



COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
— OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC —

100TH ANNUAL REPORT
2023-2024





OUR PURPOSE

Uniting women and strengthening our communities through friendship, education, service and advocacy.

OUR VISION

To be a strong, reputable, relevant voice positively impacting lives and communities.

OUR AIM

To improve the wellbeing of all people, especially those in country areas by promoting courtesy, cooperation, community effort, ethical standards and the wise use of resources.

The Country Women's Association of WA (Incorporated) is Democratic, Independent, Inter-generational, Inclusive, Non-party political, Non-sectarian, Not-For-Profit, Statewide for Country and City Women

The Country Women's Association of Western Australia (Inc)
Patrons: His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APN, Governor of Western Australia and Mrs Darrilyn Dawson

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STATE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023–2024



Looking back, I remember the excitement of attending my first State Council meeting at the former CWA House which was located on the same land where CWA House is today.

I also remember the excitement of meeting other women who shared a strong sense of belonging and working together to help other families in all areas of Western Australia.

Looking forward, I know that the time is right for me to be ending my term as State President, with my husband and growing family of four generations having busy lives spread across the Great Southern and Wheatbelt of our State.

Two years have passed since I was elected State President in 2022. I have been so grateful to the many, many members I have met since for your kindness and friendship. It has been a privilege to be able to connect with members in your own special area of our State.

I have also been privileged to work with our wonderful staff at State Office. Each one of you has special skills and I thank you for your valuable assistance when needed. The computer system is very different from that which we used in the 'old' State Office!

How lucky I am to be in this position as we approach the celebration of our Centenary! It's been a little like planning a family wedding with so many different facets of the celebration coming together. It was very exciting to be able to deliver Centenary Portfolios which contain your 100-year badges and portfolios when 'passing through' your area.

Who will ever forget the magic of the launch of the *Women of Spirit — A Centenary of CWA Stories* book at Kings Park? Not only do the books look fabulous but they represent the work of members throughout the State over the past hundred years. How lucky we are to have our knowledgeable Archivists willing and able to research and collate this wonderful publication with the help of some of their friendly experts!

Thank you to all members who have made a significant contribution to the Association during the past decades. These include those responsible for the various Committees of the Association, Archives, Craft and Gift Shop, The Countrywoman of WA, Retirement Lodges, Holiday Homes, Learning and Development, Crafters and Home Farm and Gardeners, Community Coordinator, DGR Community Fund, the Sir James Mitchell Fund and especially, the Association's Board.

In closing, I wish the very best for all of you as you continue to work in our communities throughout Western Australia and through the Associated Country Women of the World.

Today, a focus of uniting women and strengthening communities through friendship, education, service and advocacy is still needed...and will continue to be well into the future.

Best wishes to all for the year ahead.

Anne Gething
State President

Crowd assembling outside Fraser's in Kings Park for the launch of *Women of Spirit*.





STATE TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

It is a pleasure to present the 100th CWA of WA 2023–2024 Annual Financial Report.

This financial year the Association's members have continued to support local issues with donations to outside community groups and organisations which have increased by 11% from last year, while donations to the Association's special purpose funds have shown a small downward turn on the previous year. The CWA of WA continues to assist and support grass roots organisations within our communities. We have recently put in place a method to capture the 'in-kind' support that branches donate. This method does need more work as we were not able to capture all the volunteer information from all the branches but the data that was captured came to an amazing \$67,942.

Memberships have also dropped slightly for the January to March 2024 period compared to the same time last year. The unfortunate reality is that we have an ageing membership, and we must focus on strategies to entice new members to join our Association—a challenging task in these current times, even though the membership fee is extremely good value for money. Despite this, our membership continues to contribute to their communities, providing friendship and support. Many branches have rallied together to celebrate the Country Women's Association of WA's 100th anniversary.

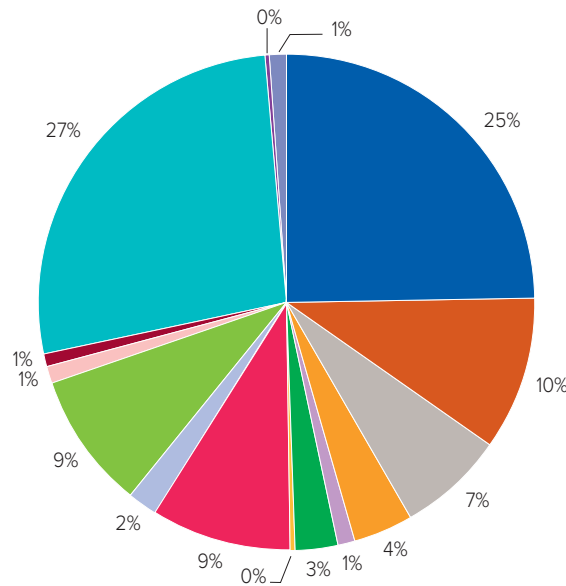
Income

In November 2023 Stuart Beattie, Rachael Green, and Sherman Chua from Morgan Stanley were invited to present to the Board the sustainability of the Association's finances, particularly the longevity of our investment portfolio. As the Board works towards strategies to maintain a healthy, financially stable Association, we will need to constantly review our financial future to ensure the Association has a reliable income to continue operating. Currently the income from our investment portfolio and membership contributions does not cover the running costs of the Association: therefore, new sponsorships, partnerships and alternative avenues for income need to be sourced.

Towards the end of 2023 it became known through the media that Stuart Beattie, Rachael Green and their team had left Morgan Stanley and had moved over to Shaw and Partners, a Perth-based wealth management company. Stuart and Rachael have managed the Association's portfolio for nearly 16 years, they understand what CWA of WA's requirements are, and we have built trust and confidence in the way they have managed our wealth portfolio. After discussions with AC Morris & Co, our accountants, and Stuart and Rachael, the Board made the decision to move our portfolio over to Shaw and Partners. Stuart, Rachael and their team managed the transition of our portfolio to Shaw and Partners and continue to manage our investment portfolio. The Association thanks Stuart Beattie, Rachael Green and their team for their service and support.

CWA Receipts year ending 31 March 2024

S & P Investment Portfolio	\$298,764
Memberships	\$114,032
Administration Fees	\$77,205
State Conference	\$46,398
Expenses Recovered	\$8,023
Properties – Investment	\$36,972
Promotions and Events	\$4,592
CWA Goods Sales	\$103,944
CWA House	\$29,034
Sponsorships/Partnerships	\$105,000
Craft and Gift Shop	\$13,846
Misc Income	\$14,503
Donations to Member Services	\$321,038
CWA Magazine Advertising	\$150
Properties – Other	\$12,045
Total Receipts	\$1,185,546



CWA of WA was again fortunate to receive a donation from the Cooperative Bulk Handling (CBH) Harvest Mass Management Scheme (HMMS) of \$60,000 this financial year to assist branches in the grain growing areas. To date, some of these funds have gone to Toodyay and Darkan to assist with major repairs for their branch-managed buildings.

Our partnership with the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA) continues and the first of the plants is about to be released. The Association received a very generous donation of \$100,000 from Mr Ian Junk, for the Centenary BGPA plant program (5 x plants at \$20,000 per plant over 5 years). We sincerely thank Mr Junk for his kind contribution towards this Centenary project which he gave in memory of his mother, Mrs Eleanor Junk. CWA will receive royalties for each plant sold once the plants go to market.

Our relationship with Rural West Financial Counsellors continues as they make referrals to the Sir James Mitchell Fund or DGR Community Fund to assist their clients who are suffering significant financial hardship.

The CWA of WA awarded \$25,250 towards Educational Bursaries, Medical and Dental scholarships, and the CWA/CTA Henderson Field Scholarship for WA rural nurses for the 2023–2024 year. The CWA Community Project Grant in 2023 of \$10,000 was awarded to Woodanilling Branch and the CWA Young Volunteer of the Year Award of \$1,000 was awarded to Piers Anspach.

Many of our branches have supported Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, now trading as Grandcarers WA Inc. (GCWA), this financial year—both financially and in-kind. Grandcarers WA is a grassroots organisation who align with our Association's purpose and have partnered with CWA of WA to provide outreach support to grandparents raising their grandchildren throughout WA. More than \$8,000 was donated by 19 branches while 14 of those branches hosted a speaker from GCWA. The CWA of WA Community Coordinator, State Office and branches donate in-kind gifts that were generously offered to both grandparents and grandchildren throughout the year.



Above: Piers Anspach receiving the CWA Young Volunteer of the Year Award.

Below: Signing of the MOU with Grandcarers WA Inc. at the 2023 State Conference—from left: Anne Gething (CWA of WA State President), Dianne Franklyn (Grandcarers WA Vice President), Trish Langdon (CWA of WA CEO) and Alan Hoffman (Grandcarers WA President).



“It's a serious amount of money... So generous—and we are so grateful.”

Alan Hoffman,
GRGWA/GCWA President



6 Every single CWA that we have visited has given a financial donation plus beautiful handmade items, quilts, clothing, and toys. Very frequently they have made multiple follow up visits to the Warwick premises with more beautiful handmade items, food for hampers and clothing/toys/books etc. Several have held fundraising events where the monies raised went to GCWA. The generosity has been truly amazing!

Dianne Franklyn, GRGWA/GCWA Vice President

Bequests

The Association has been the beneficiary of generous bequests from Anne Patricia Rigby and Edward Scott Smith.

Mrs. Rigby was a past member of CWA of WA and inaugural member of the Margaret River Branch. Anne bequeathed \$20,000 to the Association.

Mr. Smith did not have any connection with CWA of WA. He was originally from the UK and came to Australia in 1965 as an electrician and eventually owning his own company. Mr. Smith is survived by daughters Lesley and Jeanne. Mr. Smith bequeathed \$50,000 to the Association.

Centenary Building Fund

In 2023 the Jubilee Fund was renamed the Centenary Building Fund. The purpose of this fund is to support the maintenance, repair and improvement of branch-managed properties through the provision of

loans and grants. Members voted that the CWA of WA Statewide Fundraiser for 2023–2024 be the Centenary Building Fund—and a total of \$11,233 was contributed by branches.

With many of our restrooms ageing, the need for maintenance and repair has become a major priority. The fund is mainly supported by branch members and gives those branches in need of these funds the ability to repair their branch building and still have a place to call home. Applications for grants and loans from the Centenary Building Fund in the 2023–2024 period were approved by the Board for Darkan, Donnybrook, Toodyay and Walkaway branches for funds ranging from \$15,000 to \$35,000.

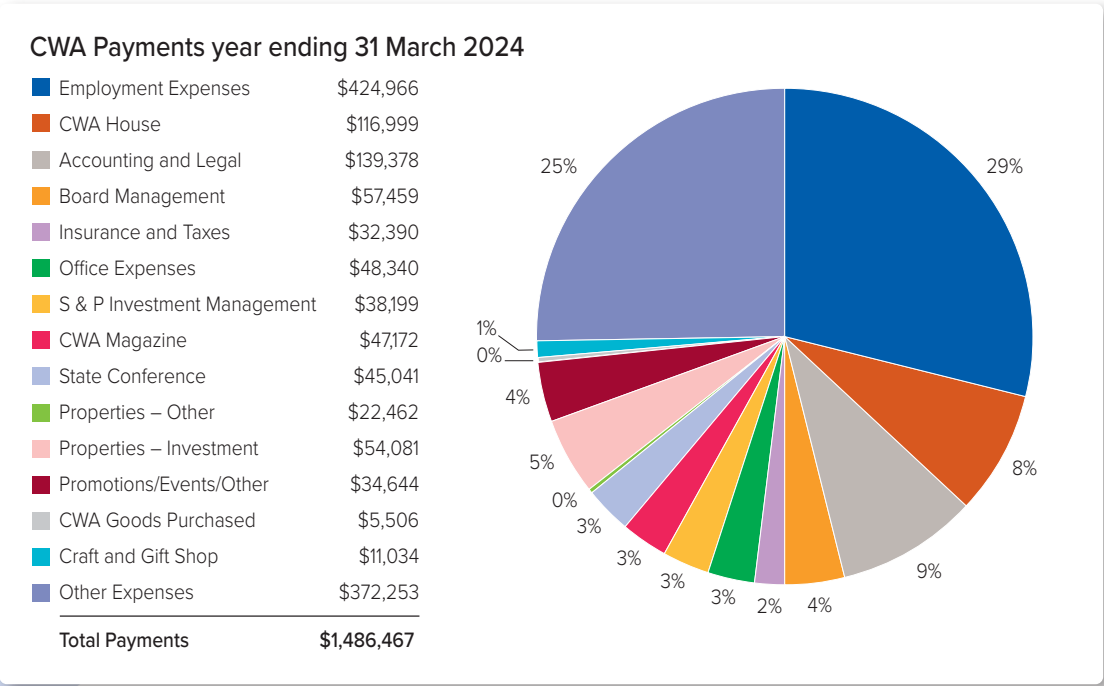
Policies

As the CWA of WA has recently received a couple of bequests, it has prompted the Association to consider a simple bequest policy. The Finance Group Committee developed a policy which was presented to the CWA of WA Board and approved. This policy recognises the sensitivity of managing bequests and the importance of professional long-term management practices required to optimise bequest opportunities that support the strategic direction of CWA of WA.

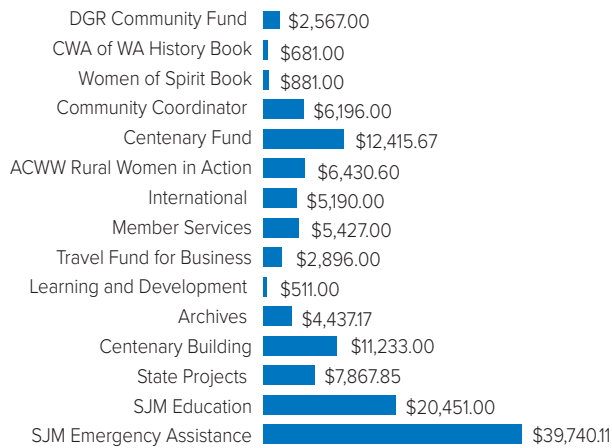
The Finance Group are currently working on other policies to ensure the Association meets the relevant criteria and procedural guidelines as per national reforms. The policies that are currently a work in progress are Cyber, Audit, Accounting and Online Fundraising.

Properties

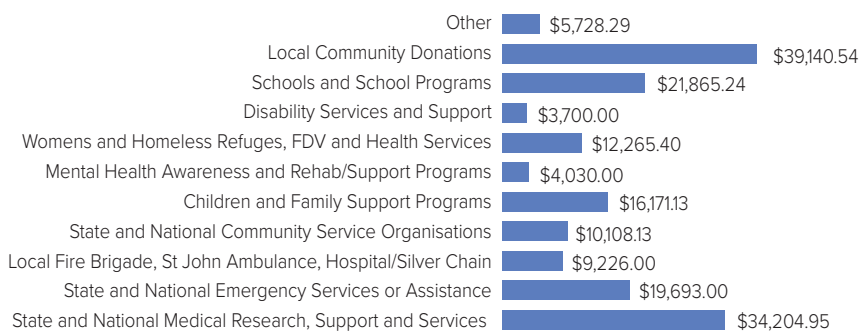
The Esperance Holiday Units (EHU) have performed positively and have been maintained and refurbished as necessary and within budget.



■ 2023–24 Branch Donations to CWA Special Purpose Funds and Projects \$126,854



■ 2023–24 Branch Donations to organisations outside CWA \$176,132



The committee for the EHU continues to manage the day-to-day operations for the units, while all accounts are now processed from the State Office and bookings are managed through the Esperance Visitors Centre.

The three retirement lodges—Bluff Point, Cockburn and Albany—have all had a financially positive year and have been maintained and refurbished as necessary within budget. However, with the difficulty in getting members to volunteer for these committees, extra work has fallen on the State Office. The ongoing risks and compliance requirements involved in maintaining these properties have been a major concern and has seen the Board seek external expertise to review the Association’s portfolio.

Training

Training for our Branch Treasurers is an important part of my role as State Treasurer and regular training in the digital cashbook enables members to perform their tasks in a confident and proper manner. The ability to access training online has enabled many members to participate, whether it be as a large group or one-on-one, giving members the opportunity to learn new skills.

Training was conducted online in October 2023, and again in March 2024, with both sessions well attended. Face-to-face training is also in demand with some members finding it difficult to access digital medium.

The iMIS database has been an effective tool for the Association to be able to gather information related to

branches, giving us up-to-date data—such as enabling the ability to link into membership numbers and help identify branches that may be struggling due to low numbers.

The Learning and Development team have also conducted branch training throughout the year to ensure members are aware of the governance and policies of the Association.

And thank you...

This is my first year as State Treasurer for the CWA of WA and I would like to thank those within the Association for their support, in particular, the Finance Group members for their support and assistance throughout the past year. A special thank you also to the senior members of the Association and the staff for their support and encouragement.

I would also like to extend a heart-warming thank you to the Branch Examiners who have the task of examining and signing off on the branch end of year accounts, ensuring that they are accurate before they come to the State Office. This is a huge task that they all take on as volunteers and I appreciate your assistance and look forward to your continuing support.

Carolyn Cover
State Treasurer



ASSOCIATION REPORT

I am proud to present the 100th Association Report for the Country Women's Association of WA. The Association's purpose is to unite women and strengthen communities through friendship, education, service and advocacy. The past year has been extremely busy and rewarding, finalising Centenary arrangements and undertaking a complete review and re-write of the Constitution.

Patronage

His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APN Governor of Western Australia and Mrs Darrilyn Dawson are the joint patrons of the Country Women's Association of W.A.

In August 2023, the CWA of WA was invited to Government House to participate in a Summit with other community-based and volunteer organisations to discuss shared issues such as compliance, attracting new members and having enough income to undertake their work. This was a wonderful opportunity to network and hear how other groups have managed these issues.

Our patrons visited the CWA stand at the Wagin Woolarama in March 2024 and even purchased the iconic Cookbook. They have kindly offered to hold a Centenary High Tea Celebration in September 2024 for the CWA.

Below right: His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APN, Governor of Western Australia, and Darrilyn Dawson with CEO Trish Langdon at the Wagin Woolarama in March 2024.



The State Conference and Annual General Meeting in July 2023

The State Conference was held at the Novotel Langley Hotel in Perth in July 2023. The theme was 'Embracing Change', for the Association to acknowledge and respect the past while showing courage in trying out new ideas and ensuring sustainability of the Association. Two hundred and thirty people attended, representing one hundred and twenty-three branches.

The Opening Ceremony commenced with Mrs Dorothy Crogan, retiring Board Member and president of the Western Suburbs Branch, leading the Banner Parade. Ms Kate Jenkins from the Perth Belles lit the Memorial candle. Mrs Gail Wynne, a Whadjuk Noongar elder, welcomed the CWA members to Boorloo, the traditional Whadjuk name for Perth.

The Guest Speaker, the Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC, Minister for Agriculture and Food; Forestry; and Small Business, commended the CWA of WA for its strong membership base and activity in rural and remote areas as it approached its 100th year.

Scenes from the 2023 State Conference.





It was inspiring to hear of the efforts of two of our scholarship winners, noting that the CWA of WA provided over \$40,000 in funding scholarships and bursaries in the previous year.

Jim Rae (Joint CWA Dental Scholarship recipient) from Dalyup, near Esperance, spoke about his volunteering efforts to provide oral health education in all three schools in the Ravensthorpe Shire (a 190 km round trip to visit the schools). He is in his final year of studies and is already contributing to the health and wellbeing of people living in rural areas.

Melissa Howard (Joint winner of the CWA/CTA Henderson Field Scholarship for WA Rural Nurses) from Margaret River spoke about how she made use of the scholarship. Her son Huey was diagnosed with Congenital Cytomegalovirus (CMV) which can be commonly acquired by pregnant women with devastating impacts on the unborn child. She attended a special conference in Canada to learn more about how other countries are dealing with it and is now working towards making CMV a disease of the past in WA.

Honorary Life Members

Heather Allen (Champion Bay Branch) is a former State President and State Treasurer who oversaw the transition to electronic banking and other uses of technology during her tenure in these positions. She has also served on many State committees and led two international delegations to the ACWW. However, her most memorable achievement whilst State President was leading an Association rally to Parliament House, opposing the proposed reduction in rural education funding. Heather received her Honorary Life Membership surrounded by her extremely proud family.

Honorary Life Membership was also awarded to **Gloria Campbell (Wanneroo Branch)** who has been a member of many branches in three different states because of her husband's employment. She has held every Branch Officer position as well as Divisional and State positions. She has a great capacity for adapting to the diverse and challenging areas where she and her husband lived but, importantly, was always aware of the needs of women in these very remote places.



Recipients of Honorary Life Memberships: Gloria Campbell HLM (above left) and Heather Allen HLM (on the right), pictured with Joan Cant.



Above: First-time attendees at the State Conference.
 Right: The Prosthesis Group celebrated 50 years of valuable service to the community.



State Office

Appreciation and thanks

I would like to thank the State President, Mrs Anne Gething, and the rest of the Board of Management for their diligence and support over the past year. All have made an enormous contribution to the Association over the years which is very much appreciated by the Association.

Best wishes to Board Members Audrey Sully and Dorothy Crogan, who retired from the Board, and heartfelt thanks to Felicity Edwards who did a magnificent job as State Treasurer for three years and supported all the staff at the State Office in their various endeavours. Welcome Carolyn, as the incoming State Treasurer. We hope you enjoy the role as much as Felicity!

State Office comes alive when members from different Branches and groups meet here including the Archives Committee, Friends of the House (Val Moylan HLM keeps us safe from germs by washing the tea towels!), the Craft and Gift Shop, Community Coordination, the Community Sewing Group, the Prosthesis Group, the Crafters, Home, Farm and Garden Group and the Magazine Committee.

Thank you all for your friendship and support, but most importantly for the fantastic contribution you make to the Association and the organisations that receive donations. Our neighbouring businesses also appreciate it when branches decide to have bake sales during the year!

It would not be possible for the Association to undertake the work it does throughout WA without the dedication and commitment of the staff. Megan DePiazz has been a very welcome addition to our team, taking on the role of the Membership and Events Officer. My sincere thanks go to our wonderful staff members Marguerite Zeilinger, Megan DePiazz, Chris Wood, Jenny McGillvray and Shelby Hutton.

Trish Langdon
 Chief Executive Officer





THE CWA OF WA BOARD

BOARD MEMBERS 2023–2024

Back row from left: **April Poad** of Northampton Branch – September 2022 to current
Helen Herbage of Dunsborough Branch – July 2022 to current
Karyn Collins of Caversham Branch – November 2022 to current
Anne-Marie Guest of Mt Helena/Parkerville Branch – September 2022 to current
Delyse Ward of Bullsbrook & Districts Branch – July 2022 to current
Anne Gething (State President) of Safety Bay Branch – July 2022 to current (retiring July 2024)
Carolyn Cover (State Treasurer) of Midland Branch – July 2023 to current

Front row from left: **Sue Meredith** of Caversham Branch – July 2023 to current
Jan Baker of Dunsborough Branch – November 2021 to current (finishing July 2024)
Jessica Worrall of Rosa Glen/Witchcliffe Branch – July 2021 to current (finishing July 2024)

Also present (back row second from right): The Hon. Mia Davies MLA who presented and pinned the Board at the 99th State Conference 2023.

RETIRED BOARD MEMBERS

Dorothy Crogan of Western Suburbs Branch – July 2021 to July 2023
Felicity Edwards of Perth Belles Branch – 2020 to July 2023
Audrey Sully of Busselton Branch – January 2021 to July 2023

PROPERTIES

The CWA of WA has a diverse property portfolio throughout WA which delivers much value to its members and well as the communities in which they serve.

They include the following:

- **Branch Meeting Rooms on Freehold Titles**
 - Albany, Beverley, Bluff Point, Bridgetown, Brookton, Broomehill, Coorow, Darkan, Derby, Donnybrook, Hyden, Jennacubbine, Kalamunda, Mandurah, Margaret River, Mount Barker, Narrogin, Quairading, Safety Bay, Serpentine, Tammin, Toodyay, Wagin, Walkaway, Yarloop, York and Yuna.
- **Branch Meeting Rooms on Crown Grants**
 - Augusta, Busselton, Denmark, Dwellingup, Greenbushes, Hopetoun, Jurien, Kalannie, Kulin, Lake Grace, Merredin (Nukarni), Morawa, Mt Helena, Nyabing, Pemberton, Pumphreys Bridge, Rocky Gully, Rosa Glen, Tambellup, Wandering and Woodanilling.
- **Branch Meeting Rooms on Shire Leases, Railway leases or Reserve Lease**
 - Balingup, Bindoon, Bunbury, Burekup, Collie, Eaton, Esperance, Gidgegannup, Manjimup, Mundaring, Nannup and Newdegate.
- **Other properties managed by the CWA**
 - CWA House, Mayfair Apartment, Port Hedland Apartment, Retirement Lodges in Albany, Geraldton and Rockingham, Holiday Units in Esperance, former branch meeting rooms in Carnarvon, Kellerberrin and Pingaring.

However, with a diverse property portfolio, particularly with buildings requiring ongoing and significant maintenance, the Association is in the process of reviewing whether the properties are:

1. Being used to their potential both for the Association and the community. If they are not, how can their use be enhanced or otherwise more effectively managed.
2. Delivering great outcomes for members and the community in a manageable and cost-effective way.
3. Burdensome to manage and maintain, in comparison with the benefits.
4. Posing any risks to the Association.

In towns which are growing and thriving, there may be opportunities for the Association's property to become a community hub to be used by many groups. Likewise in smaller towns where there is a paucity of spaces for community groups to meet, the CWA properties are of critical importance. However, the Association also has several properties which are not utilised to their potential and therefore need to be managed more effectively or disposed of.

A number of properties are absolutely vital in their communities, offering meeting spaces for a range of community groups such as St John Ambulance and Emergency Firefighters, as well as spaces for yoga, ballet and dance. Others are used as Op Shops.

The Toodyay Hall had its roof replaced through the fundraising efforts of the branch, the Centenary Fund and Chalice Mining. This hall is a much-loved large hall, in the centre of town and used by many community groups. The next plan for this hall is to paint the external walls.

Bridgetown and Albany branches replaced their kitchens and now have modern, safe, clean kitchens in which to work. Both buildings are used by community groups and are important community assets. Rocky Gully branch has opened its kitchen area up so that the meeting room is very accessible. It has also been repainted making for a functional but cosy space for meetings.



Top: Welcoming Toodyay...

Left: Albany branch's kitchen before and after the renovations.



Left from top: Bluff Point and Hopetoun have had new air conditioning installed.
Above: The Greenbushes Belles have repaired the verandahs of their charming cottage.

Walkaway Branch is in the process of having an outdoor patio built at the back of the property. The building has also been repainted, which looks fresh and clean, and the garden is beautiful. It was a welcome meeting home for one of the Constitution hub meetings.

Darkan has embarked on a major refurbishment made possible with funds through the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) and ANZ Bank, the CBH Harvest Mass Management Fund and the Centenary Fund.

Bluff Point, Hopetoun and Mandurah all had new air conditioning units installed as their rooms needed them during our very hot summer, and Woodanilling is embarking on major repairs after receiving the CWA Community Project Grant.

The Derby Branch funded major repairs to damage caused by termites and white ants, and Narrogin Branch has installed a disability ramp so that people using the hall can get to the toilets safely. The Greenbushes Belles organised for their verandahs to be repaired so that the building could be used safely.

There are some properties which are exposed to vandalism because they don't have branches attending to them or they are in vulnerable areas in the township. During the year, the asbestos duplex in Carnarvon was demolished, although the brick hall was retained as there is interest in revitalising the Carnarvon Branch.

Retirement Lodges

The CWA has three Retirement Lodges accommodating 36 people aged over 55 years who live independently. The Lodges operate under the *Retirement Villages Act* and are designed to be low-cost accommodation for seniors set at 25% of the current aged pension. The income derived from the residents is used to cover the future capital works, maintenance and upkeep of the Lodges as well as the administrative expenses.

They are all located close to the ocean in Albany (South Coast Lodge), Geraldton (Bluff Point Lodge) and Rockingham (Cockburn Lodge). The day-to-day management is overseen by Liaison Officers who are members of the Association. A huge thanks to Abigail Parker at South Coast Lodge, Glenda Boys at Bluff Point and Gail Neville at Cockburn who have undertaken this difficult role during the past year. Only South Coast Lodge has a committee and very sadly the chair of the committee, Carol Rodgers, died unexpectedly in January 2024. Heartfelt sympathy goes to her family and the committee.

The Liaison Officers have worked extremely hard, organising repairs and maintenance and dealing with different matters concerning residents. During the year, a new Code of Conduct was introduced for the residents to provide consistency in expectations.

The Cockburn Lodge has new carports for residents and porticos have been built on four of the units to protect the front doors from rain.

The South Coast Lodge in Albany has had a new water filtration system installed and new security doors were installed on all Bluff Point Units.

All Lodges are well maintained by gardeners so that they provide a homely and welcoming environment for the residents.

The operation of Retirement Lodges is becoming increasingly more complex due to the legislative and compliance requirements. In the coming year, the Association will be undertaking a review of the Retirement Lodges to ascertain future needs and requirements, how they will be best met and the feasibility of the CWA continuing the management of them.

Esperance Holiday Units

The Esperance Holiday Units, situated on the beachfront in Esperance, continue to be a popular holiday destination for many people. Both units have three bedrooms with large living areas and plenty of space for children to play or families to enjoy barbecues.



The Units are managed by a volunteer committee who oversee the overall upkeep and maintenance requirements. An online booking system is being used to great effect. Thanks to the committee for their oversight of this resource.

Albany Seaside Flats Consortium

The Albany Seaside Flats were closed in 2021. A local consortium—consisting of Advance Housing, the Albany Community Foundation, Anglicare and the CWA of WA—has been established to plan the future use of the site and seek a change in the conditions of the Crown Grant through the Minister for Housing.

It is anticipated that repairs will be needed to ensure the units are fit for purpose as well as professional lease arrangements and wrap around to care for prospective tenants placed in this transitional housing.

Trish Langdon
Chief Executive Officer

CONSTITUTION REFORM

The Constitution Review Committee, chaired by Jessica Worrall and comprising the State President Anne Gething, Karyn Collins, Carolyn Cover, Margaret Hector AFSM HLM, Helen Herbage, Elaine Johnston and the CEO Trish Langdon, have worked tirelessly throughout 2023 to review, discuss, check and re-check the development of a new Constitution which is to be voted on by the members at the 2024 State Conference.

The aim of the Constitutional review is to ensure the governance of the CWA of WA is compliant with the *Incorporations Association Act 2015* and to apply for Charity Status with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission. The Committee has worked with Elizabeth Tylich, an experienced Constitutional lawyer at Jackson McDonald.

Branches and members have been kept informed of progress via the State Conference in 2023, *The Countrywoman* magazine, and through participation in Constitution hub meetings held online and in person at Perth, Walkaway, Badgingarra, Toodyay, Merredin, Brookton, Mandurah, Yangebup, Albany, Esperance, Bunbury and Bridgetown. Thanks for the generosity of the branches who hosted the hub meetings. It was fantastic to see representatives from ninety-five branches attend these hubs and have some interesting discussion as well as their questions answered.

As well as updating the Constitution there will be By-Laws and three new 'Policies and Procedures Manuals' for the Board, Branch Office Bearers and the Members.

Trish Langdon
Chief Executive Officer



ADVOCACY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The 2023 State Conference provided an opportunity to showcase different ways of undertaking policy development and advocacy, and service development.

1. General Motions carried at State Conference

At the State Conference there were a number of motions carried which led to letters being sent to relevant Government Ministers. It is pleasing to note there has been an acknowledgement of the issues raised by the CWA.

- Teachers be required to serve a minimum of two (2) years in a country school before being eligible for permanency in any State School. ([Kings Park](#))
- 'Hard to Staff' schools in isolated areas such as Leonora, Meekatharra and Cue receive entitlements in line with those afforded to staff of schools classified as 'Remote'. ([Kings Park](#))
- The State Government of Western Australia accelerate the rollout of life-saving road treatments on rural and regional roads over the next 5 years. ([Koorunga](#))

2. Case study presentations

Case study presentations in comprehensive advocacy methods were made by CWA of WA members including:

- Toni Steinbrenner (Capel Branch) from the Capel Road Safety Action Group, on what it took to reduce the speed limit along Bussell Highway and improve road safety management around Capel;
- Lara Jenson (Kirkalocka Branch, Mt Magnet) on her long commitment to national advocacy work on train lighting and safety at passive railway crossings.

3. Opportunity for Direct Action

Prior to the State Conference, there had been a huge amount of publicity regarding the implementation of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021*. Members were grateful for the opportunity to discuss the Act and issues they were facing with Mr Anthony Kannis, Director General of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. Members submitted questions prior to the session and a robust discussion ensued at the Conference. The Act was repealed in November 2023 after much lobbying from a number of groups in WA.

4. Building and strengthening partnerships to achieve great outcomes

Grandparents Rearing Grandchildren (GRG) provided an update on their activities since the 2022 State Conference, and particularly how the CWA and GRG have worked together. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the overall aim to connect and link local CWA branches and/or members to grand-carers living in rural and remote areas who require local community support.

5. Learn how specially designed services for rural areas work

Helen Morton (Project Officer and former State Government Minister) showcased the Pingelly Somerset Alliance Inc which is piloting a 'Virtual Village' so residents can remain living at home and have access to local services until end of life. This is part of their Staying in Place project.

6. Investigate how similar organisations operate: The Martha Association in Finland

Kaisa Freeman from CSBP gave an illuminating presentation on The Martha Association whose original aims included educating country women, focus on home economics and sustainable everyday living.

The Martha Association (www.martat.fi), changed their 'look' with a focus on modern everyday people, simple language, and bright colours. The Marthas publish factsheets, host public workshops and videos and have three target groups—youth, women and men with small and school-aged children, and elderly retired people. They have also expanded to include city-based people. The response to change has resulted in The Martha Association of Finland now boasting record membership, word-of-mouth familiarity and financial stability.

7. CWA of WA representatives on External Bodies

- **Board of the National Trust of Western Australia:**
Chris Kingsnorth – Kings Park Branch
- **Breastscreen WA Consumer Reference Group:**
Stephanie Miles – Yarloop Branch
- **National Rural Health Commissioner's Consumer Advisory Group:**
Trish Langdon, CEO,
and Anne-Marie Guest, CWA Board
- **WA Government Agricultural Industry Safety Group for Farm Safety:**
Julie Hathaway – Kalannie Branch
- **WA Women's Forum Committee:**
Anne Gething, State President
and Trish Langdon, CEO.



Trish Langdon
Chief Executive Officer

2024

THE CENTENARY SO FAR...



COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION — OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC —

The meaning behind
the CWA Centenary logo

The tree trunk: Represents longevity, solid roots, wisdom and a connection to the land and nature. It is a nod to the CWA's Aim: 'To improve the wellbeing of all people, especially those in country areas...' At the same time, it also represents tree-lined streetscapes in regional and metropolitan towns and cities.

The branches: A representation of the many sizes and shapes of the different member branches that make up the Country Women's Association of Western Australia.

The heart-shaped leaves: These are of varying size to represent the many multigenerational women that form the Association, their caring natures and spirit of togetherness and the support and connection that they offer each other.

The CWA logo is placed at the base of the tree. This original logo design is part of the foundation, tradition, and history of the Association.

The blue border circle: Blue and white are the colours of the Association and the circle borrows the shape from the current logo, providing a different but familiar effect. The words signify the one hundred years of service to the Western Australia community.

Belinda Lay



THE CENTENARY REPORT

The Centenary Committee

The Centenary Committee consisting of Heather Allen HLM (Chair), Belinda Lay (Secretary), Margaret Hector AFSM HLM (Finance), Kerry Borgas, Karyn Collins, Dorothy Crogan, Lois Jones, Nicola Kelleher and Alison Sadleir came up with the ideas and laid the foundation for the Centenary of CWA activities in 2024, some of which are reported in this Annual Report. CWA members expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the work of this committee at the State Conference in 2023.



Above: The set of banners celebrating four of the 'women of spirit'; and a feature from *The West Australian*, March 2024.
 Left: Promotion of the *Women of Spirit* book and the new grevillea created and named in honour of the Centenary.
 Right: Tea, anyone?

Showcasing the Association

The Centenary is not only a time for members and their friends and families to celebrate the Association's amazing achievements over 100 years, but also a once in a lifetime opportunity to showcase the work of the Association. All the plans are coming to fruition and, as of March 2024, there has already been feature stories in *The West Australian*, *Countryman*, *Farm Weekly*, Channel 9 and ABC Radio, as well as several regional newspapers.



Celebrating the Centenary

The Centenary logo has been put to great effect with refreshed stationery, a new information pamphlet, banners and merchandise such as tea towels and aprons. Members have taken the opportunity to purchase shirts and blouses with the logo on them to use at their Centenary events.

Each member received a special commemorative Centenary badge and keepsake portfolio for their magazines, reports, invitations and photos. *The Countrywoman* magazine has a new look which will also feature special historical articles throughout the year.

There is a special Centenary website which has used archival material, carefully preserved by the Archives Committee throughout the years, put together by staff members Megan, Marguerite and Jenny, so that the public can read and research significant events and people. This is also keeping a record of all the media stories about the Centenary throughout the year.

Our iconic cookbook—*The C.W.A Cookery Book and Household Hints*—is in its 58th Edition and features the Centenary logo on the cover as well as a tribute to Agnes Barnes, the original editor.



Country Women's Association of WA

100 Years: 1924-2024



Getting together at annual State Conference.

Food

Care

Active

Inclusi

Dorothy Crogan has coordinated a complementary cookbook, *Generations in the Kitchen – Favourite recipes from CWA of WA members*, which will be launched at the 100th State Conference in Joondalup.



The new recipe book under construction at Stylus Design...



CSBP's generous sponsorship has seen the design and development of wonderful backdrops and equipment stalls to be taken to the Wagin Woolarama and Dowerin, Mingenew and Newdegate Field Days. These will also be used at the Perth Royal Show and other events during the Centenary Year.



Other events

Baldivis Belles Open Day

In February 2024, the Baldivis Belles had an Open Day at the Warnbro Family Centre, showcasing the cooking and craft skills of the members and encouraging community members to join the CWA in the Centenary Year.

International Women's Day at Darkan

After a successful event in 2023, the Darkan branch hosted another spectacular celebration for International Women's Day at the beautiful Moodiarrup Hall. The Hall was festooned with colourful handmade flowers and festive lights and delicious food was served.

Guest speakers included past State President Rosa Tognela HLM, Caroline Bommies and Jen Warburton. Gail McGowan, who grew up in the area and is the current Chair of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, also spoke about the development of the Woman of Spirit Grevillea for the CWA Centenary.

Over one hundred community members attended this celebration contributing to the refurbishment of the much-loved Darkan Hall.

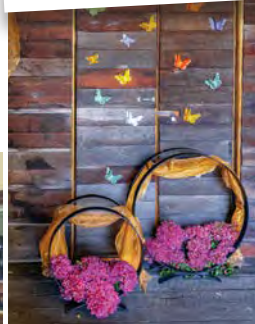
Derby/West Kimberley Air Branch's Cocktail Party

On March 23rd, the Derby/West Kimberley Air Branch hosted a gala Cocktail Party to celebrate the CWA Centenary, attended by the State President, Anne Gething.

Participants dressed up in 'Flappers and Gangsters' costumes and heard splendid speeches from dignitaries, special vocal performances by CWA members, auctions and raffles followed by much fun and dancing.

Trish Langdon
Chief Executive Officer

PHOTOS BY WAYNE ROWLEY



WOMEN OF SPIRIT A CENTENARY OF CWA STORIES

Women of Spirit celebrates one hundred years of the Country Women's Association of Western Australia. Generations of courageous and resourceful women are remembered in the telling of one hundred of their stories spanning the century since the founding year of 1924.

Thousands of members who went before or travelled beside them have all made a contribution to the spirit and the ethos of the Association, making the CWA a respected household name in city and country.

After five years of resolute research, *Women of Spirit* is also a record of our State's social history through a century of good times and bad times: surviving the Great Depression, a World War, floods, droughts and cyclones. You can visit the lives of these amazing women through their individual stories or explore each of five overlapping time periods.

After many years of laughter and tears, grit and determination the time had finally come for the launch of this remarkable book which is destined to become a social history of women in WA.

Women of Spirit – A Centenary of CWA Stories was launched at the State Reception Centre in Kings Park on International Women's Day, 8 March 2024, by the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC CVO. It was a spectacular night with thirty-three of the women featured in the book able to receive their copy in person.



6 There are so many stories within the stories: so many stories that have been created in getting the member's story. It has been a joy to communicate with the families of so many members— including grandchildren of the early members— and many were present for the book's launch. We have made connections all over Australia in our quest for photos and information. We sincerely 'thank you' for embracing the project and making the journey.

Pam Batten OAM HLM



PHOTOS BY WAYNE ROWLEY



The Editorial and Design teams (from left): Steve Little (Data Documents), Alan Jones, Vivienne Rowney HLM, Harry Davies (Stylus Design), Pam Batten OAM HLM (Editor), Valda Langley (Stylus Design), Jocelyn Mitchell and Graham Langley (Stylus Design).



Above: The Hon Kerry Sanderson AC CVO addressing the audience.

Below: Editor Pam Batten OAM HLM receiving her copy from the Hon Sue Ellery MLC, Minister for Finance; Commerce; and Women's Interests.



FROM THE ARCHIVES



Beverley Duckett receiving her copy of *Women of Spirit – A Centenary of CWA Stories* from the Hon Kerry Sanderson AC CVO at the launch on International Women's Day 2024.



The Archives Committee is comprised of members with various skills and experience.

Thank you to Vivienne Rowney HLM, Gloria Armstrong, Maureen Barker, Tupp Biggs HLM, Margaret Bruce, Anne Kosick, Jocelyn Mitchell, Margaret Moore, Maria Thoumine and Jeanette Wheatley.

We joined the Archives Committee because of our interest in history and having worked together on Branch, Division and/or State Committees, we had an understanding of the growth and development of the Association. We also knew that keeping the records of the past is extremely important for the future.

And what an important year this is for the Association. One hundred years—Centenary year—how exciting, how challenging, how daunting, how fabulous!

Telling our story...

The Committee discussed ways of presenting the CWA story so that it would be of interest not only to members but potential members, especially younger potential members! The challenges facing families today are vastly different to those faced when the Association first began, and we realised that we needed to not only tell how it all began but also show how we have grown and developed as has the State of Western Australia. We developed what we referred to as 'Memorabilia boxes' which contained memorabilia but also suggested items such as scrapbooks, trophies, craft items, crockery, welfare items which we thought exhibited the various activities offered by membership of CWA of WA. At first there was a rush to book these boxes but gradually as word spread of the contents of these boxes, branches realised that they had their own memorabilia and are now celebrating this milestone as best fits their unique area. The wonderful variety of new posters and material from State Office has been a great success and is widely used. It is heartening to read in the magazine of the amazing variety of celebrations being held all over the state.

Special edition

The CWA of WA Cookery Book and Household Hints, which was first issued in 1934, has gone on to have fifty-eight editions—the last one being the Centenary edition with a special message from current State President Anne Gething. It has been known for some time that we did not hold all editions in Archives and decided to rectify this as one of our aims for 2024. We appealed to our members by way of the Branch Brief and the magazine but were still missing over twenty editions so decided to advertise in the 'Can You Help?' column of *The West Australian* newspaper. The response was above all expectations! The eagerness of the public to help, the connection which the callers felt they had with CWA of WA and the admiration and respect with which the Association is held in the community was outstanding and actually humbling! We now have all editions of the cookery book and multiple copies of some. We plan to feature a display of all editions at our State Conference in July 2024.

Recording the collection

Following on from a presentation early in the year from 'Collections WA,' all of our ephemera (trophies, plaques, Branch/Division/State tea towels, tablecloths, banners, specific craft items, pictures, and general memorabilia) has been photographed and downloaded onto their website. This means that our collection now has a much wider viewing audience and also gives us the opportunity to search the collections of other exhibitors. This is a big progression for us but one which broadens our horizons and encourages us to proceed with further upgrades in the digital field.

We sincerely thank Wayne Rowley and his partner Felicity Edwards for their guidance and encouragement in this venture.

Many more plans are in train as we are heading further into the digital world.

Our Association was formed out of a need: a need to support rural women in their sometimes harsh, sometimes isolated environment. Conditions have changed, they tell us. But have they? There are still women and children struggling to find suitable accommodation, health and education support. We live in a wonderful State but there is still the desperate need for caring, discussion, conciliation, assistance—all the things which CWA of WA has been doing for one hundred years. We must not rest on our laurels but look for new ways to continue our 'service to the country and women'.

True women of spirit

This report would be remiss without acknowledging the dedication to the research and attention to detail obvious in the publication of *Women of Spirit – A Centenary of CWA Stories* by our committee members Pam Batten OAM HLM, Vivienne Rowney HLM and Jocelyn Mitchell. A truly commendable publication and we are so proud of your efforts!

As Coordinator I sincerely thank all members of the Archives team who, despite many personal challenges during the past year, have worked together to achieve our aim of maintaining the Association records in a safe, accessible, and retrievable manner and our friendships have continued to grow!

Beverley Duckett
Coordinator/Chairperson

EDITOR'S REPORT

How exciting to be writing this report as CWA of WA celebrates 100 years of service to the Western Australian community and contributing to South Pacific area projects through the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW). Celebrating the contributions of countless women, past and present, is a genuine honour.

The first edition of *The Countrywoman of Western Australia* magazine was published in June 1934. Given the tough post-war years between the inaugural meeting and the magazine's appearance, it is amazing to imagine that the membership had reached sufficient numbers to warrant and support the magazine's publication.

Having recently attended a Centenary celebration, I can assure you that experiencing the spirit of friendship continues to be one of the most blessed outcomes of becoming a CWA member. Another is 'the magazine' as it is generally known. It includes reports from all over Western Australia, covering business as dealt with by the Board and staff, reports by coordinators having a wide range of responsibilities, training information, promotions of upcoming events as well as paid advertisements, and everyone's favourites—the branch reports and photos of activities and celebrations. We also acknowledge members who are no longer with us, and welcome all new members. Members are asked to submit interesting cover photos.

The magazine is available in printed format, or members can choose to receive a digital version, whilst those members who are sight impaired may receive a recorded version. The cost of the magazine to members is included in the membership fees.

In honour of our Centenary, the appearance of the magazine has been changed, and the designers have cleverly modernised the appearance, whilst at the same time honouring the past. Thank you to all involved in this process, the result is stunning. Thank you also to Crystal Print, who have been beautifully printing the magazine for many, many years, and who have an ongoing commitment to minimising their impact on the environment.

I also take this opportunity to recognise and thank the proofreading team, who are not afraid to ask 'What does this mean?', and whose close inspection and wide range of CWA experience ensure that the magazine is accurate and as close to professional as we can make it. We meet twice for each magazine edition, and somehow make it a happy and friendly experience.

Elizabeth Scott

Editor, *The Countrywoman of Western Australia*

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The committee has been kept busy over the last twelve months and I thank Nola Cail (Willetton/Leeming Branch), Cathy Moffitt (Chittering/Bindoon Branch) and Susanne Sellers (Kings Park Branch) for all their help and ongoing support.

The need for assistance is greater than ever now, not just in Western Australia but all over the country. The struggle to be able to afford the basics, along with the cost of rents, mortgages, and insurances, continues to rise. This has put a strain on so many families and the number of those seeking help is increasing each week. The requests are varied, particularly the need for dementia and autism items over these past 12 months.

Before I give a list of items so far delivered this year, I wish to thank all members and non-members for their continued contributions to the Community Coordinator's section. To those Branches who have sent funds, this has made such a difference, and it means items can be purchased and delivered quickly. Your contributions help to bring joy and smiles to the recipients.

The following items have been delivered since July 2023:

Hospitals

St John of God Hospital (Midland), Royal Perth Hospital, Fiona Stanley Hospital (Fremantle), Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (Osborne Park), Bentley Hospital and Fremantle Hospital

- 132 fiddle rugs
- 75 muffs
- 17 sleeves
- 132 toiletries
- 50 dementia dolls
- 36 quilts
- 82 knee rugs
- 11 aprons
- 1010 feelie hearts
- 10 dignity bags
- 54 beanies
- 71 soft toys
- 32 Christmas bags
- 16 baby item wraps
- 12 rugs
- 10 bibs
- 4 grow suits
- 6 jackets
- 6 cot rugs
- 2 quilts.

Unlike in previous years, there has been a significant decrease in demand for baby items.



The Community Coordinator's display at the Open Day.



Community Services

New Mums

For new mothers who are experiencing financial difficulties, we supplied:

- 3 cots
- 2 prams/strollers
- 4 baby bundles
- various baby clothes, quilts, rugs, nappies, and toiletries.

Perth Children's Hospital

Mothers who have rushed their babies to Perth in an emergency often leave home with no personal essentials. Therefore, we delivered ladies' underwear, jumpers, clothing, and toiletries.

The Homeless

For those who are homeless, we distributed clothing, blankets, rugs, toiletries, female products, underwear (both male and female), socks and shoes.

Nursing Homes

Meath Care (Kingsley and Como), Brightwater (Subiaco), Mertome Aged Care (Bayswater), Carinya Care Services (Palmyra), Geraldton Care (Geraldton) and Gordon Lodge (Bayswater)

- 80 fiddle rugs
- 10 sleeves
- 61 muffs
- 54 dementia dolls
- 3 balls
- 66 knee rugs
- 27 quilts
- 90 toiletries
- 700 feelie hearts
- 4 aprons
- 36 beanies
- 6 dignity bags
- 30 Christmas bags.

Halls Creek Refuge Centre

211 items for babies, mums and children including clothing, toys, education supplies, shoes, and underwear.

Geraldton Sporting Aboriginal Corporation

3 deliveries of girls and boys clothing, toys, toiletries, and educational items.

Grandcarers WA Inc

Deliveries throughout the year including Christmas packs, children's clothing and toys, dignity bags and educational items.

Youth Care, Southwest Metropolitan

Deliveries were made twice this year with over 3000 feelie hearts and 120 care bears provided to support those in their care.

Youth Chaplain, Rockingham

Assisted with Educational Week and supplied nearly 700 feelie hearts and cards, plus a cash donation. Also supplied clothing, educational items, beanies, rugs, quilts, toiletries, shoes, and underwear.

6 This essential service would not be possible without the wonderful work that members and branches do. I wish to acknowledge the time and effort spent in purchasing items, working out patterns, as well as the time to cut sew, crochet or knit. Then, when completed, the goodies are delivered to the State Office for distribution around the State. It is an amazing service of which the CWA is so proud. 9

Delyse Ward
Community Coordinator

INTERNATIONAL AND ACWW COORDINATOR'S REPORT



ACWW World President
Magdie de Kock and
South Pacific Area President
Lyn Braico.



Badgingarra Branch members participating
in the 'Women Walk the World' project.



ACWW

We are proud to be affiliated with Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW). This organisation, made up of associations similar to CWA of WA, exists to empower rural women to be leaders in their communities and to amplify their voices, collect data on their living conditions and represent them at the United Nations. ACWW represents nine million women around the world with the strong voice of World President Magdie de Kock.

ACWW, in partnership with the United Nations and other organisations, runs grassroots projects. The first Rural Women in Action project for 2024 is 'Planting the Seeds of Peace', a twelve-month training course for Ukrainian refugee children. It is centred around the ecological growing of plants and vegetables at a school in Bucharest, Romania, where two hundred refugee children are hosted. For these children, school is more than just a place to learn. It provides a sense of safety, community and relief from the devastating effects of war.

Funding for ACWW comes from members of associations like ours which become society members or who donate through their branches. One valuable fundraiser is the Women Walk the World project where women around the world walk to encourage contributions to ACWW. Badgingarra Branch walked their community art trail, pausing at the Badgingarra Cemetery shelter.

Food Waste

A motion was passed at the ACWW World Conference in 2023 urging members to reduce food waste. CWA of WA supports this motion. There will be a competition run at our State Conference in July 2024 seeking innovative ways to achieve this as CWA members are all fabulous at recycling, re-using and avoiding waste.

South Pacific Area

ACWW has divided the world into different regions of interest. Our area is the South Pacific which covers Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, Tonga, Fiji, Kiribati and other island nations. Historically CWA of WA, along with our sister organisations in other parts of the South Pacific, have contributed to grassroots projects in the island nations.

However, a change in English Charitable Status law requiring all ACWW funds to be held in England has halted these projects. Hopefully, this is a temporary halt because the matter will be discussed at the South Pacific Area Conference to be held in Griffith in NSW in September 2024. A delegation from WA, supported by an enthusiastic group of observers is due to head to NSW to the Conference, which is chaired by Lyn Braico, South Pacific Area President.

Country of Study

Iceland, very much in the news for its volcanic activity, is this year's Country of Study. This Nordic Island nation, defined by its dramatic landscape with volcanoes, geysers, hot springs and lava fields is one of the most sparsely populated countries in Europe. The population is outnumbered by the whales, seals and puffins which can be seen cruising around its shores.

Most of the population lives in the capital, Reykjavik, on the southwest coast. Reykjavik runs on geothermal power which provides approximately 20% of Iceland's power, with hydroelectricity providing most of the rest. Iceland has become one of the first nations to generate most of its power from renewable sources.

Not only is Iceland an ecological example to the world, but it is also an example in peace. The Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne has a map of the Global Peace Index for 2023. Of 163 countries Iceland is the most peaceful, Australia ranks 22nd and Afghanistan ranks 163rd. Maybe 2024 has brought some drastic changes to this index, but I am sure Iceland is still No 1.

Stamps and Specs

Members are champions at collecting and donating used postage stamps and reading glasses. Since July last year I have sent off around 7kg of glasses and stamps!

The glasses go to the Lions Eye Institute and the stamps are sent to Gail Commens, former South Pacific Area President. She passes them to a dealer and the proceeds are put in a SPA Conference account to help Island Nation women attend the conference in Griffiths.

Do not throw away your old glasses or stamps! Please collect them and they will be used to help someone, somehow, somewhere in the world.

Sara Kenny HLM

International & ACWW Coordinator

Eruption of the Fagradalsfjall volcano, Iceland in 2021.



MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT REPORT

I proudly have completed 12 months in this newly created role; and I feel greatly enthusiastic about the projects ahead and the warmth of welcome.

During my first 26 weeks, I visited a new branch each week, to learn the routines, the activities and the powers of friendship and service. I have summarised some of my observations.

Members and Branches

As of 31st March 2024, there were 1946 members in 126 branches.

During 2023–2024, Narrogin Belles started an evening group, and a re-formed Beacon Branch has commenced. Ajuna Binu Branch in the Midwest closed after 90 years of service.

Significant Branch birthdays were celebrated by the following Branches:

- 95 years – Mingenew and Narrogin
- 90 years – Nyabing
- 85 years – Mt Barker, Yarloop
and Serpentine and Districts
- 75 years – Dwellingup
- 55 years – Melville/Fremantle
- 35 years – Postal
- 15 years – Ord Valley and Perth Belles
- 10 years – Champion Bay
- 5 years – Bindoon Belles and Karratha and Districts.



Celebrating Nyabing's 90th anniversary.

Flexible activities

Our Branch Leaders (Office Bearers) deserve great respect and appreciation. There is an increasing need for flexible thinking from our Branch Leaders. They are having to adapt from traditional branch activities and expectations, to meet the current age and ability of our members.

Many branches with ageing members are planning low-energy activities with a greater emphasis on fundraising and friendship, to ensure more members can participate.

Many branches with younger-aged members are planning high-energy activities with a greater emphasis on service delivery and education, by reducing the amount of activities to meet the 'time-poor' needs of working members. Similarly, these CWA events are increasingly held at night or weekends, to ensure both the CWA members and working members of the public can attend.

Tweaking traditions

The Association's loyal, long-standing members are faced with a difficult journey of change, to become more flexible in their thinking. These women are having to adapt, tweak or forego some of the traditional practices of the CWA to ensure our Association remains attractive and relevant to younger members. Please congratulate those members who understand practices must evolve for the greater good of branch and State survival.

Sharing Branch roles

There are similar strengths which make a branch thrive with energy and activity! These happy and healthy branches show flexible decision-making, evolving procedures or rules, and the sharing of branch roles to a maximum number of members.

Sharing some responsibility of branch roles between many members can empower member self-confidence, skill ability and enjoyment, and reduce workload for office bearers, who can concentrate on other tasks.

It is vital that more members take up a position within their branch, to ensure their branch can survive in the years ahead. Roles such as a Branch Brief reporting, hall hiring, social planning, property maintenance, fundraising collectors, stall organisers are some roles that can be shared.

Learning and Development

The Learning and Development (L&D) team play an important role to re-examine some CWA traditions, to offer heartfelt support to evolving branches and to reinforce best practices. Thank you to team members Kay Cunnold, Annette Howard, Sara Kenny HLM and Audrey Sully.

To our longest-standing branches, as well as new branches, please invite the L&D team to visit and sprinkle some fun, wisdom and reassurance at your next meeting.

Committee representation

CWA of WA is experiencing the oldest average membership in our history. Furthermore, our younger members are part of CWA's highest full-time workforce. These two demographics give reason why State Committee representation will increasingly have a new look and direction.

Similarly, these two demographics explain why CWA of WA is starting to redirect how we become involved in Research and Advocacy of social issues, state-wide campaigning, and general promotion of our Association. I look forward to exploring these new opportunities with members.

Social media communication

Rockingham Branch member, Elaine Smith, has brought extraordinary creativity, passion and thoroughness to heighten CWA promotion, via our social media channels. Elaine ignites public interest with cheery and informative posts about CWA. Furthermore, she is providing interactive coverage of the Branch Brief and Branch News via the Members Only Page.



To those apprehensive about Facebook, it is possible to open a free account and follow family and CWA only. Give it a go!

Helping hands

State Office staff enjoy the bonus of connecting face-to-face with members, who use State Office workrooms as a base. There is always an opinion to be sought, a tradition to check, and even a yummy home-baked biscuit nearby! It is warming to see the teamwork and commitment of the special interest groups and volunteers of the Association.

These include Event helpers Sara Kenny HLM and Faye Wilkinson; Community Sewing with Glenys Brown and friends; Crafters with Muriel Barron and friends; Friends of the House with Yvonne Pether and her helpers; Home-Farm-Garden with Glenys Brown and friends; Prothesis with Helen Gallop and friends.

Thank you

As CWA of WA enters our next century of service, I am invigorated to visit more branches, and support new projects and committees. I look forward to meeting more of you soon.

Megan DePiaz

Events and Membership Engagement Officer



CRAFT AND GIFT SHOP

It is gratifying to report that sales for the Craft and Gift Shop have continued to improve. Sales for the year from March 2023 have generated a profit of \$2,700 for CWA.

Three events that boosted our sales were the Boorloo Festival in April 2024, State Conference and the annual Christmas Stall. We hope these events will once again be successful.

The Shop continues to be a valuable showcase and attraction for the CWA. We have a number of customers who like to regularly call in to check the stock. We also have customers who visit especially as a family member has a newborn baby and they want a beautifully crafted gift.

The continued support of our members who create the delightful array of quality items is greatly appreciated. As always, new contributors are most welcome.

Once again it has been a pleasure to have the support and friendship of Mrs Julie Edwards, Mrs Marianne Hasson and Mrs Zulma Shubert. We are also most grateful for the continued support of Mr Matthew Pether.

Yvonne Pether

Craft and Gift Shop Coordinator

AWARDS AND GRANTS



Honorary Life Members

- 1989 Jean King OAM JP HLM (Walkaway)
- 1992 Jean Walker HLM (Wanneroo)
- 1996 Barbara Dinnie OAM HLM (Dalwallinu & Districts)
- 1999 Barbara Kelly OAM HLM (Mandurah)
- 2004 Helen Armstrong HLM (Mt Helena/Parkerville)
- 2005 Rosa Tognela HLM (Bunbury)
- 2007 Sue Dunne HLM (Willetton/Leeming)
- 2010 Pamela Batten OAM HLM (Champion Bay)
- 2013 Lesley Langley HLM (Claremont)
- 2014 Marianne Nilsson HLM (York)
- 2014 Vivienne Rowney HLM (Kings Park)
- 2015 Merle Henning AM HLM (Koorda)
- 2015 Valerie Moylan HLM (South Perth/Como)
- 2016 Margaret Sullivan OAM JP HLM (Lake Varley)
- 2016 Pat Twiss HLM (Nannup)
- 2018 Maureen Wilson HLM (Cottesloe)
- 2020 Margaret Hector AFSM HLM (Kings Park)
- 2021 Sara Kenny HLM (Badgingarra)
- 2022 Tupp Biggs HLM (Serpentine & Districts)
- 2022 Wendy Ayers HLM (Balingup)
- 2023 Heather Allen HLM (Champion Bay)
- 2023 Gloria Campbell HLM (Wanneroo)

Honour Badge

Awarded for at least 10 years outstanding service to the Association.

The following members were awarded Honour Badges from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024:

Helen Browne	Capel
Karyn Collins	Caversham
Ada Fawcett	Serpentine and Districts
Helen Gallop	Associate
Coral Hall	Brookton
Lesley McNee OAM	Koorda
Jocelyn Mitchell	Western Suburbs
Anne Radys	Mount Barker
Elizabeth Scott	Kings Park
Frances Sillitto	Victoria Park
Raelene Thomas	Victoria Park

Loyal Service Badge

Awarded for at least 10 years of loyal service to the Association.

The following members were awarded Loyal Service Badges from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024:

Kaye Amen	Wanneroo
Kay Anderson	York
Jan Baker	Dunsborough
Margaret Barrett-Lennard	York
Katy Beales	Midland
Helen Browne	Capel
Ruth Buttsworth	Dunsborough
Jennifer Burton	Yarloop
Jenny Counsel	Wanneroo
Sandra Creagh	Dunsborough
Joyce Daniel	Badgebup/Rockwell
Joan Edom	York
Di Eva	Brookton
Margaret Evans	Wanneroo
Jackie Farmer	Perth Belles
Chris Forbes	Melville/Fremantle
Chooi Gangatharan	Bunbury
Trixie Hampton	Tambellup
Judy Hawter	Balingup
Kathy Haynes	Toodyay
Dee Hutchinson	Koorda
Robin Jenkinson	York
Dixie Mackenzie	Toodyay
Elizabeth Mansom	Toodyay Associate
Carole McCartan	York
Sue Meredith	Caversham
Stephanie Miles	Yarloop
Margaret Moore	Kings Park
Di Morgan	Koorda
Thalma Nazzari	Tambellup
Anne Nicholson	York
Constance O'Brien	Wanneroo
Dianne Ogden	York
Jennifer Parker	Dunsborough
Karen Parrick	Bunbury
Jean Payne	Denmark
Maria Pepe	Toodyay
Jessie Proctor	Denmark
Felicity Ranger	York
Averil Redfern	Denmark
Wendy Rose	Wanneroo
Sue Saberton	Dunsborough
Pam Senior	Serpentine and Districts
Trish Stewart	Brookton
Margaret Tresidder	Mount Helena/Parkerville
Margaret Trigg	Chittering/Bindoon
Wynne Tucker	Dunsborough
Debra Tyler	Yarloop
Glenis Waldron	Coorow/Waddy Forest
Helen Walter	Morawa
Margot Watkins	Toodyay
Maria Yolanda-Tate	Coorow/Waddy Forest



Clarice Rudduck Memorial Award: Joint Winners

This award was established in 1962 by Mr. S Rudduck in memory of his wife who was the foundation President of the Coorow Branch and a member of State Council. The award is presented annually to the CWA branch that exhibits the finest community effort for the previous year.

This award was shared by:

- **Bedforddale Branch** formed in 2017 and has 21 members, most of whom work full- or part-time. Despite this, the branch held bush markets, a Christmas in July and Mother's Day high tea for 60 people with monies raised going to a number of different local community groups. They provided volunteer services to the Salvation Army on numerous occasions.
- **Victoria Park Branch** was formed in 1963 and has 12 members. During the year members supported local grass roots organisations as well as volunteering at the Boronia Pre-release Centre for Women, bringing weekly craft sessions to incarcerated residents who showed significant improvements in self-esteem because of these sessions. The branch also applied for and receive a grant to paint a mural at a local park in honour of local resident Alex Mann who was a Vietnam Veteran.



From left: The Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC, Minister of Agriculture and Food, Forestry and Small Business, Fran Sillitto from Victoria Park Branch, Penny Stapleton from Bedforddale Branch and State President Anne Gething.

CWA Community Project Grant —Woodanilling Branch

Awarded \$10,000

This grant was established to provide financial assistance to branches wishing to undertake a significant project in their local community or to fund maintenance to their CWA meeting room.

It was awarded to the Woodanilling Branch which is an essential community group in the small town of 423 people. The branch building is used for community library swaps, a fortnightly play group and monthly meetings and catering events. This grant will go towards upgrading the hot water system and installing air conditioning which in turn will provide a safe and comfortable centre for all the community members using the centre.

CWA Young Volunteer of the Year Award—Piers Anspach

Awarded \$1000

The Young Volunteer of the Year Award was established to recognise the importance of volunteering and to be a positive focus for young volunteers who serve as role models in their community. The award is open to young people, male or female, between the ages of 15 and 30.

Koorunga Branch nominated Piers Anspach who has been an active volunteer in his local community for most of his life. He grew up in Wannamal and participated in both cubs and scouts, the Wannamal Bush Fire Brigade, and the Wannamal Community Centre undertaking volunteer activities such as tree planting, roadside rubbish collection, car washes, busy bees, grounds maintenance, and fundraising events. He helped Koorunga CWA with their 'wellie boot toss' activity, helping younger children participate.

Shire, City and State Awards given to CWA Members in 2024

- Kevin Henderson Memorial Award – Volunteer was awarded to Dorothy Ricetti, Boyup Brook Branch.
- Senior Community Citizen of the Year was awarded to Christine Watson, Jennacubbine Branch.
- Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Bonnie Telfer, Darkan Branch.
- Young Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Skye Smith, Bindoon Belles Branch.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

CWA Rural Medical Scholarship

Since its inception in 2007, the Rural Medical Scholarship worth \$10,000 per annum has been for studying medicine at UWA. The aim of the Motion, put by the Mt Barker Branch, was to encourage medical graduates to practise in rural areas when they graduated.

Notre Dame and Curtin Universities now offer medical degrees with the Rural Clinical School, organising all rural, regional and remote student placements in WA. Students may spend a year on clinical placement during their medical course at centres including Albany, Narrogin, Broome, Geraldton, Karratha, Esperance and Bunbury. Research shows that students who undertake a rural placement during their studies are more likely to choose to work in country areas upon graduation. Undertaking rural placements, however, also places financial pressure on students, thereby acting as a disincentive for students.

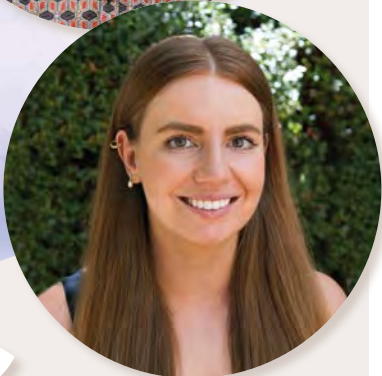
The CWA of WA is now working closely with the Rural Clinical School in order to make the Rural Medical Scholarship accessible to all medical students in WA, targeting students who show an interest in rural practice. In 2024, it was decided to make the Scholarships available to four students on rural placement. These scholarships are worth \$2500 each and were awarded to:

- Mikala Bower
- Connor Earnshaw
- David Lochore
- Stephanie MacPherson.

This process will be reviewed during the year and adjusted in consultation with the Rural Clinical School.

Alexander Lawrie graduates

Alexander Lawrie, our CWA Rural Medical Scholarship Recipient from 2021 to 2023, completed his Doctor of Medicine at the University of Western Australia at the end of last year. He has commenced as a doctor at Royal Perth Hospital and is enjoying his current rotation in Geriatric Medicine. Alexander will work across several areas this year and complete his internship with 11 weeks at Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital – where his passion for rural medicine will be put to the test. He extends his thanks to the Association for financially assisting him during the last three years for a total of \$30,000 and allowing him to realise his dream of becoming a doctor.



From top: Scholarship recipients Mikala Bower, Connor Earnshaw, David Lochore and Stephanie MacPherson.

CWA Rural Dental Scholarships

Mt Many Peaks Branch instigated the Rural Dental Scholarship for students studying dentistry at UWA in 2012.

Since then, three students completing their dental studies have received the CWA Dental Scholarship valued at \$5000 per annum. In 2023, two Doctor of Dental Medicine students from UWA, Jim Rae and Peter Dignam, have been joint recipients of the scholarship. Both Jim and Peter are very committed to rural dental practice and are fine examples of the value of the CWA scholarship program. The Dental Scholarship will next be awarded in the 2026 academic year.

The CWA/CTA Henderson Field Rural Nursing Scholarship

Once again, we thank the Commercial Traveller's Association for their generosity in providing the funds for this scholarship since 2017.

The successful recipients for this year are:

- **Clancy Huggins** (\$2,000): Bachelor of Nursing specialising in Midwifery
- **Emily Tucknott** (\$2,000): Postgraduate Certificate in Remote Health Practice.



From top: Scholarship recipients Jim Rae, Peter Dignam, Clancy Huggins and Emily Tucknott.

CWA EDUCATION BURSARIES

Education assistance has always been a priority for the Association since its early history and continues to be an important part of CWA's service delivery.

CWA Member Education Bursary

- **Alysia Kepert** (Darkan Branch) \$2,000: Studying an Agricultural Health and Medicine Residential Unit

CWA Lower Secondary Education Bursaries (Years 7–10)

- **Isobel Cooper** (\$750)
- **Max Tammen** (\$750)
- **Oliver Gaunt** (\$750)

CWA Upper Secondary Education Bursaries (Years 11 & 12)

- **Luke Tammen** (\$1,500)
- **Amariah Stenton** (\$1,500)

CWA Tertiary Education Scholarships

- **Jessica Brooks** (\$1,000): Bachelor of Social Work
- **Hallie Anderson** (\$1,000): Bachelor of Nursing
- **Miranda Fahie** (\$1,000): Master of Teaching
- **Jamie King** (\$1,000): Bachelor of Education (Secondary)





PARTNERSHIPS AND SPONSOR RELATIONSHIPS

ABC Rug Up Perth

In July 2023, the CWA of WA was asked by the ABC in Perth to participate in Rug Up Perth, held during the morning broadcast in the ABC studios. CWA Members and other volunteers knitted and crocheted rugs, beanies and scarves which were then distributed to Perth's homeless people. This was a wonderful opportunity to show and tell the community how the Association improves the lives of others in need.

Quality Hotel Ambassador Perth and Comfort Inn & Suites Goodearth Perth

The CWA is deeply appreciative of the support by Jeromy Cotterill, General Manager of the Quality Hotel Ambassador Perth, and the Comfort Inn & Suites Goodearth Perth for looking after Board Members when they attend Board Meetings.

Audika

The CWA of WA is in its third year of the Audika sponsorship where members and branches can take advantage of information sessions and free hearing screening.

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Partnership

The CWA of WA has entered a five-year contract with the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority for its biodiversity program to cultivate five native plants from 2024 to 2028 to be named after prominent CWA of WA members and sold through nurseries throughout the State. The plants are designed to be climate change resistant and sustainable, and the Association will not only receive invaluable publicity from the program but also a portion of the sales of each plant.

CBH

The CBH, through the Harvest Mass Management Scheme, donated a very generous \$60,000 to the CWA to be used in grain growing areas for the benefit of the local communities. These funds have been put to good use in repairing some of the CWA Halls so that they provide greater amenity for the community groups using them.

City of Perth's Boorloo Heritage Festival

In readiness for the Centenary Year, the CWA of WA became a participating organisation for the Boorloo Heritage Festival and held an Open Day at the State Office in April 2023 to celebrate the Association's continuous relationship with the City of Perth. Delicious morning and afternoon teas were served on the verandahs of the State Office, the community coordination and archives program had beautiful displays, the sewing and prosthesis groups showcased their work and there was a children's activity centre. The cooking demonstrations were done by Fleur Spronk (Perth Belles) and Tjala Leysley (Melville Fremantle). Over 250 people attended with many people purchasing from the Craft and Gift shop and other CWA merchandise.

From top: Participants in 2023 Rug Up Perth knitting and crocheting rugs, beanies and scarves for people in need; and CEO Trish displays one of the items made.

The Association received a very generous donation from Mr Ian Junk towards the Centenary BGPA plant program, in memory of his mother and CWA member, Mrs Eleanor Junk.

Jenny McGillvray (on left) and Dorothy Crogan at a cooking demonstration on Open Day 2023.



CSBP

Kaisa Freeman and Eva Quilty have provided invaluable assistance to the CWA in terms of technical expertise but also with sponsorship for the Centenary Field Day Stalls and the media and communications plan for the Centenary.

Grandparents Rearing Grandchildren (Inc)

The partnership has gone from strength to strength with many branches making donations to GRG (now Grandcarers WA Inc). and hosting information sessions with GRG.

Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia

The CWA provides sponsorship prizes for the cookery section of the Royal Show. In turn, the CWA has space in the Ellie Eaton Pavilion to sell merchandise and provide the Time for Tea stall. Branch members volunteer their time to talk to patrons about the activities of the CWA and sell merchandise.

Thanks to the Royal Show Committee, comprising of Karyn Collins, Dorothy Crogan, Margaret Hector AFSM HLM, Stephanie Miles and Sue Meredith, for their hard work over the years. In 2023, over 2800 delicious biscuits made by members were distributed during the Show for a gold coin donation. Discussions are currently being held with the RAS for the CWA Centenary Celebrations.

Right: Kaisa Freeman of CSBP at the 2023 State Conference.

Below: The 2023 Rural Health West Christmas donation.



Rural Clinical School

The CWA has formed a productive relationship with the Rural Clinical School to discuss the CWA Medical Scholarship. As there are now three Medical Schools in WA, namely Curtin University, Notre Dame University and the University of Western Australia, it is important that all medical students can apply for this scholarship and that it is awarded to students who have an interest in rural medicine.

Rural West

The CWA of WA has an ongoing relationship with Rural West which makes referrals to the Sir James Mitchell Fund or the DGR Community Fund for their clients who are suffering financial distress and at risk of suicide.

Salvation Army Emergency Services

The Salvation Army provides a coordinated approach for members and branches to assist in times of emergencies. Using the Salvation Army catering vans, members can contribute by cooking for people affected by natural disasters as well as the emergency crews.



SUPPORTERS OF CWA OF WA

- **Advance Housing Albany:** Member of the Albany consortium
- **Albany Community Foundation:** Member of the Albany consortium
- **Anglicare:** Member of the Albany consortium
- **Audika:** sponsorship
- **Barretts:** Field Day design
- **CBH Mass Harvest Scheme:** donated \$60,000 to assist branches in the surrounding grain growing areas
- **Chalice Mining:** provided funds for the Toodyay Branch's roof
- **CSBP:** provided sponsorship for several Centenary-related activities



Anne Gething State (CWA of WA State President), Anne Marie Lockyer (Member of Tambellup CWA) and Simon Stead (Chairman of CBH Group).

- **Commercial Travellers Association of WA (Inc):** provided funds for the Post Graduate Nursing Scholarship
- **Elysian Consulting – Greg Cash:** provision of Strategic, Governance and Property advice
- **Estate of the late Anne Patricia Rigby:** provided \$20,000
- **Estate of the late Mr Edward Smith:** provided \$50,000
- **Foundation of Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR):** provided funds for the Darkan Branch Building upgrade
- **Jackson McDonald:** Legal services
- **Mr Ian Junk:** generously donated \$100,000 for the Centenary Plant Program at Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority
- **Lotterywest:** Grants received by branches during the year
- **Quality Hotel Ambassador Perth:** CWA Member discounts
- **Royal Agricultural Society of WA:** provision of promotional space
- **Rural Health West:** provides annual donations
- **Sign On:** Billboard on CWA State Office
- **Stylus Design:** Graphic design
- **Telstra:** Sponsorship



PARTNERS AND AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

- Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority
- City of Perth
- Girl Guides WA
- Grandcarers WA Inc.
- Karrakatta Club
- Linkwest WA
- Men's Shed
- National Trust of Western Australia
- Rural Clinical School (UWA)
- Rural, Regional and Remote Women's Network
- Rural West
- Salvation Army Emergency Services
- Seniors Recreation Council of WA (Inc)
- Sixteen Days in WA Campaign (Ending Domestic Violence)
- SOS Fracture Alliance
- Volunteering WA

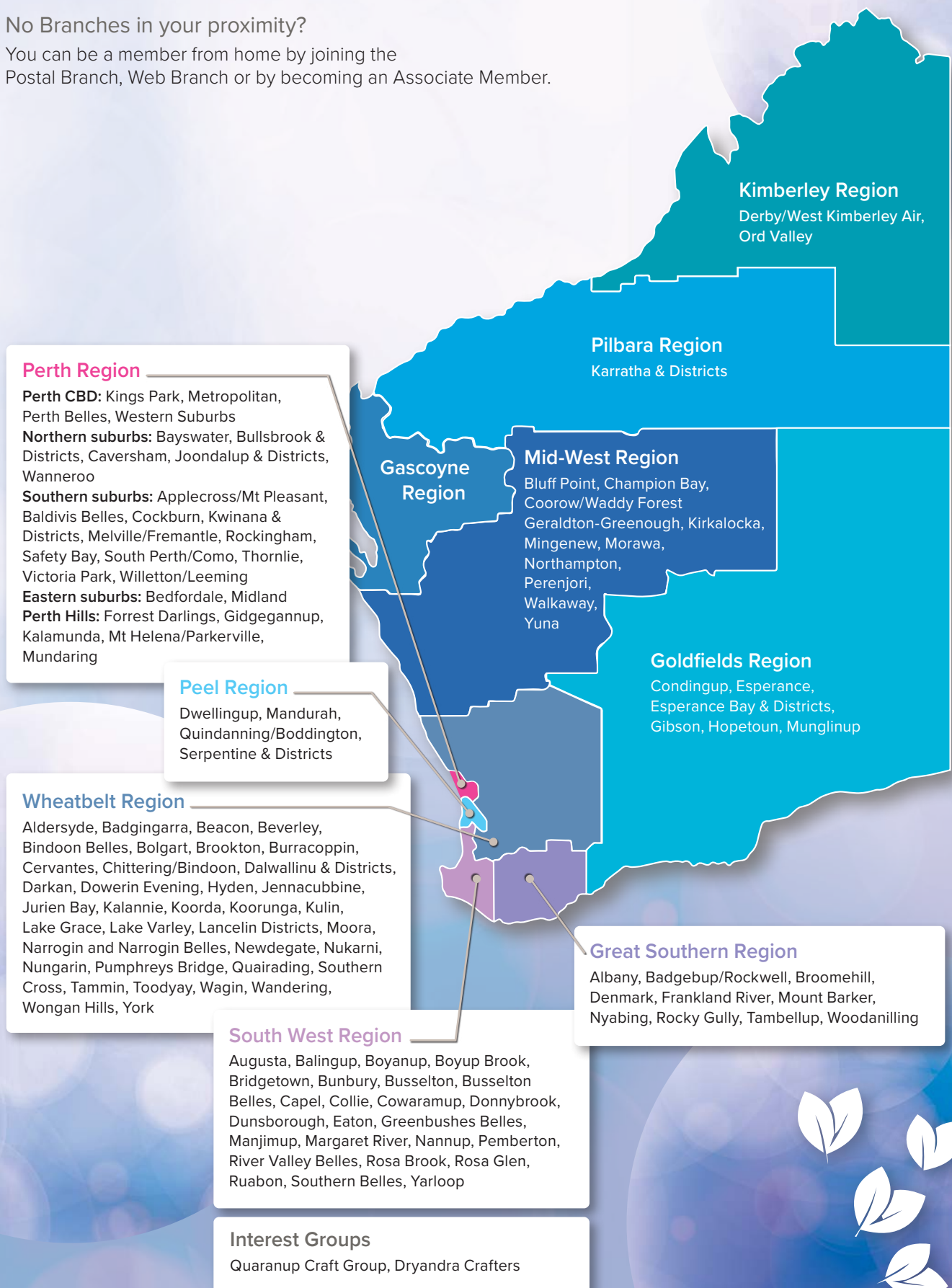
MEDIA ORGANISATIONS

- Australian Broadcasting Commission
- Channel 9
- Countryman
- Farm Weekly
- GWN
- Have-a-Go News
- Little Aussie Directories
- 7 West Media (regional newspapers)
- The West Australian

THE BRANCHES OF CWA OF WA

No Branches in your proximity?

You can be a member from home by joining the Postal Branch, Web Branch or by becoming an Associate Member.



The majestic trees lining Fraser Avenue in Kings Park were illuminated with blue lights on International Women's Day 2024 in honour of the CWA of WA's Centenary...

