



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Newsletter July 2021



MARIANNE SALIBA

Message from the National President, Marianne Saliba

Hi Everyone, I hope you are all managing under your current Covid-19 restrictions. My local government area along with many of your own, are in lockdown at the moment, not knowing when those restrictions will ease or whether we will see more of them, until a much greater number of our population are vaccinated. It has been a very tough time for local government across Australia, due in part to the Covid restrictions set by each of the states.

Victoria had their local government elections during Covid-19 under very strict regulations and I acknowledge the work undertaken by ALGWA Victoria to connect with the candidates and support them through the process. The result was 43.8% of Councillors are women. Victoria has now slightly overtaken Western Australia to be the lead state in the nation. Congratulations to ALGWA Vic on the number of new members to the organisation.

I must acknowledge the work of ALGWAWA affectionately known as WAWA our Western Australia sisters, who have been busy in the lead up to their local government elections with their new program Standing Up, preparing women candidates for election.

Can I congratulate the board members from each of the states for the work you are undertaking, promoting women in local government, encouraging women to stand and providing support to those women through mentoring and professional development, particularly during Covid. You have done an amazing job in providing a variety of options for your membership to connect.

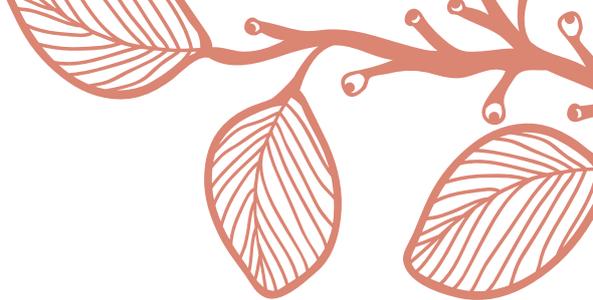
I would like to acknowledge Coral Ross from Victoria who received an AM in the Queens Honour List this year for among other things, her service to local government and thank her for the work she did stemming from her Winston Churchill Scholarship, which allowed her to travel to various countries to investigate policies and strategies that get women elected to local government. Coral had 33 recommendations across three levels of Government and ALGWA that would help raise the presence of women in local government.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the National Board Members for their support and guidance over the last two years. It is always interesting to see what the other states are doing in their own areas.

As you maybe aware the ALGWA National bi-annual conference scheduled for August in the Whitsundays has been postponed by ALGWA Queensland, until it is safe to go ahead, hopefully early next year. However the Annual General Meeting scheduled for Thursday 19 August will go ahead as planned and will be a zoom meeting. Details will be distributed closer to the event.

I look forward to visiting each of the states when we are able to travel again. Until that time stay safe and be kind to yourself and each other.

Update from ALGWA NEW SOUTH WALES



Meet the new Executive of NSW and congratulations on being elected.

L-R Soraya Mahomed - Mayor Karen McKeown - Cr Christine Kay - Jennifer Lecky - Mayor Marianne Saliba - Ellie Robertson - Cr Cassandra Coleman - Cr Dianna Baker - Cr Sera Yilmaz - Cr Collen Fuller - Cr Anne Napoli - Allyson Bradford (absent: Polly Makim - Cr Rina Mercuri)

At the ALGWA National Breakfast held on 21 June 2021 in Canberra, National President Cr Marianne Saliba and ALGA President Cr Linda Scott along with other women who plan to stand at the upcoming elections took the following ALGWA Pledge of Respect.

As a Candidate I pledge to:

1. Be respectful to other candidates, Council staff, and community members
2. Where I observe disrespectful behaviour, i will call it out
3. If elected I will continue to model respect.

Marianne Saliba and Kemi Nekvapil, keynote speaker at the NSW ALGWA Conference 2021

MC Tracey Spicer, LGNSW President
Cr Linda Scott, Marianne Saliba & Ruth McGowan at the NSW ALGWA Conference 2021

The NSW Branch conference was hosted by Shellharbour City Council from 18-20 March 2021. It was a very successful conference with inspiring speakers and it provided great professional development opportunities.

The NSW Executive have been working very hard to encourage women from across NSW to run for local government including in some councils where there are currently no women such as Wingecarribee.

NSW President Cassandra Coleman facilitated fourteen 'How to Get Women Elected' forums and she met some amazing women who will make excellent councillors. Other Executive members presented at forums across NSW.



Update from ALGWA VICTORIA



Our conference at the City of Yarra (the former City of Richmond is part of Yarra) was held on April 30 and May 1. We were delighted that more than 170 people attended and thank the City of Yarra for hosting the event, made possible with generous support from several sponsors.

It has been an extremely busy time in Victoria in recent months!

We have celebrated the centenary of the first woman elected to local government in Victoria; made numerous submissions; held numerous cocktail and campaigning sessions; awarded our bursary; had council elections; saw a record number of women elected to local government; launched our mentoring program and held a sold out conference – to name a few things! The long lock down in Victoria did have a silver lining. It allowed us to hold frequent ALGWA Vic executive meetings to refocus, review policies and plan. We made submissions to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Impacts of Social Media on Elections and Electoral Administration; the Local Government Governance regulations and we called for the October local government elections to be deferred.

Mary Rogers was elected to Richmond Council in November 1920 and became the first woman elected to any tier of government in Victoria. Since her election more than 2000 women have followed in her footsteps. A plaque was unveiled in the City of Yarra celebrating Mary Rogers.

We held zoom forums for Council candidates every two weeks from July to the October 24 election, with a range of topics, tips and advice. We followed after the election with regular sessions for the newly elected councillors and Mayors.

Our Bursary Award was also held via zoom. Congratulations to Danielle Schoner, Local Laws officer from the City of Maroondah who is this year's recipient. We extended our Intern programme and are grateful to our six amazing interns and the partnership with Swinburne and Deakin University.

We also contacted the 70 women who did not re-stand for election in October. The research has been invaluable and will shortly be released. Some of the words of wisdom they shared were *Listen with curiosity*; *Speak with honesty* and *Act with Integrity*.

A record number of women stood in the Victorian council elections and a record number of women were elected. The 272 women elected represents 43.8% of councillors elected, which is the highest level of female representation in Australia.

ALGWA Vic received a State Government grant for a mentoring program. Initially for 20 women, the program has been extended with further grants to our biggest program with 60 women councillors being mentored by current and former councillors.

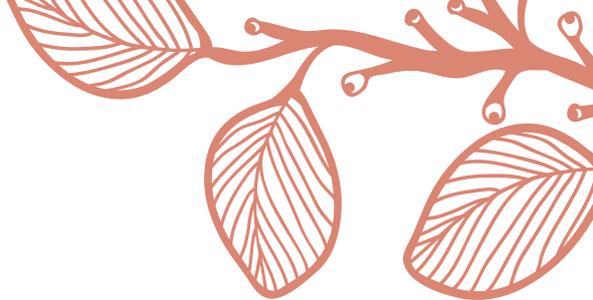
Update from ALGWA VICTORIA



Photos from the conference at City of Yarra, held on April 30 and May 1.



Update from ALGWA SOUTH AUSTRALIA



In May and June this year, ALGWA SA held two successful workshops for Mayors and Councillors on the topic of Prevention and Management of Bullying and Harassment in and out of the Chamber.

The workshops were filled to capacity with women and men councillors from rural and metropolitan and held in conjunction with Local Government Association SA and LGA Workers Compensation & Mutual Liability Schemes.

The presenter was one of ALGWA SA Committee, Dr Moira Jenkins (BA (Hons), Grad Dip Conflict Management, M.Psych, PhD.) who is the Director and founder of Aboto (www.aboto.com.au/) and one of Australia's experts in the prevention and management of workplace bullying and harassment.

As current Mayor of the City of Victor Harbor and a past Councillor, Moira understands the local government framework in relation to bullying, and harassment. She has provided input to the LGA on the new behavioural code in the SA Government Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Bill 2020.

Feedback on ALGWA SA Facebook included "a very insightful, informative and thought-provoking training session" and

"The strongest take-home message for me was a quote by Chief of the Army, Lieutenant-General David Morrison...

'If you become aware of any individual degrading another, then show moral courage and take a stand against it. The standard you walk past, is the standard you accept.' Powerful."



Update from ALGWA WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The WA Branch have created a program called Standing Up which aims to increase the number of females elected to Local Governments in Western Australia by:

- Empowering more local women to Stand Up for election
- Providing election campaigning advice
- Enabling networking opportunities with other women currently elected in Local Governments
- Providing support during campaigns
- This has been jointly funded by the Dept of Local Government and the Department of Communities.

We are running a series of regional events encouraging more women to nominate in the October Elections. The confirmed dates so far are:

29th June	Narrogin	13th July	Northam
26th July	Canning	10th Aug	Carnarvon

With more to be announced shortly.

Event details are published on both the website and Facebook here:

Fb: <https://www.facebook.com/ALGWAWAs>

W: <https://www.algwawa.asn.au/events>

Our stats on women currently elected are here: <https://www.algwawa.asn.au/current-statistics> and after the election, we will be doing a comparison to see what worked and what didn't. Feel free to use any stats/images on the website.

Representing as a Woman

During COVID, the WA Branch conducted a series of interviews with members about their journeys as Elected Members to help inspire others to nominate. These are available for viewing here: <https://www.algwawa.asn.au/representing-as-a-woman>

WA Women for Local Government Chat

We have created a Facebook chat group to help support candidates during the upcoming elections, modelled from the Victorian group. Candidates will be encouraged to join in the conversation:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/489006381848028>



Breakfast Event

ALGWA WA Branch are hosting a breakfast for members at the WA Local Government Conference, 7am Monday 20th September.

Register via WALGA conference registration here:

<https://walga.asn.au/News,-Events-and-Publications/Events/2021-Local-Government-Convention/Conference-Registration>



Save the Date

Join us for the ALGWA National and QLD State Conference
“Women Connected and Unshaken”

hosted by Whitsunday Regional Council

1-3 March 2022

Coral Sea Marina Resort, Airlie Beach
Accommodation code: ALGWA