

ALGWA NSW Newsletter

February/March 2015

Issue 50



**ALGWA NSW President
Cr Colleen Fuller**

**Wishing all women in
Local Government a
great 2015.**

President's Report from Cr Colleen Fuller

Have you booked for the ALGWA NSW Annual Conference to be hosted by Wollongong City Council April 30 -May 2, 2015?

With the theme of **Leadership Adventure**, this will be a terrific Conference. Keep the date and watch out for updates on our website.

The Ministers' Awards for Women in Local Government will again be presented at NSW Parliament House by Hon Paul Toole, Minister for Local Government and Hon Pru Goward, Minister for Women.

NSW Local Government elections will be held in 2016 and ALGWA is committed to getting an early start to inform and encourage women to stand for election.

We will be conducting Forums in electorates across the state, and presenting *Getting Women Elected*. **Would you like us to visit your area?** Get in touch with me to arrange it. Hon Paul Toole, Minister for Local Government, has agreed to allow ALGWA to continue to give this presentation in conjunction with the NSW Government information sessions for candidates prior to the NSW Local Government elections in 2016.

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Leave comments,
share ideas

www.algwa.org.au

2015 Ministers' Awards for Women in Local Government



Closing Date Thursday February 12th 2015

ALGWA President Cr Colleen Fuller urges, "Act quickly if you haven't already nominated women from your council for these important awards." ALGWA NSW recognises the support of The Ministers involved in these awards, Hon Pru Goward, Minister for Women and Hon Paul Toole, Minister for Local Government. "When I met Minister Toole he gave his assurance that these important awards would continue. He said that he understood the gender inequity in Local Government, that he supported the work of ALGWA and was keen to see these awards continue," said Cr Fuller.

Ministerial Circular

The NSW Government is committed to creating stronger local government. To achieve this it is important that councils attract, and are led and served by, the best and the brightest from our diverse population.

The Ministers' Awards for Women in Local Government aim to promote this by recognising the achievements of women - both as elected representatives and as staff- in the local government sector and local communities.

Nominations for the 2015 Awards are now open. The Awards recognise not only the contributions of elected representatives and senior staff, but also women who are making positive contributions to local government in less prominent roles. These Awards are about encouraging women to continue working in local government and inspiring them to work towards more senior roles in councils. It is also about showcasing the exciting and diverse careers available to women in local government in an attempt to attract more women to the local government sector.

The Awards recognise the achievements of women in metropolitan councils and regional/rural councils across four categories: Elected Representative, Senior Staff Member, Non-Senior Staff Member, and Women in Non-Traditional Roles.

Details of Award categories and how to nominate are available on the Office of Local Government's website at www.olg.nsw.gov.au.

The announcement of the winners and presentation of the 2015 Awards will be held at Parliament House on Tuesday, 3 March 2015.

Details/download forms: www.olg.nsw.gov.au or www.algwa.org.au





Julia Lee
Environmental Sustainability Officer
Mosman Council

Julia writes: "I have always had a passion for the natural environment (particularly the marine environment) and education."
"My role at Mosman Council as the Environmental Sustainability Officer has provided me with an opportunity to combine both passions as I

strive to educate the community about their local environment, whilst engaging them in hands on and unique ways (rockpool rambles, Amazing Race events, and solar cooking to name a few!) I am excited to be one of the recipients of the Marjorie Propsting Scholarship! The scholarship will allow me to undertake my Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. This qualification will provide me with the opportunity to gain more skills to engage the community through the programs and workshops I run with Council."
"Skills obtained through this course will allow me to continue to educate, empower, train, educate, support and mentor women both in the community and within Council about sustainability issues."
"Thank you ALGWA for giving me the opportunity to undertake this course."
Julia and Alex will be presented with their Scholarships at the ALGWA NSW Conference in Wollongong in April.



Alex Stengl
Environmental Officer
Wollondilly Shire Council

Alex came to Local Government in 2005 from private industry as an environmental consultant, to start as Noxious Weeds Officer with Wollondilly Shire Council. She became a volunteer at the Mt Annan Botanic Gardens in 2001, exploring her interest and passion for native plants and "the bush." Her skills in planning and assessment enabled her to move into the role of environmental Officer, with a focus

on Environmental Assessment. In 2011 she became Team Leader. She has been an advocate for training organisation wide and in 2012 independently obtained funding for 12 staff to complete their Certificate IV in Government Investigation. In 2012 she participated in the Office of Water Program for Sustainability Leadership, in 2013 she was nominated by management at Wollondilly Shire Council to participate in the Local Government Managers Association Mentoring program. The LGMA nominated her in 2013 as their representative on the NSW Food Authority Partnership Forum and has recently been reappointed to continue her role. Alex has recently completed a Graduate Certificate in Management through the University of Wollongong (2012 -2013). She was instrumental in convening the Team Leader Connect initiative within the organisation which started in 2013 and still continues. Alex has an altruistic nature and genuinely believes that Local Government is an important sector that delivers community outcomes nationally.
The Marjorie Propsting Scholarship will assist Alex in undertaking the first subject towards a Graduate Certificate in Development/Assessment in Local Government, furthering her skills in leadership and management.

Marjorie Propsting- Founding Member of ALGWA

Marjorie Propsting (1905-1972) trained as a teacher and became a librarian. She lived in Lane Cove and through her involvement in local organisations she became interested in her local council and stood successfully as an "alderman" in 1947, an office she was to hold for twenty-two years. She served as deputy-mayor in 1960 and was elected mayor of Lane Cove in December 1963.

"Highlights of her period in office included the construction of the Lane Cove Lower Town Hall (now demolished), the foundation of the Lane Cove Homes for the Aged Association, the provision of a women's rest centre, and a visit to the Territory of Papua and New Guinea in January 1965. A member of the council's finance and library committees, and a consumer representative on the New South Wales advisory bread industry committees (1965 and 1970), she helped to establish the Greenwich branch library, later named after her.

Marjorie Propsting believed there should be more women in local government because they brought 'that necessary woman's point of view'. She was a founder (1952) of the Australian Local Government Women's Association, and president of both the New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory branch (1952-72) and the national board (1966-70). She was active in the National Council of Women of New South Wales, the National Council of Women of Australia and the League of Women Voters, and was also a justice of the peace. A member of the New South Wales executive of the Liberal Party, she unsuccessfully stood for pre-selection in several State elections. In 1970 she was appointed M.B.E. She died in 1972"

Extract from an article which was published in [Australian Dictionary of Biography](#).



Marjorie Propsting

Photo: Courtesy Lane Cove Library

Join ALGWA and be eligible for the Marjorie Propsting Scholarship.

The ALGWA NSW Marjorie Propsting Scholarship provides one off funding up to \$3000 for staff or councillors to undertake learning and development activities towards:

*Completion of a tertiary/TAFE course: * Study to further your career *Attendance at relevant course/conference.

The Scholarship is an annual scholarship allocated each calendar year by the ALGWA NSW Executive to support women in Local Government. Recipient must be a financial member of ALGWA and have completed at least 12 months service with council.

Application details: www.algwa.org.au



For the first time in the history of the awards, all of the four top awards have gone to women. Each has a remarkable story and record of achievement in their field.

Read their full stories, and all of those on the Honour Roll for 2015 at :

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

Yet women are still under represented in these awards. Only one of the five people appointed AC and nine of the 41 people appointed AO were women. These statistics will not change until more women are nominated. ALGWA actively encourages the nomination of women for these awards.

www.australianoftheyear.org.au/nominate

Juliette Wright- social entrepreneur- Australia’s Local Hero, Rosie Batty- domestic violence campaigner- Australian of the Year, Dresana Leviske-Gray- advocate for deaf- Young Australian of the Year, Jackie French- author- Senior Australian of the Year.

Australia Day was Celebrated in every LGA with Community Events and Citizenship Ceremonies



Australia Day Award winners at a celebratory dinner in Penrith. Read stories of their outstanding contributions to their community at www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au



Jenny Dowell, Mayor of Lismore, handed out certificates at Goonellabah Aquatic Centre and also officiated at a Citizenship Ceremony at which 33 people from 15 nations became Australian citizens.



Marianne Saliba, Mayor of Shellharbour, with Australia Day Ambassador Nic Bishop at celebrations by the lake.



Cr Colleen Fuller, in white shirt, with Carroll Progress Association Committee members at the village of Carroll, near Gunnedah, as they celebrated a true community spirited Australia Day. They donned patriotic hats and among other festivities, organised a two day fishing competition for the kids.



Recognising someone can make a difference and one nomination is all it takes to shine a light on an Australian you admire. It's easy to nominate - just tell us who they are, what they've achieved and why you'd like to see them recognised.
www.australianoftheyear.org.au/nominate

Quentin Bryce, Governor General on Australia Day 2014, expressed profound disappointment in the lack of female nominees and winners of Australia Day Awards and urged women to nominate women. This year has seen a significant improvement. "After years of controversy surrounding the Australia Day honours, there's not a single sports star or hint of sexism among those vying for the nation's top gong. In recent years the honours have criticised for their overemphasis on sporting achievement – with 15 recipients having a sports background since its inception in 1960 – and a disproportionate number of men being nominated. But this year six of the eight finalists are women – the highest number since the State and Territory award process started in 2003 – and the two male finalists are neither cricket or tennis captains."
www.news.com.au



The Central Coast Steel Magnolia Award is presented to a local Central Coast woman who has faced considerable personal adversity, has come through with strength and dignity and has gone on to make a significant contribution to the community. Do you know a Steel Magnolia who deserves to be acknowledged? Don't miss your chance to nominate her for the 2015 Award, nominations open until February 16th 2015. Come along for a wonderful afternoon and be inspired by some amazing women.

Steel Magnolia Award High Tea, Mingara Recreation Club

Date and Time: **Friday 6th March, 2015 -12.00pm - 3.00pm**

Guest Speaker: **Dr Ibtihal Symarayi, Author of 'From Refugee to Resident'**

\$50 per person or \$450 for a table of 10, RSVP by Friday 20th February 2014

Book tickets online or over the phone. For further information call Lifeline Central Coast on 4323 6105.



Anne Summers Conversations presents-

An evening of insights and learning
 Lt. Gen David Morrison AO, Chief of Army
 IN CONVERSATION WITH ANNE SUMMERS
 With Audience Q&A

Lt Gen. Morrison sent shock waves through the Australian Army last year when he identified "a systemic problem" of sexism, unacceptable standards of behavior and other issues in the Army's culture. He has now taken on the herculean job of changing that culture, telling those who can't respect each other to "get out", and setting targets to increase the numbers of women.

The Army Chief said, in an address broadcast on YouTube, and viewed by one and half million people, that he would be "ruthless" in ridding the service of people who could not live up to the values he wants to Army to enshrine: "The standard you walk past is the standard you accept," he said.

He later appeared on stage in London at a Global Summit to End Sexual Violence alongside UNHCR envoy Angelina Jolie and British Foreign Secretary William Hague. There, he made headlines again with his statement that military organizations that exclude women "do nothing to distinguish the soldier from the brute".

Lt Gen Morrison will talk about how to make lasting change in an organisation bound by strong history and traditions. His strategies and practical advice should resonate with anyone who is trying to change an entrenched culture. We can all learn from this man in what is bound to be a fascinating and insightful discussion.

One Night Only- Thursday 26 February 6.30 – 8.00pm City Recital Hall Angel Place, Sydney

Book now to hear the man who is changing the Army: <https://tickets.cityrecitalhall.com/single/psDetail.aspx?psn=2749>

ANNE SUMMERS Editor and publisher, *Anne Summers Reports*: annesummers.com.au

Anticipating Local Government Elections 2016



Cr Colleen Fuller
ALGWA NSW President
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ALGWA NSW has available a Tool Kit designed to inspire and inform women who have an interest in standing for their local council. Local Government elections will be held across the state of NSW in 2016 and ALGWA has a plan of action to change the gender inequity we have in NSW Local Government. We will be working in urban and rural areas to increase the number of female elected representatives from the disappointing and inequitable 27% of the Local Government elections on 2012.

You have a very motivated and dedicated ALGWA Executive team. Prior to the Local Government elections in 2012, we visited a large number of council areas (at our own expense) and presented Forums which included our information session and power point presentation. We also had support from the Hon Don Page, the former Minister for Local Government, to give our presentation in conjunction with the DLG information sessions held in each electorate prior to the elections.

I have met with Hon Paul Toole, the present Minister for Local Government, who is committed to allowing us to continue this arrangement, giving ALGWA an important role in the sessions. With his background in Local Government as a former councillor and mayor in Bathurst, he is well aware of the present gender inequity and is very supportive of ALGWA's efforts to address the problem.

The ALGWA Executive team is absolutely committed to presenting information sessions to your electorate and to mentor women aspiring to stand for election in 2016. Contact me to arrange a Forum.

The Tool Kit can be downloaded from our website: www.algwa.org



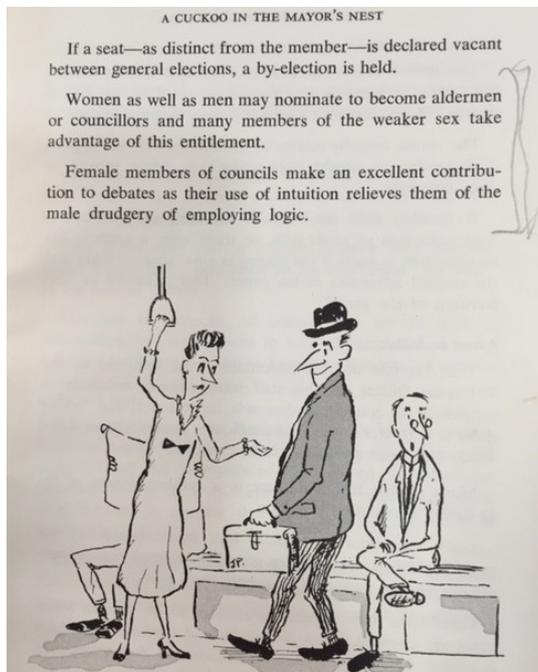
Getting Women Elected

A guide to campaigning and getting Women Elected

Presented by Australian

Local Government Women's Association
(ALGWA NSW)

www.algwa.org.au



Cartoon from "A Cuckoo In The Mayor's Nest" by Ron Luke, illustrations Andrew Spring. Published 1961. Hopefully the author was being satirical. But sadly, the sentiments in the carton were too close for comfort in 1961, and perhaps even in 2015.

Thanks to Jenny Dowell, Mayor of Lismore, who recently came across this book.

ALGWA CONGRATULATES SENATOR LARISSA WATERS FOR SPEAKING OUT ABOUT MISOGYNY IN THE QUEENSLAND ELECTION CAMPAIGN-

"Queensland Greens Senator Larissa Waters has demanded Dawson's Coalition MP George Christensen apologise for posting a cartoon showing Opposition Leader Anastacia Palaszczuk naked and riding a wrecking ball.

Aside from the cartoon, now removed from Mr Christensen's Facebook page, Ms Waters criticised the Queensland LNP Government for using advertisements with the slogan, "Don't wake up with regrets," featuring an image of Ms. Palaszczuk."

Brisbane Times.

ALGWA is not aligned to any political party but encourages all women to report misogyny in political campaigns.



Women have had to fight for many rights.

Even beer!! In 1933.

Women will never give up fighting for equality.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN IN SPORT EQUITY PROGRAM

ALGWA NSW and Womensport NSW have been working together in partnership for a number of years to promote ACCESS, PARTICIPATION and EQUITY for Women and Girls through Sport. The ALGWA NSW Executive has passed resolutions to promote the Local Government Women in Sport Equity Program.

The resolutions are:

1. That ALGWA NSW joins Local Government NSW in calling all Councils to promote women in sport by improved access, participation and equity for all women and girls.
2. That ALGWA NSW members seek endorsement of this motion at their own Councils.

www.womensportnsw.com.au

SIGN UP FOR WOMENSPORT NSW MEMBERSHIP 2015 NOW!

Organisation 1 Year \$ 250

Payable to: Womensport and Recreation NSW Inc.

ABN: 75 347 990 968

Post to: PO Box 147, Sydney Markets NSW 2129

ALGWA Congratulates Layne Beachley AO- Partner with Womensport NSW



Layne Beachley is in partnership with Womensport NSW through her reach For the Stars Foundation.

She says: "We support girls and women with initiative and passion, that are committed to achieving a dream and courageous enough to ask for help along the way."

Layne Beachley has been awarded an Order of Australia {AO} the highest award to be given in the 2015 Australia Day honours.

"After more than two decades of breaking down gender barriers and inspiring Australia's current rich crop of women pro surfers, Layne Beachley has added a special honour to her collection. The seven-time world champion has been appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO), the highest award given for contribution to sport in this year's Australia Day honours. The most successful female surfer of all time, 42-year-old Beachley was also recognised for her services to charity, and as a mentor for women in sport.

Beachley started surfing as a four-year-old in the 1970s and grew up perfecting her craft at Sydney's Manly beach.

As the only girl in the water, she endured harassment and intimidation from men who didn't think women belonged in the line up.

'It is the most appropriately named beach in the world - I refer to it as Man Town,' Beachley said. 'It taught me to stand up and fight. I had to, otherwise I'd paddle in with tears in my eyes.'

That experience inspired her to set up the Aim for the Stars Foundation in 2003, which has supported more than 400 girls with high ambition.

She also set out to nurture the talents of female surf prodigies with the Beachley Classic, her own world tour surf competition, which ran annually from 2006-2012 at Dee Why Beach.

'I was proud of the fact that I was able to create the richest women's stand-alone event in the world,' she said.

When Beachley was the world No.2 surfer at 22-years-old, she was also working four different jobs to support herself.

'Those were some of the days when I wanted to quit,' she said.

She says now, with prize money closer to parity and better sponsorship deals, the sport is more viable for women."

Extract from Sky News: <http://www.skynews.com.au>

Photo: 1 Million Women: 1millionwomen.com.au

ALGWA Congratulates Women awarded OAM for services to Local Government and the Community

Keri Lawson HUXLEY, Paddington NSW

Annemarie JONES, Gollan NSW

The 2014 Boyer lecture series presented by Professor Suzanne Cory- Download from ABC Radio National.

[Professor Cory](#) is one of Australia's most distinguished molecular biologists. She was Director of The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and Professor of Medical Biology of the University of Melbourne from 1996 to 2009.

She is currently an Honorary Distinguished Professorial Fellow in the Molecular Genetics of Cancer Division at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research and a Vice-Chancellor's Fellow of the University of Melbourne.



www.abc.net.au/radionational

“Dazzling photographs combine with inspiring insights from international ocean icon Sylvia Earle and other notable ocean advocates, paying a poignant tribute to the beauty and magic of the ocean and shedding light on its abundant gifts to the planet. This lyrical ode to the ocean marries the insights and inspiration of ocean advocate Sylvia Earle, and other experts and celebrities, with the world's most stunning photographs of beaches, coral reefs, and underwater life. All combine to express Earle's passionate message: Life depends on the ocean, and to save it we must love it. In seven essays, she recounts the milestones of a life spent pioneering and protecting the ocean. Supporting facts and maps bolster this book's clear and hopeful message that we can all play a role in keeping the heart of our planet alive.”

There's no question that women have made strides in careers that

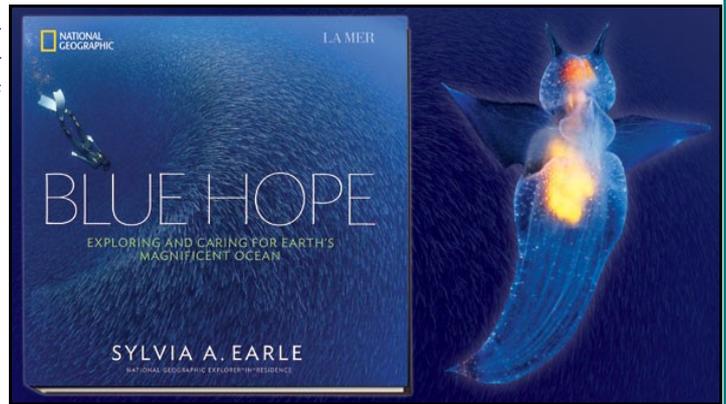
were once the exclusive province of men. We now have female doctors, soldiers, and pilots. But biases and challenges persist, especially for women in the sciences. In light of these developments, National Geographic asked prominent marine biologist [Sylvia Earle](#) to talk about being a successful scientist who also happens to be a woman. She led the first team of women to live in an underwater habitat in 1970 as part of the Tekrite Project. Submerged in 49 feet (15 meters) of water in Lameshur Bay on the island of St. John, the underwater station was dedicated to marine science research.

“The application for being a part of that didn't even bother to say that you had to be a man,” said Earle, a National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence, “It was clear, this was for men only. But the head of the program for the Tekrite project was philosophical about it—more than that, he was practical,” Earle explained. “He said, ‘well, half the fish are female, I guess we could put up with a few women.’”

“Her Deepness,” as she is sometimes called, was also a former chief scientist for the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and has spent more than 70,000 hours underwater. Earle was also awarded the Hubbard Medal—the National Geographic Society's highest honour—on June 13 for her efforts in ocean conservation and exploration.

“There is no question about it that there is still a gender bias with compensation for equal performance, for selection to be in charge of various projects—it's just a part of our culture,” Earle said.

Article from National Geographic which is currently celebrating women in science, saying that it is crucial to get more women into science and showing how we can help remove the barriers to their success. www.nationalgeographic.com



Women in Dark Times— Nine Women Who Influenced Jacqueline Rose

“It is time to return to what feminism has to tell us,” says Jacqueline Rose in her preface to *Women in Dark Times*. Her book is not, however, a straightforward exercise of recuperation or theory. It focuses on nine singular figures - “individual women who have taught me how to think differently.

It's a work “about the creativity of women, often where least expected”. The first three subjects are in a section titled “The Stars”: they are Rosa Luxemburg, Charlotte Salomon and Marilyn Monroe. The activist and the actress scarcely need any introduction: Salomon was an artist who produced a semi-autobiographical series of more than 700 gouaches, made when in hiding from the Nazis. Rose's description and analysis of this monumental work, titled “Life? Or Theatre?”, is one of the strongest, most vivid parts of the book.

Rose acknowledges that Luxemburg, Salomon and Monroe would not necessarily have called themselves feminists. Yet she believes that, like all the women she writes about, they have important things to contribute to a future feminism.

Most of these women died untimely deaths. Luxemburg, Marxist revolutionary and philosopher, was murdered by right-wing troops in 1919, Salomon was killed at Auschwitz; and the circumstances of Monroe's death at the age of 36, are still unclear. The book's second section, “The Lower Depths”, is devoted to three young women, Shafiea Ahmed, Heshu Yones and Fahime Sahindal, who died in Britain and Sweden in so-called “honour killings”.

Rose emphasises that the suffering and death of her subjects are not her focus: “To see them as victims is to render their lives meaningless. It deprives them of their energy, their creativity and their fight ... Feminism gains nothing, I argue, by swamping women in their worst fates.”

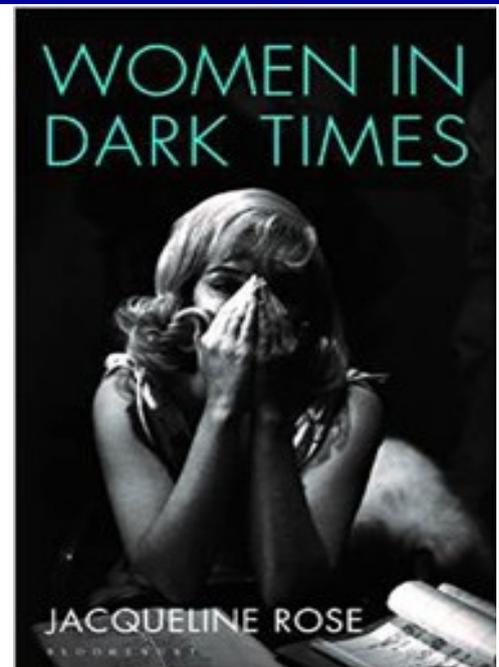
Finally, the third part of the book, “Living”, looks at the works of three contemporary female artists whose works and concerns have resonances with Rose's other subjects, particularly the first three.

The three contemporary artists in the final section explore different mediums. Esther Shalev-Gerz and Yael Bartana, both of whom were brought up in Israel, primarily work in video and installation; English artist Therese Oulton is a painter. Rose gives intriguing accounts of their practice, finding resonances or bringing out direct links to her earlier subjects. What they have in common, Rose says, is “their stubbornness in insisting that we turn our gaze to the overlooked, the rejected, the unseen”.

Women in Dark Times is not an easy work: it is a book to engage with and debate, a narrative of contrasts, connections and complexities. Rose's call for a new language of feminism is not designed to make it easier to embrace. She does not seek to offer prescriptions or proscriptions, slogans or simplistic notions. What she is asking for is “a scandalous feminism, one which embraces without inhibition the most painful, outrageous aspects of the human heart”.

Extract from review by Philippa Hawker

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au>



ALGWA NSW Executive Committee Members

ALGWA NSW-

supports and promotes women
in Local Government through:

- Advocacy
- Advice
- Action

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

*ALGWA is not aligned to any political
party. Founded in 1951, the organisa-
tion represents all women involved in
Local Government, both staff mem-
bers and elected representatives.*

Joining ALGWA NSW is easy. Pay by
credit card with the option of annual
deduction.

Full Member \$80 Associate
Member \$40 Council Member
\$250

ALGWA Executive positions and
voting rights at the AGM are open to
financial members at the annual
ALGWA NSW Conferences. You
must be a financial member before 1
January 2015 to vote.

Annual fees are due by December 31
each year. Details and forms available
on our website: www.algwa.org

Consider standing for election as an
ALGWA Executive member. You
become an Ambassador for your
Council, travelling to host councils all
over the state for the meetings and
Forums, which are held 6 times a year.
Councils are proud to support their
ALGWA Executive members and are
aware of the recognition and goodwill
their council receives in return.

Check that your council understands
the benefits of having you as an
ALGWA Executive member and will
support you to attend meetings and if
necessary will host a meeting and a
Forum. The 2015 Conference is April
30/May2 in Wollongong.



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