

SOCIETY TRIENNIAL REPORT 2014 - 2017
For the 17th ACWW SOUTH PACIFIC AREA CONFERENCE, NEW PLYMOUTH, NEW ZEALAND

THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC)

ACWW SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP NO: M09 1007

Number of Members: 2028 (as at 18 January 2017) Email Address: info@cwaofwa.asn.au

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING:

Countries of Study: Tibet, Croatia and Malta. **International Study Days:** Branches hosted these events and invited the CWA International Officer and guest speakers to learn about the country's food, culture, religion, commerce and industry. Enticing recipes from each region were offered in lunches for all members. Funds raised from these days were sent to the Association's International Fund for disbursement. **ACWW Promotion:** Recognition and support of all ACWW Days with displays during International Day branch functions. The yearly State Conferences raised awareness of ACWW activities in informative stand displays. In 2016, an international competition was conducted for the best tourism promotional flyer for Croatia. An update of ACWW activities is also published in The Countrywoman of Western Australia magazine which is distributed to over 2000 members, 6 times a year as well as Farm Weekly articles on successful ACWW resolutions. **ACWW Conferences:** CWA delegates and observers were sent to the 28th Triennial World Conference, United Kingdom. Our delegates, including Mrs Pat Twiss, the representative on the ACWW U.N. Committee, brought pre-loved costume jewellery to the conference for the Pennies for Friendship Fund. **International Women's Day:** In 2015, the CWA worked with the Vietnamese Consulate to provide a shared cultural women's ASEAN-CWA event in celebration of this day at the Indonesian Consulate General. Participating countries included Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. The event consisted of a national dress and talk show and culinary promotion. **16th and 17th South Pacific Area Conferences:** \$2,500 was donated to assist delegates from South Pacific Societies to attend both of these conferences.

ACTIVITIES/FUND RAISING FOR ACWW:

Fundraising: Pennies for Friendship: \$AUS 15,676.12; **Women Walk the World:** \$AUS 2,649.85 **Activities:** School & educational books, clothing, soft toys and craft items sent to Fiji, Kingdom of Tonga, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Seketi, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste and Western Samoa. Options currently being explored to assist Timor Leste include support for the Bairo Pite Clinic, Dili with maternity packs. During this Triennium, 32 boxes of goods were distributed to the South Pacific area at a cost of over \$5,000; 1000 pairs of reading glasses and 2 large bags of hearing aids were donated to the Lions Eye Institute for distribution; and 44.5 kilos of used postage stamps were donated.

WORK CARRIED OUT ON RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Supporting Women and Children Worldwide: The CWA provides aid to our Aboriginal communities with Derby CWA Branch supporting Aboriginal women prisoners and the Kimberley Girl pageant and Western Suburbs CWA Branch with clothing for TAFE college students at Halls Creek, Kimberley and graduation ball dresses. **Water Supply:** Between 2015/2016, the Jurien Bay CWA Branch worked with Fiona Cope of Yakaroo, to install a water filter at the Chokling Monastery, Bir, Himachal Pradesh, India. Now 70 monks are able to enjoy clean drinking water. **Vaccination Programs for Eradicable Diseases:** Successful motion at the 2016 State Conference for a national immunization plan for Meningococcal B Vaccine and detection of locally acquired Borreliosis in Australia. **Civil Society:** Successful motion at the 2016 State Conference for improved laws to protect vulnerable people from abuse. **Shale Gas:** The CWA continues to work with Government and agencies to stop gas fracking. **Maternal Health:** Negotiations continue for accommodation for pregnant women in the south of Western Australia; speaker on gynaecological cancers to many CWA Branches throughout the State; successful motion at the 2015 State Conferences for early diagnosis of gynaecological cancers and letters to Government and health organisations. There is a current CWA representative on the Breastscreen WA Consumer Reference Group. **Alcohol Advertising in the Media:** Successful motion at the 2016 State Conference for the reduction of advertising alcohol at sporting events and in the media. **Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Training:** A grant of \$5,000 was provided to the Quairading CWA Branch to undertake Suicide Prevention Training. **Modern Slavery:** Our motion for the elimination of modern day slavery was passed at the 2014 Dubbo SPAC. Since this time meetings have been held with The Salvation Army Freedom Partnership program which is a national movement to ensure Australians do not contribute to the global problem of slavery and that people are not enslaved in Australia. **Other Association Work:** Continued support of rural issues covering health; education and welfare for families; transport and environmental issues; agricultural and rural sustainability and youth leadership training.

OTHER MAJOR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT/SUPPORTED:

Natural Disasters: Almost \$70,000 of assistance from CWA of WA branches has been provided during severe bushfires, particularly in Yarloop and Esperance areas of Western Australia. Emergency catering also provided. Assistance is now being provided to rural families as a result of extensive frosts. **Welfare and Education Relief:** The Sir James Mitchell Education and Welfare Fund dispersed approximately \$200,000 for emergencies, health needs, education assistance and bursaries; breast prostheses for women who have undergone breast surgery; items for hospitals, women's refuges and outback communities. Rural Medical, Dental and Agricultural Scholarships offered which encourage students to return to rural areas to practice. **Statewide Fundraising Project:** \$AUS 80,000 was raised by the Association for the Motor Neurone Disease Association of Western Australia.