

July 2013.

Northern Territory Branch 2013-2014



The Executive Committee elected for the 2013-2014 term -

President

Pam Robinson OAM

City of Palmerston, Environment & Climate Change Strategic Planner.

pam.robinson@palmerston.nt.gov.au

Vice-President

Clair O'Brien

Farmer and former Deputy Mayor, Roper Gulf Shire.

ctz.obrien@bigpond.com

Secretary

Amber Garden,

City of Darwin, Senior Employee Relations Advisor

A.Garden@darwin.nt.gov.au

Treasurer

Alderman Sue McKinnon,

City of Palmerston

Sue.mckinnon@palmerston.nt.gov.au

Committee Members

Anne Hammond

City of Darwin, Manager of Strategies and Outcomes.

A.Hammond@darwin.nt.gov.au

Dyaane Allport,

City of Palmerston, Environmental/Emergency Operations

Dyaane.allport@palmerston.nt.gov.au

Hello from President Pam

Welcome back to another year of ALGWA NT and here is the July edition as the first Newsletter for the 2013-2014 year.

ALGWA NT - Annual General Meeting June 21, 2013



Back Row L-R Carol Randall, (Katherine), Jo Sangster, (ED Northern Territory Office of Women's Advancement) Vice President Clair O'Brien, (Mataranka).

Front Row L-R Lord Mayor of Darwin, Katrina Fong Lim, President Pam Robinson, (City of Palmerston) Alderman Helen Galton, (City of Darwin).

Due to some members having been at the ALGA Conference in Canberra earlier in the week and who had already returned to their homes across the Northern Territory, others away on study leave and a few with unexpected commitments, attendance was lower than anticipated. However, the small and enthusiastic group of ALGWA NT Members who attended on Friday 21 June at the LGANT Meeting Room provided great support and interest into seeing ALGWA NT continues its activities and promotion of Local Government.

Given the excellent response to the 'call for nominations' to take up positions on the ALGWA NT Executive Committee, the Election of Office Bearers moved along quickly and smoothly. Thank you to everyone who nominated and congratulations to the team of members who have been elected to support me as President during the coming year.

Member Jo Sangster was in attendance and spoke briefly about her new role as Executive Director of the Office of Women's Advancement. From the meeting and subsequent contact with the OWA Office, ALGWA NT is now featured on the Office of Women's Advancement Facebook Page.

ALGWA NORTHERN TERRITORY - PRESIDENT'S 2012-2013 REPORT

As President of ALGWA NT it gives me great pleasure to provide the President's Report for 2012-2013. Firstly I want to thank you for providing me with the opportunity to undertake the role of President of our organisation.

I have managed to ensure that ALGWA NT has been mentioned many times whether it is that I add it to my Bio when presenting at conferences, or by mention of our Association to others who have not known of us or by promoting the ALGWA 'reason for being' to those who could be interested in joining. Also as I am on the NT Committee of the Local Government Managers Association, the opportunity to speak of ALGWA NT always finds an opening and indeed interest from LGMA is appreciated.

Greater detail of the NT Branch activities undertaken, interests shared and where we link with other ALGWA Branches activities over the past twelve months can be seen from our 2012-2013 bi-monthly ALGWA NT Newsletters.

The Newsletters are widely distributed to our members, posted on the ALGWA National website, go to the Minister for Local Government's office and to other Ministers and Members of Parliament, along with going to some other strategic people who have an interest in women's business generally and who are keen to hear of women in local government. Appreciation of the Newsletters has been received from members and particularly those who live in our rural areas – those who are unable to get to some of the various gatherings that the rest of us are able to get to.

At this time in my President's Report, I would like to give some 'thank-you' mentions.

Most importantly, a big 'thank-you' to ALGWA NT Secretary, Alderman Helen Galton. Helen has played an integral part in our Branch especially since the 'second coming' of ALGWA NT.

PRESENTATION:

I say it like this as fledgling Local Government Women gatherings in the Northern Territory did happen at an earlier stage. However, it really wasn't until discussions took place between Helen and others including Alderman Kerry Moir and the then indomitable past National President the late Kaele Way, that thinking to reinvigorate interest in an ALGWA NT Branch happened. The new ALGWA NT Branch was officially launched at a well-attended social function and meeting in 2006 – which is the new era for ALGWA Northern Territory that I speak about.

I recall being at the 2006 function – at that time in Darwin undertaking a consultancy for the Darwin City Council – and it was clear that Helen was one of the leading Aldermen in the renewal of ALGWA NT. Helen has kept so many things going from 2006 with being active in just about all positions on the Committee and representing ALGWA NT often at the National Board meetings. Helen has been ‘beating the drum’ gently but determinedly to ensure the ‘second coming’ Branch stayed active and alive while it got off from an early and shaky start.

Through recent years we are now well established and Helen can quite rightly stand down from an official position on the Northern Territory Branch Committee in the forthcoming 2013-2014 year.

We are small in membership numbers – but growing all the time with 2012-2013 being active in that regard. We have brought on board some new members, have some potential members waiting to join and we have not lost any members. Of course it would be terrific if we could engage others to join and I think this is possible even if in small quantum given it is sometimes more difficult when there is not a local government election in the next twelve months. It is pleasing to see also that we have kept members even when they are no longer elected representatives on their Councils.

ALGWA NT continues to keep a keen watch on 50:50: Vision – Councils for Gender Equity and is proud of the three Northern Territory Council recipients of the Bronze Award. Getting the Bronze Award, Councils then looked to achieving the Silver Award level as their next goal. This has been supported by our organization and two City Councils have been working towards that achievement.

On 10 June the City of Darwin was advised that it had successfully achieved the requirements of the Silver Award so Darwin now joins a prestigious group of Australian Councils who have reached this level and it is the first Council in the Northern Territory to have Silver Award status.

As President of ALGWA NT and on behalf of the Executive and our Members I sent a letter of congratulations to the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Darwin acknowledging Council’s Silver Award achievement.

The City of Darwin now proposes to go forward to meet the requirements of the Gold level. I recall when they were awarded the Bronze Award, Past President of ALGWA NT and then Alderman at the City of Darwin Jo Sangster received the Bronze Certificate of Achievement at the National Conference in that year. Kerry Moir Past President of LGANT and also a former Alderman at the City of Darwin worked strongly within LGANT to promote the ‘50:50 Vision’ Councils for Gender Equity Program.

It was a pleasure to attend the ALGWA National Conference in Ipswich in November 2012, along with other Northern Territory Local Government representatives from elected and officer positions plus our Branch was able to support our Vice President Clair to attend. It was an excellent conference and we

all got a great deal from our attendance as well as bringing back some new networks which have provided opportunities for our Councils to make contact in regards to shared interest in local government programs generally.

In March 2013, ALGWA NT held its main promotional function by running a very successful, well attended and interesting Breakfast Meeting for men and women in local government and those with a keen interest in local government.

Lia Finocchiaro MLA who as a new and younger member of the Northern Territory Parliament was our guest speaker. Lia is a keen community volunteer in a vast array of organisations in her community and has practiced as a lawyer. She is a professional all-rounder who will do well in Parliament. Lia is a great role model of what can be achieved by women and especially an identifiable role model for younger women.

It was a pleasure to have the Chief Executive Officers of our two largest cities; Darwin and Palmerston, in attendance and to have other male local government staff join their female colleagues at the Breakfast. ALGWA NT, our guest speaker, the actual breakfast standard and our ability to show 'who we are' was well received. We have a chance to build on the success of the Breakfast Meeting and to undertake another event – perhaps an evening soiree with a good speaker and draw card earlier than later in the 2013-2014 year.

ALGWA NT has worked closely with ALGWA President Kathy Benstead and the National Executive and has been pleased to an active partner in activities and responses to national challenges.

Another success I think of how we have operated in the past twelve months is that we attracted and had some 'hands up' from new members to be on the 2013/14 Executive.

So – Thank you all for your support to me and to ALGWA NT during the past twelve months.

Given several members were unable to attend today; I will ensure my Report is provided for the July ALGWA Newsletter.

Pam Robinson OAM

21 June 2013.

2013-2014 Membership Fees

It was passed at the Annual General Meeting that the Annual Membership Fee will remain at \$25.

Welcome to the Executive Committee Amber and Dyaane

July Profile:

Amber Garden, 2013-2014 Secretary ALGWA NT



I joined the City of Darwin in June 2009 as Executive Assistant to the General Manager Corporate Services, Mr Frank Crawley.

During my time with Council I have been privileged to have been a representative at the 2010 and 2011 Women in Local Government South Australia Conferences and the 2012 ALGWA National Conference.

Whilst attending the 2010 Women in Local Government Conference I was invigorated and inspired to take up further study and to follow a past passion

of mine that I thought was long gone – Human Resource Management. With the support and mentoring from Frank I undertook a Diploma of Human Resource Management in 2011 and to culminate an incredible year with Council I was awarded Employee of the Year. 2012 saw me take on a new role with Council as Senior Employee Relations Advisor, a role that I have sunk my teeth into and am learning something new every day.

The other side of my life sees me be the social/networking butterfly that I relish and enjoy, including my one love, attending nearly all of the events of the Darwin Cup Carnival. I normally plan all of my outfits for the carnival at least six months ahead and as they say ‘a woman can’t ever have too many dresses, hats, shoes, clutches.....’

I look forward to the next year with ALGWA NT, especially in promoting the organisation and increasing our membership base.

September Profile: Committee Member Dyaane Allport

National ALGWA Breakfast in Canberra.



Monday 17 June. Members Alderman Helen Galton and Treasurer Alderman Sue McKinnon were able to attend the ALGA Breakfast in Canberra, which was held during the ALGA Conference week.

By all reports a most successful and interesting event and great that ALGWA held an event in Canberra during the Centenary of Canberra year.



National President Kathy Benstead promoting 50:50 Vision – Council's for Gender Equity.

Members and guests at the 'ALGWA Breakfast' in Canberra.



More Canberra 'moments' on the next page.....



THE FLYER distributed at the Canberra Breakfast.

Talk about Post Early for Christmas!

Congratulations President Cr Betty Gill JP and Members of ALGWA SA for your very early promotion of the next ALGWA Biennial Conference.

A date for our diaries and lots of time to plan to go to National Conference which will be held in the Barossa, South Australia, **25-27 March, 2015.**

Staying on in South Australia for a holiday can also be in our thinking.

I have some of the flyers as shown here and on the back are some great ideas of what to do and what to see when you are in the Barossa.

Invites you to
**Step Up
& Top Up
at the
Barossa**

March 25 - 27, 2015
**The ALGWA Biennial
National Conference**

Learn, Laugh and Network over a glass of wine with like-minded women in the lovely Barossa, South Australia.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to expand networks, make connections, enhance and improve skills, share experiences, voice concerns and be motivated and inspired.

Register your Expression of Interest:
algwaconf2015@gmail.com

Enquiries Cr Betty Gill j.p.
E: president.algwasa@gmail.com
P: 0417 868 283
M: ALGWA SA Branch
PO Box 228 Prospect SA 5082

Highlights

Situated at the internationally acclaimed Barossa Novotel

- > Step-Up & be inspired
- > Top-Up your skills
- > Step-Up & indulge
- > Top-Up your networks
- > Step-Up & be informed
- > Top-Up your glass
- > Step-Up & be entertained
- > Top-Up your potential
- > Step-Up & take the challenge



ALGWA NT President at ALGWA VIC Conference 24-26 May.

During annual leave it was my great pleasure as President of ALGWA NT to represent our Branch as a Conference Speaker at the ALGWA VIC State Conference, in Euroa in the Shire of Strathbogie. The Conference was titled 'going bush in 2013'. Euroa is an hour and a half, NE from Melbourne.

Being autumn in the North East of Victoria it was a bit 'nippy' and also very beautiful. The Conference was well attended and wonderfully organised providing a diversity of speakers, ideas and planning. Arrangements were made for Executive Committee Member Pam McLeod a former Councillor herself to pick me up at Melbourne Airport and transport me to Euroa. Such hospitality is greatly appreciated and a reminder too how important such arrangements are when we have guests arriving from interstate.

Opened by the Hon Jeanette Powell, Minister for Local Government, other speakers included the Municipal Association of Victoria President, Cr Bill McArthur who spoke about the MAV's "Prevention of Violence Against Women" campaign and the achievements of several Victorian Councils. Shadow Minister for Local Government Richard Wynne, himself a former Councillor with the City of Melbourne, closed the conference.

Photographs, Left to Right: 1. The Conference Presentation, 2. Mayor of Strathbogie Shire, Councillor Deb Swan, Minister for Local Government Hon Jeanette Powell, (3) Minister and Pam take conference questions (4) As above and joined by Councillor Colleen Furlanetto, Conference Convenor and Councillor with the Shire of Strathbogie.

Congratulations to State President Councillor Coral Ross, the Victorian Executive, ALGWA Members and the Shire of Strathbogie.



Thank you letter to former PM Gillard

ALGWA National President Kathy was invited to have ALGWA join in a letter to former Prime Minister Gillard from The Australian Centre for Leadership for Women (ACLW). Kathy in turn sought support from each Branch if they wished to be listed within the ALGWA. There was an excellent response from all Branches and ALGWA NT provided approval to be part of the ALGWA inclusion with the letter being sent from the Australian Centre for Leadership for Women.

The letter sent is as below.

Dear Hon Julia Gillard MP

The Australian Centre for Leadership for Women (ACLW) is extremely proud of your achievements as Australia's first female Prime Minister.

Your Prime Ministership has provided a rich legacy of leading the 43rd Parliament and pursuing legislative reform in a challenging political environment characterised by a hung parliament, minority government, partisan politics and internal instability.

ACLW acknowledges and appreciates that you have introduced some significant reforms that are important for women and that you have done this with tenacity, determination and remarkable courage.

We are proud that you dealt with sexist and misogynist attacks, and that you did so with dignity.

Thank you, especially, for paving the way for other women aspiring to be Prime Minister.

We wish you all the very best in your future endeavours.

Yours sincerely

Dr Diann Rodgers-Healey

Executive Director, ACLW

President's Notes:

I had a brief and useful catch up with Treasurer Alderman Sue McKinnon this week and arrangements for banking in the 2013-14 year are in place.

I am meeting with our new Secretary Amber Garden on the evening of Monday 15 July to discuss the Secretary's position, our relationship with ALGWA National Executive and ideas for the coming year.

LGMA NT President Rick Bruhn has added to the Agenda for the LGMA Meeting on 25 July: 'Discussion of holding a joint event between LGMA NT and ALGWA NT in 2013-14'.

It is now full steam ahead with the 2013-2014 ALGWA NT Executive in place!

Until next time,

Regards
President Pam.