

I N F O R M

Catholic Women's League Archdiocese of Sydney

October/November/December





President's Report

It is hard to believe this year is closing quickly when it seems only a short time ago, we were celebrating the new year, 2023.

Much of 2023 has been busy setting up our new office in Harrington Street, The Rocks. Many of you have been to functions here, or just popped in to see the results of our hard work. I am happy to say I have heard nothing but good comments. If you haven't visited yet we will be happy to welcome you when you visit.

Apart from our move to new offices we have been busy with meetings, and co-ordinating help and assistance to our many good causes. Some of these I have mentioned specifically in this report.

Before moving on I extend a big thank you to the St Parrick's community and staff, particularly John Attneave the Parish Manager, who have been so welcoming and supportive in every respect.

Our August Mass was celebrated at St Patrick's by Fr Paul SM, and we received a warm welcome from him and from Fr Michael Whelan SM, Parish Priest. After Mass we returned to our new offices where 47 members enjoyed lunch and a long chat.

Tex Quirk, Jay Turner, and I attended the National Council of Women of NSW Inc Australia Day awards presentation at University of Technology, Sydney. We had sponsored Mariatu, a refugee from Sierra Leone, with a grant of \$1,000.00. Mariatu will later this year graduate with a Bachelor of Social Work. We wish her all the very best for the future.

I cannot leave this subject without again acknowledging the generous donation of \$10,000.00 from our long term and faithful member, Merle Smith. Thank you so much Merle.

Our opening Mass was held on 14th February 2023 and celebrated by our Chaplain, Fr. Greg Morgan. We were delighted to welcome 48 members, our largest gathering since before COVID. No doubt our guest speaker, Leila Abdallah, was a great draw card. She is an inspirational speaker and a truly committed catholic, and we were very privileged to hear her story of despair and forgiveness.

We received this fantastic report from Bruce Carr regarding the Delaney college scholarship of twins Charbella and Galia. Bruce thanked the Catholic Women's League for its support and commented the girls have been a significant part of a student leadership team and on personal

levels are tracking well to meet our high expectations of them as strong Catholic young ladies.

Bede Polding College at Windsor has been selected as the recipient of our scholarship of \$15,000.00 for 2024/2025. The College has selected a young lady, Melanie, whose family has been through heartbreak and financial loss, having had their home flooded in the last 2 flood events. Melanie has only recently been told of the scholarship and she has sent CWL a lovely letter in which she says "I'd like to thank CWL and express my gratitude for this wonderful opportunity. I will continue to strive in my learning and prove that this scholarship will greatly benefit me on my journey of faith".

Congratulations to Monica Doumit on her very successful speaking tour in the USA, and on her current trip to Rome accompanying Archbishop Fischer OP at the Synod. You are an inspiration Monica.

The Branch Meeting on September 12 was again commenced by Mass at St Patrick's and followed by lunch. Another delightful day, with an informative and enjoyable presentation from the Hope Foundation representative. We appreciate your presence and support for these meetings.

Congratulations to the Jean Arnot Lunch nominees, Margaret Hinds and Marlene Wallace, both of whom have been faithful CWL members for very many years and richly deserve their awards.

The CWL Executive and other members travelled to Terrigal in September for the State Conference. This was both informative and enjoyable. Congratulations to Michelle and her hard-working team on a very successful conference.

Our October Branch Meeting was again commenced by Mass at St Patrick's and followed by lunch. Mass will be a permanent feature for Branch meetings. We were entertained by Fr Greg who spoke about his experiences during a recent trip to Mexico.

We have organised a reflection day on Thursday, 30th November in preparation for Advent. Our speaker that day will be St Patrick's Parish Priest, Fr Michael Whelan. I hope there will be a good attendance for this day.

We are considering a permanent move for our Branch Meetings from the 2nd Tuesday to the 3rd Thursday each month. Our research suggests the change may better suite current members and open



President's Report continued..

opportunities for attracting new members. Our proposal will add another event with the 2nd Tuesday each month as a “drop in” day for Mass and a social get together.

Congratulations to all the Branches who have run successful functions and have donated generously to our Project of the Year.

My sincere thank you to my Executive who have been so supportive during a very trying and busy year. A special thank you to Jacqui, our office Manager and Executive Secretary (my right-hand assistant), to whom nothing is too much trouble, and all duties are carried out promptly and with a joyful heart.

During the year we have lost three very valued members, Shirley Hofman member of Enfield, Rita Lucas founding member of Summer Hill and founding member of CWL Five Dock, Barbara Walsh, they are deeply missed. We hope they are enjoying peace and quiet in the presence of their God. I extend my sympathy to their loved ones.

Finally, may I extend to all CWL members and their families and loved ones a prayerful and happy Christmas, and a healthy and prosperous new year full of vigour and enthusiasm for the work of CWL Sydney.

God Bless you all,

Margaret



Some of our CWL Sydney members enjoying the festivity at the CWLA State Conference.

CWL Treasurer's Report

This year had the potential of being quite disruptive due to the removal of the CWL office to St. Patricks, Church Hill. A mammoth task which, thanks to Jacqui Keady, our Office Manager, was eventually undertaken with a minimum of upheaval. As time progresses, we are settling in, and it is beginning to feel comfortable. Our furnishings etc. though extensive, were largely subsidised, financially, by a donation from Merle Smith, a long-standing member of CWL.

As a result of CWL fundraising efforts we have been able to support the Project of the Year, The Farm at Galong with donations amounting to \$10,690, with and extra \$2,000 as a result of a deal offered by 'Hands across Canberra,' where we donated \$1,000 and they matched it.

A special thanks to Gymea Branch for their efforts in raising over \$4,000 at a most enjoyable High Tea. We are again preparing Pamper Packs for the residents at the Farm, which this year include a baby girl of 4 months. These Pamper Packs will be given out at Christmas.

We have donated \$500 to Kafta Minds and to David's Place; \$1,000 to the Jesuit Social Services Food Bank and to the CWL State Conference. Our biscuits in the Office were purchased from and in support of Aruma Disability Services (formerly The House with no steps.)

We awarded a scholarship of \$15,000 to a student at Bede Polding College, whose family were devastated when their

home was inundated with floodwaters twice, and they lost everything.

The scholarship will enable them to cover costs and move forward with their daughter's education. We are still sponsoring our student, Valaria, at the School of St. Jude (\$720 p.a.) We also sponsored Mariata, our NCW nominated awardee, in tertiary education (\$1,000,) at the 'Celebrate Being an Australian' Lunch earlier in the year.

Financially, we are now receiving \$20,000 income each month from our \$8 million investment with Escala giving us a budget to work to, which enables us to keep better control of our expenditure and saves us having to drawn down from our \$1.6 million investment.

Catholic Women's League Sydney Archdiocese has 187 financial members this year, 2023. Annual Membership Fees will be due and payable early in the New Year; February/March for 2024. Fees remain unchanged at \$35 for Branch Members, and \$40 for Diocesan Members. Your early payment would be appreciated.

It has been an unsettled year for CWL with the extra financial burden of moving to Harrington Street; the setup and equipping of the Office, the Kitchen and Dining Area. On the whole, it all went very well, and we hope to see you soon at our new venue and look forward to your ongoing support in 2024.

Tex Quirk
Hon. Treasurer

CWL Secretary's Report

It has been such a BIG Year for us here at CWL. We have had so much going on including the move to our beautiful, warm-hearted St Patrick's Church Hill.

Both Branch Members and Diocesan Members have participated in a vast amount of activities.

As Tex mentioned in her Treasury update we currently have 187 Members, almost a 10% increase on memberships from 2022. Well done to all who have helped bring more members to CWL. We look forward to conducting more events and social days here at CWL Sydney to draw even more lovely members.

We have an incredible group of members involves in many Parish/Archdiocesan ministries, Parish fundraising, Church timetables, Working Bees and Bingo!

Over the year Members have participated in:

- Knitting for Wrapped with Love
- Rosary Donations for Mary's Missions
- World Day of Prayer
- Raffles x 9
- Walk with Christ Procession through Sydney
- Annual Mass for Deceased CWL Members at St Thomas and St Patrick, Summer Hill
- Our Lady of the Assumption Procession, Five Dock
- Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ

Procession, Concord West

- St Patrick's Church Hill Tour
- Silver Circles x 4
- Two Amazing Fashion Parades
- Corpus Christi Procession, Gympie
- Stations of the Cross
- Stations of the Light
- High Teas x 2
- Reflection Days
- Retreat Days
- Mary MacKillop Place Visit
- Jewish Museum Visit
- Sisters of Charity Heritage Centre Visit
- Kate from the Farm at Galong Presentation
- Many morning teas, afternoon teas and lunches, even a Coronation lunch!

Thank you to all for your incredible efforts this year, money raised throughout the year has gone to the Project of the Year for 22/23 and 23/24 – The Farm at Galong.

Thank you to all for your support, I love working with you, the councillors and Executive team! May Our Lady Help of Christians continue to bless us and guide us through to 2024 with more growth.

God Bless you all,

Jacqui Keady
Executive Secretary

News from WUCWO



The World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations, known to us as WUCWO, held their four yearly General Assembly, in Assisi in May 2023, and Monica Santamarina from Mexico, was elected President General until 2027. Catherine McGrath, the Regional Vice-President in our Asia-Pacific Region retired and Karen De Sousa from Adelaide, replaced her on the governing Board.

The transfer of the logistics of the World Day of Prayer, from the Australian Church Women Inc., to individual Parishes/Churches, caused some confusion, re the location and the distribution of resources in 2023. So a World Day of Prayer NSW Committee was formed, to organise the World Day of Prayer in NSW, in 2024. This Committee, consists of three Catholic members, Sr. Eli abeth Delaney, Croydon, Sue Meehan, Wollongong and myself, together with three from each of the other Christian Churches. They met several times during year, to encourage the future observance of the day and provide the service and material in various forms, to other participating groups.

The Monthly Messages and Art for Meditation from the WUCWO president General, which keeps us united in our task of ensuring respect for the rights of the human person and particularly for the rights of women, were circulated to all Branch Presidents, by inclusion in the monthly Branch Folders.

WUCWO Day 9th May, with the theme Living Synodality, was organised and celebrated at Polding Centre, with Mass and Prayers of Petition for a Synodal

Church, by our Chaplain Fr. Greg Morgan. This was followed by a luncheon and an enlightening talk by Guest Speaker Senior Counsel Margaret Cunneen.

Throughout the year I have:

Attended the CWL NSW State Conferences in Tamworth 6th. March and Terrigal on 17th September, where Dr. Hugh McDermott MP, gave valuable information on effective ways to submit submissions to Parliament, to ensure that they are read and receive attention. Jane Hollier from Catholic Care, also emphasised the necessity of providing an Advance Care Plan for when/if unable to make decisions regarding resuscitation and religiously appropriate care.

Observed and reported on the Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee Inquiry, into Current and Proposed Sexual Consent Laws in Australia, at a Public Hearing in the Swissotel Sydney on 27th. July

Attended the Annual Conference of the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia & ACT at the Presbyterian Ladies College, Croydon on 10th. July

With Pope Francis, we pray for Migrants and Refugees and the success of the October Synod, as we meet, work and socialise together, in our splendid new venue.

Jay Turner

WUCWO Intl/Sec



*Wishing you a
happy and holy
Christmas*

Congratulations Marlene



On the 11th October Tex Quirk and I were delighted to join CWL Peakhurst members in celebrating Marlene Wallace's 90th birthday.

The celebrations commenced with Mass followed by morning tea, Branch meeting and lunch. As Marlene was unable to attend the Jean Arnot lunch I was honoured to present Marlene with her certificate and gift bag from this event.

Sally Fennel
Councillor



Dear Margaret Blomfield and CWL Members,

I am a student from Bede Polding College, and I feel extremely privileged to have received a Full Scholarship for year eleven and twelve from the Catholic Women's League.

I'd like to thank you and all involved, and express my gratitude for this wonderful opportunity. I will continue to strive in my learning and prove that this scholarship will greatly benefit me on my journey of faith.

I will continue to grow with the Lord's love and show my appreciation to the Catholic Women's League for this support in flourishing my faith.

Thank you and God Bless,

Megan* (Name changed for privacy)

Help us brighten Christmas for those in need.

Donate Now



Your donation will directly help families and children in need.



CatholicCare
SYDNEY

CWL Five Dock's Fashion Parade





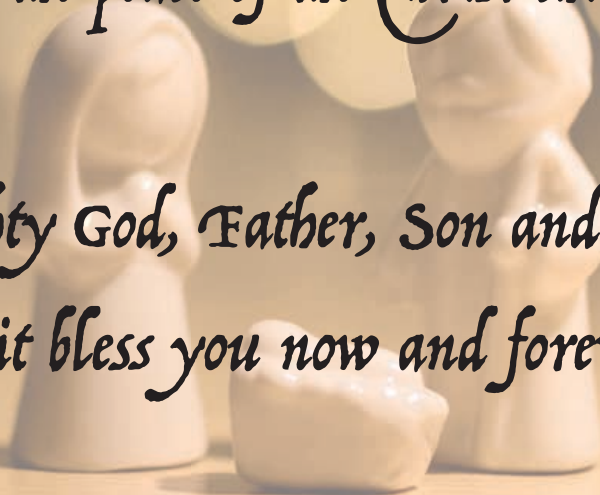
On behalf of our President Enza Ferrara and the Five Dock members, we wish to thank all CWL ladies from Sydney and other Branches who supported the Fashion Parade, held on 7 October.

Their attendance greatly contributed to the success of the event.

Mary Megna
Secretary
CWL Five Dock

*May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.*

*Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy
Spirit bless you now and forever.*



Dates for 2024

February 15

First Mass, Branch Meeting & Luncheon - Guest Speaker
Andrea Comastri
CEO of Hotel Etico

March 12

First Social Day at CWL

March 21

Mass, Branch Meeting and St Patrick's Luncheon



Where are our families?
HALF of Catholic children and teens are in Public Schools.

RESPOND TO THE CALL TO MISSION!

We will show you how to pray and explore Jesus' Good News with students as a Catechist or Helper.

FOR ENQUIRIES, SPEAK TO YOUR PARISH PRIEST OR GATECHIST COORDINATOR.

 Supporting Parish Catechists in Public Schools
 CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF AUSTRALIA
CCD.SYDNEYCATHOLIC.ORG



Are you thinking of updating your Will?

When you confirm a gift in your Will to the Catholic Women's League Archdiocese of Sydney, you become an eternal patron of your faith and the CWL Sydney.

We know and acknowledge that a gift in your Will is the greatest commitment you could make to sustain the future of our work through sponsorships and assisting those whom cannot survive without this vital assistance.

If this is something that interests you please contact Jacqui at the office for a confidential chat 02 9307 8383.



CWL Sydney Diocesan Membership Form

Name

Address

.....

.....

Phone

Email

(I am willing to receive information by email: Yes/No)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE \$40.00

PAYMENT DETAILS:

Direct Debit BSB 062784 A/c 100012612. Ref. your surname.

Following payment please email completed form to
admin@cwlsydney.org.au or petexq2@gmail.com

By cheque payable to *CWL Sydney* and forwarded with your completed form to Catholic Women's League Archdiocese of Sydney

141 Harrington Street, The Rocks NSW 2000

Enquiries (Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday) 9307 8383

Thank you!