



# ALGWA NSW Newsletter

ISSUE 29

JANUARY / FEBRUARY

**Wishing a very happy 2012 to all ALGWA members and to all women involved or interested in Local Government.**



## Cr. Julie Griffiths— ALGWA NSW President

In September this year Local Government elections will be held in the State of NSW. Women are still very under-represented as elected members, some councils having no women councillors. In the Local Government elections in 2008, only 27% of elected representatives were female.

I urge all councillors to support gender equity in Local Government through: **Holding a Forum** to inform and encourage women candidates in the next elections. ALGWA has a kit to assist you and an ALGWA executive member will help present to your community. **Joining the 50-50 Vision Gender Equity Programme**—put the motion to your council.

On behalf of the executive of the Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) NSW Branch, I extend an open invitation to all women interested or involved in Local Government to attend the 59th Annual Conference in Dubbo, 22 – 24 March 2012.

The 2012 theme, *Creators of Change– Women in Local Government*, aptly reflects not only the level of influence achieved by women in Local Government, but opportunities for the future. Delegates will be treated to a showcase of inspirational women who have made a difference to their communities. No matter the stage of your career, or the length of time associated with Local Government, the Conference will be relevant to career advancement, life transitions and changes in the way we communicate. Creators of Change will connect and challenge you.

I recommend the 2012 Australian Local Government Women's Association (NSW) Conference to elected members and staff of councils throughout the State. In fact, I recommend the Conference to any organisation or individual who has an interest in how women make a difference at grass roots level.

Join us in the "City of Smiles" at Dubbo in March 2012.

*Julie Griffiths*

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**Australian Local Government Women's Association (NSW)**  
**59th Annual Conference**  
*Creators of Change*  
*Women in Local Government*  
 Dubbo, NSW | 22 - 24 March 2012  
 Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre









**Cr. Colleen Fuller, Deputy Mayor of Gunnedah Shire Council.**

The Minister for Local Government Awards for Women will be presented on March 8th- International Women's Day -at State Parliament House.

Jointly hosted by the Minister for Local Government Hon. Don Page and Minister for Women Hon. Pru Goward, the awards recognise the achievements and contribution of women to Local Government as elected representatives and employees in the sector.

ALGWA commends the State Government for continuing this successful and appreciated enterprise.

See stories of the winners in our March Newsletter and ALGWA website.

**IWD Events**

UN Women Australia will be holding breakfast events around Australia attended by special guest speakers. You can also hold your own event, bringing women and men together to fundraise for important UN Women projects in developing countries focused on women's economic empowerment. Visit the events section of the UN website to find out more about how to hold and register an event, and order merchandise from the IWD Online Store.

[www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org)

**Cr. Colleen Fuller— First female Chairperson of Mining Related Councils**

**Cr. Colleen Fuller** is the first woman to be appointed as Chairperson of the NSW Association of Mining Related Councils.

Cr. Fuller comes from a family involved with mining for generations and is in an informed position to speak for her community and the region which will be affected by mining.

Cr. Fuller has seen mining booms come and go and is very concerned for stable employment in mining communities.

Cr. Fuller calls for Government to put money back into these communities.

She said: "The Mining Related Councils is certainly a good lobbyist to the Government

and have done excellent things over a long period of time."

Colleen Fuller is the Country Vice President of ALGWA NSW and is travelling around her region encouraging women to stand for the Local Government elections in 2012.

She is willing to visit your community or give individual support.

**Forum for Women Hosted by Holroyd City Council**

Mayor Cr. Yvette Whitfield, hosted a Women's Forum in Holroyd, which was addressed by Cr. Julie Griffiths, ALGWA NSW President,

A number of women attended the Forum which included "Getting Women Elected," the ALGWA presentation designed to inform and inspire women candidates for the NSW Local Government elections to be held in September 2012.

Cr. Yvette Whitfield was elected Holroyd's first female mayor in 139 years in September 2011, along with Cr. Pam Coleman as Deputy mayor.

At the time, Cr. Julie Griffiths, ALGWA NSW President, congratulated them, saying "I must say Holroyd Council has been running some remarkable programmes for women and it is fitting to have two women holding such prestigious positions."

Cr. Whitfield encouraged women in her community to stand in the Local Government elections.



International Women's Day 2012-Supporting Women's Economic Empowerment

The 2012 IWD theme is "supporting women's economic empowerment." UN Women will focus our fundraising efforts on economically empowering women in the developing world. In particular, UN Women Australia will be supporting women in our region to access land to enable them to be economically independent, to provide them with the resources to grow their businesses and to provide food security for them and their families.



**+ HELP US**

**BY ATTENDING AN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT**

International Women's Day Events are being held throughout Australia. Visit our Events Calendar to learn more.

**+ FIND OUT MORE**

[www.internationalwomensday.org.au](http://www.internationalwomensday.org.au)

## Local Government Minister Don Page Meets ALGWA Executive



ALGWA NSW Executive Members met with Hon. Don Page, Minister for Local Government, in Ballina, where he is the Local Member of State Parliament.

The ALGWA executive meeting in Ballina gave members the opportunity to discuss issues of importance to women in Local Government with the State Minister for Local Government, Don Page.

He agreed to the request by ALGWA President Cr. Julie Griffiths that the Department of Local Government information sessions being held for would-be candidates prior to the next NSW Local Government elections would include a component designed specifically for women.

## Forum for Women Hosted by Ballina Council

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Cr. Sharon Cadwallader organised a Forum for Women and conducted ALGWA's "Getting Women Elected" presentation at Ballina Council, concurrent with the ALGWA NSW Executive meeting in November. Ballina Councillors Susan Meehan and Robyn Hordern also welcomed attendees, who included Cr. Donna Kinnish from Richmond Valley Council and members of the ALGWA Executive.

The presentation, developed by ALGWA NSW to inform interested residents of the role and responsibilities of councillors, general information about council Governance and tips on election campaigning, is designed to encourage women to stand for council in September 2012.

Three men were also welcomed to the Forum.

The mayor Cr. Phillip Silver

welcomed the Executive to Ballina.

Mayor Jenny Dowell from Lismore City Council and former Richmond Valley Councillor and ALGWA Life Member Norma Thomas joined the women for dinner.



**ALGWA NSW President**

**Cr. Julie Griffiths,**

**Hon. Don Page,**

**Cr. Sharon Cadwallader.**

## GETTING WOMEN ELECTED

A guide to understanding Local Government, campaigning and getting elected!

Presented by Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA NSW)  
[www.algwa.org.au](http://www.algwa.org.au)



This presentation has been developed by ALGWA NSW to assist women considering standing for Council in the 2012 Local Government elections and is available on our website or on application to ALGWA NSW Secretary Cr. Vicki Scott : [vicki.scott@gosford.nsw.gov.au](mailto:vicki.scott@gosford.nsw.gov.au) 0418 699 350

ALGWA executive members are willing to assist or present for you.

Contact ALGWA NSW President Cr. Julie Griffiths.

[Julie.griffiths@blacktown.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Julie.griffiths@blacktown.nsw.gov.au)

[Do you have skills to bring to ALGWA?](#)

[Are you a financial member of ALGWA?](#)

[Consider joining the ALGWA NSW Executive team at the ALGWA NSW Conference.](#)

**WELL KNOWN COMEDIAN KITTY FLANAGAN WILL FEATURE AT THIS YEAR'S ALGWA CONFERENCE IN DUBBO.**

**THE 59<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ALGWA (NSW) CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN DUBBO FROM 22-24 MARCH 2012.**

**THE VENUE WILL BE THE CITY'S NEWLY CONSTRUCTED MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR DUBBO REGIONAL THEATRE & CONVENTION CENTRE. THE STATE-OF-THE-ART CONFERENCE SPACE PROVIDES AMPLE TIERED SEATING AND AN UNOBSTRUCTED VIEW OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS.**

**THEMED, *CREATORS OF CHANGE*, THE TWO DAY CONFERENCE WILL FEATURE PRESENTATIONS ON HOW WOMEN HAVE CREATED CHANGE IN THEIR WORK PLACE OR THE COMMUNITY THEY LIVE. SPEAKERS INCLUDE THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, DON PAGE; NEWLY APPOINTED CEO OF DESTINATION NSW, SANDRA CHIPCHASE AND EO OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING RELATED COUNCILS, MARGARET MCDONALD-HILL.**

**AN IMPRESSIVE SOCIAL PROGRAM INCLUDING PETULA CLARK, GAOL WARDENS, AFRICAN SAVANNAH THEMES AND AN APPEARANCE BY WELL KNOWN COMEDIAN KITTY FLANAGAN IS ON OFFER IN DUBBO IN MARCH.**

**REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN. VISIT [WWW.DUBBO.COM.AU](http://WWW.DUBBO.COM.AU) FOR MORE INFORMATION OR EMAIL [BRADLEY@CCEM.COM.AU](mailto:BRADLEY@CCEM.COM.AU) TO ARRANGE REGISTRATION PAPERS TO BE SENT TO YOU DIRECT.**



**Dame Carol Kidu**  
Only Female MP in PNG

*“What we need are not just a few women who make history, but many women who make policy.”*

Geraldine Ferraro

US Congresswoman 1978-84,  
first woman Vice-Presidential  
candidate.

## Women Are Watching Papua New Guinea

Queensland born Dame Carol Kidu, widow of the former Chief Justice Sir Buri Kidu, is concerned that when she retires at next year's election, PNG could become the 10th nation [most of them in the Pacific region] to have not one elected female representative.

This is despite the fact that the Equality and Participation Bill, put to Parliament by Dame Carol, was passed in the first

hearing. The next hurdle to constitutional reform will be achieving a majority vote from the male dominated Parliament. The Bill if successful will allow 22 reserved seats for women, one for each Province, out of 110 seats. Women danced, wept and embraced at announcement of the news, which was the result of many years of campaigning. They called out

“Taim bilong ol meri” - Page 4  
[Time for women.]  
The President of the National Council of Women, Schola Kakas, said, “So many of our problems as a society are faced by women—health, violence, maternal mortality. Only the women can understand what must be done to make things better.”  
The legislation will have to pass in time for the 2012 general elections if the women are to take their rightful role in decision making in the PNG Parliament.

Source: The Age

Women in Saudi Arabia can now buy their underwear from women in department stores!! It is promised that the same will soon apply to cosmetic stores. This potentially opens up employment for some Saudi women, whose career prospects are severely limited, even for those privileged to have received tertiary education overseas.

Saudi women still can't drive, sit in the front seat of cars, go out unaccompanied by a male relative or appear in public without head to toe covering.

However, in September 2011, King Abdullah announced bold reform in this fundamental Islamic country by promising that women will have the right to vote in the country's 2015 elections, to run for public office and to serve on the king's advisory council. The move has enraged religious conservatives and is a long way from implementation.



**WOMEN & LEADERSHIP AUSTRALIA**

[www.wla.com.au](http://www.wla.com.au)

Courses in Leadership 2012  
Mini Mag

Contact Us 1300 138 037



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Fines

Fences

### New resources on fencing and boundary disputes available on LawAssist.

Resources for people involved in fencing and boundary matters have been added to the LawAssist website. There is information about things to consider when building, fixing or replacing a fence, including information about options if neighbours can't reach agreement. The site also provides information for people who have applied

to the Local Court or Local Land Board for Fencing Orders and has step-by-step guides to preparing for hearings as well as sample forms and instructions. The resources also include a specific section devoted to boundary disputes.

LawAssist is a website developed by LawAccess NSW. You can view the new fences materials at: [http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/LawAccess/ll\\_lawassist.nsf/pages/lawassist\\_fences](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/LawAccess/ll_lawassist.nsf/pages/lawassist_fences)

If you have any questions about LawAssist or would like to provide feedback about the site, please contact Rita Bhattacharya on:

(02) 8833 3104 or

[Rita.Bhattacharya@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Rita.Bhattacharya@agd.nsw.gov.au).

## 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.



Encourage your council to join this important Programme.

Details on the website ;  
[www.5050vision.com.au](http://www.5050vision.com.au)



## In Conversation- with Elizabeth Broderick and Stephen Roberts

“Male Champions of Change”- Female CEOs in Business

Date: Monday February 6th 2012

Time: 5.30-7.30 pm

Venue: Offices of Citi Australia, Level 40- 2 Park St. Sydney

Cost: \$70 pp

“The mission of Dress for Success is to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.”

[www.dressforsuccess.org](http://www.dressforsuccess.org)

## ALGWA Congratulates Nicola Roxon— Australia’s First female Attorney General

Hon. Nicola Roxon, has become the nation’s first female Federal Attorney General.

Her profession in the Law began when she graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1990 with the Supreme Court Prize, the medal awarded to the most academically gifted graduate.

She has been the Federal Labor member for Gellibrand in the inner western suburbs of Melbourne since 1998 and has recently [2007-11] been the Minister for Health and Ageing.

She led the crusade against smoking and introduced the world's first legislation for plain packaging for cigarettes. She will continue this fight against the tobacco industry. In 2011 she was awarded the WHO Director General's Special Certificate for her achievements in tobacco control.

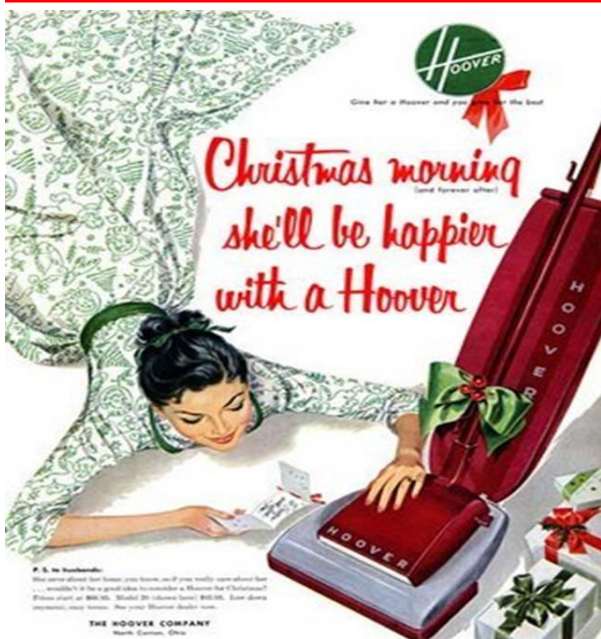
Nicola Roxon is also responsible for major reforms in public hospitals, primary care and health systems.



Is this what you received for Christmas?

Hopefully not!

A genuine advertisement from the 1960's sent in by  
Helen Cooper



“I always have a great desire to distinguish myself in some way or other and if I were only a man I might do it, but as I am a woman I can't try- I ought to have been Harry Scott instead of Hattie Scott.”

Helena and Harriett Scott were Australian women whose detailed scientific observations and paintings of moths and butterflies in the 19th century are now recognised for their important contribution to scientific knowledge.

“I've got a woman's ability to stick to a job and get on with it when everyone else walks off.”

Margaret Thatcher

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

**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](http://www.algwa.org.au)

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



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