



WAB Newsletter edition number 228, April 2019

WAB Management Team: Nadene Jericho, Mallee Region Co-ordinator; Narelle Scott, Limestone Coast Region Co-ordinator and President Elect; Sally Packer, Eyre Peninsula Region Co-ordinator; Sandra Young, State President; Yvonne Correll, Central region Co-ordinator.



FROM THE WAB STATE PRESIDENT

Hello all WAB Members,

On 17th January, it was with great pleasure that I attended the unveiling of the WAB 80th Birthday banner at its permanent home of 1 King William St, Adelaide in the office of Hon Tim Whetstone MP, Minister of Primary Industries & Rural Development on the 10th floor. Hon Vickie Chapman MP, Attorney General and Deputy Premier, and a WAB On-Line member, officially unveiled the beautiful WAB banner. It certainly looks fantastic against the wall, having been cleaned, stretched and framed with white metal. We should all be very proud of this work of art and part of WAB's history. We are also in the process of adding a plaque explaining the history of the name of WAB and details of the unveiling.

My fourth Field Days experience was at Lucindale on 15-16th March where our stall was at the opening of the Yakka Pavilion. I met some prospective members, chatted with present and past members and gathered information on potential guest speakers. I also sold raffle tickets for MS, our state-wide project for this year. Thank you to members of Lochaber, Padthaway and Stewarts Range for helping. I think that attending the field days has been a valuable opportunity to show the public our rich history and dynamic presence in rural SA.

In April, I attended the Limestone Coast Gathering at *Gather on Gordon*, Naracoorte, hosted by Stewarts Range where we celebrated their 48th birthday and had a speaker from the local MS supportive society. It was a fun and social day, thanks to Narelle Scott, LC Regional Coordinator, who put a lot of effort into making the day a great success.

I was one of a team of 6 WAB members attending the ACWW 29th Triennial Conference at the Melbourne Convention Centre in April, which was a great treat. The world came to us where, of the 82 member countries of ACWW, 24 were represented. It was a world class venue with exceptional catering and the program was most appropriate and varied. We left a case full of pillowcase dresses and other children's clothes to go to the Solomon Islands, our country of study for this year. We also gave baby items for local use.

The Dept of Human Services, Office for Women, offered grants to help to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Women Suffrage and WAB was successful. We have received \$5,000 to help to run the WAB State Conference along the theme, *Their Triumph, Our Motivation*, with prominent speakers at the Adelaide Hills Convention Centre on Monday 19th August. We hope as many WAB members as possible can attend and members of the public to help to celebrate this memorable part of history. SA was the first state in Australia (1894) & second to NZ (1893) in the world to allow the vote to women, which is a fantastic achievement. Australia, as a whole, was the second country in 1902.

The Management Team, over the past year, has revised the Branch Handbook, Management Team Handbook and various forms to allow the bureaucracy of paperwork to be kept to a minimum. The next State President's role will be reduced by creating 2 new portfolio positions of Treasurer and Promotions Officer and we have a couple of initiatives to modernise communication and value-add our membership in the pipeline.

I congratulate Narelle Scott, who has recently agreed to take over the position of President Elect from Nadene Jericho, who asked to withdraw from that position earlier this year due to changed circumstances. Narelle will take over from me at the next AGM on 19th Aug, immediately after the Women's Suffrage event. She will also deputise for me while I am overseas in May & June.

I hope all WAB members enjoy the last meeting before your AGM in June and I look forward to seeing you at the State Conference & Women's Suffrage event in August.

Let's all wish for more rain!

Yours in WAB,

Sandra

The motifs for each Branch are taken from the 80 year banner which all Branches contributed to, and is now hanging in the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development's Office at 1 King William Street, Adelaide.

EYRE PENINSULA REGION

Charlton: In February Casey Pope spoke on the Solomon Islands. His interest stemmed from a friendship with a fellow Uni student, a native of the islands, with subsequent increasing visits there over eight years. This has culminated in Casey now having a 'leaf' house being built (most houses are built of bamboo and sago palm) where he plans to reside permanently. He is fluent in 'pigeon' and is also currently learning the language.

The islanders are hospitable and inclusive by nature with the population living mainly in villages. They take tobacco to sell in town, buy salt, soap and clothes but apart from that are self sufficient. A diet of native fiddle fern, Kumara, taro root, leaf pudding (made from taro leaves, plus liver, bonito and yellow fin fish, is markedly different from our westernised diet.

The Agriculture Department promotes the export of timber, e.g. Tiki wood. Coconut oil is a much used commodity with scented coconut oil sold to tourists.



There are diesel generators in towns, some villages have solar power, otherwise there is no electricity. Unfortunately there are very few work opportunities for the young people.

Ron and Joy Simpson spent from 2014-16 in Tonga working with Uniting World (one of the aims being to alleviate poverty through sustainable community development).

Ron is an agronomist and he worked in a Tongan agricultural boarding school of 1000 boys aged 12-19 yrs, educating them in the basic principles of subsistence farming. Farmland is owned by the King and farmed under a semi feudal system of four acre allotments. Tonga has a high rainfall with rich volcanic porous soils. The people subsist mainly on root crops which contribute to them being the most obese nation on earth with its attendant health problems.

Joy said going to Tonga was like stepping back 40 yrs in time. They found Tongans to be a caring, sharing people who live under a patriarchal and hierarchal system where women serve.



The Simpsons shared their experiences at the March meeting where members also farewell longtime member Kay Williams and husband Gilbert who are relocating to Adelaide.

Ron and Joy Simpson with a Tongan tapa cloth made from mulberry bark which has been beaten, glued and then decorated using traditional dyes. Highly valued as mats, wall hangings and also worn as wedding dress.

In keeping with our theme – ‘Caring for our neighbour’, Cath Blake from Fred’s Van explained how this volunteer group provide meals for up to 30 people every Sunday evening. Local businesses donate food and other goods allowing a 3 course meal to be served with left-overs offered for anyone to take home.

On-Line Branch

New Year arrived with Sally taking over from Roz as Facilitator for the Online Branch. Our first topic was Volunteering and what a fantastic group we are! Jane Smith started out with Cub Scouts and progressed to being Governor of Zonta District 23 - one of the largest geographical areas in the world (all of Australia except NSW and Queensland) and she collected a SA Local Hero award along the way for her work co-ordinating the Bushfire Recovery Centre in Cummins after the Wangary Fires. Sally Grundy was involved with Sea Scouts, assorted School Committees and Historical Societies and Sally Packer helped out with Netball, School, CFS and Community projects. All positives but "burn out" was mentioned as being a problem especially when the work load increases and volunteer numbers decrease. Adair quoted Glenda Bailey OAM whose motivation was that you "do something positive for someone else every day" and Adair also advised us that Volunteering is a major factor in enjoying a longer life.

March saw us considering what we would do if we could have an Adult Gap Year. The older members who'd finished school last century (!!) never had a chance to do this as students as Gap Years are a new invention. Opinions varied greatly from the "Just do it ... and have some time off" or "Get into the studies and then get a job" to dreams of what might have been or which could possibly happen someday and included renting a villa in Tuscany or a cottage in the South of France. A couple of members had just packed up and travelled around Australia. It was suggested that Politicians and Public Servants needed a Gap Year "urgently" so they could get

out and see what's happening in the REAL WORLD!! However, for many of us Retirement is just so busy we barely have time to breathe let alone dream!!

April sees us talking about our Hobbies and Pastimes - sewing, knitting, baking and gardening are popular as are doing jigsaws and playing cards but other more unusual and community minded interests have been mentioned. Learning Braille meant that Jenny could translate books for the School for the Blind; Janet's Calligraphy skills are showcased on our Life Member Certificates and Sally's photography is inspirational!!

Pinkawillinie:



We viewed the USB of the history of WAB. It was very compressive and we were only able to view the two history segments leaving the 100 year celebration for another day.

For our Christmas meeting, both Lee and Sally were able to join us and we were also pleased that our member Ronda Lorimer who now lives in Wilmington was able to be present. Sally Packer the Regional Coordinator spoke of the happenings of WAB and Ronda brought us a comprehensive report on the State Conference held last August. A Christmas Quiz was held. Sally presented the branch with one of the new plaques and it was decided to approach the council about placing it at the free camping area

CENTRAL REGION



Cunliffe: Due to the fire, which burnt down the administration building (where we normally meet) at the Paskeville Field Day Site, our February meeting was held at Wallaroo in Noelene Crosby's coffee place.

Past Cunliffe local, Kerry Taylor, talked to 16 of our members, on her journey to becoming a jewellery maker. Her business is called Breathless Jewellery, named after Cystic Fibrosis, from which she suffers. Kerry's jewellery is beautifully crafted from cutlery, plates, biscuit tins, bullets, tyres and anything else she is able to use. Rose Donaldson was presented with her 60 year badge by Yvonne Correll, WAB Central Region Co-ordinator.

Rosedale/Sandy Creek:



Our Theme being "Good Neighbours" we invited Guenther Frensch, our Area Co-ordinator of Neighbourhood Watch, to give us a talk on the role this organization plays in helping us all to be "good neighbours".

He informed us that it is all about people observing, noting then reporting an incident to prevent crime. One of the best things everyone can do is to get to know their neighbour. Look out for them in small ways even if it is just a wave and a quick hello. Neighbourhood Watch started in this area 30 years ago and is still just as relevant today.

Mr. Frensch handed out some Neighbourhood Watch RFID blocking sleeves which everyone should use to protect Credit and ID Cards.

In March we discussed articles in our local newspapers re –

1. A lovely write up of the 100th birthday of our past member Laurence Grovermann.
2. An award presentation of our member Jean Randall for her long years of service to the Williamstown Garden Club.
- 3 A Stock Journal photo and article on the hanging of WAB's beautiful Banner which is now displayed in the office of Primary Industries Minister Tim Whetstone.



We had a round table talk about the way cooking has changed over the years and the things we remember our mothers cooking and interesting budget strategies used . Homemade soap was a particularly time consuming chore. Recipes such as Ammonia biscuits, pumpkin and lemon tarts, jam roly-poly, homemade ginger ale, parisienne essence used to brown stews made with cheap cuts of meat were some memories from earlier days. An early edition of the Green and Gold Cookery Book, Everylady's Cook-Book and a very old Kookaburra Recipe book were displayed.

Janet Cummings and Jean Randall after perusing old cook books

Strathalbyn:



Wepowie/Booleroo Centre:



LIMESTONE COAST REGION

Kalangadoo:



WAB members enjoyed a Christmas lunch and celebrated Ramona Perry's 90th birthday (27th Dec) with a chocolate cake, made by Lorraine. Some wore orange to unite with others of the world during the 16 days of activism on Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls.



Old sign (left) and new sign (right) after it had been cleaned.



A lovely March afternoon started with strawberry jam on sour cream scones and date scones with a cup of tea, while we caught up on our personal news and admired the view of Rivolli Bay for our meeting. Treasures from the sea were collected as we walked along the beach with Lorraine's dog, Molly; we tasted pig-face fruit with mixed feelings and learnt about the other berries and bush tucker available in our coastal scrub. Most of the fruits were at the end of the season, including muntries, unique to the coast of the Limestone Coast. In April we (Lorraine, left, and Sandra) met at Vansittart Park in Mount Gambier to walk around the oval in aid of MS, our WAB project. Molly, the dog, joined us. It was a lovely day for a walk. Janice joined us later. We raised \$290 for MS, which we were pleased about since we are such a small branch.



Lochaber:

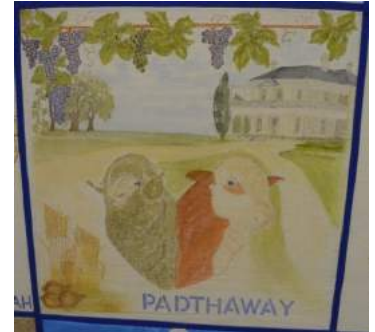


Catherine Warnest of nearby Willalooka was guest speaker at Lochaber's March meeting. Catherine spoke of her early life growing up in the Charleville region of Queensland; working in all areas in shearing sheds and becoming a shearer, later marrying international champion shearer, Shannon Warnest. Their life together saw them travelling worldwide,

shearing in national competitions, even representing Australia in New York at G'day Australia, celebrating 200 years of Merino Wool in Australia. Her life also moved into the movie world as a stand in for the shearing scenes on the set of McLeod's Daughters, set in SA. Shannon and Catherine took up the opportunity to purchase the Willalooka Tavern. Now with three children they continue their travels, having sold the Willalooka Tavern.

Padthaway:

We began the year by inviting Lochaber and Kalangadoo members to join us on a visit to the Farm Gate Shop & cafe strawberry farm at Frances for morning tea and lunch. Sam Frost gave a talk about growing strawberries individually in a basket like bag with coconut husks and then hydroponically (water/mineral fed). They are a thirsty plant and have had to overcome the heat by trimming back hard and are currently designing a shade cloth barrier to protect the fruit.



On Thursday, 7th of March the Padthaway WAB ladies met at President Beth Gale's home with their smiles and sewing machines in tow. As our country of study this year is the Solomon Islands and ACWW has a conference in Melbourne in April where delegates from the Solomon Islands will attend, we made pillowcase dresses for the island children. While they were doing this member Virginia Gale had created a CD of Island background music - they have lovely voices and use drums and pan pipe bands. Virginia gave some facts; their role in WW 2 with Americans and Australians in defeating Japan, a volatile nature - skulls from past cannibalism have been found; happy smiley people who love to dance and sing. There are some active and non-active volcanoes; some gold and other minerals are mined. The tourist trade is very big and they have some lovely markets with local produce and handicrafts. Shell money can be bought at the markets and it's still in use, as is bartering in the more remote islands - there are 6 large and 900 small. They have developed a scheme that allows local communities access to solar, water and wind power with payment if you cannot afford you can pay in kind with stock or crops. Virginia also had some information from Andrea Johnson who lived there in 2002 with Australian Volunteers Abroad. This was an agricultural training centre for boys aged between about 14 & 20. One of their sayings in Pidgeon English was, "lookem you behind" = goodbye, watches and clocks are for STRESSED people. "Little bit long-time" could mean an hour or a day?? "Long bit long time" = who knows 2 days, weeks, years?



WAB members Narelle Scott, Beth Gale and Beth Ortlepp busily sewing dresses (right) to be given to delegates from the Solomon Islands at the ACWW conference in Melbourne in April.



Padthaway held their AGM with our theme for this year “Get to know your neighbour”, and invited a few friends. President Beth Gale started the meeting with a quote, “A good neighbour is a welcome blessing” and we welcomed our guest.



Padthaway members celebrating the Branch 55th birthday

Stewarts Range:

LIMESTONE COAST REGIONAL GATHERING

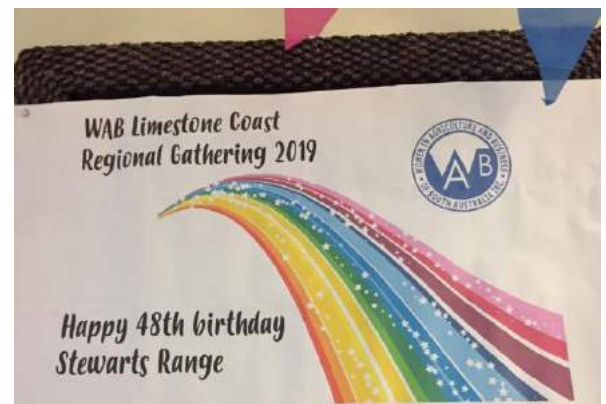
Well, what a magic day!

Stewarts Range Branch hosted the 2019 Limestone Coast Regional Gathering which was held at *Gather on Gordon* in Naracoorte on Wednesday 3 April, 2019. Thirty Eight Stewarts Range, Lochaber, Padthaway and Kalangadoo members attended. WAB State President Sandra Young attended.



It was decided at the planning meeting that this day was going to be informal and fun as members felt that they did not have the capacity to host a formal conference. Regional Co-ordinator Narelle Scott offered to MC the day and to arrange the activities and room presentation including celebrating Stewart Range 48th birthday.

Rainbows were the theme to indicate the day's event – fun, frivolity, smiles and laughter. There were rainbow bunting, mini rainbow flags in a pot on each table, rainbow pens and rainbow notebooks. Each person received a packet of rainbow seeds to be used in the conversation starter activity. The Rainbow Cooking Jar was the prize for the main activity “What’s in your handbag?” Ladies scored points for each item on the list that was also in their handbag. The top score was 105 points winning the Rainbow Cookie Jar which held the dry ingredients to make Narelle’s recipe (just add your own wet ingredients). The mix makes 60-70 biscuits which are ideal for freezing and they take very little time to thaw out.



Lunch was a three tier platter of finger food which was absolutely scrumptious. Sweet slices and desserts followed. Thank you to Tanya and Irene Ham for presenting such a delicious and tasty lunch. WAB State President Sandra Young presented her address where she showed some slides on her activities for the past year. Sandra staged a booth at four field days in SA each being 2 or 3 days which was a mammoth effort by Sandra in an endeavour to recruit new members to WAB branches. Sandra advised that it is now up to each branch to follow up within their areas.

Monica Carter, President Naracoorte MS Society spoke on the loss of her sister to MS and gave an update of the research that is happening in this field in an endeavour to discover a cure for this disease.

The afternoon concluded with cutting the Stewarts Range 48th birthday cake and drawing of the raffle.

President Hazel and members of Stewarts Range Branch are thanked for making this a fun and happy event.

2019 Awards - WAB Limestone Coast Region

L-R: Beth Ortlepp Padthaway 10 yrs; Jan French Stewarts Range 5 years; Rosemary Miller Lochaber 10 yrs; Janice Widdison Kalangadoo 10 yrs; Jan Boord Lochaber 50 yrs, Sandra Young Kalangadoo 10 yrs



MALLEE REGION



Coonapyn:

Members had a lovely afternoon at Rob and Leah Klitscher's place. Rob showed his knife making craftsmanship and the amount of skill that he has when crafting a blade is amazing. He has also just recently broadened his skills to furniture making and creating some nice pieces for friends and family.

Paringa:

Paringa members enjoyed a talk by their 2 guest speakers, both in their 80's, who went to Alaska last year and included photos of their trip.

After a long wait the Council have installed a white granite rock in the rose garden in Paringa to commemorate 100 years of WAB and 50 years of active membership in Paringa.

In March we met at the Renmark Recreation Centre, to be shown over the venue by the Manager Naomi Jones. Over the past few months many improvements have been made. The area has been carpeted, new fresh paint, but most impressive was all the new and modern exercise equipment. The heated indoor swimming pool will be available in late May and will be a wonderful asset to the community, particularly those who require this for their health.



Wirrega:

In February Dr. Romona, spoke about her journey from her homeland in the Philippines to Melbourne, then regional Victoria where she did further training, before coming to work at Bordertown Medical Centre. We are very fortunate to have a woman Doctor in our District.



At the local Turf Farm we observed the different lawn types grown for soil and conditions of shade or full sun positions - an informative afternoon and a growing agricultural business in our area.

Tracey Grosser is the Multicultural Community Service Coordinator in Bordertown helping those migrants who have come to our town on Visas and working mainly at the Meat Works. She spoke of the issues of housing, finding people to teach English, catering for their religious choices, and every day issues of living in a new country. Some migrants who have been here for some time are now able to sponsor their families to come to Bordertown from overseas, which has increased the numbers at the local school and use of other services.

Yurgo:

Members held a minutes silence in memory of their member Barbara Arbon who passed away on 5th February aged 83 years.

Guest speaker Leanne Kruger spoke about White Ribbon - although she found it difficult to talk about Domestic Violence as members knew her, everyone agreed it was an excellent presentation.



Yurgo members held their 87th Birthday Lunch at Tailem Bend Riverside Hotel with 10 members plus 5 visitors attending.

Beryl Clothier – secretary (left) made the cake, with Carlene Schulz president.

In April a former member of Yurgo, Jennifer Roberts, gave us a guided tour of Pioneer Park which has been most improved.

UNVEILING OF THE WAB BANNER

On Thursday 17th January, 2019

At the Office of the Hon Tim Whetstone MP

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

Level 10, 1 King William St, Adelaide

The Hon Vickie Chapman MP, Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Member of the Executive Council, unveiled the Women in Agriculture & Business of SA's large banner at the office of the Hon Tim Whetstone MP, who was an apology for the occasion.

Quotes from Deputy Premier and Attorney General, Hon Vickie Chapman MP:

“For over 100 years, South Australian Women in Agriculture and Business has been a significant part of our agricultural history in this state and I’m proud to be a member of this organisation and pleased to see it continue its role into the future”

“I was contacted by the WAB regarding an appropriate location to display the 80th anniversary banner and given the history of the agricultural towns and districts portrayed; I thought it was appropriate to be housed in the office of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development”

“I am sure everyone agrees this banner is a fine example of the history of the involvement of women in agriculture in South Australia.”

Quotes from **Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Hon Tim Whetstone MP:**

“I am delighted to display the WAB 80 year anniversary banner in my office, it has been a wonderful point of conversation for visitors, many who are involved in agriculture and live in regional communities”

“The State Government recognises the vital role women play in agriculture.

“We have a proud history of agriculture in South Australia, from the establishment of the Roseworthy Agricultural College as the first dedicated agricultural teaching college in Australia, to our current cutting-edge research and development programs being undertaken - particularly at the Waite research precinct”

Hon Vickie Chapman MP
Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, member of the On-line Branch; Scott Ashby, Chief Executive, PIRSA; Sandra Young; Joyce Chapman, delegate of WAB to National council of women of SA; Garth Rogers; Janet Hall; John Chapman; Jo Collins, Director, Agriculture, Food & Wine, PIRSA; Helen Rogers, Associate Member of WAB.

Bradley Perry, Adviser –

Agriculture, Food and Ag Tech, Office of the Hon Tim Whetstone was also present.



Sandra talked about WAB celebrations in the past including the 80th anniversary in 1997, at which the large banner (4m x2.5m) was launched. (See separate report with her speech)

Haig Wilkins, Senior Asset Management Officer, PIRSA, had spoken to the WAB members earlier about how the large banner had been cleaned by Mary Jose from Fabric of Life of North Adelaide and mounted onto a frame by using a Kedar flexible rod and stitched into the full perimeter of the banner, performed by Signarama, Adelaide.

Meg Partridge, Senior Business Officer, PIRSA, who used to be an administrator for WAB, joined the party for afternoon tea.

Below is Sandra’s speech made at the **UNVEILING OF WAB BANNER**

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 10 years 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

If any members would like to see the Banner, here is a message from Meg Partridge –

Members are very welcome to visit our office to look at the banner. All we ask is if they could email/ring me before on meg.partridge@sa.gov.au or 8303 2071 to arrange a suitable time.

(One has to phone when at the office glass doors to be allowed into that part of the building.)

HISTORY OF WAB 80yr BANNER

In 1996 Lois Harris, the State President, planned something special to celebrate the 80th birthday of WAB. She asked that all 51 branches create a motif on a standard piece of calico to depict their area. On the year of the

80th celebration of WAB, Laurette Thomson, the new State President, unveiled the banner in 1997 at the State Conference at Morphettville.

The banner was assembled by a friend of Lois and Laurette, Ellen Mellon, who wasn't a WAB member and didn't charge for her many hours of stitching the squares together.

In 1998 to 2000, the banner was displayed in the foyer of the Roseworthy Agricultural College, but was collected and displayed twice at Kalangadoo for their 75th Birthday in 1998 and at Tumbly Bay at the State Conference in 1999, where the new WAB name was ratified. For that occasion, the centre piece was covered over with an embroidered piece depicting the 2 names – Women's Agricultural Bureau (old) and Women in Agriculture & Business (new) – both did not say "of SA".

In 2000, the banner was taken from Roseworthy Agricultural College to Loxton for the WAB State Conference that year. Later it was displayed at other WAB State Conferences including those at Clare (2001), Pt Augusta(2002), Bordertown(2003), Wudinna(2006), Mannum(2007), Hawker(2008), Burnside(2009) and finally for the 100yr celebrations at Riverton in 2017.

It was also displayed at the Eyre Peninsula Regional Conference at Kimba in March, 2006. In early 2013 the centre piece was removed as the new name was not applicable when the banner was made and then, in August 2013, it was on display at Kalangadoo's 90th celebrations. A photo taken at Kalangadoo for that occasion shows the original centre piece.

Helen and Garth Rogers from Cowell, were the custodians of the banner for many years and the freestanding frame, used to display the banner on the stages or walls of various halls and venues, was designed and built by Garth Rogers. The uprights and hanger were collapsible to enable easy transportation. The banner, itself, was stored, folded, in a specially designed bag.

Also, from 2011, the banner was held by Thelma Newman, WAB Archivist, from Strathalbyn, who took it to Riverton for the 100th celebrations. After the weekend of 29-30th October, 2017, the banner returned to the home of Helen & Garth Rogers.

Before it was to be hung permanently in Adelaide, Helen Rogers and several other WAB members decided that a new centre piece should be made to include the original name and the occasion for the banner. Consequently, a new centre piece was embroidered with the words, "Women's Agriculture Bureau of South Australia 80 year Banner 1917 – 1997" and Helen sewed it onto the banner before handing it to Louise Mills of PIRSA on 28th August, 2018.

For some time, the WAB Management Team had been in communication with the staff at PIRSA and in particular, with Louise Mills and Haig Wilkins on a suitable site to permanently house the WAB banner. Finally, in July, 2018, the suggestion of placing it in the foyer of Hon Tim Whetstone's (Minister for Primary Industries & Regional Development) office at 1 King William St, Adelaide ticked all the boxes and was agreed to. The banner was dry-cleaned and a Kedar track (25mm white metal) was stitched into the perimeter of the banner to support it as it hung on the wall, crafted by Signarama, Adelaide. Having used this method means that the banner is now a permanent fixture.

Hon Vickie Chapman MP, Deputy Premier and Attorney General, a WAB On-Line member, unveiled the WAB banner on 17th January, 2019 with speeches and an afternoon tea. Sandra Young, WAB State President, and 5 other members and husbands (including Helen & Garth Rogers) attended and were very proud to see the WAB banner exhibited where Government Officials and the public at large can view such a fine work of art. It is part of SA's history.

At the unveiling, it was discovered that the embroidered centre piece had an error – it should have read “Women’s Agricultural Bureau of South Australia”. Helen Rogers was embarrassed and disappointed at the error and by 27th February, she had stitched a replacement centre piece while the banner was hanging. It took her 5½ hours over 2 days to complete and she also tidied up the square containing a packet of tissues, which is another story. Great work Helen!

Sandra Young

1/4/2019

Sources of information: Helen Rogers, Glenice Bourne, Sandra Young

As the Solomon Islands are our country of study this year we have included a short report from **ACWW SOUTH PACIFIC AREA PRESIDENT**, Gail Commens about her trip there.

“In September I travelled to the Solomon Islands where I visited seven women’s Savings Club members in their villages. These women’s organisation is “Solomon Island Rural Women’s Association & Groups” (SIRWAG) Their villages are very remote and have nothing! The main requests for help were sanitation; water tanks; pipe & taps for water; literacy classes and solar panels. One of the villagers is working on a project submission at present - this will take time as she needs help with writing it up & getting quotes. All are mainly self-employed because of their isolation. Giant African snails have come in on ships and are killing off cocoonut and palm oil plantations and are now invading the village gardens making it difficult to grow enough to sustain the people in the villages let alone have enough to sell. They have no electricity or phones etc. in the villages.”

WAB 2018 State Conference Report ([with apologies to Nadene who wrote this report and I somehow omitted to include it in the last Newsletter – Lee](#))

The State Conference was held on the 31st August 2018 at Murray Bridge RSL clubrooms, organized by the Management Committee. Thanks go to Coonalpyn Branch for supplying the morning and afternoon tea. A total of 54 people were present at roll call, including 3 associate members and 13 visitors. The AGM was held before the conference.

Murray Bridge Mayor, Brenton Lewis, shared some of his agri-business background and a little about the Regional City of Murray Bridge before welcoming us to the area and declaring the conference open.

Belinda Cay of Ag Communications told her family’s story about losing their homes in the Pinery Bushfires and how they have had to be resilient to rebuild. Belinda gave birth to twins since the fires and spent 150 days in hospital with them. Her motto “Always Look for the Good” should inspire us all.

Belinda gave a very informative talk about her Ag Communications business which has the aim to attract school students to pursue an agricultural pathway after leaving school. She spoke about the paddock to plate virtual reality stand they had at the Adelaide Show. Even though ‘Food and Fibre’ are part of the national curriculum, agricultural pursuits are not seen as relevant to city schools or students. Ag Communications puts people in the classrooms to work with students. They are dependent on grants for funding.

Tracy Piltz from Bank SA, our major sponsor, spoke about some of the lesser known services the Bank offers, like POA and Estate Management and staff volunteering and sponsorship in local areas.

Sandra Richards gave a very thought-provoking talk and slide show on recycling and the damage done by plastics in our environment. She showed us some excellent alternative products available on the market and we folded a paper bin liner with Sandra Young's instructions.



Jo Waldon from Safe Ag Systems spoke on Ag Compliance according to the Work Health Safety Act.

We heard about the number of on farm and agricultural accidents and the age demographic of farm workers (39% over 55). Safe Ag Systems together with farmers have developed an online app which workers can log into while at work to enable the ongoing safety of workers especially if working in isolation, as they can be tracked and contacted via their phones. www.safeagsystems.com

Our final topic was a Sleep Trivia Talk from Kevin and Amanda Booker. They spoke about the cycle of sleep and how bad sleep patterns and snoring etc will affect our health and lives. We need good sleep to recover and repair our bodies each day.

Jan Boord gave a short report from ACWW thanking branches for their Coins for Friendship donations, which enable the board to meet, facilitate programs and circulate magazines.



Thanks to all who helped in any way to make the day a success

On-line members receiving their awards from Sandra Young at left.

L to r: Sally Grundy, Liz Calvert, Adair Dunsford, Roz Rowett, Mary Wilkinson

Sandra Young summarised a Hansard extract of a motion adopted by the House of Assembly on 28th Nov, 2018, that was sent to WAB and is of interest for WAB members.

It is a very interesting motion to pass in Parliament and it was explained in a covering letter from Richard Crump, Clerk in the House of Assembly, that a motion is a proposition by a member or Minister for the consideration of the House. The subject matter is far ranging and motions, once adopted do not have the force of law but represent an opinion of the House, which may or may not be acted upon by the Government.

MOTION PASSED IN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY for WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

A motion was passed in the House of Assembly (28th Nov, 2018) to raise awareness of the important role women play in agribusiness and in regional South Australia, especially in leadership roles. It was also noted that women are occupying an increasing number of diverse roles in agribusiness and it recognised that South Australia continues to encourage more women to pursue careers in agriculture and horticulture as the world's growing demand for our food continues to rise.

The Attorney-General and Deputy Premier, Hon Vickie Chapman, moved the motion and within her presentation, she acknowledged the "extraordinary work of Women in Agriculture & Business of SA" which has evolved to "a modern and dynamic organisation", of which she is a member.

The motion was supported by Mr Edward Hughes MP (Giles), Mr Troy Bell MP (Mt Gambier), Mr Peter Treloar MP (Flinders), Hon Zoe Bettison MP (Ramsay), Mr David Basham MP (Finniss), Hon Tim Whetstone MP (Chaffey – Minister for Primary Industries & Regional Development), Hon Tony Piccolo MP (Light) and Hon Corey Wingard MP (Gibson – Minister for Police, Emergency Services & Correctional Services) and it was passed.

It was emphasised that over the past 100 years, the roles of women in agriculture have changed dramatically. In the early years, women were expected to raise the family using skills in education, health & first aid, cooking and cleaning but also to milk cows, feed pigs, keep chickens for meat & egg sales. Later the women became silent partners and were expected to support their income off-farm in nursing, teaching, office work, etc. Now, however, the modern woman farmers drive harvesters, tractors & trucks, manage stock and are training themselves in agriculture & horticulture. They are leaders in sustainable farming and in mitigating climate change. Since diverse technology is being used by farmers of today, women find themselves at a senior level not just for their own family farm business but also in agricultural organisations.

Mention was made of some prominent women of SA in rural and agricultural environments–

Elizabeth Calvert, former State President of WAB, re-elected to the Clare & Gilbert Valley Council, who has taken responsibility to lead the change on a number of important issues, especially to ensure the health & well-being of rural communities.

Fiona Simson, President of the National Farmers' Federation, who stands up for farmers nationally and is a strong supporter for mitigation of climate change.

Caroline Rhodes, CEO of Grain Producers SA, highly respected and an "incredibly good operator".

Lechelle Earl, from Mt Gambier, CEO of Onions Aust, who oversees growers, seed, chemical & machinery specialists for the onion industry.

Olivia Nunn, executive officer of the Coonawarra Wine Region's growers' body.

Wendy Fennel, managing director and co-founder of Fennel Forestry, 2015 Businesswoman of the Year.

Megan Low, CEO of Lower Eyre Agricultural Development Assoc.

Pam Dunsford, a pioneer in women's leadership in the wine industry.

Senator Anne Ruston, former Assistant Minister for Agriculture & Water Resources.

Linda Sewell, CEO of OneFortyOne Plantations.

Robbie Davis, CEO of Potatoes SA.

Pat Hamilton (WAB member) a communicator within agricultural services is "doing a great job".

Hon Vickie Chapman, (WAB member) is the first woman Deputy Premier and Attorney-General in SA and has been a great inspiration not only to women but to her male colleagues in politics.

There were many other women mentioned for their varied achievements in agriculture and rural communities. Women in Agriculture & Business of SA was recognised for its importance in networking and its supportive role for women, actively involved in agriculture and business.

29th Triennial World Conference of ACWW

Six WAB members attended the Conference in Melbourne, the first for Jan Boord, Beth Gale and Yvonne Correll while Barbara Schaefer enjoyed her 13th! They, along with Sandra Young and Joyce Chapman have sent their impressions of the Conference which I have condensed into one.

“I can see why people keep attending these inspiring conferences, renewing friendships and making new connections each time.”

The Opening ceremony included a parade of school girls dressed in green and yellow ACWW T-shirts bearing the 84 flags from countries around the world where ACWW has a presence.

Aboriginal Elder Auntie JOY welcomed over 700 delegates and observers and 13 year old Lillie Walker sang an emotional aboriginal song.

Ruth Shanks from CWA NSW completed her 6 year term as World President at this conference and she can be very proud of the great job she has done. Her successor is Magdi De Kock from South Africa, who will also be a very capable leader.

The conference sessions discussing and voting on Resolutions was superbly managed and concurrent Sessions enlightening and informative. It was interesting listening to the guest speakers about Elimination of Rabies, Human Trafficking (a huge problem in USA), Domestic Violence and over use of plastic. For Sandra it was an honour to be able to second Resolution no.10 on Action for Climate Change on behalf of WAB. (See below) All the members commented on the pleasure of renewing friendships and meeting delegates from around the world and all are looking forward to the next South Pacific Area conference in PNG in June 2020 and then the next World Conference in 2022 in Malaysia.

At the ACWW Conference in Melbourne Sandra gave a 2 minute talk when she I seconded the Action on Climate Change **resolution no.10**, as follows –

Women in Agriculture & Business of SA second the Action on Climate Change resolution moved by the Wiltshire Federation of Women’s Institutes of England & Wales. One of WAB’s Aims & Objectives is to promote and support the preservation of our environment and ecology and care for the land.

Climate Change is indeed affecting everyone, but in particular our island neighbours of the South Pacific and Indian Oceans, where sea levels are rising.

Cyclones are common occurrence now, when once they were rare. Over 1.85 million people have been affected and at least 750 people have been killed by Cyclone Idai, which hit Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi recently. I am a survivor of Cyclone Tracey in 1974 and know the devastation it brings.

The 2015 Paris Climate Agreement’s 3rd commitment was – I quote – “making financial flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development” – end of quote.

It is time for us to remind and encourage our Governments to contribute financially through Bonds (Green Bonds) or other means to meet this commitment. It can be done.

I reflect on the lives of my 2 little grandchildren – Eleanor and Casey – and another about to be born. Will their world be safe, secure and as beautiful as I know it?

I ask you to accept this resolution.

Resolution 10 – be it resolved that all ACWW member societies support the historic Paris Climate Agreement 2015 by taking action at local, national and international level to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help build resilience within their communities to deal with the adverse impacts of climate change.

The resolution was passed.

“Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated.”



Thank you for supporting BANK SA, our sponsors over many years.

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A REMINDER ALL REPORTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT WAB NEWS ARE TO BE SENT DIRECTLY TO YOUR REGIONAL COORDINATOR WHO WILL THEN FORWARD TO LEE RUSSELL.

If emailing reports simply include Newsletter Editor by cc to LEE at ndhrrussell@bigpond.com when emailing to your Coordinator.

DUE DATE OF THE NEXT EDITION OF THE WAB NEWSLETTER IS TO BE ADVISED