



ALGWA NSW Newsletter

ISSUE 28

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2011

2011 has been
ALGWA's
Diamond Jubilee
Year.

Celebrations
included the
ALGWA NSW
Conference in
Blacktown and the
Diamond Jubilee
Dinner in Canberra.

2011 has also been
the Centenary of
International
Women's Day.

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senting us inter-
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**Clr. Julie Griffiths
President
ALGWA NSW-
wishes ALGWA mem-
bers and all women
involved or interested
in Local Government-
a very Happy Christ-
mas 2011 and a Happy
New Year 2012.**

Julie Griffiths- ALGWA NSW President

This year of 2011 has been a busy and productive year for ALGWA and for all women involved in Local Government and women's issues. ALGWA celebrated nationally the 60th anniversary of the founding of ALGWA in 1951, highlighted by a Diamond Jubilee Dinner held in Old Parliament House in June, which was opened by Her Excellency the Governor General of Australia, Ms Quentin Bryce and hosted by ALGWA National President Darriea Turley.

I was very proud, as a Blacktown councillor, when Blacktown City Council hosted the ALGWA NSW Conference in May. As leader of the ALGWA NSW Executive team I would like to thank these women for their support and

hard work. A lot has been achieved. A very important long term project for ALGWA NSW is developing a Corporate plan which will set a strategic framework for the work of ALGWA NSW over the coming years. This comprehensive piece of work will identify new opportunities for ALGWA to better represent the interests of our members, both staff and elected representatives.

The National ALGWA 50-50 Vision Gender Equity Programme has now been taken up by over 22 Councils at the Bronze level and who working towards Silver.

2012 Minister's Awards for Women in Local Government- Nominations to be in by Friday November 18
www.womensawards.dlg.nsw.gov.au

Helen Westwood AM MLC Congratulated ALGWA on Diamond Jubilee 2011

The Hon Helen Westwood AM MLC congratulated ALGWA on celebrating its 60th year.

She noted that Marjorie Propsting, founder of ALGWA in 1951, would be very proud to know that ALGWA thrives nationally, with branches in all States and Territories, including the Tiwi Islands.

She said of ALGWA; "It has demonstrated political clout, influencing State, Federal and Local Government policy relating to women's issues with submissions and representations. In NSW it was a driving force behind the Joint Ministerial Advisory Council for Women in Local Government and members actively participated on the judging panel for the Ministerial Awards for Women in Local Government. Both of these initiatives have been successful in raising the profile of and celebrating both councillors and female staff who work so tirelessly in our Local Government communities.

"The Association has also achieved some great outcomes nationally, contributing to the Senate enquiry on paid parental leave; advocating for paid leave for victims of domestic violence and the establishment of the

50-50 Vision Programme for Gender Equity in Local Government and were proud sponsors of the 2010 Year of Women in Local Government.

"It is a not-for-profit organisation, the activities of which are coordinated by a voluntary committee."

To celebrate its Diamond Jubilee, in May this year ALGWA NSW held its conference and Annual General Meeting in Blacktown. The Conference theme was "Strong Women Influencing Future Trends".

In June ALGWA hosted its Diamond Jubilee Dinner at Old Parliament House in Canberra. The event was attended by 240 guests and opened by Her Excellency, the Governor General of Australia, Ms. Quentin Bryce AC. She spoke of her admiration of women's achievements and praised those women "on whose shoulders we stand".

The Hon. Kate Ellis, Federal Minister for the Status of Women, welcomed everyone and acknowledged particularly the women who had travelled from interstate to attend the memorable occasion. It was a gathering of many Past Presidents, both State and National, and Life Members.



**Hon Helen Westwood
AM MLC**

Helen Westwood congratulated the President of ALGWA NSW Cr. Julie Griffiths and the other Executive members on their election, particularly mentioning Cr. Darriea Turley, ALGWA National President and Cr. Karen McKeown Immediate Past President of ALGWA NSW who were awarded the honour of Life Membership of the Association.

Cr. Karen McKeown in South Africa



Cr. Karen McKeown, Immediate Past President of ALGWA NSW [far right], who is a Penrith councillor, was invited to speak at the African Local Government Summit held in Johannesburg on women in government.

Karen was there to give a snapshot of women in leadership roles from a macro perspective. "I'm going to go through some of the challenges we've had here in Australia getting women in leadership roles," she said. "Despite having a female Prime Minister and two women Premiers, we still don't have the representation at the local level."

The Africa Local Government Summit was organised by Secolo Consulting to delve into how local governments can develop and work hand in hand with communities for better service delivery, looking at how other municipalities have succeeded in delivering adequate services to their communities, are better skilled and how they deal with the challenges they face.

Case studies were presented from South Africa, Botswana, Uganda & Australia, with lots of interactive sessions and mini-workshops.



ALGWA National President Cr. Darriea Turley and **ALGWA NSW President Cr. Julie Griffiths** convened a lunchtime gathering of women delegates at the Local Government Conference in Nowra to discuss issues of concern to women. Councillors were urged to encourage their councils to join the 50-50 Gender Equity programme and to hold Women's Forums prior to the 2012 LG elections for potential women candidates.

Cr. Darriea Turley at UN in New York

Councillor Darriea Turley, National President of ALGWA was invited to attend the United Nation's 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

The session was designed to focus on the empowerment of country women and their role in development and in combating problems such as poverty and hunger.

Cr. Turley joined two other Australian women at the annual 16-day conference in February at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Cr. Turley, who is Deputy Mayor of Broken Hill, said that national and global recognition of the issues affecting country women was important. "The issue for CSW is equality and to address the critical issues which affect women and therefore families," she said.

"It's about putting it on the agenda and saying 'Yes, we are disadvantaged and we need to improve services and the policy around that'."

The session focussed on the empowerment of country women and their role in development and in combating problems such as poverty and hunger.



Cr. Darriea Turley has a background in health and welfare and has always been passionate about gender equity and the empowerment of rural women.

Source of Information: Barrier Daily Truth

The Commission of the Status of Women [CSW] is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. It is the principal global policy making body dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. Every year, representatives of Member States gather at UN Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equity and women's empowerment worldwide.

Local Government Minister's Awards 2012

Nominations for the Minister's Awards for Women in Local Government 2012 are open until Friday November 18th.

These awards were established in 2008 as part of International Women's Day (IWD) Celebrations and they recognise the outstanding contributions and achievements of women in Local Government.

There are 6 Awards in 3 categories to include women involved in Local Government as elected members or employees. These prestigious Awards are presented on IWD at NSW Parliament House.

NSW ALGWA President, Cr. Julie Griffiths, urges you to nominate a woman from your council. Details:
www.womensawards.dlg.nsw.gov.au



Heart disease is the No.1 killer of women.

ALGWA supports the Australian National Heart Foundation Go Red For Women Campaign. Information, Healthy tips, Healthy Heart Challenge on the website:
www.goredforwomen.org.au

Penny Williams - Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls



Australia is at the forefront of global efforts to promote the role of women and girls with the creation of an Ambassador to advocate on their behalf.

The Gillard Government appointed career diplomat Penny Williams as Australia's first Global Ambassador for Women and Girls.

The Prime Minister said that in the role, Ms Williams would ensure that the needs of women and girls are properly represented in Australia's overseas development program and in foreign policy more broadly.

Women and girls make up two thirds of the one billion people in the world who lack basic literacy skills, with almost 35 million girls world-wide not getting even basic primary-level education.

Improving access to education and health services for women and girls will help to lift families and communities out of poverty. Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd said that the evidence shows that aid spending is more effective when women are central to our investment. The Ambassador's priorities include co-ordinating and promoting Australia's work to eradicate violence against women, improving access to services for women, the protection of women and girls in conflict zones and increasing the representation of women in leadership roles. Minister for the Status of Women, Kate Ellis, said as a prosperous and wealthy nation, Australia has a responsibility to work for the safety and opportunity of women and girls across the world.

The gender equality initiatives the Australian Government has driven over the past few years are significant, most particularly the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children which is being used by UN Women internationally as a model for other countries. Ms Williams will focus particularly on the Asia Pacific region which was ranked lowest in the world by the United Nations Development Programme on a range of gender indicators including access to education, employment and political participation.

At home, Ms Williams will champion the needs of women and girls in Australia's foreign policy thinking. On the world stage, she will be an international advocate for the Australian Government's work.

On 16 September, Mr. Rudd and Ms Williams attended the APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy in San Francisco at the invitation of the United States Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton.



+ HELP US

END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE PACIFIC

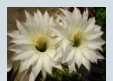
Pacific women suffer some of the highest levels of violence against women in the world. This spring, we're helping fundraise for the Pacific Fund to End Violence against Women that supports grassroots organisations working to end violence against women throughout the Pacific.

+ GET INVOLVED

www.unwomen.org



Vale Cr. Janet Hayes



Always with a flower in her hair, Cr. Janet Hayes was well known to many in Local Government, especially through her senior positions on the Shires Association, and to ALGWA women. It is with great sadness that we note her passing.

Janet was a Kempsey Shire Councillor and a former mayor. She was outspoken and proactive in her community and in Local Government.

The President of the Shires Association, Cr. Ray Donald, paid tribute to Janet.

"Cr. Hayes was extremely passionate about Local Government. Never shy about voicing her opinions, she was a staunch advocate for her community, council and Local Government as a whole."

real
men
should swear



- to stop violence against women and support White Ribbon Day

November 25

www.whiteribbon.org.au



ALGWA Congratulates All Women Mayors and Deputies Elected September 2011

Gabrielle O'Donnell [right], Deputy Mayor of the City of Ryde Council, has been a Councillor for 16 years and Deputy on a number of occasions. Gabrielle is passionate about social inclusion. Ryde has one of the highest percentages of residents from non English speaking countries in the Sydney metropolitan areas. Gabrielle is pleased that during her time on Council Ryde has introduced a Community Harmony Advisory group to advise on matters affecting the many cultural groups in Ryde. One of the recommendations from that group was a Community Harmony



Day. What started as a very modest celebration to showcase the cultural mix in the city has now become an annual event which is well patronised by all the residents. Gabrielle would love to see more women on Ryde. One of the disappointing things has been the decline in the number of women on Council. From a high of 5 women councillors in previous councils there are now only 2 women out of the 12 councillors. This is not really representative of the constituency.

Along with fellow Councillor Nicole Campbell she suggested the City of Ryde conduct a series of seminars to attract potential women councillors for the 2012 Local Government election. The first seminar in late November is aimed at encouraging more women to stand for election. Only when there is gender equity on Councils will there be a true representation of the local community.



Jackie Greenow [above] Deputy Mayor of Penrith City Council, ALGWA Executive Member.

Jackie has served on Penrith City Council since 1995 with a term as mayor in 2004-05. She is a great advocate for access for all through Council's Access Committee, which was a finalist in the 2010 National Disability Awards.

Jackie's other special interests include Penrith's Sister City relationships through the International Friends Committee.

Penrith has 3 sister city relationships, 2 economic relationships and a special relationship with Lachlan Shire.

This Committee runs a Student Exchange programme with one of the overseas Sister Cities.



Anne Connon [left] was elected Mayor of Mosman for the third consecutive year. First elected in 2004, Anne arrived in Australia from Scotland as a backpacker in 1963 and became an Australian citizen in 1984. Now one of her favourite jobs as Mayor is to conduct Citizenship Ceremonies, welcoming people to the community and the country they love and have chosen as home, just as she did.

With a professional background in the financial sector, she has brought fiscal responsibility to her role as mayor of her community. Anne was the first woman in Australia to head a Savings Trust Fund.



Yvette Whitfield, Mayor of Holroyd City Council, was elected to council in 1994.

She presides over a very multicultural community, where 49% of residents were born overseas. The Council has risen to this challenge and the community is vibrant and progressive with all the nationalities getting along remarkably well.

Yvette is particularly interested in traffic and road safety issues affecting her busy community. Having lost her own daughter in tragic circumstances, she is also committed to working with youth through the Youth Advisory Community and in recognising their particular needs, and providing them with opportunities and sporting facilities to keep them engaged and healthy.

Colleen Fuller, [right] was elected for the fourth consecutive year as Deputy Mayor of Gunnedah Shire Council, and is an ALGWA Executive Member.

First elected in 2004, she has been a passionate advocate for the growth of her town, particularly in working to attract professionals to live in Gunnedah and provide important services, especially in the health area where access to medical services is such a problem.

Colleen also recognises the need to retain youth in her community and provide jobs. Therefore she supports the mining sector for Gunnedah and nationally.

Colleen has been an innovator of programmes for the young women in her community who have left school early, had early pregnancies and need support to get back into education and career opportunities.



Getting Women Elected 2012 - ALGWA has a toolkit to help you run a Women's Forum in your electorate.

A specific presentation has been developed by ALGWA to inform and inspire women in your communities to stand for council in the next Local Government elections.

ALGWA executive members will also come to your council and assist with presentations. Check it out on our website: www.algwa.org.au

Ernie Awards 2011



Golden Award: Andrew Bolt for sexist remarks he wrote in an opinion piece suggesting that male soldiers would become escorts to their female colleagues if women were allowed equal roles in the armed forces.

Political Award: Tony Abbott for speaking to a rally with signage behind him denigrating Julia Gillard with wording "Ditch the Witch."

Elaine Award: For a woman's remarks least helpful to the sisterhood- Pru Goward, for criticising the Australian Services Union equal pay case before Fair Work Australia, calling it a "so called wage gap."

The Warnie- For Sport: Spida Everitt for saying "Girls! When will you learn! At 3 am when you are blind drunk and you decide to go home with a guy, it's not for a cup of Milo!"

The Celebrity- The Fred: Dr . Barry Walters, who said that "older mothers are selfish, self-centred and burden their children later in life with geriatric parents."

Hi everyone Kate Lempriere here.

My Goodness we have come a long way. I can't believe it is 60 years—it is your duty of care to current and future generations of women not to let us slip back in any way shape or form, personally or professionally. I acknowledge it started before us, but the Baby Boomer Generation of women stood up and demanded a voice, further education and fought our way through the small cracks in the glass ceiling and old boys clubs, the Unions and Tradies only.

I believe we empowered you to speak up and be heard. Ladies, you have great power; support and assist each other. Speak with one voice for equity and equality is your right. Hold your heads high for we are all proud hard-working women in this country. That is not political. I believe we cannot afford to stand by and not contribute to Australia and our future success and the future of the generations that will follow us.

Kate Lempriere served for two terms as mayor of Cardinia Shire, Victoria in 2003-04 and 2007-08. She was elected to the Council in 2003, but was defeated at the elections, which were held in November 2008. In 2003 she was appointed Dame of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem in recognition of her work for charity and for contribution to the community. She recently was President of the Victorian branch of the Australian Local Government Women's Association.



50-50 Vision Gender Equity Programme

Bronze Silver Gold

Levels of Achievement.

An ALGWA initiative designed to promote gender equity in Local Government.

This is the first programme of its kind in the world. Over 150 councils have now joined the Programme. Details on the website ; www.5050vision.com.au



Encourage your council to join this important Programme.



Have things really changed? A genuine advertisement from the 1960s- sent in by Helen Cooper.

"My message is simple but strong- if you are passionate about women working in Local Government, then join ALGWA today- and together, let's work to effect real change. In Local Government."

*Cr. Julie Griffiths
ALGWA NSW President*



**Save this Date: ALGWA NSW Conference in Dubbo
March 22-24 2012**

**Speakers with experience and expertise, to inform, motivate and inspire
Networking opportunities-
Workshops and Hotspots-
Watch this space for further information.**

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



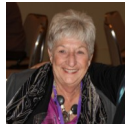
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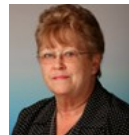
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**ALGWA—
Promoting Women in
Local Government.**

**ALGWA supports and
promotes women in Local
Government through:**

- **Advocacy**
- **Advice**
- **Action**

**JOIN ALGWA – as an individual councillor or staff member - support our important work
Check our website -
www.algwa.org.au**

Join ALGWA- as a Council- for \$200 p.a.- entitling your council to discounts for ALGWA Conferences and Forums.

ALGWA's NSW Executive Committee wishes everyone a very Happy Christmas 2011