of RWN time is spent on specific projects and activities. Many of these projects are developed and coordinated in partnerships with other agencies, organisations and community groups. dpi.nsw.gov.au



Leia Thiele– Lockhart Councillor– Her Inspiring Story

In 2004 a good friend of mine, who was and is also a Councillor (she was also the first female on Council at Lockhart), suggested to me that I should run for Council. This was something that I had never considered before. She thought that I would be good at it, but I wasn't sure. I asked her what I had to offer; considering that I'd only been in the Shire since 1994. She said that I had shown a lot of dedication and commitment to the community since I had moved here.

I joined the P&C at The Rock Central School so that I could meet people within the first week after moving to the area. This led me to join The Rock Show Society. My husband joined the State Emergency Service (SES), which I eventually joined. I spent so much time training with the guys there that the then Controller said that I might as well join. I have now been a member for eleven years; I was also the first active female member to join the Unit. I later became a member of the CWA and the Red Cross. After the 2004 Election I became involved with The Rock Progress. Because of University commitments I am no longer with the CWA or Red Cross.

I decided to run for Council. The year 2004 proved to be a record year for the number of people running for Council in Lockhart. Lockhart has nine Councillors; three Councillors represent each Ward. In 2004 there were six nominations for each Ward. I was not successful in being elected; but I decided not to let it get me down and that I would give it another attempt.

In 2008. I was somewhat encouraged when I learned that three Councillors were retiring and one Councillor had moved out of the Shire. I quickly got my application in and waited for the campaigning to begin. However, whether by luck or otherwise, we had exactly the right amount of nominations for the positions needed. This meant no election! I was not sure whether I was disappointed or pleased about this, but either way I was now a Councillor for Lockhart Shire Council!

When we moved to the area in 1994 we had three children between eight and five, I later had two more daughters. In 1997 we moved to the property where we still live. The older three children have now left home leaving us with our two youngest daughters.

My life before becoming a councillor was adventurous. From July 1989 to January 1994 I worked as a bus driver for the State Transit Authority in Sydney at Willoughby Depot. Before having children and driving buses I worked as a Receptionist/Telephonist for many years. I decided that I hated being cooped up inside with no view of the outside world so I left the office behind. I had been in the Army Reserves in a Transport Unit with my brother and knew that I could handle heavy vehicles. My brother was also working as a bus driver, which was another incentive. It was something I knew I could do, it didn't matter to me that it was a male dominated industry, I'd been a tomboy most of my life.

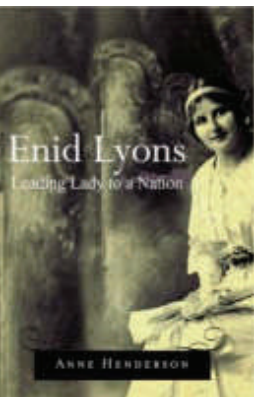
I met my husband to be in 1985 when I became a member of the chorus for the Gilbert and Sullivan Musical Society in Sydney. We both still have a strong passion for music and are both members of the Cantilena Singers in Wagga Wagga.

Whilst on council I am continuing my studies at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, which I began in 2000. I had felt a need to progress with things in my life and decided to return to study. I had spent time helping at the Pre-School when my daughters were there, so thought of Early Childhood Care or Pre-School teaching, but decided to do a Bachelor of Social Science (Social Welfare). In early 2000 when I found out that I'd been accepted, I had a dilemma, as I was very pregnant at the time. I decided that I should accept given that there could be a long waiting time if I declined. I chose to do two subjects and defer the third. I chose were Psychology and Sociology. I actually started an assignment for Psychology in the hospital the day after my baby was born. The nurses couldn't get over it! I managed to complete two Psychology subjects and one Sociology subject by the middle of 2001. Study was becoming rather difficult now, the only time I could get anything done was while the baby was asleep and that was becoming a lot less often. Eventually I applied for leave. In 2006 I decided to go back to Uni. I had enjoyed doing Psychology, however I was not so fond of Sociology and I had very little time to do the Welfare because it required Residential Schools and practical as well. I decided to take Psychology as a major in a Bachelor of Arts. In the second semester of 2006 I was doing two subjects via Distance Education. In 2007 I took on full-time studies on Campus. I completed five subjects in the first semester. In May 2008 my father passed away during the exam period. and I failed a subject which I am in the process of repeating now. Following the death of my father and the disastrous results I had received I took a nosedive emotionally and went through major depression. I applied for leave for the second semester. My life is almost completely back on track. In November my eldest daughter had a daughter of her own, I am now a Grandma!

Currently in Lockhart Shire Council there are four women out of nine Councillors. We have had two female Deputy Mayors (we currently have a female Deputy Mayor), but no female Mayor as yet.

I was asked how I managed life, work and Council; well I am not going to say that it is not tough. My full-time job is my family; they are also my life. There are times when it is hard on all of us but we work through it. Doing Uni, assignments along with reading business papers and attending meetings becomes fun to juggle. My other commitments sometimes have to take a backseat but I love Council and I love what I do, sure I can get very busy, but I would not have it any other way. How many of us ever would?

ALGWA Book Corner- Recommended Reading



**“Enid Lyons–
Leading Lady of
a Nation–”**
by Anne Henderson

This is the story of an extraordinary woman– mother of twelve, Prime Minister's wife, first woman member of the House of Representatives and the first woman in Federal Cabinet, radio broadcaster, newspaper columnist, author of three books– Enid Lyons was for many years the best known woman in Australia.

Enid Lyons regarded herself as a feminist, but was also conservative. She had views on mothering which were ahead of her time. The story of Joe and Enid Lyons is full of dramatic extremes without being risqué. Anne Henderson has also uncovered new information which indicates a family secret. There will be controversy over this and much interest.

Published by Pluto Press

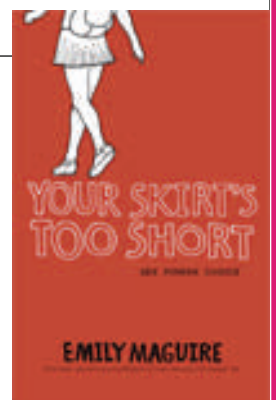
“Your Skirt's Too Short– Sex– Power– Choice”–

By Emily Maguire
Published by Text Publishing.
After many waves of feminism,
where are we?

This book ignites discussion
on issues relevant to young
women.

Emily Maguire proposes that
those women born after the
successes of the women's lib-
eration movement in the 1970s are realising that po-
litical, economic, sexual, professional, social and domes-
tic equality is far from achieved and that post feminism
is a media myth.

“This personal and illuminating book is a bridge to en-
able young women and men to understand the issues
behind them and those ahead of them.”



ALGWA NSW is the state's peak representative body for women who are in any way involved or interested in Local Government.

ALGWA NSW

Aims and Objectives

To assist in furthering women's knowledge and understanding of the function of local government;

To protect and enhance the interests and rights of women in local government;

To take action in relation to any subject or activity of particular interest to women affecting local governing bodies and/or local government legislation;

To act in an advisory capacity to intending women candidates for local government elections;

To encourage women into professional careers in local government.

Need legal advice?

Visit Law Access NSW a free government service providing help to people with legal problems or a query.

www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au

JOIN ALGWA

Visit our new website:

www.algwa.org.au



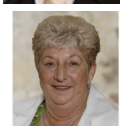
Karen McKeown, ALGWA NSW President
Penrith City Council 0401 995945
karen.mckeown@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au



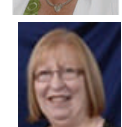
Darriea Turley, ALGWA National President
Broken Hill Council 0429 848486
dturley@gwahs.health.nsw.gov.au



Julie Griffiths, ALGWA City Vice president
Blacktown City Council 0419 128497
julie.griffiths@blacktown.nsw.gov.au



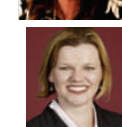
Colleen Fuller, ALGWA Country Vice President
Gunnedah Shire Council
crfuller@bigpond.com



Vicki Scott, ALGWA Secretary
Gosford City Council 0418 699350
vicki.scott@gosford.nsw.gov.au



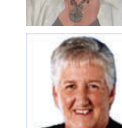
Jennifer Lecky, ALGWA Treasurer
Muswellbrook Shire Council 0419 268130
jlecky@ozemail.com.au



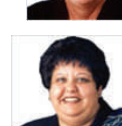
Nicole Campbell, ALGWA Executive Member
Ryde City Council 0402 132669
nicolebc@tpg.com.au



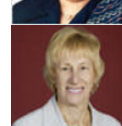
Helen Cooper, ALGWA Executive Member
Penrith City Council
hcooper@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au



Jackie Greenow, ALGWA Executive Member
Penrith City Council 0407 464088
jackie.greenow@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au



Fadwa Kebbe, JP, ALGWA Executive Member
Canterbury City Council 0419 294537
fadwak@tpg.com.au



Gabrielle O'Donnell, ALGWA Executive Member
Ryde City Council [02]9817 2019
godonnell@ryde.nsw.gov.au



Tina Reynolds, ALGWA Executive Member
Dubbo City Council 0439 450503
treynolds@clearmail.com.au



Bev Spearpoint, ALGWA Executive Member
Penrith City Council 0408 067718
bspearpoint@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au



Denise Wilton, ALGWA Executive Member
Editor ALGWA NSW Newsletter
Mosman Council 0411 526 626
deewill@zip.com.au

Send stories and photos of your Year Of Women in Local Government activities and celebrations to your Newsletter.

deewill@zip.com.au