

# I N F O R M

*Catholic Women's League Archdiocese of Sydney  
June/July 2019*



# President's Message

**I**n May, the month of Mary, we celebrated our Annual WUCWO Mass and luncheon. Our guest speaker was Mary, who fostered over 94 children over many years and her stories touched everyone in the room. The day was enjoyed by all.

The craft day saw many items change hands and a joyful and relaxing meeting was held. We were able to raise \$540 for our Project of the Year. A great effort, thank you for your generosity.

We accepted Margaret Bouffler's resignation from Council after many years of dedicated service and presented Margaret with a farewell lunch and gift. Thank you Margaret for your hard work on Council.

The 13th August is our Annual Mass which will be held in the Chapel of Our Lady, Polding Centre, at 10.30am. once again a hot roast lunch will be provided and we urge many branch members to attend this important CWL Mass.

I hope our members stay warm and well during the winter days and nights.

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

Margaret Blomfield  
President

# Prayer

## Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary, Undoer of Knots

Holy Mary,  
full of God's presence during the day of your life,  
you accepted with full humility the Father's will,  
and the devil was never capable of tying you up  
with his confusion.

Once with your Son you interceded for our difficulties,  
and full of kindness and patience,  
you gave us example of how to untie the knots in our life.

By remaining forever Our Mother,  
you put in order and make more clear  
the ties that link us to the Lord.

Holy Mother,  
Mother of God and our Mother,  
to you who untie with a motherly heart  
the knots of our life,  
we pray to you to receive us in your hands,  
and to free us of the knots and confusion  
with which our enemy attacks.

Through your grace,  
your intercession and your example  
deliver us from all evil, Our Lady,  
and untie the knots  
that prevent us from being united with God,  
so that we, free from sin and error,  
may find Him in all things,  
may have our hearts placed in Him,  
and may serve Him  
always in our brothers and sisters.

Amen.

# PROJECT OF THE YEAR 2019/2020

*Thanh Tam Special School,  
Danang, Vietnam*

CWL Sydney Council recently voted on which cause to support for the 2019/2020 Project of the Year. Voting took place at our June Council Meeting and it was passed that our current project, Thanh Tam Special School and Workshops in Danang, Vietnam, will have its support renewed for another year. We are very excited to be able to support such a worthy cause for another 12 months, where the Australian dollar is able to stretch far, and provide real support to the Sisters and the children.

Thanh Tam Special School is a not for profit school run by the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres. In Vietnam, people born with any kind of disability do not receive the opportunity for an education. Many parents struggle with how to support their children with disabilities. The Thanh Tam Special School provides children with all kinds of disabilities an education, and helps to build skills that can be useful outside of school. The workshops run by the Sisters are for older students (similar to TAFE) who are looking to move into the workforce, and help them gain skills that are transferable into employed work. The Sisters run a bakery and café, and also woodwork, sewing, and art workshops, through which many of the students gain work experience.

The Sisters do not receive any government support and rely solely on the generosity of donations to run the school.

The fundraising efforts by our CWL Sydney members over the last year have supported the Sisters in refurbishing their grounds so that they are able to grow their own organic produce on the school grounds. This is both an educational tool for the students, as well as a means to provide an income for the school – the Sisters have been able to build relationships with local restaurants and hotels, who they sell their produce to.

CWL Sydney members have such generous hearts, and as always we are grateful for the donations our branches and members make to the Project of the Year. Thank you!



*The Sisters have been growing their own produce to sell to local restaurants and earn an income for the school*



*The sewing workshop and bakery/ cafe provide older students with practical skills that they can use in the workforce.*



*The school also provides each student with a hot meal every day*

*Photos by Chris McKridy*

# JUNE BRANCH GATHERING

*By Sandra Skarsky*

The Craft and White Elephant at our June Branch meeting was great fun and very successful, thanks to the generosity of our members.

It is a wonderful chance to share the gifts and talents we all have, and a great chance to mingle and chat as we browse over the bargain tables.

We were able to raise \$540 in much needed funds for our Project of the Year.

Thank you to all who participated in any way. A big well done to us.



*Photos by Annie Wong*

# THE RESEARCH BEHIND GENDER QUOTAS IN POLITICS IN IRELAND

On Thursday the 9th May, National Council of Women NSW hosted a special event at the Irish Consulate, attended by President Margaret Blomfield, Margaret Burke, Sally Fennell and Maddie Er.

Owen Feeney, Consul General for Ireland, welcomed the group and introduced Dr Fiona Buckley, an Irish expert in gender politics. Dr Buckley is a lecturer in Government and Politics at University College Cork, and a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Sydney.

Dr Buckley presented on her current research regarding gender quotas in politics. In 2012, Ireland passed an amendment to their political funding act; wherein parties who did not select at least 30% female candidates (with at least 30% male candidates), would surrender 50% of the state funding they receive to run their operations.

This measure was introduced as a result of a severe lack of representation of women

in Parliament (Dáil Éireann). In the 2016 elections, there was a 90% increase in the number of female candidates compared to the 2011 election.

Dr Buckley conveyed a compelling argument as to why this change worked and the potential for it to work in other countries, like Australia. She argued that there are barriers for women entering a field like politics, for example, the fact that in its foundations our political systems were designed for men and to this day continue to best suit men. She has also done research into why merit-based systems or 'meritocracy' are not always successful.

Overall, it was a very interesting and thought provoking talk, and we thank NCW NSW and the Irish Consulate for hosting.

You can read a more of Dr Buckley's work, including her research into 'meritocracy' and the impact that these changes had on the 2016 election in Ireland, here <http://bit.ly/21uhZM3>



## WUCWO News

### WUCWO Monthly Message

On Sunday, June 9, we will receive the Holy Spirit. What a source of grace and conversion for all of us! "When comes... the Spirit of truth... he will be my witness. And you too will be my witnesses..." (Jn 15:26).

I was sitting in front of the altar of the chair in St Peter's, participating in the Mass that the Holy Father celebrated to open the Assembly of Caritas Internationalis, and I was thinking of you... the warm image of WUCWO women working silently in so many places on the planet and with so many different commitments came to my mind... acting as His Holiness described: step by step, without haste and without pause, on the way to "the humility of listening, the charism of working together and the courage of renunciation." How good it would be if we could meditate and "taste" that homily of Pope Francis! (23 May 2019). I advise you to read it.

At a crucial moment in human and Church history, we need the action of the Spirit to convert us and make us able to listen to the outcasts, children of God like ourselves; to work more in networks, establishing fruitful relationships between our organisations and to create new answers to current problems, with no fear of giving up what was "always done this way," when necessary.

The spiritual scourges of the gaping wounds suffered by the Church today, before which we cannot close our eyes or remain indifferent, the persecutions and martyrdom suffered by Christians, the harmful consequences of a false vision of women's rights are some of the

dramas that cannot leave us with our arms crossed. The cry of the planet and of the most needy is challenging us. We are responsible for our own and others' integral ecological conversion.



The Pope says that the presence of "vulnerable people [...] is an invitation to recover some of those essential dimensions of our Christian existence and our humanity that risk being overlooked in a prosperous society." [...] Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all (Mk 10:43-44). (...) Jesus Christ asks us not to yield to the logic of the world, which justifies injustice to others for my own gain or that of my group. "Me first, and then the others!" Instead, the true motto of the Christian is, "The last shall be first!" (Message of Pope Francis for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2019).

May the Holy Spirit, who renews all things, grant us a conversion of the heart. May we be able to see, judge and act the other way round of how the world is doing it and in line with the Gospel! Let us go hand in hand with Mary, Mother of the Church at Pentecost, to carry out, each in her own environment, the "revolution of tenderness." This is the feminine face that the women of WUCWO can offer to today's world.

*Extracted from the WUCWO website  
www.wucwo.org*

# FROM THE CWL SYDNEY OFFICE...

## *200 Club*

Thank you to all those who participated in the 200 Club. Below are the winners!

Drawn 9/4/19 - 1st prize Ruth Melville; 2nd prize Trish Leckie; 3rd prize CWL Sydney

Drawn 7/5/19 1st prize Jay Turner; 2nd prize Manfred Famler; 3rd prize Manfred Famler

Drawn 10/6/19 1st prize CWL Sydney; 2nd prize CWL Peakhurst; 3rd prize Viki Pompor

## *Annual Mass and Luncheon 2019*

We are excited for our upcoming Annual Mass and Luncheon. We ask that those planning on attending please send in your RSVP with payment as soon as possible (by Monday 5th August). This is because we will be having special external catering, who require numbers a week prior to the event. We will unfortunately be unable to cater to those who do not book in.

## *Annual General Meeting*

A reminder for all branches to please start preparing your reports for the Annual General Meeting. Despite only entering July, as we know, time flies! In a few month's time, we ask that you send in your reports to Secretary Sandra Skarsky in October before the Annual General Meeting in November. These reports will be summarised by the Secretry and reported on at the meeting.

## *Office Hours*

Maddie Er will be undertaking her teaching prac at the end of July and start of August. Chris McKirdy will be filling in for her while she is away. However, the office may not always be open on a Wednesday or Thursday during this time. Please call beforehand if you plan on dropping in. Thank you!

# 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!*

## *Fairfield Branch*

May was quite a busy month for us. Our Mother's Day lamington stall was held over the Mother's Day weekend, starting on Friday afternoon selling to the school Mums and Dads as well as all Sunday Masses. We were a little bit down on the previous year but still a worthwhile venture. We also hosted the Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea which we set up outside the church after Mass this year instead of in the hall. This proved to be beneficial, we had more people come and they stayed and socialised much longer – the glorious day helped too. We also had our stall of goodies for sale, which did very well.

July brings us to our next bus trip which will be to Warragamba Dam Visitors Centre followed by lunch at Warragamba Workers Club, looking forward to that. We will also be involved in a new Parish initiative, called "Soup and Soul". This will be done over a 4 week period, commencing 24th July, of serving hot soup and bread rolls to the homeless or to anyone else, on a Wednesday evening before the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, in the hope that they might come inside and stay and pray a while.

- Sandra Skarsky

## *Enfield Branch*

CWL Enfield hosted a 90th Birthday for Sr Kath Maher in April. The celebration for Sr Kath was well attended by members from CWL. Happy birthday to Sr Kath and thank you Annie for the photos!



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## *CWL Sydney*

**TUESDAY 13TH AUGUST**  
*CWL Sydney Annual Mass and Luncheon.*

10.30am at Chapel of Our Lady Level 6, followed by Lunch on Level 8.

Special delicious, hot meal will be served for lunch.

Cost: \$30.

PLEASE NOTE: Payment **MUST** be in strictly by Monday 5th August for catering purposes

**TUESDAY 24TH SEPTMBER**  
*CWL 'Spirit of Sydney' High Tea*

11.30am, Polding Centre Level 8. This will be a fabulous fundraiser for our Project of the Year 2019/20, with a delicious selection of sweet and savoury treats!

Cost: A very reasonable \$30 per person. Please invite your friends and join us for what will be a fun and special day. We hope to see you there!

### PLEASE NOTE:

There will be **NO** branch gathering on the second Tuesday of September as this is when the National Conference in WA is taking place.

We will be hosting a special fundraiser High Tea on Tuesday 24th September instead.



*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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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 \$30 or \$35 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)*