

# I N F O R M

*Catholic Women's League Archdiocese of Sydney  
February/March 2020*




# President's Message

**W**e welcomed in the new year as CWL members on the 11th of February at our Opening Mass. The theme for 2020 is "Your work, Our hands". I would like to thank all who attended and made the first gathering a success.

Mass was celebrated by Fr Gerry Gleeson, as our Chaplain Fr Ray Farrell, I'm sad to report, is currently in Palliative care. Fr Ray has been at the heart of CWL Sydney for many years and integral to our organisation, so I ask you all to please keep Fr Ray in your prayers.

At the end of last year I was proud of the effort made by our Executive and Councillors to rally together and produce pamper packs for country women affected by the drought. No doubt these special gifts were able to bring some joy to the women who needed it most. In a very short time we made up 201 packs.

I would like to inform you that the CWL Sydney Council has voted to suspend the last four months of our Project of the Year, the Thanh Tam Special School in Vietnam, so as to fundraise instead for schools affected by the bushfires. Thanh Tam Special School has been our project for over 18 months, and we have made an amazing effort to support this school – they have been able to make a number of great improvements thanks



to your hard work in fundraising for them. We believe we will be able to make equally as great an impact to our local schools affected by the fires and hope you will support this initiative by your continued fundraising.

Branches will still receive application forms for Project of the Year 2020/21, which will be voted on by the Council in June.

Lastly, I have to report that Sue Halliday on 11th February tendered her resignation as Manager of Marian Court and as Treasurer of CWL. Mr Anthony Watts has been appointed as the new Manager of Marian Court. Because of legal constraints around employees I am unable to discuss these developments at present.

Please keep me and the Executive in your prayers

May our Blesses Mother Mary guard and protect us now and in the future.

Margaret Blomfield  
President

26/02/2020

# PAMPER PACKS FOR LADIES OF THE LAND

*By Chris McKirdy*

Catholic Women's League Archdiocese of Sydney recently joined the initiative of Ladies of the Land NSW, packing shoe boxes full of pamper items and gifts for drought affected women in New South Wales.

During the drought women often put themselves last, so Ladies of the Land started the initiative of packaging up pamper goodies by putting them in a shoe box, wrapping the box in your local newspaper (so the recipient knows where you are from) and writing a small note with a personalised message of encouragement inside. Partnering with the Country Women's Association, the boxes will be distributed to women most affected by the drought.

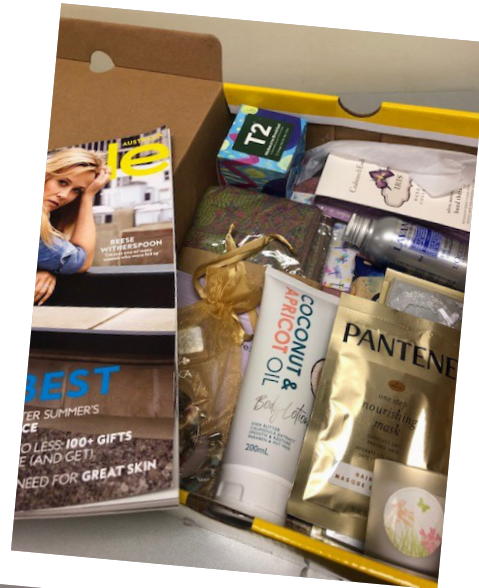
We had three weeks to contact businesses, friends and family and what an amazing effort! Filling each shoe box with lovely items, we know the women will appreciate this special gift. From mini champagne bottles, eye make up, lip gloss, candles, magazines, chocolates, gift vouchers etc. – the generosity of our ladies was just amazing.

In only a few weeks we produced 201 shoe boxes, with many coming from St Andrews Malabar and St Agnes Matraville, decorated in pretty ribbons and dropped off in Bangor, Burwood and Rydalmere. From there they will be taken to country drop-off points for distribution.

When so many ask “how can I help?” this was one project that everyone supported and these families affected by the drought will be in our thoughts and prayers over the Christmas Season.

We hope that 2020 brings rain for our drought affected farming families and their animals.

Often small ideas can produce big results!



# OPENING MASS AND BRANCH GATHERING

Our Opening Mass and first Branch Luncheon was held on Tuesday February 11, 2020 with many members celebrating the beginning of 2020.

As our CWL Sydney Chaplain, Fr Ray Farrell was ill, Fr Gerry Gleeson stepped in and said a beautiful Mass for us, saying how fortunate some of our parishes are to have a CWL branch. Father Gleeson was unfortunately unable to join us for lunch.

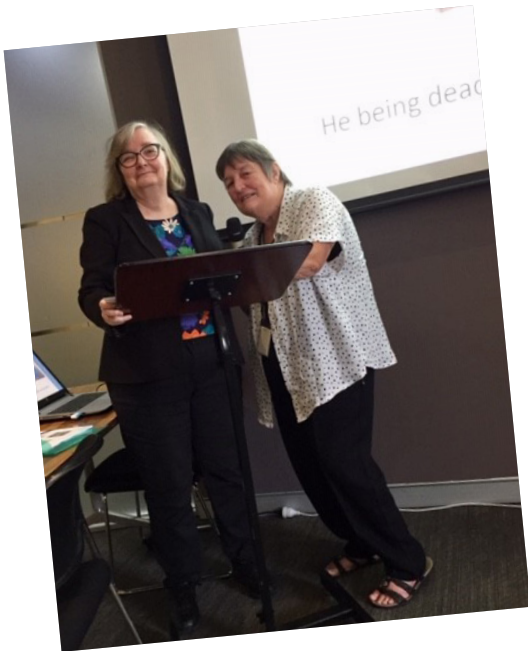
We had a fabulous Guest Speaker – Angela Phippen. Angela is a local studies librarian with a Sydney suburban council; prior to this she was the librarian at the Australian Society of Genealogists. She has diverse research interests including divorce in NSW, Chinese Market Gardeners, war memorials and the life and work of stained glass artist George Headland.

Angela spoke extensively, with the assistance of powerpoint, on the written word in relation to historical research.

When doing your research, Angela made us all aware of the importance of checking your sources – taking something from another source and leaving out a paragraph or two can change the whole meaning of the story. Getting the original source is always best. Angela's talk was overall very informative, interesting and fun! Thank you Angela for joining us.

It was a joy to be together, celebrating our Opening Mass, catching up after the Christmas holiday, and just sharing time with each other.

We look forward to seeing you at our next one!



Photos by Annie Wong

# WUCWO ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE MAY 2020

The WUCWO Asia Pacific Regional Conference is taking place this coming May from the 18th - 21st at Rydges Hotel in Sydney.

With delegates coming from different countries around the world, it will surely be a fantastic event celebrating Catholic women from across the globe!

The Opening Mass and Official Opening of Conference will be said by Most Rev Terence Brady at St Mary's Cathedral on Monday 18th May.

The Keynote speaker for the conference is the Most Reverend Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP.

Other guest speakers include:

- Maria Lia Zervino Servidora, President General of WUCWO
- Bernard Holland, Director of Catholic Earthcare, the ecological agency of the Catholic Church in Australia
- Rev Father Richard Leonard SJ, Jesuit priest, an author and educator
- Kirsty Robertson, CEO, Caritas Australia

- Maribeth Stewart Blogoslawski, Vice President General, WUCWO and Regional Vice President North America

There will also be reports from the various ASPAC countries and opportunities for visiting delegates to find out more about Catholic Women's League.

The Conference Dinner and Cultural Evening will take place on the Wednesday night of the conference. This will be a great opportunity to meet women from other nations and enjoy a lovely meal together.

Registration for the conference is open and we encourage our members to sign up.

Registration for the whole conference is \$430 per person. Day-registrations cost \$200.

You will find registration form on the National Website or you can ask for a copy from our office.

<https://cwla.com.au/registration-form-wucwo-asia-pacific-conference-2020/>

Registrations close 27th April.





On January 10th we had a private audience with Pope Francis. After such a gift to WUCWO, I decided to tell you about this wonderful experience in this message for the month of February 2020.

The conversation focused on women in the Church. It was very nice to hear him talk about how he wrote the homily of January 1 of this year: he did so in one go, because it came out of his heart in this way; he also talked about how generally one thinks only of the “functionality” of women, and it is necessary to open also the other field proper to “being,” that is the femininity of women; about how he longs for our active participation in the synodal experience the Church is carrying on; about why the strongest ideological threat of this time is the ideology of gender. At the end he added: “It is women who carry the Church forward without holding official positions.”

At the end of the meeting, he gave us a blessing for each one of you, your families, organisations and countries. He left us a very encouraging message, which filled us with joy and strength: “Take charge with courage! Look at Mary Magdalene: she was a little crazy, because she announced to the apostles the Resurrection of Jesus, even if they refused to believe her. Without craziness there is no holiness.”

María Lía Zervino, Servidora  
WUCWO President General

Read the full report at [www.wucwo.org](http://www.wucwo.org)

## Other News

We were excited to see an article in the Catholic Weekly (15th December) featuring our Executive Officer Chris McKirdy. Our Councillors and Executive did such an amazing job at rallying together at the last minute to make the pamper packs for Ladies of the Land a fantastic success. Copies of the article had been put in the branch folders, but if you would like a personal copy, please let us know!

15, December, 2019

NEWS



CWL's Chris McKirdy with some of the gifts for drought-stricken parts of NSW.

PHOTO: PETER ROSENGREN

# Pamper packs shower love

■ Marilyn Rodrigues

A BID to bring some Christmas joy to women suffering the drought has mobilised businesses, schools and individuals to send high-quality pamper packs to the driest parts of the state.

Hundreds of shoeboxes wrapped with pages from donors' local newspapers will reach women in the worst-affected places including Tamworth, Walgett, Forbes and Armidale before Christmas Day.

President of Catholic Women's League of the Archdiocese of Sydney Margaret Blomfield organised the Ladies of the Land NSW



This will bring them something that makes them feel a bit special and each pack includes a card with artwork from a student ... that lets them know our thoughts are with them."

Chris McKirdy, Catholic Women's League

shoebox appeal. Less than a month of putting the word out through the network and on a Facebook page people had coordinated to volunteer to get the packs together and taken to drop-off points so they could be distributed by the Country Women's Association NSW.

CWL executive officer

Chris McKirdy said the groundswell of support was inspiring to see.

The packs include donated items such as gift cards, chocolate, skin and hair products, jewellery, candles, magazines and even small bottles of wine or champagne.

"People living in the city

want to do something to help their country cousins and while we can try to use less water ourselves, we can't give them the water they need," Ms McKirdy said.

"This will bring women something that makes them feel a bit special and each pack includes a card with artwork from a student in the Wilcannia-Forbes diocese that lets them know our thoughts are with them.

"We were determined that everything in the packs be of high quality so that whoever receives them will want to use the gifts themselves or pass them on to others.

"It is charity in action."

# IN MEMORY OF AUDREY STEWART

All of us at CWL Sydney were very sad to hear that our dear Audrey Stewart passed away in November 2019.

Audrey was a member of Enfield branch, and at 101 years old she our longest living member of Catholic Women's League, having joined Shepparton branch in Victoria in 1952.

Audrey brought vibrancy and great sense of humour to our monthly branch gatherings. She was always impeccably dressed, and loved to get into the spirit of the various themes we hosted. At 99 years old, Audrey still had her driver's license, and we can all recall how disappointed she was to lose it a year later! She was switched on and always ready for a chat with anyone.

Audrey was dedicated to her church and to CWL - we will always be grateful for the contribution she made to our organisation.



Celebrating Audrey's 100th Birthday



Margaret Bouffler and Audrey



Mary Melville and Audrey

# 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 14TH APRIL

Branch gathering - Movie day  
Join us for a movie day at the  
Polding Centre for the film Ladies  
in Black. Dress up in black and  
white! Cost \$15

MONDAY 18TH - 21ST MAY

WUCWO Asia Pacific Regional  
Conference. Registration closes  
27th April.

TUESDAY 9TH JUNE

The Highlands Winter High Tea  
Dress in tartan and red for our  
special mid-year high tea. Booking  
essential. More information closer  
to the date.

*Ryde/Gladesville  
Branch*

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

Ryde/Gladesville Branch CWL  
are holding a Spring Fashion  
Parade on Saturday 12th  
September at 2pm in the Parish  
Hall at Ryde. All welcome.

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Cost: \$35 for Branch Members, \$40 for Diocesan Members

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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 \$35 or \$40 to:

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

Ph: 9307 8383

Email: [cwlsydney@sydneycatholic.org](mailto: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](mailto:cwlsydney@sydneycatholic.org)*