

Happy New Year 2010 to ALGWA members and all women involved in Local Government.



Cr. Karen McKeown
President ALGWA NSW
Member JMAC
An Ambassador for YOW
in Local Government

2010 YEAR OF WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

This is our year to celebrate and to promote the role of women in Local Government, as elected representatives, employees or community members.

Councils across the country will be holding special events - highlighting the importance of the work we women do for our communities and the need to strive for gender equity in local government - by increasing the number of women councillors and council employees and also breaking down the barriers women face in holding the higher offices and positions.

Tell us what your council is doing and we will publish it.

Inside this

News from Dubbo, Leichhardt, Ryde	2
Inspiring Women Councillors	3
Tara June Winch, Inspiring woman writer and activist	4
Moree ALGWA NSW Conference	5
ALGWA Executive	6



International Women's Day 2010

Theme for 2010: "Empowering Women to End Poverty by 2015."

"Women disproportionately suffer the burden of poverty, are victims of widespread discrimination and put their lives at risk when they become pregnant."

Some actions suggested by UNIFEM to empower women to end poverty:

- Action taken to promote greater involvement of women in public life;
- Legal and social programmes that give women protection from violence;
- Promotion of social change which encourages more equitable sharing of domestic burdens;
- Girls and women enabled to gain greater access to technical training, information and communication technologies.
- Needs and rights of women given greater priority when public services are being performed.

Source of information: UNIFEM [United Nations Development Fund for Women]

www.unifem.org

2010 is the Centenary of International Women's Day - which had its genesis in the developing countries which were experiencing the social and economic upheaval of the Industrial Revolution of the early 20th century. Women were joining the paid work force in increasing numbers. Their jobs were sex segregated, their conditions were wretched and their wages repressed. Trade Unions were developing. Suffragettes were seeking the vote and many women were fighting the social, economic and political barriers constraining them.

In 1909, 20 to 30 thousand women garment makers in the United States of America went on strike for 13 cold winter weeks, demanding better pay and working conditions. Their bravery inspired women internationally and led to action.

In 1910, the idea of an International Women's Day was taken by women to the International Conference of Socialist Women in Copenhagen. Over 100 women from 17 countries approved and International Women's Day was born.

Now, each year on March 8th, women in countries all over the world hold marches and events to celebrate the achievement of women and to call for true gender equality socially, politically and economically. Women are not there yet, even in the 21st century.

In this centenary year of International Women's Day, women worldwide will be marking this milestone with special events. ALGWA NSW is including special centenary celebrations in the Conference in Moree. Come and join us.

Dubbo City Council hosted the ALGWA executive meeting in November 2009.

Councillors Tina Reynolds and Anne Barnard [both pictured centre] welcomed the women to Dubbo and arranged with council to show them some of the features of this thriving central western city, including the Taronga Western Plains Zoo. The Zoo is internationally renowned for its animal conservation programmes and for the provision of natural habitat and freedom for the animals. The Zoo brings visitors from all over the world, providing employment and contributing enormously to the prosperity of the city.

The ALWA executive discussed issues which will be of great importance to women in local government in the coming year, including the Year of Women in local Government 2010, the ALGWA NSW Conference in Moree, March 4-6 2010, the current findings of JMAC [Joint Ministerial Advisory Committee- for women in local government] and ALGWA's campaign for Paid Parental Leave.



B4D-Bicycles for Democracy- provides Cambodian women politicians with transport.

Celebrating Women:



Individuals and Councils can support Bicycles for Democracy.

Supported by UNIFEM Australia—United Nations Development Fund for Women.

B4D is a project that is donating bicycles to Cambodian women councillors and politicians to enable them to visit their constituents. \$100 buys a sturdy bike in Cambodia, which goes straight to the women.

Kate Hamilton initiated the project when she was a Leichhardt councillor. She is currently Director of Australian Programs, The Institute for Study Abroad, [IFSA - Butler] Butler University and has relaunched the initiative as part of their community engagement project.

Leichhardt Council donated the first 2 bicycles, and following their lead, bicycles have now been donated by Hurstville, North Sydney, Randwick and Mosman Councils, as well as a number of individuals. There are 25 more needed for the women who were elected to local government in the last elections. You can help.

Why not get your council to donate and to put details of B4D on the website? For copy and photos contact Kate Hamilton : khamilton@ifsa-butler.net

Donating is easy. Go to www.unifem.org.au

Click on donate. [found under "get active" heading]

Enter credit card details and send. This will generate a tax receipt number.

Forward a copy to project@ifsa-butler.net.

IFSA-Butler Australia keeps your payment details to check with UNIFEM Australia.

Ryde City Council appoints a Status of Women Advisory Committee -

Councillor Nicole Campbell, [pictured] initiated the establishment of Ryde Council's Status of Women's Advisory Committee and is delighted to be its inaugural Chair. The purpose of the Committee is to increase opportunities for women to have input into Council decisions that impact on women - with a particular focus on social infrastructure and community services. Establishing local networking opportunities and establishing a sense of place for women in the LGA are other key areas of focus.

The Status of Women's Advisory Committee held its first meeting in early November 2009 and it was a fantastic gathering of passionate, articulate and energetic local women. With a comprehensive workplan ahead, it has been all systems go ever since!

The Committee is currently planning activities to promote International Women's Day 2010 - which will include a formal launch of the Status of Women's Advisory Committee. We are also developing a calendar of events and a wallet size contact list of important community service providers for women.

Other activities afoot for 2010 include the establishment of a Creative Arts Festival that celebrates women. The Committee is also focussed on providing input to Ryde's Community Strategic Plan, Ryde 2030 and identifying potential projects and initiatives for consideration as part of Council's Management Plan.

Recently the Committee provided valuable support to Council staff in the preparation of Ryde's Expression of Interest for the National ALGWA Women's Conference - and the Committee will be a driving force in shaping the Conference if Ryde is selected as the host Council.

Ryde Council has increased its focus on strategies to eliminate all forms of violence towards women and is working to become formally recognised as a White Ribbon Community by 2010 - the Status of Women's Advisory Committee will be an ongoing and key point of consultation in the progressive development of this important social strategy.





Congratulations to Councillor Jackie Greenow, of Penrith City Council,

who was a finalist in the Local Government category of the National Disability Awards on the International Day of people with Disability.. The awards celebrate and acknowledge the achievement and contributions that individuals with disability make to our community

and recognise individuals within our community who have contributed to the disability sector. Jackie Greenow was a finalist in this Award in recognition of her work in breaking down barriers faced by people with disability.

Jackie has been a Penrith City Councillor since 1995 and is an executive member of ALGWA NSW. She implemented Penrith City Council's first Disability Action Plan in 2003-06. Jackie has advocated and negotiated on better access for major public venues across the city, including the Penrith Panthers Stadium and Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre.

Jackie has developed town access maps for the Penrith City Council and the St. Mary's town centres. The maps have also been a very valuable resource for parents with prams.

In her role on the Penrith City Council Disability Access Committee Jackie helped develop the booklet "Welcoming Customers with Disability" which has been widely distributed in the community.

Jackie is also Chair of the Board of NOVA, Open Employment Services for people with disability and a member on the Regional Advisory Council of NSW Community Relations Committee.

Source of information; Commonwealth of Australia www.ag.gov.au/cca



Café 64 in Walgett has been awarded the Chamber of Commerce's National Award for Cafes-

in recognition of an innovative programme established by Jackie Greenow.

Café 64 in Walgett is run by young Aboriginal people with a disability. Staff are formally trained with Dubbo TAFE as baristas and in Certificate 11 in cooking.

Since opening in 1995, the café has employed 38 young people.

Gunnedah celebrated International White Ribbon Day, which is devoted to eradicating violence against women and children worldwide.

"On International White Ribbon Day 2009 all members of the Gunnedah Domestic Violence Group celebrated with a Barbecue and social evening. It was wonderful to see so many women come along with their children and have a happy and fun evening.

We got away from the formal dinner idea, and celebrated with all who take the time to care about this issue. The pizzas and barbecue were a hit with the children, as well as the ice cream making and decorating a bowl with fruit, chocolate, hundreds and thousands and all sorts of goodies.

The best part for so many was the laughter, and for a night that was to end at 10 pm, we were still here at my home till 2am and by 2.30 I was certainly ready for the bed. We didn't have to have a lot of money or a special grant to enjoy an evening of laughter. We had twenty one women, thirty children and the rest were our helpers ten in all."

Report from Gunnedah's Deputy Mayor, Councillor Colleen Fuller [pictured above right]



+ HELP US TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread violations of human rights. Globally, up to six out of every ten women experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime.

+ DONATE TODAY

UNIFEM
www.unifem.org

Tara June Winch is wearing spectacles to promote the Adspecs campaign to donate spectacles in Pakistan. She will also be there distributing books to women and children through a literacy project inspired by her.

She is an inspiring young woman of Wiradjuri, Afghan and English heritage who has just completed a year in Africa under the prestigious Rolex Mentor and Protégée Arts Initiative Programme, only the second Australian to be selected. Her mentor was the Nigerian author Wole Soyinka, an emeritus professor of literature, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador and the first African to win the Nobel prize for Literature in 1986.

She had already won recognition and acclaim for her writing, particularly with the publication of her first book, "Swallow the Air" which in 2006 won the Victorian Premier's Literacy Award for Indigenous Writing.

Tara June says that she grew up in a house without books and developing her personal passion for reading and writing has led her to become an Ambassador for the indigenous literacy project, onethousand.org, which is a partnership between the Australian Book Industry and the Fred Hollows Foundation.



In the words of Tara June in December 2009- "We are currently travelling through the Middle-East, Europe and the UK signing up the amazing 1000 and visiting literacy and education programs.

1000.org is a non-profit organization that promotes literacy and education for girls and women with an aim to grow throughout the world. 1000 of the world's inspirational writers, journalists and educators represent the diversity of languages, religions, regions and ethnic groups. The 1000 – ambassadors for the next generation of literate women, help to flag and facilitate literacy and education programs assisted by a global support network with the same aim: **to liberate women, bearers of our future, through education.**

Pakistan, in particular, is one of the countries in which we are recruiting Ambassadors this Christmas, where we will be visiting jails, schools, orphanages, refugee camps and community centres to bring literacy resources to children and women. We are purchasing Urdu books in Karachi and English workbooks in London.

It saddens me that people don't believe they can make a change. In this lucky country, it is at our fingertips and we can do so many things to help others less fortunate."

"If you would like to buy a book for someone with so little then please email me directly for details."

tarajunewinch@gmail.com

www.tarajunewinch.com

Support Women in Local Government in 2010- the Year of Women in Local Government.



Put this motion to your council:

"That [this council] supports the provision of 18 weeks at full pay or 36 weeks at half pay maternity leave and 2 weeks at full pay or 4 weeks at half pay paternity leave as a standard condition for all NSW local government employees."

Join councils which have already done this, including Gosford and Ryde.

Some ideas for celebrating the Year of Women in Local Government in your community:

- **Get your council to set up a Status of Women Advisory Council**
- **Host a breakfast/lunch with a YOW Ambassador as speaker**
- **Get your council to set up a Women in Business support Group.**
- **Host a really special event on March 8th 2010 to celebrate the Centenary Year of International Women's Day.**
- **Support UNIFEM and other organisations devoted to reducing poverty for women worldwide**
- **Attend some of the events organised by the LGMA during the year in Sydney and regional areas, such as the Forum on May 31st– addressing topical local government issues– or the Power Lunches– in March, June, August and November 2010.**

lgwomen2010.org.au

“Women Making a Splash in Local Government” ALGWA Conference - Moree Plains Shire Council



Message from President- Karen McKeown– ALGWA NSW

On behalf of the Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) NSW Branch, I extend a warm invitation to you to attend the 57th Annual Conference 'Women making a Splash' in Moree on 4-6 March 2010.

This year's theme 'Women making a Splash in Local Government' will celebrate the Year of Women in Local Government 2010. We will be looking at issues challenging Women in 2010.

The conference organisers have developed a dynamic program of recognised experts in areas concerning women. I look forward to welcoming you to Moree.

Yours sincerely

Karen McKeown

Councils joining ALGWA for \$200 annually get discounts for Conferences, Workshops and Training Sessions

Who Should Attend?

NSW Elected Representatives – not exclusively female!

Practitioners working within local government in NSW including: General Managers, Community/Corporate Service Managers, support staff including Public Relations Managers

Anyone currently studying or interested in Australian Politics

Anyone wanting an insider's view of how Local Government departments work and drives the people involved

Those people directly involved in or with interest in encouraging women into professional careers in Local Government

About Moree: With its exquisite Art Deco architecture, Moree's main streets showcase majestically restored heritage-listed buildings influenced by American, Egyptian, Greek and Spanish design practices.

To capture the entirety of the Art Deco and heritage listed sights, several easy walking routes have been created including the Barry Roberts Memorial Walk and Moree's Heritage Trail. Brochures outlining the route and significant heritage points can be obtained through Moree Visitors' Information Centre.

Healing Waters: Moree is renowned as the Artesian Spa Capital of Australia. Moree Hot Artesian Pool Complex (Spa Baths) is Moree's major tourist attraction. The benefit of soaking in mineral rich artesian water should soothe and revitalise you.

Speakers Include: Hon. Linda Burney, Minister for Community Services and Minister for Women; Hon. Barbara Perry, Minister for Local Government; Nerida Saunders, Elder of Kamilaroi Nation and Executive Director for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation; Jude Munro, Chief Executive Officer of the Brisbane City Council; Penny Holloway, General Manager North Sydney Council; Ros Irwin, lecturer in the School of Social Sciences;

and some of the most senior and experienced women from local, state and federal governments, as well as leading business women.

There will be community education sessions and celebration of local women's groups.

The Conference includes ample opportunities for networking and sharing experiences with delegates from all over the state. The "Hot Spots" session allows you to put important issues to the conference and for further action by ALGWA.

This Conference is child friendly, breast feeding encouraging. The Conference is a wonderful opportunity to learn from other women, to network, to share ideas, to be revitalised in body and spirit and to maximise our skills in working for our communities.

Details of speakers, accommodation and payment options are available on line www.algwa.org.au

Included are special events to celebrate the Centenary of International Women's Day in 2010– the Year of Women in Local Government!



**Australian Local Government
Women's Association**

**2010 YEAR OF WOMEN
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

CREATIVE | STRONG | INCLUSIVE | DIVERSE

**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.

<http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au>

**ALGWA NSW will be hosting the National
Conference later in 2010.**

Watch this space!!

ALGWA Executive Members 2009



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



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



Julie Griffiths, City Vice President
Blacktown City Council 0419128497
julie.griffiths@blacktown.nsw.gov.au



Fiona Rossiter, JP Country Vice President
Orange City Council 0409 662525
frossiter@bigpond.com



Christine Jeffreys, Secretary
Shellharbour 0431 501615
Chris.jeffreys@afgc.org.au



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



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



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



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



Fadwa Kebbe, J.P, Executive Member
Canterbury City Council 0419 294537
Fadwa.kebbe@ccc.nsw.gov.au



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



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



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



Denise Wilton, Executive Member
Editor Newsletter
Mosman Council 0411 526626
deewill@zip.com.au

Join ALGWA online: www.algwa.org.au