

UNVEILING OF WAB BANNER -17th Jan 2019

– Level 10, 1 King Willam St, ADELAIDE

Hon Tim Whetstone MP's office – Minister of Primary Industries & Regional Development

Throughout the 101¼ years of the existence of WAB, there have been significant celebrations & milestones.

1977 – **60th birthday** – tea towel design competition and a massive tree planting exercise throughout the state

1987 – **70th birthday** – Launch of the book, “Pioneers of Progress 1917 -1987” prepared by Marie Willis & Margaret Johnson

2007 – **90th birthday** – Launch of the book, “Hats Off to WAB” compiled by Adair Dunsford

2017 – **100th birthday** – Launch of the rose “Spirit of Rural Women”, a weekend of celebrations at Riverton, interpretive sign, decorative seat

However, in about 1996, Lois Harris, the State President, planned something special to celebrate the **80th birthday**. She asked that all 52 branches create a motif on a piece of calico to depict their area. On the year of the 80th birthday – Laurette Thomson, the next State President, unveiled this banner in 1997 at the WAB State Conference. It was a wonderful achievement.

Throughout the last 21yrs, the large WAB banner (4m x 2.5m) has been proudly hung up at the back of stages, halls and other venues on a free standing frame (built by Garth Rogers) numerous times all around the state for WAB events and in the late 90's it hung for a year at Roseworthy Agricultural College. In between events, it has been stored at the home of Helen & Garth Rogers in Cowell. Now, a permanent home has been found for it.

WAB would like to thank Hon Vickie Chapman, Hon Tim Whetstone and the staff at PIRSA (especially Louise Mills) for this opportunity to have our banner displayed in a public place for all to admire.

1917 – Women's Branches of the Agricultural Bureau

1948 – Women’s Agricultural Bureau of SA

1999 – Women In Agriculture & Business of SA –as at present

When I first saw the banner (about 10yrs ago), I was awestruck at the enormity of the task to put the 52 motifs together. Every time I see it, I discover more detail than the time before and see that much time and effort was put into making it – as of old – the experience and emotions of those rural women were actually woven into the fabric as they worked on it.

I hope this banner gives as much pleasure to those who work here and see it every day as well as to visitors who might see it but once and recognise it as a piece of art, depicting some of SA’s history (hers story) .

Sandra Young

State President

Women in Agriculture & Business of SA Inc

