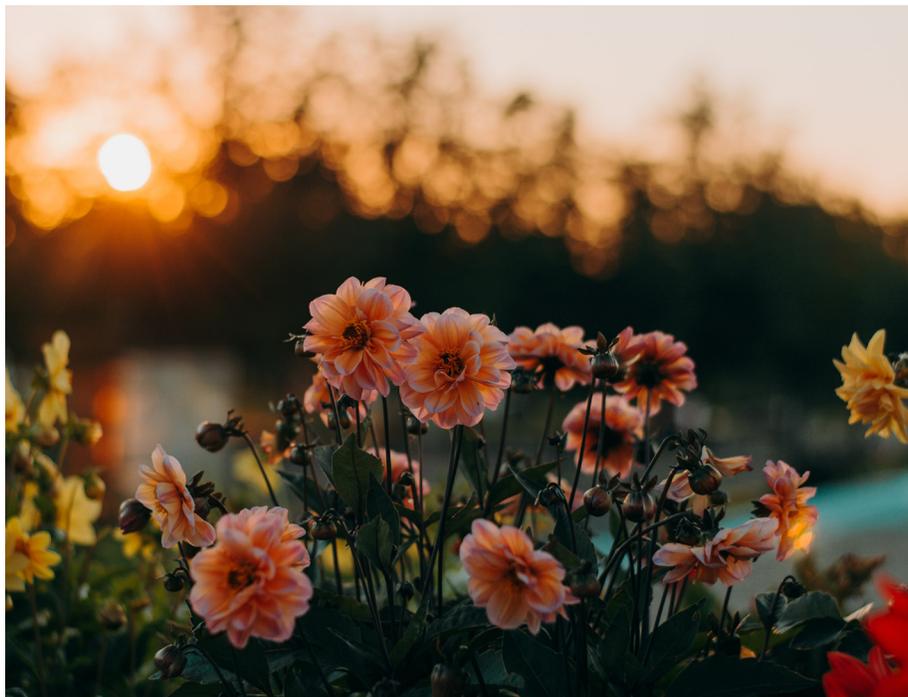


I N F O R M

*Catholic Women's League Archdiocese of Sydney
August/September/October 2019*



President's Message

How quickly 2019 is drawing to a close. The year has seen many successful and well attended functions.

Our Annual Mass and luncheon was an affirmation of the ongoing commitment of our members to CWL Sydney.

A meeting with Alison from the anti-slavery taskforce in the Polding Centre was informative and we were provided with a list of free trade products.

Seven members attended a one day conference in Wollongong and were impressed by the Mayor's welcome and the travels of a pilgrimage to the Holy Lands undertaken by a guest speaker.

Congratulations to Enfield branch on 40 years of dedication and service to CWL Sydney. A fantastic milestone!

Five CWL Sydney members travelled to the National Conference in Bunbury in early September. The conference was well supported by all states and ran like clockwork. The guest speakers were from varied backgrounds of Catholicism and attention was paid to the youth of the church.

And finally, our High Tea. What a great celebration of homemade savoury and sweet delights. Attendance exceeded our expectations and a big thank you to all who joined us. \$1000 was raised for our POY.

Our prayers go to all those with health problems both Physical and mental. As the year rushes towards an end I wish you every blessing and good health.

Margaret Blomfield
President

Prayer - Mary Our Queen

Mary, our Queen, holy Mother of God,
we beg you to hear our prayer.

Make our hearts overflow with Divine grace
and resplendent with heavenly wisdom.

Render them strong with your might and rich in
virtue.

Pour down upon us the gift of mercy
so that we may obtain the pardon of our sins.

Help us to live in such a way as to merit
the glory and bliss of heaven.

May this be granted us by your Son Jesus
who has exalted you above the angels,
has crowned you as Queen,
and has seated you with Him
forever on his refulgent throne.

Amen.

CWL SYDNEY 'HEARTWARMING TALES' WITH MONICA DOUMIT

On the 9th of July we hosted our monthly branch gathering. Themed 'Heartwarming Tales', we dressed up in red and decorated the room to reflect that of the heart.

We were delighted to be joined by Monica Doumit, writer for the Catholic Weekly, and Director of Public Affairs and Engagement for the Archdiocese of Sydney. Monica also has a background in law, and spent some time working as a lawyer before starting her role at the Archdiocese.

We have asked Monica to share some heartwarming tales or experiences with us, but she joked that she mostly deals with things that aren't so heartwarming, for example, her dealings with child sexual abuse in the Church, however she shared with us stories that may have started in a shocking manner but were certainly heartwarming in the end.

We were sent reeling by her story about a woman whose privacy was violated whilst she underwent surgery; and felt heartbroken to hear of a young teenager in foster care who was being forced into an abortion. But these stories had happy endings, with Monica helping to share the woman's story through the Catholic Weekly and gaining support for her cause to initiate real changes in the law regarding privacy in medical practice, as well as providing support to the young teenager by calling her FACS officer and explaining what the teen's rights were, so she was able to go on with the pregnancy and have a healthy and happy daughter.

It's always great to reflect upon those we come across in our lives, and realise the potential we have in impacting other people's lives in a positive way.

Thank you to Monica for coming to share your stories with us.



CWL SYDNEY ANNUAL MASS AND LUNCHEON

By Chris McKirdy

On Tuesday 13th August, we had 81 members, friends and invited guests attend our Annual Mass and Luncheon in Polding Centre.

Our chaplain Father Ray Farrell celebrated Mass in the Chapel of Our Lady on Level 6, remembering Our Lady's Feast of the Assumption on 15th. The homily and music added to the significance of the day.

There was a welcoming atmosphere in the room as members and guests mingled and shared a plentiful lunch - delicious baked dinner, dessert and laughs. Friendships were renewed and new friendships made. A lucky few took home a Lucy Door Prize.

Many members stayed later, chatting and helping, and some even purchased dinner for that evening from the abundant lunch left-overs.

Thank you to everyone for supporting Sydney's special day and the many giving women who helped. The assistance of the Sydney Councillors, led by Margaret Blomfield was wonderful. Thank you sincerely.

We look forward to seeing you all again at our next function!



Photos by Annie Wong

CWL WOLLONGONG DIOCESAN CONFERENCE

By Sandra Skarasky

The Catholic Women's League Wollongong Conference was well attended by ladies of all branches of the Wollongong Diocese and seven of us from Sydney Archdiocese. The day was opened with welcome from Sue Freestone. Loretta Chester delivered a message from State President Ann Pereira who was unable to attend.

Our first speakers were two young women of the Wollongong Diocese who recently attended a Colloquium in Adelaide run by the Council for Australian Catholic Women (CACW). Lauren Hall and Erin Hall, two young women with great faith and enthusiasm and energy. The theme of this colloquium was 'Stirring the Waters: women responding to the Spirit'. It was found that there has been very little change since the Social Justice Statement of 2000. The eyes of women of history are looking at us. "Let us not be like the women at the end of the Gospel of Mark who said nothing". We need to speak out.

The Lord Mayor of Wollongong, who is a Uniting Church Minister, welcomed and addressed us, also with great love and encouragement of more ecumenical involvement.

Following a lovely morning tea we heard from Sister Miriam Sant who is Pastoral Associate at St Patrick's

Church port Kembla. Sister spoke on "A Father who keeps his promises".

Mass was celebrated in the Cathedral, preceded with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Angelus. This was followed by lunch.

Diana Lyon – Diocesan Communications Officer – gave a brilliant presentation on "Walking in the footsteps of Jesus" – a Holy Land experience. Earlier this year Diana went on a Holy Land Pilgrimage lead by Bishop Peter Ingham. Her presentation was wonderful, with many photos and items that she had collected along the way. She shared with us her many "heart stopping moments" as she called them. It was a very interesting and well put together presentation, but unfortunately went overtime and we had to leave in order to get our train home. Maureen Arrow and June Clarke were able to stay to the end of that presentation, which was followed by a report from WUCWO Vice President Asia Pacific Region and WUCWO Board Member Australia Catherine McGrath. We were sorry to have missed that report!

A closing reflection was delivered by Fr Patrick Vaughan to close the conference.

Congratulations to all the ladies involved in putting this day together.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS: CWL ENFIELD BRANCH

On Wednesday 21st August Catholic Women's League Enfield Branch hosted a very special day at their parish! CWL Enfield are celebrating their 40th anniversary as a branch this year, and held a mass and gathering to commemorate this occasion.

The day began with Mass at St Joseph's, celebrated by Bishop Robinson, Fr Camilleri and parish priest Fr Kim Ha. Following this, attendees gathered to enjoy a lovely morning tea in the St. Joseph's primary school hall. A group of students from the primary school came along to the morning tea to sing songs, some of which the Bishop sang along to. One of the founding members of the Enfield branch, Joan Story, was also in attendance, and was presented with flowers.

On the 16th of August 1979, a group of women at St Joseph's Enfield held their first Catholic Women's League meeting, and the branch was formed. Since then, CWL Enfield has grown to become a strong branch. Over the last 40 years, Enfield branch have supported their local parish and CWL Sydney through their hard work and fundraising efforts. They are a key part of St. Joseph's Enfield parish community, and are also currently one of the biggest CWL Sydney branches.

Congratulations to Enfield on 40 great years! A special thank you to Enfield Branch President Annie Wong and all of the Enfield members for organising and hosting such a lovely day!



WUCWO News

THE AMAZON IS BURNING: LIFE IS DYING OUT



Dear friends,

What will we, women of WUCWO, do in the face of this scourge that is attacking our planet? Aren't we "carriers of living water" as we stated at our last General Assembly in Dakar in October 2018?

How can we react to the destruction of our "Common Home" and the mistreatment of the poorest inhabitants of the Amazon basin? I ask myself: what would Mary do in our place when listening to the cry of the aborigines and the cry of the Earth?

The global climate balance is at stake: without the rains that forests attract, nearly 20% of the water we need for our subsistence and the same amount of oxygen production, as well as 10%

of biodiversity, is at risk. Several regions of our continents will suffer the consequences of smoke and ashes. Most importantly, more than 500 indigenous peoples have already lost their natural habitat.

Women of WUCWO: we have formally declared that "A HEALTHY PLANET DEPENDS ON ALL OF US." We have set this resolution as a work guideline during the period 2018-2022.

It is time to take this responsibility into our hands, with creative determination and greater action.

I am sure that our peculiar sensitivity and our feminine intuition will allow us to find the best that our organisations can do, according to our own reality. I only present, as a proposal, some possible responses:

- Let us accompany with our prayers the prophetic gesture of the Pope and his enormous effort for the Synod "Amazonia: New Paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology," to start this October in Rome
- Let us take into account the proposal, sent by the WUCWO Working Group dedicated to the healthy planet, which consists of dedicating the month of September to implement a local campaign aimed at saving water, seas and beaches from pollution.
- Let us organise ourselves to reread and meditate together on Laudato Si, in order to discern, according to our own radius of action, concrete actions to achieve an integral human ecology that takes care at the same time of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters and of the Earth that God has created for all Humanity.
- Follow the proposal of the Latin American Jesuits: 40 Days on the River: Sailing Together the Good News of God to the Amazonian Synod, to daily travel a path to the Synod from the place where we are, through prayer, contemplation and reflection
- Join other movements and institutions in our area or country that are already taking actions about the crisis in the Amazon basin, especially with young people who can find effective responses and thus provide a positive collaboration. I thank you in advance for communicating your initiatives to WUCWO so that we can share them with other members.

I ask the Blessed Virgin Mary that She, who knew how to react to the crisis suffered by the apostles of Jesus after his death, sheltering them united in prayer, waiting for the Holy Spirit to transform them so that the Church would be born (cf. Acts 1:14), may inspire each one of us and our organisations to know how to react in order to be capable to deal with this humanitarian crisis.

Women of WUCWO: let us not be robbed of life and the planet!

- María Lía Zervino, Servidora
WUCWO President General



This article has been extracted from wucwo.org

CWL SPIRIT OF SYDNEY HIGH TEA FUNDRAISER

By Chris McKirdy

The best way to spend a Tuesday is in Polding Centre and September 24 was no exception. It was a High Tea to rival any city hotel – minus the bubbles!

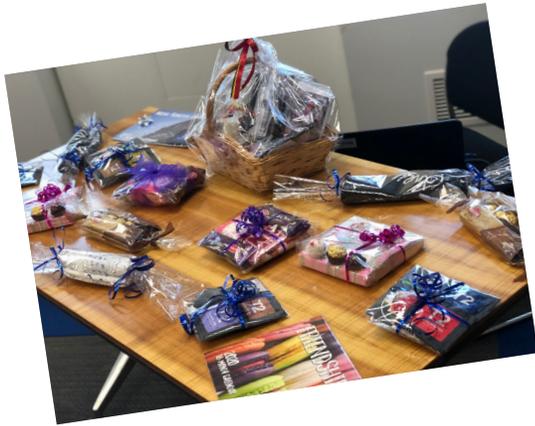
I must thank Sally Fennell for organising the room set up and Tex Quirk, June Clarke and Pat Smith for helping her. First impressions count and the room looked fantastic – bright, colourful and very spring!

Next to thank are our capable, competent cooks – Margaret Blomfield, Margaret Burke, Sandra Skarsky, Maddie Er, Josie Er, Helen Butler and Chris McKirdy. Special mention to Loretta Chester who was holidaying and could not attend but cooked the Taronga Zoo Balls before she left – a champion.

Home-made cooking is always delicious and with 58 CWL members, friends, CWL Quirindi members and Aboriginal Catholic Ministry women attending, it was a fun and delightful day. A light dinner that night was a must! More than 12 ladies left with edible and drinkable raffle prizes.

Because of the never ending generosity of our members, we were able to raise close to \$1200 for our Thanh Tam School in Danang. Thank you!

You are amazing women and those who do not attend functions or who do not know about CWL are certainly missing out. Next time – invite a friend and they can join!



Photos by Annie Wong
and Maddie Er

BRANCH NEWS AND DIARY DATES

*We love hearing about the happenings of our Branches.
If your branch has an upcoming event or any exciting
news to share, please let us know!*

CWL Sydney

TUESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER
*CWL Sydney's Annual General
Meeting*

CWL Sydney's AGM will take place at 10.30am in the Polding Centre. Cost: \$15

We are honoured to host our AGM guest speaker, Bishop Terrence Brady.

Reminder for Branches to please send in their reports by early October to the CWL Office.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Burwood Christmas Luncheon

TUESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER
CWL Sydney Christmas Luncheon,
12pm Burwood RSL, \$40 per head.

We can hardly believe how quickly this year has gone, so that we are now advertising the Burwood Luncheon!

Join us for what is always a lovely day at Burwood RSL for our special Christmas luncheon. Christmas roast and dessert will be served and of course, there will be entertainment and our fantastic raffle!

We appreciate the generosity of our members who donate to the Burwood Luncheon raffle each year. We ask ask that those who would like to donate to the raffle this year to please consider making a monetary donation rather than a gift donation. This would allow for greater major prizes, as well as ease of carrying a prize home.

Lions Club Sydney Centenarians' Luncheon

On Saturday 28th September CWL Summer Hill President Anne Wells accompanied Audrey Stewart to the Lions Club of Sydney Centenarians' Luncheon at Government House.

Anne reported that there were over 30 centenarians in attendance, including a man who was 107 years old. For the past few years, this gentleman has had the honour of cutting the cake; however, this year two women were thrilled to cut the Centenarians' cake together.

The Governor spoke to all the centenarians and a wind band from the Navy performed.

Ever the social butterfly, Audrey of course knew one of the other attendees!

Overall it was a lovely day. Thank you Anne for accompanying our Audrey, who will be 102 in January.



CWLA Australia Inc National Conference in Bunbury

CWLA NSW was well represented at the CWLA Australia Inc. National conference in Bunbury, which took place earlier in September.

CWL Sydney President Margaret Blomfield, CWLA NSW Vice President Loretta Chester, and alternate delegate Sally Fennell, along with Sandra Skarsky, Margaret Burke and Anne Wells attended the conference.

It was quite a way to travel, but the location, atmosphere, and guest speakers were what made the conference a great success.

Congratulations to the outgoing President Valma Ivory and the National Executive. The new National Executive will move to CWLA Victoria Wagga Wagga for 2020/21.

Sandra has written a fantastic report, on the conference which you can find on our website in the "Latest News" section. Copies are also in the branch folders.

An article on the conference was written for *The Record*, which you can read here: <https://www.therecord.com.au/news/cwla-conference-attendees-give-thanks-for-the-miracle-of-creation/>

*Become a Member of Catholic Women's League
Archdiocese of Sydney Today!*

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Cost: \$30 for Branch Members, \$35 for Diocesan Members

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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I'm joining _____branch

OR

I'm joining as a Diocesan member

I am willing to receive information by email: YES/NO

Please return with remittance of \$30 or \$35 to:

Catholic Women's League Archdiocese of Sydney
133 Liverpool St, Sydney 2000

Ph: 9307 8383

Email: cwlsydney@sydneycatholic.org

Thank you!

We hope you like Inform's 'new look'

*If you have news from your branch, upcoming events, or interesting articles
you'd like to share, please let us know - cwlsydney@sydneycatholic.org*