

MOTIONS ON THE 2018 CONFERENCE AGENDA

CONSTITUTION

1 Sydney City Branch, Phillip Group

Preamble: The position of State President is an integral one to the Association. The State President is the public face and voice of its members. The ability of the State President to carry out her duties consistent with the Association's Aims does not depend on where she lives or has lived. Rather, it is determined by her ability, experience and level of enthusiasm for the Association and its members.

Nominations for State President are restricted by Regulation 18 of the Association's Constitution. It should be amended so all members, who can demonstrate interest and experience in rural and regional issues, are eligible to nominate for the position of State President.

"That Regulation 18 be amended by replacing the words "be living or have lived in rural or regional areas" with "have demonstrated interest and experience in rural and regional issues".

Regulation 18 would then read:

Nominations for the State President shall be in the hands of the Chief Executive Officer and circulated to the branches two months before the State Annual General Meeting. A member nominated for State President must have demonstrated interest and experience in rural and regional issues and have had three years' experience representing a group on Executive.

2 State Executive

"That Regulation 85 be amended to clarify the provisions".

Amended Regulation 85 would then read:

Branches desirous of changing to another Group may do so by applying to the Group Council they wish to join. The Group Council must submit their response to the Executive Committee for consideration and ratification. New branches may decide for themselves which Group is most convenient for them to join.

3 State Executive

"That the number of State Vice Presidents, who are part of the State Office Bearers, decrease from four to two".

Amended Rule XXII. (a) would then read:

The Officers of the Association shall be the State President, the Immediate Past President (if any) who shall hold office for twelve months after she ceases to be State President, State Honorary Secretary, State Honorary Treasurer, State International Officer, State Agricultural/ Environmental Officer and two Vice Presidents.

Amended XXIV. (a) would then read:

The State President, two Vice Presidents, State Honorary Secretary, State Honorary Treasurer, State International Officer, and State Agricultural/ Environmental Officer, on nomination by two members of the Association, shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting by secret ballot. Written nominations for the appointment of the State President, two Vice Presidents, State Honorary Secretary, State Honorary Treasurer, State International Officer and State Agricultural/ Environmental Officer shall be delivered to the Chief Executive Officer ... A full citation other than length of service, covering all qualifications of candidates shall be given for all six officers and be published in the Association's Journal in the issue published immediately prior to the opening of the said Annual General Meeting.

MOTIONS ON THE 2018 CONFERENCE AGENDA

	<p>Amended XXIV. (b) would then read:</p> <p>(b) Each of the two Vice Presidents must have previously served on the Executive Committee for at least twelve months, and will be elected from the Group Representatives or the retiring Officers of the Association.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>State Executive</p> <p>“That the Chair of the Social Issues Committee be made a State Office Bearer”.</p> <p>Amended XXII. (a) would then read: The Officers of the Association shall be the State President, the Immediate Past President (if any) who shall hold office for twelve months after she ceases to be State President, State Honorary Secretary, State Honorary Treasurer, State International Officer, State Agricultural/ Environmental Officer, State Social Issues Officer and two Vice Presidents.</p> <p>Amended XXIV. (a) would then read: The State President, two Vice Presidents, State Honorary Secretary, State Honorary Treasurer, State International Officer, State Agricultural/Environmental Officer and State Social Issues Officer, on nomination by two members of the Association, shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting by secret ballot. Written nominations for the appointment of the State President, two Vice Presidents, State Honorary Secretary, State Honorary Treasurer, State International Officer, State Agricultural/Environmental Officer and State Social Issues Officer shall be delivered to the Chief Executive Officer ... A full citation other than length of service, covering all qualifications of candidates shall be given for all seven officers and be published in the Association's Journal in the issue published immediately prior to the opening of the said Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>Amended XXVIII. would then read: The Association at any Annual General Meeting shall confirm the nomination of the Group Representative and elect new State Officers other than the Vice Presidents, State International Officer, State Agricultural/Environmental Officer and the State Social Issues Officer for the ensuing year. If at any meeting ... and so on from time to time until that place is filled.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>State Executive</p> <p>“That the description of the Duties of Officers for the State Agricultural/Environmental Officer, State Social Issues Officer and State International Officer be simplified and streamlined”.</p> <p>Amended XXIII would then read: (f) The State International Officer shall encourage and collate the work of the International Committee. She shall attend Executive Committee meetings and report on the work of the International Committee.</p> <p>(g) The State Agricultural/Environmental Officer shall encourage and collate the work of the State Agricultural/Environmental Committee. She shall attend Executive Committee meetings and report on the work of the Agricultural and Environmental Committee.</p> <p>Insert: (h) The State Social Issues Officer shall encourage and collate the work of the Social Issues Committee. She shall attend Executive Committee meetings and report on the work of the Social Issues Committee.</p> <p>The clause currently marked as (h) will become clause (i).</p>

MOTIONS ON THE 2018 CONFERENCE AGENDA

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES	
1a)	<p>Central Western, Far Western, Monaro and Wollondilly Groups:</p> <p>“That the specific Health Research Fund Annual Project for 2018-2019 be Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma”.</p>
1b)	<p>Blue Mountains and South West Groups:</p> <p>“That the specific Health Research Fund Annual Project for 2018-2019 be Alzheimer’s Disease”.</p>
1c)	<p>Nepean and Phillip Groups:</p> <p>“That the specific Health Research Fund Annual Project for 2018-2019 be Endometriosis”.</p>
AGRICULTURAL/ENVIRONMENTAL	
2	<p>Bingara Branch, Gwydir Group</p> <p><i>Preamble: The Grey Headed Flying Fox are affecting communities across Australia. Colonies are spending longer in areas, resulting in a myriad of problems. Exhaustion of food sources could increase the risk of disease caused from malnutrition and overcrowding. Destruction of habitat for many smaller mammals, birds, lizards and insects combined with the contamination of waterways by excreta could become an environmental disaster. A lack of sleep, stress and depression affects residents, along with the smell and noise, reducing their quality of life. Pets, especially dogs, can be affected by the sonar noise of the bats resulting in behavioural and health problems. Increased financial burden due to physical damage to vehicles, roofs and electrical equipment and a downturn in tourism. We are not disputing the endangered species status, but are asking for an equitable approach to the management of colonies across Australia for all concerned.</i></p> <p>“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for, as a matter of urgency, the creation and implementation of a strategic management plan to protect the health and sustainability of communities and environments affected by the feeding and roosting of the Grey Headed Flying Fox”.</p>
3	<p>Berry Branch, Wollondilly Group</p> <p><i>Preamble: Feral cats have contributed to the extinction of at least 28 mammal species since they first arrived in Australia and continue to wreak havoc. They imperil around a third of our threatened mammals, reptiles, frogs and birds. 124 species of native wildlife are at risk of extinction from feral cats. Each feral cat kills up to 1,000 native animals a year, ranging from crickets to lizards and small mammals. The Mammal Action Plan 2012 and a report published in 2014 by the US National Academy of Sciences ranked feral cats as the highest threat to Australia’s mammals. Their threat factor was more than double that of red foxes, the next highest threat, and triple that of habitat loss and fragmentation. In January 2017, Dr Sarah Legge from the University of Queensland estimated the feral cat population was about 2.1 million across Australia during drought and nearly six million in wet seasons.</i></p> <p>“That the policy of the CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for and support efforts to control, by culling, the feral cat population of Australia”.</p>
4	<p>Bowral Branch, Wollondilly Group</p> <p><i>Preamble: The Murray-Darling Basin is a vibrant farming area and supplies many areas of Australia with wheat, dairy produce, fruit and vegetables. Water is essential to every</i></p>

MOTIONS ON THE 2018 CONFERENCE AGENDA

	<p><i>community and industry in the area. Quotas are regulated by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority under strong compliance regimes to ensure that water is not misused or stolen. Often in time of drought, water allocation from the Murray-Darling Basin is reduced if there is a lack of available water.</i></p> <p><i>One of the difficulties with water allocation in the area is that the Murray-Darling Basin crosses several state boundaries – NSW, SA, ACT and QLD. All have vested interests in maintaining their quotas. Following allegations of water theft and meter tampering in NSW aired by the ABC’s Four Corner’s program 28 July 2017, it may prompt the Commonwealth Auditor-General to expand an investigation into the Federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. If the allegations of unlawful removal of water is substantiated, then it must be addressed not only for the people of the Murray-Darling Basin, but for the whole of the Australian community.</i></p> <p>“That the policy of the CWA of NSW shall be to support and encourage the proposed audit and assessment of the NSW section of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan and the Federal Government overview and assessment of the full Murray- Darling Basin Plan”.</p>
5	<p>Dunedoo Branch, Castlereagh Country Group</p> <p><i>Preamble: Our landfills are becoming increasingly difficult to manage with huge amounts of materials being dumped that can’t be broken down quickly. Plastic is one of the biggest problems. An estimated 3.76 billion bags or 20,700 tonnes of plastic are disposed of in landfill sites throughout Australia every year. It is estimated that around 50 million bags enter the Australian litter stream every year. It is estimated that Australians use a billion takeaway coffee cups a year, the majority of which cannot be recycled. Many thousands of marine mammals and seabirds die every year around the world as a result of plastic litter. When the animal dies and decays the plastic is free again to repeat the deadly cycle.</i></p> <p>“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to encourage all retailers to use containers and bags made from alternatives to plastic”.</p>
6	<p>Terramungamine Branch, Macquarie Group</p> <p><i>Preamble: Ovine brucellosis is caused by a bacterium called Brucella ovis. All breeds of sheep are susceptible to brucellosis, which causes considerable economic loss due to reduced fertility in rams, resulting in reduced lamb marking percentages and extended lambing periods, and necessitating increased culling of rams, which must then be replaced. It is estimated that one in four flocks in NSW are infected (Dr J Kelly, pers com). The disease produces inflammation of the epididymis in rams and of the placenta in pregnant ewes, causing abortion and increased neonatal lamb deaths. Transmission of the disease at the time of delivery may occur if rams are running with lambing ewes. The purchase of infected rams for breeding purposes results in the spread of the disease to previously uninfected flocks. If all rams sold through saleyards were ‘for slaughter only’ unless certified to be brucellosis free, there would be fewer infected rams entering the breeding system.</i></p> <p>“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be that all rams sold through sale yards be ‘for slaughter only’ unless accompanied by veterinary certification that they are brucellosis free”.</p>
7	<p>Stanwell Park Branch, Illawarra Group</p> <p><i>Preamble: Deer are considered a pest by Wollongong City Council, this definition is not legislative as deer are not a declared pest under the Rural Lands Protection Act 1998. Deer populations have soared in NSW by 60% between 2009 and 2016 according to the</i></p>

MOTIONS ON THE 2018 CONFERENCE AGENDA

	<p><i>Invasive Species Council. Landholders and residents say the damage to agriculture and sensitive rainforest is wreaking havoc. There is damage to new tree plantings and vegetation, with tree guards and barbed wire fences being no deterrent. Deer also cause ongoing damage to fence infrastructure on rural properties.</i></p> <p><i>Increasing deer numbers on roads in the Illawarra area are causing a safety hazard. Residents are now seeing them in urban backyards and public safety has become a real issue. Sydney Trains said there had been more than 30 collisions involving deer wandering on the rail corridor over the past 12 months.</i></p> <p>“That the policy of the CWA of NSW shall be that deer be classified as a pest species to allow the legal culling of these animals”.</p>
EDUCATION	
8	<p>Pleasant Hills Branch, Riverina Group</p> <p><i>Preamble: There is an anomaly within the Education Department that affects Pre-School teachers who have the same two university degrees as Primary School teachers, but choose Early Childhood teaching. Early Childhood Education and Care is not included under the Education Act as a ‘Registered Australian School’. Teachers working in Early Childhood do not have their teaching experience recognised in the school system and are classified as a Graduate teaching, meaning newly trained and paid as such, as per the Enterprise Agreement. Teaching pay and accreditation are affected eg Band 1, Level 1 Graduate teacher (newly trained), instead of Band 2, Level 5 means a pay difference in approx. \$800 - \$1,000 per fortnight. A university degree in teaching and accreditation status should be recognised and acknowledged in every educational system all across Australia.</i></p> <p>“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for Early Childhood Education and Care Services to be recognised under the legislation as Australian registered schools, therefore ensuring university qualified early childhood teachers who work in both formal school settings and/or early childhood settings are recognised and acknowledged for their experience, skills and qualifications”.</p>
9	<p>Sydney City Branch, Phillip Group</p> <p><i>Preamble: The Department of Education and Communities School Uniform Policy and Guidelines state that a school uniform should cater for all students in the school community in a manner sensitive to gender and local cultural and social issues including cultural and religious diversity; meet requirements of occupational health and safety, anti-discrimination and equal opportunity legislation; provide girls and boys with equal access to the full range of school activities, and the implications of equal opportunity legislation are such that uniforms must enable both sexes to participate actively and safely in school life. The school’s uniform policy must be formally endorsed by the school community before implementation. As such, the NSW Government leaves the school community to decide on its uniforms. This has resulted in an inconsistent approach in uniform policy across NSW.</i></p> <p>“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for the NSW Government to amend its School Uniform Policy so that the gender neutral uniforms are mandatory for all public schools in NSW”.</p>

MOTIONS ON THE 2018 CONFERENCE AGENDA

HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY	
10	<p>Eden Branch, Far South Coast Group</p> <p><i>Preamble: Aged Care (and the associated Home Care) is very important to all regions, particularly in rural and remote areas of NSW. The change from a Home Aged Care (HAC) program to the new Consumer Directed My Aged Care packages (MAC) with the Department of Health and Ageing has caused problems for some clients. A client rings MAC for an assessment, they are subsequently given an ID number and placed in a national queue – with city and country people in the same queue. The queue favours the aged in cities, due to ageing population numbers alone, while rural and remote areas wait for packages to be assigned.</i></p> <p>“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be that the Federal Government be urged to ensure equity in the distribution of My Aged Care packages”.</p>
11	<p>Wagga Wagga Evening Branch, Riverina Group</p> <p><i>Preamble: If a medical practitioner does not have automatic claiming facilities for a private health care rebate and/or a Medicare refund, you must apply for a refund after you have paid a sizeable account. Not only is this a lengthy process at Centrelink, but waiting for a refund can take up to a few weeks. The Government can only strongly encourage health providers to use electronic processing for claims. If it became legislation, then medical practitioners would have to adhere to it.</i></p> <p>“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for all medical practitioners to use electronic or digital claiming to allow their patients to receive refunds promptly”.</p>
12	<p>Moruya Branch, Far South Coast Group</p> <p><i>Preamble: Harm may be caused to an older person by a spouse, family member, partner, neighbour, friend or persons providing a service. Domestic and/or family violence can play a major part as well as paid caregivers preying on their elderly patients. Types of abuse include physical, psychological/emotional, elder financial abuse, sexual and neglect. Abandonment, Rights Abuse, Institutional Abuse and Self Neglect are also recognised as elder abuse. The key component for prevention of elder abuse is recognising and acting on acknowledged signs.</i></p> <p>“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for the promotion of awareness of elder abuse”.</p>
13	<p>Oaklands Branch, Murray Group</p> <p><i>Preamble: Current research indicates that psychological suffering and poor mental health are the most significant and potentially treatable factors in the dying process for terminally ill patients and their families. The presence of psychological distress has been shown to increase a person’s perception of pain. Mental health problems can lead to increased distress and worry among friends and family. Emotional distress and depression is often viewed by clinicians as a normal, inevitable and an appropriate response to dying. Depression is not a normal part of dying.</i></p> <p>“That CWA of NSW advocate for the inclusion of psychological distress in mental health criteria, under the current Medicare initiatives, for both people living with advanced chronic and terminal illnesses and their families and caregivers.”</p>

MOTIONS ON THE 2018 CONFERENCE AGENDA

14	<p>Oaklands Branch, Murray Group</p> <p><i>Preamble: Medicare rebates are available to patients under strict mental health criteria, only when they have been referred by a GP, psychiatrist or a paediatrician. Research shows that due to a lack of education/awareness, medical professionals have difficulty recognising symptoms and behaviours displayed by people (and their family/caregivers) coping with dying, as reflective of psychological distress. There are very few referrals for people with terminal illness or their families to appropriately qualified psychologists or social workers for psychological support and therapy.</i></p> <p>“That CWA of NSW advocate for accredited Mental Health clinicians to be able to provide psychological services in rural communities for people living with advanced chronic and terminal illnesses, their families and caregivers, through Medicare, without a GP referral.”</p>
15	<p>Oaklands Branch, Murray Group</p> <p><i>Preamble: The difficulty in attracting allied health clinicians into rural practice is similar to those faced in attracting GPs. Currently only GPs and medical specialists are provided with a rural loading by the Federal Government for the additional time and cost in providing essential services in regional, rural and remote communities. They are also paid a practice incentive to bulk bill clients. Other Medicare accredited allied and mental health care professionals are not provided with similar recognition. These include Mental Health Accredited Social Workers, Psychologists, Occupational Therapists and Speech Pathologists.</i></p> <p>“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for a review of the Medicare benefits payment schedule to include an appropriate and commensurate rural loading or incentive payment for Medicare accredited allied health care professionals working in regional, rural and remote communities”.</p>
16	<p>Albion Park Evening Branch, Illawarra Group</p> <p><i>Preamble: Female genital mutilation (FGM) is one of the most barbaric practices performed on women of all ages still in operation today. On 23 March 2017 the Australian Medical Association (AMA) condemned the practice of any form of FGM. Despite the practice being illegal in all states of Australia, children and women are still being forced to endure the pain and suffering and in some cases ongoing discomfort attached to this procedure. It is also a criminal offence to remove a child from Australia, or to assist whether overtly or tacitly in such a removal for the purpose of submitting her to any form of FGM overseas.</i></p> <p>“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to promote the enforcement of the law with regard to female genital mutilation/cutting”.</p>
17	<p>Walgett Branch, Barwon Group</p> <p><i>Preamble: The NSW Government must ensure that monitoring systems are in place and actively monitored at all times to ensure that all health employees are protected. Most violence is perpetrated by patients and visitors. Many health employees are threatened or exposed to verbal aggression. Health workers most at risk included nurses and other staff directly involved in patient care, emergency room staff and paramedics. Worldwide, nurses are more likely to be attacked than prison guards and police officers. Studies show that 90% of emergency ward staff have experienced some type of violence, but it's not isolated to the emergency department.</i></p> <p>“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for protection against violence and assaults for all health employees”.</p>

MOTIONS ON THE 2018 CONFERENCE AGENDA

18	<p>Kyogle Evening Branch, Far North Coast Group</p> <p><i>Preamble: Abortion is illegal in NSW under the Crimes Act 1900, although court decisions have established that abortion will not be unlawful if a doctor reasonably believes it is necessary to save the woman from serious danger to her life, mental or physical health. However, women seeking abortions, as well as their doctors, remain vulnerable to persecution for unlawful abortion and removing it from the criminal law will provide certainty to patients and doctors about their rights to access these health services.</i></p> <p>“That the policy of the CWA of NSW shall be to support the repeal of Sections 82-84 of the NSW Crimes Act, relating to abortion offences”.</p>
19	<p>Bangalow Branch, Far North Coast Group</p> <p><i>Preamble: Women over 55 are the fastest growing demographic of homeless people. These women have not been homeless before but now find themselves in that situation due to adverse life events such as family violence, widowhood or illness. Older women’s homelessness differs and is more hidden. Older women are not generally found sleeping rough, but are living in backpacker accommodation, hostels, staying with friends or sleeping in their cars. When they are homeless older women find it much harder than older men to access homelessness services because many are targeted to men, families and to rough sleepers.</i></p> <p>“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to campaign for specific housing options for older women faced with homelessness or a housing crisis”.</p>
20	<p>Scone & District Branch, Hunter River Group</p> <p><i>Preamble: The Family Court currently relies on the parties in dispute to either be honest in making a full frank disclosure of their income, or either party to provide evidence of under payment of child support payments. Such evidence includes indications that the paying parent is living beyond their stated means, or in a new relationship where the cost of living is being shared. Instead of relying on the parties in dispute to provide evidence, the Federal Government is asked to set in place a process for the incomes of paying parents to be independently checked on a regular basis, and that the resources be provided in order for this to happen.</i></p> <p>“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for stronger and more varied processes for the incomes of separated parents to be independently and regularly checked, to ensure that they are contributing a true share of child support payments”.</p>
MISCELLANEOUS	
21	<p>Sydney City Branch, Phillip Group</p> <p><i>Preamble: Full funding of Community Legal Centres is vital so that they can continue to improve and provide vital legal services across NSW at no charge for those that are vulnerable and most in need of representation, but can’t afford it. Free legal advice is needed for issues such as family violence, welfare, employment and tenancy.</i></p> <p>“That the policy of the CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for the full funding of Community Legal Centres in line with the recommendations of the 2014 Inquiry Report of the Productivity Commission titled “Access to Justice Arrangements”.</p>

MOTIONS ON THE 2018 CONFERENCE AGENDA

22 Rowena Branch, Barwon Group

Preamble: The NSW electricity industry commenced its reform process four years ago - in that time, three of the four supply & distribution companies have been wholly or partly sold. Essential Energy is the only one remaining in State Government hands - it was seen to be too big (and too profitable!) to be part of the sell-off. What might happen in the future? A large number of electricity retailers have now entered the market, a move which was supposed to create more competition and lead to lower prices! The following issues have arisen and could arise as a result of the reform process:

- electricity affordability and resulting social impacts*
- loss of employment due to high prices and/or threat of blackouts – businesses downsizing/closing down*
- retailers using smart meters which need a mobile signal to operate*
- responsibility for equipment maintenance - supplier/consumer/retailer?*
- W H & S & public liability*
- need for reliable electricity supply network, especially by telecommunications networks (NBN) & emergency services.*

“That the policy of the CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for rural, regional and remote electricity consumers and communities in NSW, regarding the current and potential negative effects of the reforms occurring within the NSW electricity supply and distribution network”.