

Western Tidings

A Newsletter of the Catholic Women's League of Western Australia

Vol 23/No 3 October 2024



Conference Edition

State President's Address

Good morning, everyone. I welcome you all to the Catholic Women's League State Conference 2024

To all members who have travelled from the country, thank you for giving your time and dedication to join the city members today. I hope it will be informative, interesting and full of friendship and fun.

Today we are honoured to have the National President, Ann Pereira, attending our Conference. Many of you will have met Ann over the last day or two. Please take the opportunity to speak with Ann and welcome her to CWLWA.

My report is brief, through the Presidents Piece you are informed about State Council business and plans. Very importantly, the activities in the branches are reported through your delegate. I don't need to repeat what you already know.

UND and Scholarships

Over this year we have continued to build our relationship, with the University of Notre Dame. We have attended Mass in the Holy Spirit Chapel and were given a lovely light lunch under the trees. Jan Batt, Jo Merks and Margaret Sullivan came from the country to join city members. After lunch we toured the highly regarded School of Nursing.

Lynne Buzzard and I attended a thank you cocktail party for donors, and spent some time in discussion about the scholarships with Dr Lawrence Pang, the Lawyer drawing up the contracts.

We have in the last week signed the contract to continue with the \$5000 scholarship for a country female student and a \$10,000 Theology scholarship for 2025. You will remember this initiative came from the Manjimup CWL members. At this time, we have delayed setting up of the Endowment Fund as the proposal was not what we had agreed to.



Dr Lawrence Pang and Lynne Buzzard at
NDU Thank You evening.

St Pat's Community Care Centre

The significant donation CWLWA made to St Pat's Care Redevelopment Fund has been very much appreciated; an offer has been extended for all members to tour the site in November, as yet I don't have a date. An invitation was extended for CWLWA representative to attend the official function to thank donors, Jocelyn Hansen and Lynne Buzzard attended that function on Thursday last. The CEO, Michael Piu, will attend this afternoon as the Guest Speaker. It is an opportunity for members to know more about the redevelopment plan and ask questions if you wish.

National Conference

The highlight of my year was to attend the National CWLA conference in Sydney. It was truly great to be there with our WA team Valma Ivory, Maria Parkinson, Jan Hynes, Jo Merks, Fran Mulcahy, Bev Macri and Fr Greg. Meeting and talking with members from other States was quite inspiring and the guest speakers were superb. As you know, Fr

Greg is retiring. I thank him for his support and spiritual guidance. He was particularly wise in discussing and advising us regarding CWL Tasmania's motion on the Curriculum for Religious Education in our Catholic schools.

Archbishop Costello has appointed Fr Richard Rutkauskus (based in Claremont) as Chaplain for CWLWA in 2025

The Website is up and thanks to Jocelyn and Eiran, Adele's son, is showing our latest activities

Address ... catholicwomensleaguewa.com.au - Please copy this website and look.

To the delegates, thank you for keeping us informed of the wonderful work each branch is doing. I am always amazed at the range of activities, so different from each other. Thank you, every one of you. Thank you.

I am now going to introduce State Council Members for 2025 followed by delegates reports on each branch:- State Secretary Una Coetzee, Assistant to Secretary, Adele Parsons, State Treasurer Maria Gapper, Assistant to Treasurer and Immediate Past President me, Social Issues Convenor, Jocelyn Hansen, Minutes Secretary Kathie O'Connor(absent), International Secretary and Editor of Western Tidings Sharon Cully. Delegates Fran Mulcahy, Lynne Buzzard, Rosemary Twaddle (absent), Glenda Beukes, Diana Ietto, Shendelle Mullane.

Retiring Delegates are Jan Ridge and Bev Macri, who was also the Vice President

I acknowledge Bev's amazing commitment to CWL over 42 years. She has been Presiden, Secretary, Treasurer and delegate for many years on the State Council and in branches country and city. Thank you, Bev you have been a huge support, to me over the last 3 years.

God bless. Thank you.

Pauline Marlborough OAM - State President CWLWA

Albany CWL

We have soldiered on with no active President; Helen Anderson, acting as Treasurer, receives her 20-year membership of CWL; along with myself (Jenny Dul) as Secretary. One member has been nominated for the Spirit of CWL Award. We have again tried our best, with limited funds to support the local charities of Albany. Support is given to the women & girls of Albany who are in need with the "Share the Dignity" Appeal twice a year. As the year closes in on us, we assess if we can afford other donations.

We continue to uphold the aims and the Objects of CWL. We are a small speck within this world-wide organization. Doing and standing up for women's rights, divinity and equality and for protection of females all over the world. We are proud to say that we, as small as we are, are part of seeking change in our government laws for a better protection of women in Australia, in all aspects of Life; health-wise, mental issues, and D.V., to name a few.



Patricia Galloway – Spirit of CWL Award



Helen Anderson – 20 Year Certificate

Applecross CWL

Many members carry out active roles in the parish. These include Readers, Vinnies, Hospitality, office help, busy bee activities, while we rely on older members for their support and loyalty. Margaret Sullivan is our lovely country member who lives 5 hours' drive away but attends St Benedict's when in town. Our Fremantle Member, Margaret Ker continues to share her insight into CWL history and remains a stalwart of the Australian Church Women, holding office at state and national levels in ACW. As we have done in the last few years, a raffle was conducted to assist St Patrick's Community Care Centre in their work for the homeless and disadvantaged, with a wonderful response from the Parish. At the end of last year, we assisted the Parish Craft Group, with their end of year Craft Stall/Raffle for the Applecross Vinnies Conference. They were appreciative of our assistance and we have committed to joining them again this year. Sadly, last month members attended the funerals of 2 loyal members who had moved into care. CWLWA members may have met Sr Carla Curran in her days with the Sisters of St Joseph Motor Mission. Our other joyous member was Mary Edmunds. May they both rest happily in Eternal Peace.



Applecross – Raffle - lone serving at Seniors Lunch



Attadale CWL

Our branch continues to work tirelessly. Jocelyn Hansen made and had printed prayer cards for grandparents which were given out at the special Mass celebrating the fourth World Day for Grandparents and the elderly on Sunday July 28, 2024. The cards were very well received. Various raffles and special events regularly occur. Christine from the Edmund Rice Centre spoke to members at the September meeting on the Centre's work with refugees. It was a very enlightening speech outlining what CWL members should expect to see and hear when they visit the Centre at a later date. Parish Priest, Fr Don Kettle, offered Attadale Branch members time to speak at Masses giving parishioners an insight into the work of the Catholic Women's League and also to seek new members. Jocelyn volunteered to speak at all weekend Masses recently and Lynne has spoken to Fr Don offering the assistance of members whenever he may need it. Next year, Attadale will be celebrating the 40th Anniversary since the branch was established in July 1985. A celebration is to be arranged, and a letter will be sent to the archbishop requesting him to celebrate Mass for this very special occasion. Members are hopeful the archbishop can fit this into his very busy schedule. More information on this very special event will be forthcoming in the months to follow.



Attadale - High tea angels made by members. Margaret Cassels sorting clothes for NW Mission



Bunbury CWL Associates

The Bunbury Associate members continue to be a driving force in the Bunbury Parish. They participate and help on many levels throughout all aspects of Parish life. They continue to support World Day of Prayer and ACW events, with thanks to Margaret Duane for her dedicated work in the region. At present Bunbury doesn't have an executive as such, but Shendelle and Jan keep members posted on CWL information, as well as receiving news from their Delegate. Despite not having formal meetings they have arranged for social meet-ups and have also arranged guest speakers. The events pictured are when Chantelle Powell from Accordwest spoke on youth homelessness in the region, and a farewell to long-time member Lil Scantlebury who was moving to Vasse. In 2025, Shendelle will be a welcome representative at State Council.



Shendelle Mullane, Cheryl Norrish, Shirley Davies, Margaret Duane, Accordwest's Chantelle Powell, Jan Batt.



Busselton CWL

Looking back over the last 12 months, since our last State Conference, it gives me great pleasure to present a snapshot of Busselton CWL. We have a Sundowner, where all the ladies of our parish are invited to meet new and old friends in a relaxing fun night. There is continued participation in several ecumenical celebrations, Fellowship of the Least Coin, World Day of Prayer and Fellowship Day. The warmth and friendship extended by Australian Church Women, at these services, gives us hope for the future. A speaker from Baptist Care addressed us on the interesting topic "Demystifying Aged Care". Our WUCWO gathering day was celebrated with branches from Margaret River, Bunbury, Leschenault and Manjimup. A Guest Speaker, Mark Browning, the Principal of Mary MacKillop College gave us an inspiring insight into school life in 2024. We also provided our scholarship as they are our main beneficiary for the year. We are proud to have our members Espie Jude and Loly Scott recognized as worthy recipients of the Spirit of CWL Award. We are all so proud of them. Below you see members in front of our parish 'Showcase' stall.



Busselton CWL Showcase



Fran visit with Georgie Bruce Smith

Esperance CWL

We are a small group who meet on the first Thursday of each month after 9am Mass. We average about seven members at our meetings which are rather relaxed and support each other when necessary. As well as supporting our Priest, members are also involved in many areas of the church such as Special Ministers of the Eucharist, Finance Committee, Parish Secretary, Parish Treasurer, Money Counters, Board Member of the Star of the Sea Homes, Saint Joseph's Companions and Church Cleaning. We give financial support to Sisters of Saint Joseph in Peru, WUCWO and the Women and Men's Refuge in Esperance. A wonderful initiative in our parish is the Brunch after the celebration of the Eucharist on the first Sunday of each month. All the community comes together.



Grandparents Day



1st Sunday Brunch

Leschenault CWL

Leschenault Branch welcomed five new members this year. Happily, members of the Branch Executive, Fran and Jan, attended the National Conference this Year, (with Fran serving as a delegate to the National Council meeting), participating and enjoying the fellowship of the CWL ladies from all over Australia. Several social days were hosted including a Devonshire tea in September for the Parishioners and a Fellowship Day in July. These were uplifting and enjoyed by all those who attended. Leschenault continues to fund raise and contributed \$500 to the SVDP winter appeal this year, also continuing to supply pyjama packages to those suddenly hospitalized in Bunbury.



Above – Members ready to serve



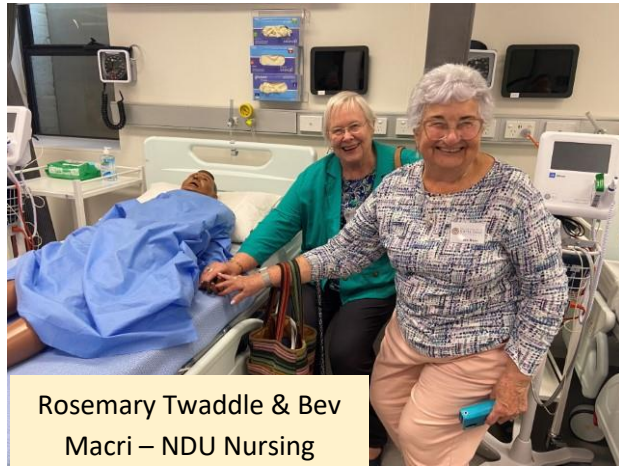
Left- Guests at Devonshire Tea

Nedlands CWL

The steady numbers who attend meetings were happily swelled with Bev Macri who joined Nedlands in July. \$820 was raised for the Nedlands Youth Group. Despite age and indifferent health of some members, they are always willing to run raffles, serve and cater for parish functions, engage groups like the Waratah Singers to support Vinnies, and contribute to greater target charities like St Pat's Care. Several of our members enjoyed the outing to the NDU Campus where we enjoyed Holy Mass and a lunch in the courtyard. Veteran member, Fay Jones, celebrated her 97th birthday this year and still manages to attend all our meetings. Slightly younger member, Anne Hicks, celebrated her 87th with us and represented Nedlands CWL at the AGM of the Parish Council. Sad news: Cecilia Hill had open heart surgery and Cecile Leach suffered a stroke recently. Both Members are recovering. Please pray for them.



Fay Jones - 97



Rosemary Twaddle & Bev
Macri – NDU Nursing

Manjimup CWL

The Manjimup Branch has had a challenging year. Despite that, we have managed to move forward, support and inspire each other throughout the year. The need to create a Leadership team, instead of formal branch executive members has served us very well this year. Our social outreach leaders always ensure that any member that needs to be supported or helped during times of grief or ill health is visited and strengthened with special visits between formal meeting times. Members' birthdays and special anniversaries are recognised and celebrated. The need for Group Prayers or Rosary identified and provided for our family in faith. The community always supports our raffle stalls (that we hold at various times throughout the year) and other causes very well. We were enabled to make significant donations to the St. Vincent De Paul Manjimup Conference, the Seminarian Fund, Pregnancy Assist, St. Mary McKillop House, Lima, the Perron Institute, Grandparents Supporting Grandchildren, just to name a few.



Josephine Russo, Sandy Edwards & Connie Femia
prepare Easter gift packages



Maricar Bevan & Jo Merks celebrate
significant Birthdays

(Manjimup Cont'd) Our members also actively participate in the groups of our church and parish, including Eucharistic ministers, Grief and Bereavement, Social Commitment, musicians and singers, cleaning and flower arranging. Our branch continues to share in the grief of our loved member Antoniette Femia whose husband died suddenly, recently. Many, here at the conference, would know Antoniette well. May he Rest in Peace. Due to the advanced ageing of our members and of some of the member's husbands, who have over the years supported us in our endeavours, our attendance numbers will be down this year at the Conference. However, their thoughts and best wishes come with us who can attend.



Sharon Cully, Connie Femia & Antoniette Femia - Rosary of Fatima

Augusta/Margaret River CWL

Augusta/Margaret River is a small but committed group who have found that the most convenient time to have their meetings is after a Sunday morning Mass. Members, through the initiative of Branch President, seek to support the seasonal workers where Tika Baxter is a representative of the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) Community Connections Program.; which aims to make workers feel welcome through sports and cultural activities, while experiencing fairness in their labour commitments. In May, members were happy to accept an invitation from Busselton Branch to join with them and also members from Bunbury, Leschenault and Manjimup to observe and celebrate WUCWO Day; an uplifting, spiritual sharing ending with happy social fellowship.



At Busselton WUCWO Day

Members with Raffle



Conference raffle winners

*Muriel Mahony (absent from photo), Pat Richards, Fay Jones, Ann Pereira (Drawer), Judy Mason
Ione Cooray*



Guest Speakers

Michael Piu: CEO of St Patrick's Community Care Centre



Michael Piu is CEO of St Patrick's Community Care Centre in Fremantle. CWLWA is contributing \$100 000 this year, towards the redevelopment of this Centre. Michael thanked CWLWA for its contribution and ongoing interest, and gave some interesting background about the founder of St Pat's Community Care, Br Hannick, and its patron saint, St Eugene, with an unofficial motto "Be bold; do things differently."

St Patrick's Community Care started out in an unassuming way by providing basic material support such as food, to the homeless. It soon branched out into the provision of other services. The ultimate goal of SPCC is to acknowledge the inherent dignity of all, and to end chronic homelessness and to help people become independent.

A new phenomenon is that more "working" people are becoming homeless, probably because of greatly increased shortage and cost of housing. Also, more and more mature age women are becoming homeless.

SPCC has had a few new ideas: Library Connect: having a contact person available at a Public Library to assist a homeless person, especially those subjected to Domestic Violence. They have a "shop" with clothing, furniture, and groceries, which the homeless can visit and get things that they need without cost, but, that members of the public can support and buy goods.

The new project will have, in addition to the 28 studio apartments, an Engagement Hub, and a Service Hub where such services as a dental clinic, food throughout the day etc. can be provided.

To date SPCC has 350 homes under their management, between Joondalup and Mandurah. They are currently working on 8 homes for homeless families in Kwinana. They plan to extend their work into regional areas as well.

CWLA National President: Ann Pereira.

Ann spoke about the difficulties being experienced by all levels of the executives in CWL especially the difficulty getting people to fill the executive positions. She also questioned the necessity of the number of levels, e.g. Branch, Diocesan, State and National that many of the states try to still do. She acknowledged that WA has already removed the Diocesan level and that the system that we have developed seems to be working very well. The role of the National Body in this current situation is under discussion at this time with consideration about how best they can serve the CWL membership of Australia. Realizing that they are our platform for international recognition with WUCWO and The United Nations

Ann also announced the decision to host the WUCWO Asia Pacific Conference next year in Sydney. This would be held between the 12th and 15th September 2025 at the Mary McKillop Centre. Accommodation would also be available there. There will be more information about this sent out to members as mor information becomes available.



Social Issues Convenor: Jocelyn Hansen

Jocelyn Hansen addressed the social issue of the incarceration of children, some of whom are as young as 10 years old. There are 4542 children between the ages of 10 and 17 in prison in Australia. 53% of these are indigenous children. 198 are between 10 and 14 years old, 329 are 14 to 17 years old and 1096 are over the age of 18. 3% of the Australian population is first nations but 50% are in the Justice System. 50% of children in the Youth Justice System have been in the care of the CPS. Intellectual disabilities are over-represented in these figures. 40% of these have Foetal Alcohol Syndrome.

Incarceration of children costs the state \$2148 per child while community assistance programmes only cost \$130. This suggests that it would be more efficient to re-direct money from the prison service to community-led solutions such as, early intervention, prevention and rehabilitation.

Jocelyn suggested that each person should write a letter to the local MP with suggestions about reforming the Youth Justice System. Do not use a form letter, because a personal letter is given more attention. The information forms will be forwarded to the branches to initiate broad discussion, reflection and action.

Notre Dame University Scholarship Recipient 2024: Darcie Bowden



Darcie Bowden and CWLWA
President Pauline Marlborough

Darcie addressed the gathering with enthusiasm and appreciation for being the recipient of this award. She explained that it had made it possible for her to accomplish her studies much quicker and more effectively. That it had come to her at a very challenging time in her life with her mother being very ill. Darcie managed to take off this Scholarship two years running and now was happy to inform us that she has completed her Degree in Teaching at the end of this year. Darcie was also proud to share the good news that she has already been offered and accepted her first appointment as a teacher in Mathematics at Wesley College.

Clara Millet addressed the meeting briefly about the importance of philanthropic donations to the university and its students. She thanked the CWL for its ongoing support in the form of scholarships, having this year added the \$10 000 scholarship for a Theology Student.

Australian Church Women: Margaret Ker

Margaret introduced us to the Circle of Prayer Volume 27. Everyone received one to take back to their branch. The Fellowship of the Least Coin. In this booklet provided were introduced to the inspirational stories of special women across the world. In the introduction to this booklet is a short quote by elder Supaporn, Yarnasarn, ACWC President (2019-2023).

"In what ways are we made in God's image? God obviously did not create us exactly like God because God has no physical body. Instead, we are reflections of God's glory.We do have the ability to reflect God's character in our love, patience, forgiveness, kindness, and faithfulness".

Margaret reminded us that for every coin individually offered as the "Coin of least pence" it should be accompanied by a prayer for peace by the individual giver.



Spirit of Catholic Women's League Award Recipients

Busselton Branch



***Espie Jude** - From the Philippines - Espie is a fellow, long-time member of the Busselton Parish, and a staunch dedicated member of Catholic Women's League. The supply of fresh produce from her garden is greatly appreciated. Espie's smile and open acceptance of life in Australia is inspiring to us all.*

***Lolita Scott** - Originally from the Philippines - Lolita (known as Loly) is a longtime member of the Busselton parish and a staunch Catholic Women's League member. Loly supports the good works of the Legion of Mary and is a regular reader and commentator at Mass. She extends her experience and welcome, as a long-term Aussie resident, to the more recently arrived Philippine parishioners.*



Manjimup Branch



***Rosina Renzullo** - Rosina has been a team leader in preparing for our CWL beginning of the year Commitment Sunday Parish Mass, our annual CWL market day at the Parish Centre, and our annual street wood raffles. Raffle presentations have Rosina's hallmark. Rosina's dedication and hard work have been key to the success of these events, and her willingness to help others makes her a cherished and valued member of the Branch, and a caring friend.*



Sharon Cully - Sharon has given great service to CWLWA, serving as State Secretary, State International Secretary and Editor of Western Tidings. Additionally, Sharon has been a great Secretary for CWL Manjimup, creating templates for meetings and reports, to keep things organised. She's always prepared and keeps members informed, even hosting meetings at her home. Sharon also helps out with parish activities and offers transport for events. Overall, she's a very important member of the CWL Manjimup Branch.



Albany Branch



Patricia Galloway - Recognising Patricia's loyalty to Albany Catholic Women's League for the past 18 years. A fine example of an independent woman, who despite being declared legally blind, at the time of her joining, served a term as Secretary of the branch. Following a life of service as a nurse and hospice volunteer, Patricia found joy and fellowship with her fellow members of Albany CWL.

Attadale Branch

Bernadette Clancey - In recognition of Bernadette's loyalty to Attadale Catholic Women's League and her parish. As a foundation member of Attadale CWL, 40 years ago, she has served as Branch President and Branch Secretary. An Archdiocesan role was as Archdiocesan Treasurer, in the days of Downey House, participating in National and State Conferences. At a time when Attadale Branch was in danger of closing, Bernadette, and a loyal companion, kept the seed alive so that subsequently we have seen the regrowth of Attadale into a vibrant and vigorous community.



Applecross Branch



Regina King - In recognition of Regina's long, loyal and faithful service to Applecross Catholic Women's League and the parish. Throughout the years, Regina has given support to all endeavours, including her many years as Branch Treasurer. Her gentle, prayerful presence and cooperative spirit has been an inspiration to later recruits who appreciate her positive attitude.



ROLL OF HONOUR

2023 - 2024

*Grace Lloyd
Kath O'Hara
Enid Macoboy
Ethel Perenzin
Marlene Nairn
Mary Edmunds
Sr Carla Curran rsj
Maureen Steffanoni*



20 Year Loyal Service Award

*Helen Andersen - Albany
Jan Cole - Busseston
Lorraine Miller - -
Busseston
Maria Haggett - Busseston
Maura McNamara -
Busseston
Win Wills - Busseston*



Prayer for World Peace

O Lord God,

*We pray for Peace and Love in all the nations,
among all the people. That all wars and hatred will end.*

*We pray for those who suffer from war, injustice and intolerance, for the
children, young people, the poor and neglected ones.*

We pray for peace in our life, lands, nations, families and in our hearts.

Lord, give us world peace.

We ask your mercy in the name of

Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Australian Church Women WA
WORLD COMMUNITY DAY

Young Women and Older Women Working
Together

DATE Friday 25 October 2024

TIME 10.15 for 10.30AM

VENUE St Peter and Emmaus
Church, 56 Green Street Joondanna

SPEAKER Rev. Susan Lord

UCA Minister St Peter and Emmaus

Offerings for the Fellowship of the Least Coin will
be received at this service.



Jocelyn thanking Michael Piu



Sharon receiving Spirit of CWL Award from Pauline



Bernadette receiving Spirit of CWL Award from Pauline

(N.B. Spelling error of Clancey has been rectified)



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conference snaps

