

The Country Woman

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103rd Annual State Conference
Wagga Wagga
Monday, 19 May 2025

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Monday, 19 May 2025



State Conference

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AGM 2025





The Country Woman is the official publication of the Country Women's Association of New South Wales.

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From the Editor

Three years run, won and done. It's been an amazing ride. This issue closes my time as Honorary Editor of The Country Woman. It has been a privilege to be a guardian of the CWA of NSW story.

Thank you everyone (especially those branches I approached in the early issues) for understanding what I wanted to achieve and how this contributed to the continued growth of the journal.

Safely tucked away, I have a small bundle of messages of encouragement and support from my time as Honorary Editor. To all of my pen pals—thank you.

Late last year, I put forward a submission to State Executive to see if the name of the Garry Prize could be amended to recognise its benefactor: past State President, Agnes Garry, MBE. During my time as Honorary Editor and custodian of The Garry Prize, I was often asked "Who was Garry?" This led to extensive research to understand Agnes Garry's work within the organisation and her life in general. Her life was chronicled under her husband's initials: Mrs JJ Garry MBE, rather than her own name, as would be the case today. At its November 2024 meeting, the State Executive agreed to change the name of the Garry Prize to the Agnes Garry Award, in recognition of Agnes' achievements within the organisation.

To the incoming Honorary Editor, Brenda, I hand over the keyboard with much love and a wish to keep telling good stories. Go well.

Sonia Roberts, Hon Editor

State President

As this report was due before we attended State Conference it fell to me to complete.

The biggest news that I can report is the payment of \$500,000 we made from the Disaster Relief Fund to Queensland CWA for distribution to flood victims. The devastation in that state has been huge and we feel for all those affected.

Since I wrote my previous report I have attended an online Associations Forum webinar, online Food Standards Australia New Zealand meeting, East Maitland Branch's 75th birthday celebrations, Bowral Branch's 100 year luncheon, Georges River's 10th birthday afternoon tea, participated in eight media interviews, attended a breakfast hosted by Women's Community Shelters featuring guest speaker, Jennifer Robinson who is a human rights lawyer and barrister and spoke about her book "How the Law Silences Women", attended a meeting with the Independent Planning Commissioner at his request, attended the announcement of the winner of the Rural Women's Award, and participated in two online meetings with some of the other state presidents.

I have become very interested in the Women's Community Shelters and the support they offer women who find themselves homeless. A quote from their CEO, Annabelle Daniel, OAM, is "Every woman and child should have a safe and secure home. Abuse and homelessness can impact every element of their life—their health, their education, their relationships, sense of self and future prospects. We invite you to walk beside and support the women and children in our shelters. You won't just be changing lives—you will be saving lives". I know that some branches and members support

local shelters and I commend you for this initiative. I believe that there are more shelters planned in the near future and if you are contacted by a member of staff from Women's Community Shelters please assist them with any questions they may have about your local area.

Whilst clearing out the State President's office in Mascot I came across an old copy of The Land newspaper. It was, in fact, the very first edition published, 27th January 1911, and it makes interesting reading. The changes that we can see in how commodities are now produced and the concerns that readers would have dealt with then are a source of amazement but also confirm that in some ways things have not greatly improved. Talk of a birth on a mail train produced anxiety amongst travellers and staff—this could well happen now with women being forced to travel considerable distances to give birth. Another small article mentioned the price of honey—there was little demand at that time. That has changed with shortages sometimes affecting the prices and should we worry about the disease potential in bees? Another interesting read was the women's section where clothing styles and fabrics were discussed along with potential illness in babies related to bottle feeding in hot weather.

It was mentioned to me that I hadn't thanked my husband when I did my last report. I had planned to do this in my address to Conference but of course you won't all be present. Ken has been of huge assistance to me whilst performing this role and has certainly been a great chauffeur and sounding board. He has made it all so much easier.

A big thank you to all our members for your support.

"A kind gesture can reach a



wound that only compassion can heal"—Steve Maraboli

Joy Beames
State President

Kindness Quotes

You never know just how enormous a small act of kindness can be.—Doe Zantamata

Remember, there's no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end.—Scott Adams

Kindness can become its own motive. We are made kind by being kind.—Eric Hoffer

How do we change the world? One act of kindness at a time.—Morgan Freeman

A kind heart is a fountain of gladness, making everything in its vicinity freshen into smiles.—Washington Irving

Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.—Voltaire

We shall never know all the good that a simple smile can do.—Mother Teresa

Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud.—Maya Angelou

Every small, unselfish action nudges the world into a better path.—unknown

Let us not forget to be kind.—CWA Collect

CEO's Report

As we approach the second half of the year, it is wonderful to reflect on the busy and productive months we have ahead, as well as the months past, particularly our State Conference. As the event is later this year, I am writing this report prior to Conference but as always, I am looking forward to connecting with many of you in person once again and to engage in conversations that drive the work of CWA of NSW forward. For those who were unable to attend, we hope you were able to take advantage of the livestreaming service. The links provided for the livestream will remain active for some months before being archived.

I need to take this opportunity to thank the significant efforts of the Organising Committee and the many other Conference volunteers who help us pull the event together. Another important group of people to thank are the sponsors whose generous support make the Conference possible and whose support means we can continue to provide a great Conference every year as well as offset some of the many extra costs beyond the Conference Fee that inevitably occur. This year our

sponsors included Scott & Broad, Pyrus, The Land, nbn, Telstra, Westfund, CellaED, NRAR and RAHMP.

After Conference, work will also begin in earnest in relation to prioritising issues with the relevant committees and advocating where we can on the many and varied policy resolutions that are debated and pass through Conference.

The next meeting of the State Executive Committee is scheduled for mid-July. This meeting will be especially exciting as we welcome new members to the State Executive Committee. Alongside this, we will be holding essential media training and governance training which is always well-received. The Committee will also begin to have discussions about the refreshing of our current Strategic Plan as we head into 2026 and as always, there will be updates in relation to the organisation's progress against the current plan. It is an ongoing process that ensures that we remain aligned with the evolving needs of our members and our communities.

Danica Leys
Chief Executive Officer



New Branches Needed

Do you travel a long way to attend your meetings or find it difficult to attend meetings during work hours? Think about starting a new branch in a more convenient location, or a branch that meets in the evening or on weekends.

Just 12 people are needed to start a new branch and you might be surprised how much interest there is in your community. The branch will also need people who would be keen to take on positions (such as President, Secretary, Treasurer). If you think you could help start a new branch take the opportunity to discuss this with your Group President.

For more information see P 1-1-718 in the Procedures Manual.

Conference Supporters



State Treasurer's Report

As many of you would have already heard, this year branches were given the opportunity to get a refund on the GST for their insurance premiums this year. This was a new initiative this year, and I wish I could say it was my idea but it came from a branch member in my group who asked a question that returned \$40,000 to branches. The intention is that in coming years branches will only be invoiced for the premium and not the GST component. The GST component will be paid by State Office and then claimed back from the ATO. This will save the branches that money but won't add extra work for the accounts staff at State Office, as this initiative has done this year. The finer details still need to be worked out.

Each year there are branches who ask "why can't the Association pay our insurance?", the converse question is "should the Association pay branch building insurance?". There isn't an easy answer as there are lots of things to consider. What is best for the whole Association?

This year the combined insurance cost for the branches and groups with building and/or contents insurance was almost \$470,000; premiums varied from \$25.74 to \$24,772.38. The total is about \$500,000 if the premiums paid from State Office are included.

As we all know, each year insurance costs go up. Branches that opted to have the insurance value of their building updated have been shocked when their insurance premiums increase and, in some cases, more than doubled. I suspect that there are several branch buildings that are under insured.

There are 145 branches/hall committees that paid around \$400,000 in insurance premiums this year. This is about 40% of the branches.

As a group, based on 2023/24 financial reports, those branches with rooms collectively earn more income, receive more donations and have a greater proportion of total assets. They also give less away, whether that is to the Association Fund, other CWA funds or outside organisations. The table shows the portion of the total for branches with rooms compared to those with no rooms from last year.

	Rooms	No rooms
Number of Branches	40%	60%
Donations Assn Fund	30%	70%
Disaster Relief	17%	83%
Other CWA	33%	67%
Outside donations	29%	71%
Raffle Income	38%	62%
Fundraising & Events	46%	54%
Donations to Branch	54%	46%
Total Income	60%	40%
Total Assets	57%	43%

The numbers above are one consideration in a complex issue. While financial contributions to the Association Fund and other CWA initiatives are greatly appreciated, they aren't all that matters. Branches contribute to the Association and their communities in many different ways.

If the Association pays all the insurance, would that mean the branches without rooms would be subsidising those with rooms? Or would it mean those with rooms have a greater capacity to contribute financially?

Branches that have rooms have greater costs as they pay for maintenance, rates and utilities. They also have a potential source of income (rent); somewhere to store branch possessions and archives; a consistent place to meet at no charge.

Some branch buildings are on prime real estate and have a capacity to earn high rental income, while others are isolated with no capacity to earn an income. Some are the only meeting place in their town or locality. Some are used several times a week by both CWA and community groups, others are only used for CWA meetings for a handful of women.

While some branches that have decided to sell the rooms have been revitalised and attracted new members without the burden of raising money for a failing building, others have folded due to a loss of identity. The sale of buildings has funded a variety of community projects.

There are no easy answers and lots of questions. What is fair? What is best for the whole Association? Have you tried to look at it from another's perspective? There is no judgment, just a prompt for thoughtful reflection on how we support each other across the Association.

Don't be afraid to ask the question, sometimes it's the one no one has ever thought of before.

Glimpse from CWA of NSW history

In 1940, the CWA Sheepskin Vest Sub-Committee formed to make sheepskin vests for the soldiers facing cold conditions overseas.

Over 40,000 vests were made during the war.

A Gift in Will.

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Garry Prize Winning Essay

As we reach the mid-point of the 2020s, how does local government remain fit for purpose?

By Lisa Connors

Australia is a large and diverse country and continent, and most of our states and territories cover large areas. Whilst compulsory voting encourages voters to participate in all three levels of government, it is local government, especially in regional and rural areas, that is the tier closest to most people.

With few exceptions, almost anyone can stand for election as a councillor provided he or she is enrolled to vote in the local government area where they propose to stand.¹ Being local means that councillors have local links and understand local issues. They are generally immersed in their community and that is their main qualification for standing for office.

In the most recent local government elections in September 2024, 3,889 candidates stood for election for 127 of the 128 councils in New South Wales.²

In the local government elections in 2021 (2024 figures not yet available) voter participation was 84.7% despite the Covid factor.³

Local councils deal mainly with local matters: the traditional areas of "roads, rates and rubbish", as well as local building, development and planning, parks and sporting fields, pet ownership, and providing local facilities such as libraries and swimming pools.

There are many challenges for local government but two of the most critical are surely recurrent funding and the invasion of local government by political parties.

It is the "local" in local

government that is the critical thing. And it is for this reason that party politics at the local level has long been a contentious matter. The responsibilities of local government are not things that lend themselves obviously to party politics and there is also the financial factor.

The Mayor of Mitcham put it this way:

"The mayor is the voice of the council and the voice has to deal with politicians on a federal and state basis of all persuasions, so I believe the mayor should be independent to serve the community best."⁴

Apart from dealing with local issues on their merits, rather than in a party-political way, local government funding is a contentious issue. Local government is not enshrined in our federal constitution. It is legislated by state governments and therefore liable to legislative change.⁵ Other than a right to impose rates (subject to legislative restrictions), and certain fees and charges, it has no independent source of funding or the ability to fund its own operations. Councils must constantly beg for funding from state and federal governments, particularly to fund large ticket items such as roads and bridges. State and Federal governments change, sometimes frequently, and local councils must establish relationships with all sides of politics to ensure the best financial outcomes for their local government areas.

Local government is essential for our large and sprawling continent with high levels of community involvement. We need to ensure that local issues are not made subservient to party political goals and that recurrent adequate funding for local councils is guaranteed to enable councils to fund their

obligations and to undertake effective long term planning.

1. NSW Electoral Commission "Eligibility and disqualification for local government election candidates"
2. Ibid "Candidates announced: 2024 NSW Local Government elections"
3. Ibid "Electoral Statistics"
4. Glenn Spear, ABC News 25.09.2018
5. Constitution Act 1902 and Local Government Act 1993

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Show Catering Report

Call for Volunteers

The Easter show this year coincided with the school holidays and we observed an increase in patrons with a total of 40,670 scones.

Our offerings extended beyond scones to include sandwiches, fish and chips, pies, quiches, homemade cakes, and assorted drinks. This year, we also featured a variety of gluten-free cakes, tarts, meat pies and pasties.

A special acknowledgment is due to Marie Bradbury for her Neenish tarts and gingerbread men, as well as to Sydney City and Jo Provins for their contributions of Anzac biscuits.

We extend our sincere thanks to our sponsors:

- The Manildra Group, supplying over 2.5 tonnes of scone mix.
- Pepe Saya's Australian Cultured Butter, providing pure churned handcrafted butter portions.
- Madura Tea, offering Premium Blend, Earl Grey and green tea.
- Sunshine Sugar, for the sugar sticks.
- Nestlé, for coffee and hot chocolate.
- Pace Farm Eggs, contributing 60 dozen eggs.

Jam for the scones was purchased from Beerenberg who generously donated two hampers for us to raffle at our promotions table.

Our Promotions Table showcased homemade jams and fruit cakes. This year, we reached out to our members for assistance and were rewarded with over 1,189 jars of jams, relishes and pickles. We also received 295 biscuit/cake items some of which were sold as slices, halves or quarters. While I would love to acknowledge each branch that donated, I would hate to inadvertently omit

anyone, as not all boxes had branch names. However, I can confirm that over 20 branches and 12 groups contributed. We truly appreciate the time you dedicated to cooking and baking for us, and next year please label boxes so we can personally thank you.

The CWA Tea Room relied heavily on the dedication of 302 volunteers, comprising 191 CWA members, 102 non-members (including 21 men). Volunteers received free entry to the show, and we encourage others to join us next year from 2nd April to 13th April 2026.

We also welcomed 50 new members through a Show Special membership offer. We hope that branches have followed up with these new members to ensure they feel welcomed.

This year, volunteers were entered into a draw for a two-night stay in Merimbula at the Ocean Drive apartments with Norrie Summerhayes from Eastwood emerging as the winner.

We hosted morning teas featuring visits from politicians, as well as TV and radio personalities.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the Show Catering Committee: Jocelyn Parker, Julie Deer, Barbara

Veness, Yvette Henderson, Zara White, and Rhonda Merchant. Our sub-committee members: Maree Bonanno, Kae Anforth, Chris Ford, Colleen Yates, Gail Hibbert, Jenny Le Gros, Judy Campbell, Kathy Jeanes, Lisa Begley, Cheryl Mayberry for her role as fill-in Volunteer Supervisor, also a big thank you to Rowena Casey for being our House Mum and ordering supplies, I can't thank you all enough.

We extend our thanks to the State Office staff for their unwavering support, particularly Leah Gaskell for her exceptional slideshow showcasing the CWA's behind-the-scenes work.

The 2024 Show raffle raised \$10,138, which has been allocated to the Disaster Relief Fund. Additionally, the proceeds from the 2024 show totalled \$160,000 and have been sent to the Association.

Despite the challenges, running the CWA Tea Room remains immensely fulfilling. It fosters camaraderie, serves as a public relations platform for the CWA, and stands as our most lucrative venture.

Donna Robertson
Chairperson



The Land Cookery

Everything is set for the Conference and although we were aware of increased entries, we did not expect 564 more entries at group level than last year. We are expecting 473 wonderful entries, with most having a lovely road trip to Wagga Wagga. Thank you to Riverina Group and all the members who have worked so hard for our Conference.

The return forms have highlighted the lack of understanding as to how these needed to be filled out. It would not be exaggerating to say that 80% have filled out the Branch Summary incorrectly. So, in your Schedule packets is a copy of the forms and details of filling them out.

The entry fee of \$1 per exhibit is to be paid at the **first** time an exhibit is entered, whether this is branch or group. Fees are paid to group and then onto state, which

then flows into The Land Cookery account.

A video has been placed on the Closed Facebook Group explaining this entitled "How The Land Cookery Competition works". The entry fees is what pays for the bags, cake boards, cake boxes, judges gifts, tablecloths, etc, that is needed for Conference each year.

How-to Days have now been planned for Walgett on 19th July, Broken Hill on 19th July and Albury on 27th September. Murrumbidgee-Lachlan, Namoi and Macquarie Groups have put in requests.

The Committee Challenge cake for "75 years of The Land Cookery" competition has been released on the Closed Facebook Group and in the schedule, with more information to come. We sincerely hope you enjoy the

challenge and have a lot of fun with this. It will only be in the schedule for the one year.

Congratulations to this year's winners and I remind you all again, that it is your responsibility to give your banking details in order to receive your prize money. We will not be contacting you so please forward your details to our treasurer.

Thank you all for entering, buying our raffle tickets and hosting our How-To Days. Your support has been amazing over the last year and we look forward to the new competition and seeing some amazing surprise cakes.

If anyone is interested in nominating for the Committee, please feel free to contact me with any questions. Nominations closed on 30th June.

Ellice Schrader, Chairperson

Hospital Support Report

The Hospital Support Committee held a very busy pre-Conference packing day at Mascot on 16th April. We packed a total of 22 boxes/bags to go to Conference for our display/stall which included bags of rugs and beanies to be collected by various branches in the Murrumbidgee-Lachlan and Northern Tablelands Groups, to assist them with their local community projects.

With the deadline for this journal report being prior to the Wagga Wagga State Conference there is not a lot of information for us to communicate to you. We are currently in need of muslin baby wraps and light weight fabric baby matinee jackets.

Our post-Conference meeting/packing days will have been held on the 28th and 29th May at

Mascot.

We hope that everyone who was able to attend this year's Conference in person and those that participated via livestreaming had an enjoyable experience and found the State Committee reports, the guest speakers and CWA policy motion's debates interesting and informative.

Thank you to those members who were able to visit our Hospital Support Committee display/stall at the Multi-Purpose Stadium. We value your support. We always love meeting CWA members and enjoy discussing our work and the work you do locally.

We thank those branches and members who were able to drop off donations directly to us in Wagga; they were greatly

appreciated.

Congratulations to the winners of our three lovely raffle prizes. Monies raised from our stall and our raffle go towards our ongoing sponsorship of a room at Ronald McDonald House at Newcastle, and Hospital Support Committee allocations and operational costs.

Our next meeting/packing days will be held at Mascot on Wednesday 23rd July and Thursday 24th July 2025.

Sue Vassie, Chairperson

Glimpse from CWA of NSW history

In 1986, a Conference resolution called for helmets to become compulsory for cyclists.

Handicraft Report

Wow! What else can I say. For those of you who weren't able to be at the State Conference in Wagga Wagga, you certainly missed a stunning display of Handicrafts. This year there were 650 items on display showing a stunning display of the work our members had been doing throughout the year.

You will find the results of this work elsewhere in the journal and the spoils were shared throughout the state; however, I must say a word of congratulations to Brenda Phillips, Yass Branch, Southern Tablelands Group, for her most magnificent piece of work which gained her the Overall Champion Piece of work in the Group Competition. It was truly amazing.

The Branch Challenge of the four pincushions was an amazing challenge and we were rewarded with all 29 groups presenting an entry. The Chairman's Choice was also successful with 25 groups having entries. Well done on both efforts. I hope 2026 will give a similar result.

The judging was so close that there was, in fact, a winner, three groups sharing the second place and then another in third place in the Group Competition.

Our judging was again conducted at Oak Tree Village in Dubbo which has an excellent venue and made available to us by the manager at no charge. Thank you, Oak Tree.

I would like also to give a special shout out and thank you for our wonderful State Handicraft Committee. I had had back surgery in April and was curtailed in what I could and could not do and the Committee members were very mindful and made sure I behaved myself! It was difficult but we got through it. Thank you also to our volunteers from Macquarie Group: Ruth Cargill, Barbara Brown, Vicki Dawson and Yvonne Dodd who worked extremely hard to have the judging run smoothly.

Now I suppose you may be waiting patiently for the news of the Branch Challenge and Chairman's Choice for 2026. The schedule is elsewhere in this journal and please note that there are a few minor changes to the schedule. The Branch Challenge is to be presented in the box which was in the Group Suitcase after Conference. Just check the measurements with your Group Handicraft Officer to make sure your branch items will fit. The Challenge is to be four items of crafted food presented on a crafted plate. Any technique can be used for these items. This, we consider, to be a fun challenge and we hope that we have a response as good as we have had this year with the four pincushions. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Handicraft Committee.

The Chairman's Choice is a little different also. The reason for introducing this section was maybe to bring back a new or long forgotten technique to our repertoires. The technique for 2026 is Indian Kantha Stitchery. This is a very ancient stitchery and was firstly used for Indian women to mend their clothing and household goods. There are many places online and many books available for you to get some inspiration. As the last two Chairmans' Challenge pieces were expensive both with equipment and framing, this time it is much more achievable for all. The technique also might be a good one to introduce new or non-sewers to picking up a needler and thread. The work needs to be a placemat, no larger than 40cms X 45 cms. Again, if you have any questions, please ask the Committee directly to get the correct information.

I showed some slides at the Conference when the Branch Challenge and Chairman's Choice were announced so if you would like these sent to you, please contact the Handicraft Committee Secretary.

The Committee and I would like to thank you for your interest and participation in this lovely section of our CWA work and we wish you well for the 2026 competition.

Ruth Shanks AM,
Chairperson

Publicity Support Forum

At the next Publicity Support Forum webinar on Saturday 14th June, all your questions about the new Publicity Award will be answered. You'll also meet the new Editor of The Country Woman, who was announced at the State Conference in Wagga Wagga in May.

Here's the link to register for the webinar: www.tinyurl.com/cwapublicity2 or use the QR code.

After you register, you'll receive an email with the link to join in on the day. The webinar will run from 2-4pm. Hope you can join us on 14th June.



Social Issues Report

Thank you to the Riverina Group for hosting the 2025 State Conference last month. Your efforts are very much appreciated by the members of the Social Issues Committee, as well as the Association at large.

The Committee's display table at the Conference proved to be very successful—many members stopped by to ask questions to find out more information about the Committee's work. We were able to discuss with members issues arising from and relating to the Association's current policy and also the Committee's 2024/25 focus issues. Copies of the Committee's current Education Kits were also available to members to view and there were handouts available with details on how to access these Education Kits via the members download section of the CWA website.

The Committee thanks the Cancer Council NSW for the information and pamphlets that were made available for members at the display table. The recent film focussing on skin cancer and the subsequent material is directed at increasing awareness and continuing the education of the wider community of the risks associated with excessive sun exposure. It is hoped that this publicity will reach even more members of the public, in particular children and teenagers, making them aware of these risks and encouraging them to wear clothing and other items that provide adequate sun protection. This issue is particularly important in Australia where there is a very high rate of skin cancer associated with sun exposure.

The Men's Table provided information postcards to the Committee for the display table. This organisation provides a place for men to meet, eat and

chat, encouraging them to speak about the issues in life that worry them as individuals. The Men's Table also recognises that women provide a strong source of encouragement for men to seek out this form of group connection.

The policies passed at the Conference will now be considered by the Committee and a decision will shortly be made about those policies that will become the Committee's main focus for the coming year. New Education Kits will be prepared and disseminated to branches and groups, and also made available to members at large. We hope that you will all adopt at least one issue to champion within your communities.

Upcoming Events

The Committee is organising a Cultural Burn webinar to take place shortly. The webinar's purpose is to promote opportunities for increasing meaningful understanding of and engagement with First Nations peoples across the state. It will feature information about cultural burning practices that have been brought back to the Barrington Tops region on the Mid North Coast. A cultural burn is a form of controlled burning that is not a simple hazard reduction burn but a more traditional practice to help propagate a vulnerable species of orchid endemic to the sub-alpine grasslands of the area. More information about the webinar to be made available to members shortly once details have been finalised.

The next meeting of the current Committee will take place in late June / early July 2025, and our AGM will occur during October 2025.

Nominations for State Committees close on 30th June

2025 with the State Office Bearers to assess the nominations for ratification at the State Executive Committee in July 2025. The term of the 2025/26 Social Issues Committee will then commence on 1st October 2025. There are seven places available. The Committee is a great way for members to become more involved in the advocacy efforts of the Association—we discuss issues brought to our attention by members, help prepare submissions to the federal and state governments, and also undertake activities promoting existing Association policy. We would love to have you as a member.

Finally, please contact me or the Committee if you have any questions or wish to raise an important social issue in your local community.

Elizabeth O'Dwyer, State Social Issues Officer

Cultivating Kindness Webinar

The Cultivating Kindness webinar takes members through the Member Conduct and Care Guide. Download the video recording or audio file using the QR codes below.

Cultivating Kindness Webinar video (1.9GB)



Cultivating Kindness Webinar audio only (96MB)



Cultural Report

I hope that all who attended the Conference found it interesting, informative and totally enjoyable. Meeting up with members from all over the state is always the highlight for people like me and seeing the remarkable talents of members is another. If you had an entry, I hope you did well.

The Committee Meeting held prior to May concentrated on the (then) upcoming AGM and Conference to be held in Wagga Wagga. Hopefully everything went smoothly for all Committees and members—particularly those members who arrived with paintings, etc. Future reports will focus on reiterating the requirements for contributing to different aspects of our contests so that the process will be more enjoyable for both the Committee and the entrants. The topics for the 2026 Conference have already been announced, and the updated Procedures Manual will publish all the regulations. Highlighting what has caused problems this year, and explaining how to rectify these, will help make your

participation in future years run smoothly.

Just a gentle reminder to please consider including our Woman of Note in your reports to members. Dame Edith Lyons was probably best known for being the wife of the Prime Minister of Australia (1933–1939), who had previously been the Premier of Tasmania. She was, however, the first woman to be elected into the House of Representatives in 1943 and also was the first female appointed cabinet member. After leaving politics in 1951 Dame Edith continued to work for the betterment of the nation. She was involved in civic work as well as being the commissioner of the ABC for over a decade. She was also a newspaper columnist, an occasional broadcaster and an author of three memoirs. When she died in 1981, she was awarded a state funeral.

Another Australian woman of note is our author of the novel for this report, Jackie French, AM. The novel is *The Schoolmaster's Daughter* and is labelled as a children's book but it is not what

I would have deemed to be children's literature. The subject matter of racism, cruelty and the exile of Island workers without any thought for their future, or for any reason save for the colour of their skin presented a very interesting read for this 78-year-old child, if it is correctly labelled.

Jackie French based this novel on real life events and highlights the bravery and battles for survival in the past. It is a story based on the lives of her two grandmothers and her great grandmother. It is one of very many books written by her in many different genres including picture books, history, fantasy, ecology, science fiction and historical fiction to name a few. She is a very solid advocate for young people's literacy. Another novel worth the trip to the library; you won't regret it!

Until next time, happy reading, painting, pottery-ing, photographing and writing.

Lynne Dunn,
Chairperson

Call for Nominations: State Committees

Nominations are called for the following State Committees:

Agricultural & Environmental, Cultural, Handicraft, Hospital Support, International, Show Catering, Social Issues and The Land Cookery.

Nominations close with the Chief Executive Officer on 30th June.

Please use the following link to submit your nomination in lieu of the Form G 14-1-724: <https://wkf.ms/41LKyfG> or use the QR code.

Nomination forms must be accompanied by the completed relevant committee essential selection criteria form. These forms can be found on pages G 14-2 to G 14-16 in the Procedures Manual or downloaded from the Procedures Manual section of the website (after signing in).

State Office Bearers will assess nominations for ratification by the State Executive at their July Executive meeting.

Committees are to meet and elect Office Bearers during the committee AGM and the tenure of the committee is from October to September.



Agricultural & Environmental

Rabbit Habits

Rabbits are only one of the feral animals that farmers have to control and as usual the Federal Government doesn't provide adequate funding for feral animal control. Parts of NSW are inundated by rabbits and the damage of their extensive burrows at this time, and farmers spend a lot of time shooting and poisoning just to have decent crops, and feed for their stock. Exciting new technology is moving forward into biological control of rabbits. Recently, I watched a webinar on current research into Gene Drive Technology or Genetic Biocontrol as it is also named. Gene Drive Technology works by altering genes, changing how animals pass on their genes, making female rabbits infertile by adding a foreign gene through DNA transgenesis. This genetic modification is inherited by the rabbit's offspring and spreads through the rabbit population to bring a halt to fertility. At this time GDT technology is progressing in mice and insects (imagine no mosquitos or mouse plagues), and is only suitable for animals that have a high fecundity and short gestation. Three advantages are farmers not having to use expensive chemicals, poisons and ammunition; is specific to the targeted species; and has the potential to control any diseases transmitted by the targeted species (eg, Toxoplasmosis in cats). Rabbit biological controls—Myxoma virus and Calicivirus seem to have run their course and are not really effective any more in NSW and ACT. While GDT is not a silver bullet, it is a very promising future solution to the rabbit problem in Australia. Eventually, GDT will be transferred to other feral animals with short gestations—carp, rats, cane toads, foxes, cats and possibly pigs.

Pole Marka©

Pole Marka© have been installed on some CWA members' properties at Illabo in the Riverina. This product is the outcome of the 2023 Conference motion from Illabo Evening Branch in reference to safety around upright power poles and stays in the agricultural industry. Two years of work with Essential Energy has finally resulted in the wrap around Pole Marka designed by Essential Energy's People & Safety Division. They are a strong, flexible and durable plastic—120 x 30cm, reflective, and easily seen from machinery and vehicles, without being blindingly glaring at night. In March, on a visit to four properties around Illabo with an Essential Energy technician, farmers were glad to host the Pole Marka trial and spoke of their needs around power poles. The main concerns were difficulty seeing the upright poles in dusty, dark and foggy conditions, and the struggle of negotiating them with machinery such as boom sprayers. The Pole Markas have been installed 2.4 meters from the ground around electricity poles so they are visible from high machinery such as tractors and harvesters. On timber power poles they are tek screwed in, and on concrete, metal and composite poles, they are attached using zinc strapping. Cropping farmers are already giving positive feedback as they sow their crops. Disappointingly, the wire stays were not included in the design for the Pole Marka. So Essential Energy are working on that now.

Cat Culture

A culture change is happening around the treatment of cats as their owners support this change, and want to do the right thing for their cats. As we now know, pet cats that are kept inside with a closed-in outdoor

cat run are happier and live up to 10 years longer because they don't need to contend with snake bites, diseases, vehicle accidents and infected wounds from fighting with other cats or dogs. More and more councils are getting on board and sending their submissions to demand the power to enforce 24/7 cat containment and desexing of cats. Some councils are advocating for the power to euthanise feral cats. The NSW government is reviewing the rules of the antiquated Companion Animals Act. Recently the Daily Telegraph newspaper has published half-page ads aimed to educate the public about the benefits of keeping cats contained and desexed, and the impact that roaming cats have on our native birds and animals. I'm pleased to say that the CWA of NSW logo was proudly included among the eight organisations who want responsible cat ownership laws (thank you to Danica for making that happen). Well done to those branches around the state that have sent their submissions to the NSW government, and it's not too late to send them to tell the government that you want responsible ownership laws to protect NSW wildlife.

Jenny Birtles
State Agricultural &
Environmental Officer

CWA of NSW closed Facebook Group

CWA of NSW's member-only Facebook group is a convenient way to discuss CWA-related topics and share ideas with others members. If you have Facebook, you can join the group at www.facebook.com/groups/cwaofnsw then click join group.

International Report

A very special thank you to those members who volunteered to assist on the display this year at the State Conference in Wagga Wagga; your help is greatly appreciated.

I would like to express my gratitude to the State President, State Office Bearers and the Executive Committee for supporting our international work, and to the members of the International Committee for their commitment and hard work throughout the year; they have certainly gone the "extra mile" on many occasions. Thank you too, to our very special State Office staff who do so much behind the scenes; you are awesome.

My sincere thanks to the members of Phillip Group and Nepean Group, coordinated by Margery East, who prepare and package Material Aid parcels to the Pacific Islands, and to the staff at State Office who despatch everything. In the last year, a total of 37 parcels have been sent out to Fiji, Kiribas, Tuvalu, Timor L'Este, Tonga, Samoa and various areas in PNG. This aid is only possible through the ongoing generosity of members in donating both money, and sewing, crochet and knitting supplies—a very big thank you to all members who assist in this way. Postage is expensive; however, these items make a

huge difference in the lives of Pacific Islands women and girls.

Similarly, it is only through the assistance of members that we can continue with Mother & Baby Packs. More than 40 packs were sent to the Milne Bay area through our Rotary International contact, Wendy Stein, over the last year. A further 22 are waiting to be sent. Please refer to the list of items required; a copy has been sent to all Group Officers and the list is also in the Procedures Manual. Items need to be new, not used, due to import regulations both here and overseas. Please note: we still collect stamps, postcards and foreign coins; the sale of these is a great help financially. Many thanks to Monaro Group in looking after the stamp sales.

While floods, droughts and illness continue to affect us all, I commend branches and groups for continuing to engage with their communities, their local schools and supporting all things International. This year 20 Group Reports were submitted, (a little disappointing compared to last year) and 25 groups submitted at least one entry in the International Competitions; this is a wonderful testament to members' willingness to embrace other cultures and the strong commitment to helping others. I would like to thank Alliance Française in

Wagga Wagga as well as Di Richards from the Wagga Wagga Embroiderer's Guild for judging our French entries. Feedback was included for each entry to guide participants in the future. This year we also had colouring-in pictures, and Craft-in-a-Box items sent in from two groups to showcase work being done by our rural and remote school children, outside of the state competitions. I would like to commend all who entered the various competitions at branch, group and state level, and congratulate those who have won awards. All the children received at least a participation certificate for their efforts. Winners are listed elsewhere in this journal.

Committee nominations close on the 30th June. Elections are finalised at the July State Executive meeting. Please if you are interested in nominating have a look at the State Committee section in the Procedures Manual, G 13-3/4-723 and complete the 2 necessary forms G 14-1-724 and G 14-7-723 and send to State Office by the closing date.

Committee meetings are held by Zoom; our busy times are the State International Seminar and State Conference.

During this year we hope to re-establish the international contacts that we lost through COVID. Please remember our focus is firmly on the South Pacific Region now.

Have courage to take just one step, embrace kindness and remember—together we are strong. *"You've got to try a little kindness, yes, show a little kindness."*—Glen Campbell

Jenny Chobdzynski
Past State International Officer
and
Carolyn McMullen
State International Officer

Agricultural & Environmental Seminar at Mittagong

15th to 16th September 2025

Highlands to the Coast: dahlias, glossy black cockatoos, spiny crayfish, highland cattle, wildflowers and waterfalls, seaweed, and more.

For more information or to book go to www.trybooking.com/DCCLJ or use the QR code.



State Handicraft Schedule 25/26



State Handicraft Exhibition Schedule 2025/2026

Each Exhibitor in the Group Competition **must** be a financial member of CWA of NSW.

All knitting and crochet items **must** have a label or strands attached.

Each Article must have been completed within two years of the current State Exhibition. Soiled work will **not** be judged.

Each article must be the work of the exhibitor and work which has been entered in the Group Section may be entered the following year in the Natural Fibres Section if it meets the criteria.

Maximum size of any framed work must not exceed 50 cm X 40 cm (unless otherwise stated by the committee) and must be in a padded fabric bag with name, branch and group attached.

Maximum size for quilts and rugs must be **no larger** than 220 cm X 220 cm. If quilted by another person, there must be a label attached stating this.

Maximum dimension of dolls, toys and bears must not exceed 51 cm.

Maximum dimension of filled cushions is 40 cm x 40 cm.

Handicraft Officers are advised that articles are insured from the time they are in the care of Group Handicraft Officer until returned to their owner after Conference.

Group Competition

Each group to enter eight articles (if possible) of any handicraft technique for Group Competition. The pure wool knitting can of course be entered but it is now

not compulsory. Painting, pottery, diamond dots, scrapbooking, mosaics are not included in Handicraft techniques.

Bonus points will be given for presenting eight "different" techniques.

Open Classes

CLASS A: Garment or article of craft made by a member 80 years and over.

CLASSES B1, B2: these classes are open to any child residing in NSW and ACT. Age as of 1st May in the year of the State Exhibition and must be stated on the article tag and on the entry form.

CLASS B1: Any Article of craft made by a junior 12 years and under (commercial quilting allowed).

CLASS B2: Any article of craft made by a junior 13-18 years of age (commercial quilting allowed).

CLASS C—Four items of crafted food (any technique) on a crafted plate. Group Officer to present to state in box 25 x 25 x 15 cm provided by the State Handicraft Committee. This is a branch challenge and therefore at least four or more members of the branch **must** be involved in producing the items. Please put names on your entry form and items.

CLASS D: Article of craft made by a male relative of a CWA member. Max size 30 cm X 30 cm.

CLASS E—Chairpersons' Choice: Indian Kantha Stitch: placemat no larger than 40 cm x 45 cm.

CLASS F: Special Section for members: Article of craft using resin work, wirework or woodwork. No larger than 30 cm x 30 cm. These cannot be entered into eight articles.

CLASS G: Anything related to papercraft (no scrapbooking) Max size 30 cms x 30 cms. These cannot be entered into eight articles.

Natural Fibres Section (sponsored by The Land)

This section is open to **all** residents of NSW and ACT.

All articles must have at least 70% natural fibre. Labels and/or strands must be attached to each entry.

Section 1: Hand knitted or crocheted knee or cot rug using commercial natural fibres—max 150 cm X 150 cm.

Section 2: Hand knitted garment or article from commercial natural fibres 5 ply or finer.

Section 3: Hand crocheted garment or article from commercial natural fibres 5 ply or finer.

Section 4: Hand knitted garment or article from commercial natural fibres 6 ply or thicker.

Section 5: Hand crocheted garment or article from commercial natural fibres 6 ply or thicker.

Section 6: Hank or skein of home spun fibre spun by the maker.

Section 7: Garment or article, knitting or crochet made from 100% pure wool.

Section 8: Garment made from woven fibres (not knitting or crochet).

Section 9: Felted garment or article made from wet or needle felting (not purchased felt).

The Land Cookery

Schedule 25/26



Rules

Please read carefully

This Contest is conducted by The Land Cookery Committee of the Country Women's Association of New South Wales.

Who can enter: The Contest is not restricted to members of the CWA; it is open to any person residing in NSW and ACT; however, only one section (of the non-members choice) may be entered.

How to enter: Competition commences at branch level. Each branch conducts its separate contest (or selection process where branches do not have enough competitors). First and second prize winners must be two different competitors who will then be eligible to enter group semi-finals. First prize winners of group semi-finals are eligible to enter the state final conducted concurrently with the CWA Annual General Conference. This is a competition that is conducted from branch to group and then to state level.

Entry Fee: \$1 per section entry is to be collected when exhibit is entered for first time, whether it is branch or group level. The entry fees shall be sent through the Group Treasurer directly to The Land Cookery Committee.

"The Land" newspaper coupon: an original 2025/2026 coupon must accompany each section entry only at the state final.

Judges: Branches and groups will appoint their own judges, **but** judges and stewards for the state finals will be appointed by The Land Cookery Committee Chairperson. The judges' decisions are absolutely final and not to be questioned or discussed with the judges.

Additional sections: Branches may include additional sections in their branch contests and award additional prizes but prize winners in such sections will not compete in the semi-finals or state finals of the contest.

Sale of exhibits: Exhibits may be sold at branch and group level. However, all exhibits become the property of CWA at state level. Competitors at State Finals are not required to purchase their exhibit but should advise the steward when registering if they wish to take their fruit cake or pudding back.

Labels: CWA ingredients Labels are not required at branch or group semi-finals unless the exhibit is to be sold.

Prohibited: Ring tins are **not** to be used throughout the contest. **No** visible rack marks on entries. Package mixtures and frosting are **not** to be used unless otherwise specified.

Special "The Land" Awards for Branches Judged on Ratio of Members Entries

Branches with 15 members and under with most entries in Cookery Competition: First \$150; Second \$75; Third \$25. Total \$250.

Branches with 16 to 25 members with most entries in Cookery Competition: First \$150; Second \$75; Third \$25. Total \$250.

Branches with 26 to 35 members with most entries in Cookery Competition: First \$150; Second \$75; Third \$25. Total \$250.

Branches with 36-50 members with most entries in Cookery Competition: First \$150; Second \$75; Third \$25. Total \$250.

Branches with over 51 members

with most entries in Cookery Competition: First \$150; Second \$75; Third \$25. Total \$250.

Winning Group Award is awarded a certificate for most points gained from state entry prize winners.

Prize Money: All prize winners must provide their bank details to the Treasurer of The Land Cookery Committee as soon as possible after the competition to enable prompt payment of prize monies. No cheques or cash can be issued.

Section One—Light Fruit Cake

Prize—1st \$140; 2nd \$100; 3rd \$60; Total \$300

IMPORTANT: Fruit cakes must not be iced, glazed, or decorated and observe the 250g butter basis as the standard mix for size and weight. Tins must be 20 cm round or square. A cut cake can be entered at the group semi-final but will **not** be accepted at state finals. Your own favourite recipe may be used.

Points to be looked for in judging: Smooth, even top, well risen and slightly rounded towards the centre but not peaked. Smooth, even sides with no white patches or blotches on the surface. Browned evenly on sides, top and bottom. Texture should be fine and even, with no holes or tunnels; moist but not heavy or doughy. Fruit should be evenly distributed, and a good balance of fruit and mixture. Should not be over-flavoured with spices and essences or alcohol so that the natural flavour of the fruits is lost.

Section Two—Sultana Cake

Prize—1st \$100; 2nd \$70; 3rd \$50; Total \$220.

IMPORTANT: See Section One. There must be no nuts, cherries, or peel in or on cake. Your own recipe may be used and no less than 500g of sultanas.

Points to be looked for in judging: Evenly cooked on top, sides and bottom, and light in colour. Texture should be fine and even with no holes or tunnels; moist, but not heavy or doughy. Fruit should be evenly distributed and a good balance of fruit and mixture apparent.

Section Three—Steamed Fruit Pudding

Prize—1st \$140; 2nd \$100, 3rd \$60; Total \$300.

IMPORTANT: Competitors must observe the 250g butter basis as the standard mix for size and weight. Minimum presentation weight 1.5kg. Pudding must be steamed in a well buttered pudding basin or steamer **not** boiled in cloth. A cut pudding can be entered at the group semi-final but will **not** be accepted at state finals. Own recipe may be used.

Points to be looked for in judging: The pudding should be a neat even shape and cleanly removed from the basin. The colour should be rich and dark and be even throughout. There should be no holes in the mixture and no soggy, wet or mouldy patches. It should have a well-balanced fruity flavour.

Section Four—Plain Butter Cake

Prize—1st \$60; 2nd \$40; 3rd \$30; Total \$130

IMPORTANT: May be baked in any deep 20 cm round or square tin except a ring tin. There must be no fruit, nuts, cherries or peel in or on cake. Cake must be presented as baked (not trimmed), uniced and no decoration. Your own recipe

may be used.

Points to be looked for in judging: The sides should be smooth with the height of the cake in proportion to the size of the tin used. The top should be smooth and slightly rounded. The texture should be even, fine, and moist without holes or tunnels. Cooking should be even right throughout, and the cake should not be crumbly or soggy.

Section Five—Chocolate Butter Cake

Prize—1st \$60; 2nd \$40; 3rd \$30; Total \$130

IMPORTANT: May be baked in any deep 20cm round or square tin, not loaf tin. Cake must be presented as baked (not trimmed) and iced on top only with chocolate glacé icing. Own favourite recipe may be used.

Points to be looked for in judging: See Section Four. The cake should have a rich dark colour evenly around the base and sides. Icing should be neatly applied and of a colour that closely matches the colour of the cut cake.

Section Six—Coconut Loaf

Prize—1st \$60; 2nd \$40; 3rd \$30; Total \$130

IMPORTANT: Loaf must be presented as baked (not trimmed) and iced on top only with glacé white icing. Recipe supplied in the June 2024 journal must be used.

Points to be looked for in judging: Well-presented iced loaf. Moist cake with coconut flavour and smell. Coconut essence not to be added—this is obvious when judging.

Section Seven—75th Anniversary Committee Challenge: Surprise Butter Loaf Cake

Prize—1st \$100; 2nd \$60, 3rd \$40; Total \$200 + ribbon.

IMPORTANT: Baked in a loaf tin and iced on top only with glacé icing coloured to match the “surprise”

shape baked inside. Butter cake to consist of two contrasting colours and complimentary flavours with a shape of your choice to be revealed when cut. Own recipe may be used.

Points to be looked for in judging: Overall presentation, neatly iced with appearance of “surprise” shape clearly revealed when cut. See Section Four.

Section Eight—Coffee Sponge Sandwich

Prize—1st \$60; 2nd \$40; 3rd \$20; Total \$120.

IMPORTANT: Bake in two 18 cm or 20 cm round sandwich tins. Fill with jam of your choice at branch, group finals. State finals will be filled by Land Cookery Committee. Own recipe may be used.

Points to be looked for in judging: Well risen and proportionate to the size of tins. The bases should be joined, and top should be level with a milk coffee colour. Texture should be very light and fluffy, with a soft elastic crumb. Delicate coffee flavour evident.

Section Nine—Gluten Free Magic Bean Cake

Prize—1st \$40; 2nd \$30; 3rd \$20; Total \$90

IMPORTANT: May be baked in a 20cm round tin. Cake must be presented as baked (not trimmed), iced with chocolate glacé icing without any other decoration. Recipe supplied in the June 2024 journal must be used.

Points to be looked for in judging: Smooth, even sides and base with flat top. The cake should be cooked through with no damp patches or clumps due to insufficient mixing. Cake is well presented and neatly iced with chocolate glacé icing.

Section Ten—Peppermint Slice

Prize—1st \$40; 2nd \$30; 3rd \$20; Total \$90.

IMPORTANT: Six pieces to be presented, cut at approx. 4 cm x 6 cm. Recipe supplied in the June

2024 journal must be used.

Points to be looked for in judging: Uniform shape and size with level layers evident. Balanced flavour of peppermint and chocolate.

Section Eleven—Alice's Fancy Biscuits

Prize—1st \$50; 2nd \$40; 3rd \$30; Total \$120

IMPORTANT: Six biscuits to be presented, each approx. 4cm diameter. Recipe supplied in the June 2025 journal must be used.

Points to be looked for in judging: Uniform in shape and size, joined with a thin smear of jam of your choice and neatly iced on top.

Section Twelve—Microwave Strawberry Jam

Prize—1st \$40; 2nd \$30; 3rd \$20; Total \$90

IMPORTANT: Must be presented in approx. 250ml size glass containers with screw-on non-commercial tops. They must be filled to within 1 cm from the top and securely sealed. If there is no alternative, commercial jar tops may be used if the brand is covered. It is advisable to retain some unopened jars of the same batch, as jars opened at branch or group contests are not eligible for the finals. Ensure rim of jar and inside of lid are clean before presenting for judging. Recipe supplied in the June 2024 journal must be used.

Points to be looked for in judging: Jam-like consistency that drops from the spoon, with a lovely strawberry flavour.

Section Thirteen—Tomato Jam

Prize—1st \$40; 2nd \$30; 3rd \$20; Total \$90.

IMPORTANT: See Section Twelve. Your own favourite recipe may be used.

Points to be looked for in judging: Rich sweet tomato flavour and colour with a smooth jam like consistency that drops from the

spoon easily.

Section Fourteen—Pineapple & Onion Relish

Prize—1st \$40; 2nd \$30; 3rd \$20; Total \$90.

IMPORTANT: See Section Twelve. Recipe supplied in the June 2024 journal must be used.

Points to be looked for in judging: Relish should be the colour of pineapple. It should dollop, not being too set or too runny. Flavour is a pickled onion taste with a slight pineapple flavour. Spice is evident but not overpowering, the vinegar gives a slight acidity, and is sweet enough, but not overly sweet.

Section Fifteen—Apple & Cranberry Chutney

Prize—1st \$40; 2nd \$30; 3rd \$20; Total \$90.

IMPORTANT: See Section Twelve. Recipe supplied in the June 2024 journal must be used.

Points to be looked for in judging: Evenly sized chopped fruit, balance of flavours evident, drops from the spoon.

Junior Section for 8 Years and Under at 31 March 2026

Section Sixteen—Decorated Cupcakes

Prize—1st \$25; 2nd \$20; 3rd \$10; Total \$55.

Glad Shute Memorial Award—1st \$20; 2nd \$15; 3rd \$10; Total \$45.

IMPORTANT: May be baked in a regular base muffin tin or purchased plain cupcakes. Paper cases and frosting are allowed. Decorations may be made from fondant, lollies or biscuits but not bought decorations. Four to be presented decorated in sea creatures theme. Your own recipe and creativity may be used.

Points to be looked for in judging: Not to be cut as judged only on appearance, number of techniques used, neatness in execution and creativity.

Junior Section for 12 Years and Under at 31 March 2026

Section Seventeen—Packet Cake of your Choice

Prize—1st \$25; 2nd \$20; 3rd \$10; Total \$55.

Glad Shute Memorial Award—1st \$20; 2nd \$15; 3rd \$10; Total \$45.

IMPORTANT: Packet cake of your choice, baked in any tin shape and/or size recommended on the packet except for cupcake tins. Cakes may be iced/frosted according to the packet instructions but not otherwise decorated. The packet label must be provided with the entry.

Points to be looked for in judging: Flavour evident as represented on the packet label. Attractive appearance. Baked in a well-prepared tin, cooked through with no under mixed or under baked patches.

Junior Section for 18 Years and Under at 31 March 2026

Section Eighteen—Chocolate Butter Cake

Prize—1st \$40; 2nd \$30; 3rd \$20; Total \$90

Glad Shute Memorial Award—1st \$20; 2nd \$15; 3rd \$10; Total \$45

IMPORTANT: Baked in a 20 cm round or square cake tin. Cake must be presented as baked (not trimmed) and iced on top only with chocolate glacé icing. Your own favourite recipe may be used.

Points to be looked for in judging: See Section Four and Five. The cake should have a rich dark colour evenly around the base and sides. Icing should be neatly applied and of a colour that closely matches the colour of the cut cake.

Chairpersons Pick

Current Chair of The Land Cookery Committee to pick an exhibit for a monetary award of \$100 to exhibitor.

The Land

Cookery Recipe



Alice's Fancy Biscuits

(Alice Anderson's astonishing "Anzac" biscuits)

Source: *Tried Tested and True* by Liz Harfull. Printed with permission from the author.

Ingredients

120 g butter, softened
120 g caster sugar
2 eggs, lightly beaten
150 g (1 cup) plain flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon mixed spice
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
160 g (1 cup) rice flour
jam

Icing Ingredients:

125 g (1 cup) icing sugar mixture
small knob of butter
hot water

Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C (in a conventional oven). Line a baking tray with baking paper.

Cream the butter and sugar until the sugar begins to dissolve. Add the eggs and beat until combined. Sift together the plain flour, baking powder, mixed spice and cinnamon. Add the sifted ingredients and the rice flour to the butter mixture. Stir together with a knife to form a soft dough. Form the pastry into a ball, wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30 to 45 minutes.

Dust a board or work surface with plain flour, then roll out the dough until it is only a few millimetres thick. Use a plain round biscuit

cutter, about 4 cm in diameter, to cut the pastry. Place the biscuits on the baking tray, and bake for 12–15 minutes, until golden. Allow the biscuits to cool on a wire rack.

When cold, join the biscuits with a thin smear of jam of your choice.

To make the icing, in a small bowl combine the icing sugar, butter and enough hot water to thin the icing, mixing it with a knife until smooth. Decorate the top of each biscuit with a thinly applied circle of icing.

Makes about 30.

Background on Alice Anderson's astonishing "Anzac" biscuits

From *Tried Tested and True* by Liz Harfull.

The War Chest Cookery Book holds a special place in Australian food history. Released in 1917 to raise money for the war effort, it contains the first known recipe to be included in a published cookbook under the name 'Anzac biscuits'. The recipe was contributed by Alice Anderson from North Sydney, whose brother James was serving in France. It bears absolutely no resemblance to the Anzac biscuits of today. Filled with jam and topped with icing, these biscuits were likely known by another name until Alice gave them a new moniker fitting the cause, something that happened often in war-time cookbooks. Author and community food historian Liz Harfull researched Alice's story and told it for the first time in her award-winning book *Tried Tested and True*, updating the recipe for today's cooks.

Liz's tips

- Refrigerating the soft biscuit dough will make it easier to handle.
- Dip the cutter in flour, so it doesn't stick to the dough.
- While baking, allow a few centimetres between the biscuits for spreading.
- The original recipe did not stipulate what kind of jam to use, but raspberry is my favourite. Plum jam also works well.
- In case some of the biscuits have spread more than others, match up evenly-sized and shaped pairs of biscuits before you start filling them.
- The biscuits will keep for at least a week in a sealed container.

Printed with permission from the author, Liz Harfull

Conference Overview

By **Sonia Roberts, Honorary Editor**

If you could characterise the 2025 State Conference in a word, it would be “threads”. Ranging from the threads of a community and ideas, to the threads of friendships old and new and of course, the most obvious threads in the handicrafts exhibit—the Conference theme of “Isolation to innovation—the threads that bind” set the tone for the days ahead.

Wiradjuri elder, Aunty Cheryl Penrith, OAM, provided the Welcome to Country. In delivering her address she remarked on the buzz you felt when you walked into a conference. “This is what I felt walking in this morning,” she said.

In a message to those assembled, Association Patron Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales said the Conference theme summed up so much of what the CWA does. The motions being debated were a practical expression of this theme, Her Excellency said.

Wagga Wagga Council Mayor Cr Dallas Tout welcomed everyone to Wagga Wagga and reflected on his interactions with the CWA and how these were always characterised by professionalism, passion, and fun. “Please continue to be one of the beacons of advocacy through strong, effective country women,” Cr Tout said.

“True blue radicals”

Independent Member for Wagga Wagga, Dr Joe McGirr, officially opened the 2025 State Conference. Dr McGirr said he was humbled to be in the presence of such an auspicious group.

The first time he encountered the CWA was during a visit to his cousin Margaret, in Nundle,



Dr Joe McGirr officially opened the Conference

during the 1990s. Margaret had told him of the friendship she had experienced from the local branch since arriving in the community from Sydney. At that point in time, Dr McGirr admitted he was more familiar with the CWA’s culinary skills than its advocacy prowess.

“When I went there, I was looking forward to the menu, little did I realise that I was the one who was on the menu. I was introduced to a robust discussion and realised the CWA were ‘true blue radicals’. I was taken over the coals about local health services. This strong debate should have been no surprise to me.”

Dr McGirr reflected on the child mortality statistics of the 1920s and the election to the NSW Parliament of Millicent Preston Stanley in 1925. He spoke of his joy of finding a mention in CWA history of his grandfather—John Joseph McGirr (1879–1949) who was the Minister for Public Health and Motherhood during the 1920s. Dr McGirr acknowledged the work of his grandmother Rachel who was a great advocate for bush nursing services.

“Your continued focus on health issues should remind us of what a strong and powerful organisation the CWA is. My reference to you as ‘true blue radicals’ is a part of your power that I have come to appreciate. Your advocacy is always put forward in the context

of community. These threads that bind are so important,” Dr McGirr said.

The Hon Tara Moriarty, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales said regional NSW offered so much, highlighting the tight knit communities that characterised these parts of the state. She said it was her goal to make regional NSW an even better place than what it already was.

During her address, Ms Moriarty highlighted the importance of the NSW Government listening to groups like the CWA to determine what was needed in each part of the state. “You play an important role in developing and influencing policy. I do want to acknowledge the contribution you have made during the last 103 years and here’s to 103 more,” Ms Moriarty said.

Local talent was also showcased during the Opening Ceremony with performances from the Riverina Central Choir and Isabella Suttie.

A legacy of love

Keynote speaker, Sarah Wheeler, took everyone on her journey of navigating loss and establishing a legacy. In honour of her late parents, Sarah completed the Outback Long Ride in February 2025. Now home, Sarah has established A Daughter’s Way. It provides benevolent relief



Keynote speaker, Sarah Wheeler

to people affected by tragic loss, grief, bereavement, illness or trauma through outdoor experiences supported by mental health professionals and clinical psychologists.

Sarah recounted the last telephone conversation with her father while she was at boarding school and treasured memories of working with her mother and sisters on their 11,000-acre cropping property at Rowena in the far northeast of New South Wales.

Describing her parents as her "biggest supporters," Sarah recalled asking her mum how she carried on after the death of her dad, she said her mum told her that "something just took over". In time, Sarah realised her parents' values and strengths were a part of her and the only way forward was to ride. So, the Outback Long Ride was born, giving Sarah a chance to embrace the "power and the poetry" Australian countryside.

The nine-month long ride helped to raise funds for PanCare Foundation—a leading organisation inspiring hope, raising awareness, supporting families and funding research for upper gastrointestinal cancers.

Knowing of the CWA's support for pancreatic cancer research

was something that warmed Sarah's heart. "I know I am not alone in this room when I speak of loss. It is not something you get over; you just learn to carry it differently. Healing doesn't happen overnight; it doesn't happen in a straight line," Sarah said. "Community isn't just about proximity; it is about presence. From the depths of sorrow new strengths can rise."

The 700-strong audience in the auditorium acknowledged Sarah's grace and strength through a standing ovation. On behalf of the CWA, Joy presented Sarah with a \$2,000 donation to A Daughter's Way.

Thank you says so much

This year's Conference marked the third and final year for a group of members serving at state level. Leading the 2025 graduating class was State President, Joy Beames. During their addresses at the opening ceremony, all the official speakers paid tribute to Joy's service and leadership during her time as the Association's leader.

Joy spoke of how she delighted in being able to travel during her time as State President whether it was for group visits, branch centenary celebrations or Facts Days. Facts Days were important as they gave members the

chance to understand the roles of State President, Secretary and Treasurer, she said.

Of note during the last 12 months was the hard decision by State Executive to resign from the Association of Country Women Worldwide (ACWW). Joy thanked Lyn Braico for her work, often "under trying circumstances."

Through media appearances, meetings or participation in parliamentary inquiries Joy highlighted the diversity of advocacy work undertaken at branch, group and state level.

She paid tribute to her husband Ken for his unwavering support throughout her time as State President.

Joy concluded her report with a quote from American author and cartoonist Scott Adams. "Remember there is no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple effect with no logical end."

On the final day of Conference, Darling River State Executive Committee Member, Yvette Smith, led the tributes for outgoing State Honorary Secretary, Pam Wright; Vice Presidents, Susan Baxter and Jan Kerr; State International Officer, Jenny Chobdzynski; and State Social Issues Officer, Leonie Fish. Leonie and Pam return to the



Attendees at the Opening Ceremony

State Executive as Vice Presidents serving alongside Penny Sloane.

Always learning

Committee displays were held at the Wagga Wagga Multi-Purpose Stadium (MPS). For those wandering into the venue it was a chance to marvel at the talents of their fellow CWA members.

Some took a moment to admire the, at times breathtaking, attention to detail and hours of work in the Handicraft and Cultural entries. Only time will tell if this year's observers become next year's competitors.

It was also a chance for many to chat with the State Committees and find out a little more of what they do and, perhaps, take some new ideas back to their groups and/or branches.

And we are live

Waves of happy people came through the doors at the MPS, home of all the committee displays in Wagga Wagga, excited after the opening events of Conference and anticipating more entertainment as The Land Cookery Competition live judging was about to begin. State Cookery

Committee Chairperson, Ellice Schrader, instigated the event to help demystify the judging process, along with educating and encouraging anyone who was keen to know more.

That schedule stalwart, sultana cake, and the coffee sponge cake sections were chosen to use in this demonstration due to their highly visual natures.

Judges Ellice Schrader, Christine Tarlinton, Leona Irvine and Carole Windley assessed the cakes in terms of appearance, presentation, and conformity to the schedule. As Mistress of Ceremonies, Mary Hollingworth encouraged the judges to explain their decisions at each step along with encouraging questions from the audience and highlighting other areas of cookery interest. Then the crucial centre cuts were made. Did those sultanas sink like pebbles? Did the sponge cakes live up to their name or were they closer to a lace tablecloth? The tasting came next, the most crucial and determining factor. The most perfect looking cakes might be placed further along the line at this pointy end of the competition. As the winners and place getters

were announced, applause broke out and congratulations bestowed. The camaraderie and joy in participation were the champions of the day.

Keep trying a little kindness

The now familiar notes of Glen Campbell's "Try A little Kindness" echoed around the meeting room. This was the moment to celebrate the bonds forged as a result of being a CWA member and revel in being together.

Playing the 1970 country classic at the end of the last three Conferences (Bathurst, Coffs Harbour and Wagga Wagga) was Joy's idea. "Originally, it was suggested we play and sing the Song of Peace. However, I had already started to push the kindness issue throughout the state, after witnessing some unkindness. I wanted something appropriate, but also catchy and a bit faster," Joy said.

As the song ended, it was time for those last-minute hugs, swapping of phone numbers and planning a quick lunch before starting the trip home.



The Committee Displays and Publicity Support Forum Display were housed in the spacious Multi-Purpose Stadium

Annual Conference Resolutions Carried

C1. State Executive Committee

"That the Constitution of the CWA of NSW be amended by the addition of a new Regulation as Regulation 59A in the following terms:

59A In the event of a Group ceasing to function, the Executive Committee shall have the power to finalise the affairs of that Group and forward to State Office any funds remaining in the Group account after all debts have been cleared."

C2. State Executive Committee

"That Regulation 57(e) the Constitution of the CWA of NSW be amended by the addition of the words 'the Group Social Issues Officer' after the words 'Group Agricultural and Environmental Officer'."

C3. Belconnen Branch & Adaminaby Branch, Monaro Group

"That Regulation 5(b) the Constitution of the CWA of NSW be amended by the addition of the words 'and the Australian Capital Territory' after the words 'New South Wales'."

C6. Lisarow Branch, Northumberland Group

"That Regulation 15 of the Constitution of the CWA of NSW be amended by adding after Regulation 15(1) new provision 15(1A) in the following terms:

"15(1A) A complaint under 15(1) must be made in writing addressed to the Chief Executive Officer."

C7. North Star Branch, Gwydir Group

"That the Constitution of the CWA of NSW be amended by the deletion of Regulation 34 and its replacement with a new Regulation 34 in the following terms:

34. If a financial member is

leaving to reside in another State, the Branch to which she belongs shall at her request give her a letter to the Association in the other State, asking that she be given Honorary Membership until the end of their financial year. Branches shall similarly accept as Honorary Members, members of the Country Women's Association of another State who have come to reside in their district. If the financial member leaving to reside in another State prefers, the Branch to which she belongs may at her request permit the member to continue as a member of that Branch."

AE1. Myamley Branch, Oxley Group

"That the policy of CWA of NSW be to request the state government to increase and prioritise feral pig control measures as a matter of urgency."

AE2. Walgett Branch, Barwon Group

"That the policy of CWA of NSW be to advocate for the removal of the live sheep export ban that is to commence on the 1st of May 2028."

AE3. Nashdale Branch, Central West Group

"That the policy of CWA of NSW be to support the findings of the Pounds in New South Wales report (Portfolio Committee No. 8—Customer Service, 18 Oct 2024) and advocate for implementing its recommendations to improve outcomes for domestic dogs in NSW."

AE4. Agricultural & Environmental Committee

"That the policy of CWA of NSW be to advocate for increasing public understanding of the benefits of seasonal eating, highlighting the health, economic and environmental benefits to consumers and local producers."

AE5. Agricultural & Environmental Committee

"That the policy of the Country Women's Association of NSW is to urge the Australian government to introduce a National Food Donation Tax Incentive to provide tax incentives for businesses donating surplus food and associated logistics services, promoting food waste reduction and supporting food relief efforts across Australia."

AE6. Agricultural & Environmental Committee

"That the policy of the CWA of NSW be to call on SafeWork NSW to review and expand the current list of eligible safety items under the small business rebate program generally and include personal, single use compact and affordable automated external defibrillators."

AE7. Braidwood Branch, Southern Tablelands

"That the policy of CWA of NSW be to encourage the ACT Government to revisit their stance on the meaning and classification of wild dog/dingo which would remove the dingo from the current pest order and manage them as protected species."

AE8. Braidwood Branch, Southern Tablelands

"That the policy of CWA of NSW be to urge the Australian Government to review and strengthen penalties for biosecurity border breaches, reflecting the severe risks posed to agricultural products and the industry."

AE9. Dubbo Branch, Macquarie Group

"That the CWA of NSW lobby all tiers of government to provide the resources required to locate, identify and eradicate Red Imported Fire Ant colonies

including a public education program.”

E2. Canowindra Branch, Central West Group

“That the policy of CWA of NSW be to advocate the Department of Education to provide reliable Wi-Fi, suitable portable devices, and printers to all Distance Education students in NSW and to explore new technologies to advance the future of Distance Education.”

H1. Albury Branch, Murray Group

“That CWA of NSW request a review of use-by-date markings on medications both prescription and non-prescription.”

H2. Cowra Evening Branch, Central West Group and Bundarra Branch, Gwydir Group

“That the policy of CWA of NSW be to advocate:

- for precision medicine to be the standard practice for all cancer patients living in NSW and the ACT, and
- for access to comprehensive genomic profiling and matching (precision medicine) to targeted treatment for all cancer patients in NSW and the ACT, particularly those living in regional, rural and remote areas.”

H3. Cowra Evening Branch, Central West Group

“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate the NSW Government to fund and establish residential Tresillian facilities west of the Great Dividing Range.”

H4. Southern Highlands Evening Branch, Wollondilly Group

“That the policy of the CWA of NSW be to advocate for free cervical screening for all women.”

H5. Guyra Evening Branch, Northern Tablelands Group

“That the policy of CWA of NSW be to advocate the NSW State Government to develop a financial support mechanism for rural, regional and/or remote

women to access fertility treatments, whereby travel to large regional centres or cities is required to undergo medical treatments.”

H6. Guyra Evening Branch, Northern Tablelands Group

“That the policy of CWA of NSW be to advocate the NSW State Government to reinstate the 2 x \$100 active kids vouchers for all families regardless of income.”

H7. Euberta Branch, Riverina Group

“That the policy of the CWA of NSW be to urge the state and federal governments to investigate the pricing of gluten-free products, which are often sold at significantly higher prices than comparable gluten-containing items, and to take appropriate regulatory or policy action to ensure equitable pricing and fair access for all consumers who require gluten-free diets.”

H8. Hillston Branch, Murrumbidgee-Lachlan Group

“That the policy of the CWA of NSW be to advocate for the provision of best practice baby health services, including accessible and well-resourced clinics, to support the health and development of infants, young children and families across NSW and ACT”

H9. Hillston Branch, Murrumbidgee-Lachlan Group

“That the policy of the Country Women’s Association of NSW be to advocate for the inclusion of sanitary products on the list of NDIS products.”

H10. Illabo Evening Branch, Hume Group

“That the CWA of NSW urge the relevant government to provide vital short-term housing for women and children and women over 55 across NSW and ACT by converting unused government buildings into safe accommodation.”

H11. Eurongilly Branch, Hume

Group

“That the policy of CWA of NSW be to urge the Australian Federal Government and all health organisations to:

- provide more education and increased awareness on immunisation
- encourage more research into vaccines and resources to fight disease through immunisation.

T1. Barellan Branch, Murrumbidgee Lachlan Group

“That the policy of CWA of NSW be to request a revision of government contracts to allow flexibility for provision of community transport in exceptional, compassionate circumstances, where nursing homes have no accessible vehicle for disabled residents and where there is no viable alternate transport.”

T3. Guyra Evening Branch, Northern Tablelands Group

“That the policy of CWA of NSW be to advocate the NSW State Government to reopen the regional seniors travel card program to allow easier access for seniors to travel outside of their communities.”

T4. Moruya Branch, Far South Coast Group

“That the CWA of NSW advocate for the funding and fitting of seatbelts in public buses on routes where they transport school children in rural, regional and remote areas.”

M1. Barellan Branch, Murrumbidgee Lachlan Group

“That the policy of the CWA of NSW is to support the work of the NSW Anti-slavery Commissioner, actively oppose all forms of modern slavery, raise community awareness about its existence, and encourage businesses to identify and address potential modern slavery practices within their supply chains.”

M2. Newcastle Evening Branch,

Hunter River Group

"That the policy of CWA of NSW be to advocate state and local governments to ensure that, when local showgrounds are rezoned or redeveloped, suitable alternative facilities are provided in accessible locations with comparable infrastructure"

M3. East Maitland Branch, Hunter River Group

"That the policy of the CWA of NSW be to urge the Australian Government to establish a legislative framework requiring disclosure when artificial intelligence is used, including in digital image creation and manipulation."

M4. East Maitland Branch, Hunter River Group

"That the policy of CWA of NSW be to urge the Australian Government to strengthen the legislative framework in relation to the accessibility of extreme and/or graphic digital content by children."

M5. Condobolin Branch and Myamley Branch, Oxley Group

"That the policy of the CWA of NSW is to advocate to the Department of Home Affairs to designate postcode 2877 as 'remote' for eligibility under Visa 417 and Visa 462 programs."

M6. Exeter Branch, Wollondilly

Group

"That the policy of the CWA of NSW be to oppose foreign ownership and majority interest in essential infrastructure such as power plants, energy distribution networks, and telecommunications."

M7. Tambar Springs Branch, Namoi Group

"That the CWA of NSW advocate for the NSW Government to comprehensively review the current local council funding model ensuring that regional, rural, and remote councils are adequately funded through equitable state and federal contributions, minimising reliance on ratepayer increases such as Special Rate Variations."

M8. Eurongilly Branch, Hume Group

"That CWA of NSW urge the state and territory governments to cut two months off Daylight Saving making it only four (4) months and not six (6)."

UM1. Myamley Branch, Oxley Group

"That the policy of the CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for:

- i. The NSW Government to urgently review ambulance resourcing in regional, rural and remote communities to ensure timely medical

response.

- ii. Improved emergency response protocols to ensure that when an ambulance is unavailable, appropriate alternative medical support is deployed without undue delays.
- iii. An end to the inappropriate reliance on Rural Fire Brigades and other emergency services for emergency medical care beyond their training and scope."

UM2. State Executive Committee

That the policy of the CWA of NSW shall be to:

- i. Advocate for improvements to emergency call handling protocols to ensure that when a Triple Zero (000) call is successfully connected following previous failed attempts, essential information is retained and transferred efficiently to avoid delays in dispatching emergency services.
- ii. Support increased public awareness and accountability regarding emergency call processes, ensuring that regional, rural and remote communities have confidence in the emergency response system.



State Conference Business session

Advocacy Update

The CWA of NSW continues to represent members across a broad range of policy issues, ensuring the voices of regional, rural and remote communities are heard by decision-makers. This update outlines key advocacy activity from the past quarter, including submissions, correspondence, meetings and media engagement.

Submissions

NSW Parliament Inquiry into the Splitting of the Hunter New England Local Health District

CWA of NSW made a submission to the parliamentary inquiry into whether the Hunter New England Local Health District should be split into two. Rather than support or oppose the proposal, CWA of NSW outlined key principles to guide any structural change urging the committee to keep people—not bureaucracy—at the centre of reform. A split must not distract from the urgent healthcare challenges our members continue to face including staff shortages, lack of maternity and specialist services, and outdated infrastructure.

Correspondence

Native Vegetation Regulatory Map—Concerns from West Wyalong

CWA of NSW wrote to the Hon Penny Sharpe, Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, to raise concerns from landholders near West Wyalong about the rollout of the revised Native Vegetation Regulatory (NVR) Map. Many properties were unexpectedly classified as Category 2—Sensitive Regulated Land (the “pink map”), impacting land use and causing distress. While CWA of NSW support efforts to protect biodiversity, proper consultation and a fair appeal process must be in place. The current approach is failing

landholders and undermining trust.

Objection to Santos’ Application—Kahlua Pilot Wells

CWA of NSW lodged a formal objection to Santos’ application to continue operating the four gas pilot wells Kahlua PEL1 near Gunnedah. Association concerns included groundwater risks, environmental impacts, lack of consultation with neighbours and the company’s compliance history. Letters were sent to the Hon Courtney Houssos, MLC, Minister for Finance, Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, and Minister for Resources and the Executive Director of the NSW Resources Regulator.

Fuel Security—National Risk, Local Impact

Prior to the recent federal election, CWA of NSW wrote to both the federal Minister and Shadow Minister for Energy calling for clear commitments on fuel security. Australia’s dependence on international fuel markets poses serious risks. Regional communities, farms, emergency services and hospitals need reliable, affordable fuel supply. This is a national issue with real local consequences.

Meetings and Engagement

- **Regional Telecommunications with the ACCC (27th March):** Through the Rural, Regional and Remote Communications Coalition (RRRCC), as a member of the RRRCC, CWA of NSW met with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to raise concerns about the 3G shutdown and its impact on remote communities.
- **Q Fever Expert Panel Meeting (2nd April):** CWA of NSW was invited to participate on the

NSW Q Fever Expert Panel to contribute to state discussions on the rise of Q Fever, focusing on causes, risk groups, and options for prevention and communication.

- **Low Earth Orbit Satellite Briefing (2nd May):** CWA of NSW participated along with other Rural Regional Remote Communication Coalition (RRRCC) partners in an Australian Government briefing on emerging low earth satellite technology and its future potential for direct to satellite rural mobile coverage.
- **NSW Biosecurity Governance Workshop (5th May):** CWA of NSW participated in phase 2 consultation discussions hosted by the NSW office of the Independent Biosecurity Commissioner with the NSW Independent Biosecurity Commissioner, Dr Marion Healy to shape the governance structure for the state’s pest and weed biosecurity management systems.

Media Advocacy

Recent articles in The Land Newspaper include:

- April: Women Have Spoken—Highlights from our major statewide member survey.
- April: Serving Up Solutions—Addressing the rural health and workforce crisis.
- May: Championing the Bush—Statement of advocacy from CWA of NSW outgoing President Joy Beames.

Glimpse from CWA of NSW history

In 2008, a Conference resolution called for all alcoholic beverages to be labelled with warning against drinking during pregnancy.

Competition and Raffle Winners

Moore Agricultural & Environmental Award

Winner Mandy O'Brien, Braidwood Branch

Agricultural & Environmental Report Award

1st Maryanne Ferguson, Belconnen Branch

Recycled Article Competition

1st Dee Hyams, Collector Branch

2nd Pam Wright, Kootingal Branch,

3rd Sheryl Loughman, Murwillumbah Evening Branch

Past State Presidents' Award

Winner Nelson Bay Branch

Wagga Daily Advertiser Award

Winner Anne McLennan, North Coast Group

Garry Prize

1st Lisa Connors, Dungog-Clarence Town Branch

2nd Deborah Marr, Orange Branch

Pyrus Award

For the biggest increase in membership from 2021/22 to 2023/24

1st Tumut & Surrounds Branch

2nd Canimbla Branch

3rd Murwillumbah Evening Branch

State Raffle

1st Name withheld (#1009)

2nd Patricia Williams

3rd Name withheld (#568)

4th Robyn Jones

State Cultural Committee Raffle

1st Anita Burcher

2nd Anne Foan

3rd Lesley Kingwill

State Handicraft Committee Raffle

1st E. Gray

2nd Rhonda Turner

3rd Louise Egan

State Hospital Support Committee Raffle

1st Doreen Burns

2nd Chris Ford

3rd J. Foley

The Land Cookery Committee Raffle

1st Carolyn Egan

2nd Sheila Brady

3rd Tracey Nankervis

Glimpse from CWA of NSW history

In 1980, a Conference resolution called for the introduction of random breath testing for drivers and a blood alcohol limit of 0.05 per cent.

International Competition Results

International Doll Competition

1st Cheryl Mayberry, Murrumbidgee-Lachlan Group

2nd Judy Egan, Phillip Group

3rd Lyn Lawson, Far South Coast Group

3rd Julianne Hayne, Northumberland Group

Packers Prize Jane Siddall, Wollondilly Group

International Handicraft Competition

1st Sharleen Wright, Phillip Group

2nd Trudi Tritschler, Southern Tablelands

3rd Carolyn Harris, Hume Group

Lister International Trophy for the Best Group Report

1st Sabina Van Rooy, Monaro Group

2nd Patricia Hawkins, Barwon Group

International Senior Book

1st Maryanne Ferguson & Margaret Ferguson, Belconnen Branch

2nd Karen Thorpe, Taralga Branch

3rd Karen Zsiros, Toukley Branch

3rd Helen Rothnie & Branch Members, Belmont Branch

International Student Post Card

1st Arianwen, Southern Tablelands

Group

2nd Florence, Central Western Group

3rd Indie, Murrumbidgee-Lachlan

International Primary School PowerPoint

1st Year 5/6 Class 2024, St Joseph's Primary School Portland, Blue Mountains Group

2nd Maggie, Mid North Coast Group

3rd Year 6 Class 2024, St Joseph's Primary School Gilgandra, Macquarie Group

3rd Theo, Central Western Group

State Cultural Competition Results

Senior Photography Section A: Food, Glorious Food

- 1st Tracy Wilson, Umina Beach Branch
- 2nd Karen Gooch, Sydney City Branch
- 3rd Carol Johnstone, Maitland Branch

Senior Photography Section B: Patterns

- 1st Karen Gooch, Sydney City Branch
- 2nd Catherine Milander, Stanwell Park Branch
- 3rd Carmel McCallum, Nowra Branch

Junior Photography: My Pet

8 years and Under

- 1st Sullivan, Maitland Branch
- 2nd Eliza, Goolgowi Branch
- 3rd Ivy, Goolgowi Branch

9-12 years

- 1st Gally Dorian, Bathurst Evening Branch
- 2nd Charlie Bunn, Goolgowi Branch
- 3rd Harry Liddicoat, Goolgowi Branch

13-18 years

- 1st Lily Sibanda, Deer Vale Branch
- 2nd Tyrus Williams, Nowra Branch
- 3rd Samantha Davis, Albion Park Evening Branch

Junior Digital Poster: Party Time

8 years and Under

- 1st Zoe, Hillston Branch
- 2nd Nathaniel, Hillston Branch
- 3rd Lincoln, Hillston Branch

9-12 years

- 1st Daniel Spence, Hillston Branch

2nd Gemma, Hillston Branch

3rd Sophie, Hillston Branch

13-18 years

1st Jovan, Hillston Branch

2nd Jackson, Hillston Branch

Junior Postcard: The Show

8 years and Under

1st Connor, Goolgowi Branch

2nd Lilly, Goolgowi Branch

3rd Max, Goolgowi Branch

9-12 years

1st Aleigha, Goolgowi Branch

2nd Charlie, Goolgowi Branch

3rd Amia, Goolgowi Branch

13-18 years

1st Annabell, Goolgowi Branch

Senior Short Story: "The Recipe"

1st Emily Thompson, Nashdale Branch

2nd Anne Gault, Quandialla Branch

3rd Joan Howland, Georges River Branch

Junior Short Story: "In the Toy Box"

8 years and Under

1st Indy, Tullibigeal Branch

2nd Isabella, Tullibigeal Branch

3rd Heidi, Tullibigeal Branch

9-12 years

1st Rhys, Hillston Branch

2nd Tyler, Goolgowi Branch

3rd Khloe, Tullibigeal Branch

13-18 years

1st Sienna, Tullibigeal Branch

2nd Rose, Jamberoo Branch

Poem: What a Day

1st Cheryl Mace, Richmond Branch

2nd Judy Findlay, Barellan Branch

3rd Isabel Ryan, Berrigan Branch

Bush Ballad: Around the Campfire

1st Catherine Milander, Stanwell Park Branch

2nd Lesley Kingwill, Gundagai Branch

3rd Anne Foan, Tenterfield Evening Branch

Branch Project: Roads to Wellbeing

1st Somersby Branch

Group Digital Cultural Books

1st Orange Branch

2nd Woy Woy Branch

Group Cultural Books

1st Gundagai Branch

2nd Maitland Branch

2nd Emerald Hill Branch

3rd Bodalla Branch

Group Cultural Reports

1st Mid North Coast Group

2nd Hume Group

3rd Illawarra Group

Temorva Trophy

Winner Karen Gooch, Sydney City Branch

Fergusson Trophy

Winner Mid North Coast Group

Bib 'n' Bub Trophy

Winner Gundagai Branch

Art and Porcelain Art

Section 1 Open

1st Shirley Urquart, Emerald Hill Branch

2nd Sue Mallard, Manly Branch

3rd Faye Owner, Bellingen Branch

Section 2 Australiana

1st Maddalena Piola, Port Macquarie Branch

2nd Jillian Carson, Gloucester Evening Branch

3rd Marnie Steer, Berrigan Branch

Section 3 Flora or Fauna

1st Maddalena Piola, Port Macquarie Branch

2nd Linden Stokes, Manly Branch

3rd Marnie Steer, Berrigan Branch

Section 4 Works on Paper

1st Katherine Jeanes, Wingham Branch

2nd Lorna Creagan, Armidale Branch

3rd Shirley Urquart, Emerald Hill Branch

Section 5 Miniature Art

1st Faye Owner, Bellingen Branch

2nd Marnie Steer, Berrigan Branch

3rd Margaret Peterson, Cooma Branch

Section 6 Marine and/or Seascape

1st Shirley Urquart, Emerald Hill Branch

2nd Carol Xuereb, Young Branch

3rd Marnie Steer, Berrigan Branch

Section 7 Australian Urban

1st Shirley Urquart, Emerald Hill Branch

2nd Anne Morley, Dapto Branch

3rd Sarah Telfer, Young Branch

Section 8 Mixed Media

1st Carol Xuereb, Young Branch

2nd Kathryn Jeanes, Wingham Branch

3rd Desiree Bickle, Adaminaby Branch

Section 9 Pottery or Ceramic

None

Section 10 Sculpture

1st Desiree Bickle, Adaminaby Branch

2nd Catherine Milander, Stanwell Park Branch

3rd Anabel Walters, Manly Branch

Section 11 Item of Domestic or Functional Use

1st Bev Bradfield, Morpeth Branch

2nd Bev Bradfield, Morpeth Branch

3rd Marian Guthrie, Myamley Branch

Section 12 Ornamental

1st Marian Guthrie, Myamley Branch

2nd Bev Bradfield, Morpeth Branch

3rd Marian Guthrie, Myamley Branch

Glimpse from CWA of NSW history

In 1966, a Conference resolution called for compulsory fitting of seat belts in vehicles.

State Handicraft Competition Results

Group Competition

1st Southern Tablelands Group

2nd Castlereagh Country Group

2nd Illawarra Group

2nd Macquarie Group

3rd Wanthella Group

Group Report

1st Illawarra Group

Group Section Champion Piece

Brenda Phillips, Yass Branch

Top Ten Pieces

■ Brenda Phillips, Yass Branch

■ Judy Egan, Georges River Branch

■ Leone Moffit, Braidwood Branch

■ Janeen Jackson, Picton Branch

■ Merle Barber, Wallamba Branch

■ Jennifer Kennedy, Southern Highlands Evening Branch

■ Janelle Beard, Cookwell Branch

■ Cath Whittaker, Keiraville Branch

■ Ruth Shanks, Dubbo Evening Branch

■ Jade Kinder, Marulan Branch

Open Section

CLASS A: Garment or article of craft made by a member 80 years and over

1st Fay Williams, Jerilderie Branch

2nd Marjory O'Brien, Bermagui Branch

3rd Marie Burke, Georges River Branch

CLASS BI: Any Article of craft made by a junior 12 years and under

1st Cherry, Bungendore Branch

2nd Dominic, Nowra Branch

3rd Eliza, Glenbrook Branch

CLASS B2: Any article of craft made by a junior 13-18 years of age.

1st Jannie, Taralga Branch

2nd Chloe, Collingullie Branch

3rd Lily, Deer Vale Branch

CLASS C: Branch Challenge: four Pin cushions

1st Hornsby Branch

2nd Southern Highland Evening Branch

3rd Narooma Branch

CLASS D: Article of craft made by a male relative of a CWA member

1st Paul Spencer, Urunga Branch

2nd Fred Lomas, Medowie Branch

3rd Mike Bickfod, Harden Branch

CLASS E: Chairpersons' Choice—Assisi Work

1st Julie Edmonds, Dorrigo Branch

2nd Pauline Cotterill, Narooma Branch

3rd Barbara McClenaghan, Armidale Branch

CLASS F: Special Section for members (resin work, wirework or woodwork)

1st Gai Bailey, South Grafton Evening Branch

2nd Emily Boorer, Berry Branch

3rd Rhonda Sellenthin, Canimbla Branch

Natural Fibres Section (sponsored by The Land)

Natural Fibres Champion Piece

Winner: Sharron Perry, Bodalla Branch

Section 1: Knee or Cot Rug (any technique) using commercial natural fibres max 150cm X 150cm

1st Jennifer Sherwen, Burnett Branch

2nd Marion O'Neill, Kootingal Branch

3rd Jan Young, Bathurst Branch

Section 2: Hand knitted garment or article from commercial natural fibres 5 ply or finer

1st Del Lochrin, Bathurst Evening Branch

2nd Caroline Craig, Toongabbie Branch

3rd Jennifer Heard, Eurongilly Branch

Section 3: Hand crocheted garment or article from commercial natural fibres 5 ply or finer

1st Sharron Perry, Bodalla Branch

2nd Barbara Gow, Grattai Branch

3rd Jennifer King, Hornsby Branch

Section 4: Hand knitted garment or article from commercial natural fibres 6 ply or thicker

1st Jade Kinder, Marulan Branch

2nd Catherine Quinn, Belmont Branch

3rd Sally Hoskins, Quirindi Branch

Section 5: Hand crocheted garment or article from commercial natural fibres 6 ply or thicker

1st Lyn Newton, Narromine Branch

2nd Cathy Stokes, Molong Branch

3rd Daphne Jermyn, Goolhi Branch

Section 6: Hand knitted/crocheted garment or article made from natural fibre hand

spun by the maker

1st Janet de Rooy, Rylstone Branch

2nd Fancene Halligen, Quirindi Branch

3rd Annette McCarthy, Nowra Branch

Section 7: Garment or article knitting, or crochet made from 100% pure wool

1st Jennifer Heard, Eurongilly Branch

2nd Annette McCarthy, Nowra Branch

3rd Cindy Beaton, Guyra Branch

Section 8: Garment made from natural fibres (not knitting or crochet)

1st Claire van der Stel, Gloucester Branch

2nd Mena Rondel, Southern Highlands Evening Branch

3rd Christine Treanza, Canimbla Branch

Section 9: Felted garment or article

1st Mary Shephard, Delungra Branch

2nd Pam Wright, Kootingal Branch

3rd Eleanor Brash, Keiraville Branch

The Land Cookery Competition Results

Light Fruit Cake

1st Carole Windley, Milton District Branch

2nd Marcia Noble, Oura Branch

3rd Jocelyn Parker, Sydney City Branch

Sultana Cake

1st Sandra Martin, Nowra Branch

2nd Judy Findlay, Barellan Branch

3rd Val Seymour, Tamworth Branch

Steamed Fruit Pudding

1st Wailyn Mar, St George-Sutherland Shire Branch

2nd Carole Windley, Milton District Branch

3rd Denise Hawdon, Gloucester Evening Branch

Plain Butter Cake

1st Lyndall Lawson, Picton District Branch

2nd Maree De La Torre, Berry Branch

3rd Kerry Hill, Castle Hill Branch

Chocolate Butter Cake

1st Stephanie Stanhope, Bega Branch

2nd Carolyn Wong, Penrith Branch

3rd Jill Greenhalgh, Ballina Branch

Coconut Loaf

1st Fay McIlwraith, Blackheath Branch

2nd Suellen Ryan, Hornsby Branch

3rd Silvana Griffin, Sydney City Branch

Moist Apricot Roll

1st Heather Sobey, Bermagui Branch

2nd Maryanne Renfrey, Nimmitabel Branch

3rd Annette Vearing, Rankin Springs Branch

Coffee Sponge Sandwich

1st Greta James, Sydney City Branch

2nd Heather Lyall, Hillston Branch

3rd Katherine Wong, Penrith Branch

Gluten Free Magic Bean Cake

1st Barbara Heckman, Maitland Branch

2nd Darlene Burkhardt, Camden Branch

3rd Anne Chartorisky, Galston Branch

Peppermint Slice

1st Yvonne Cole, Bega Branch

2nd Lyn Mews, Hornsby Branch

3rd Lisa Norris, Rylstone Branch

Remembrance Biscuits

1st Danielle Taylor, Broken Hill Branch

2nd Kristyne Rybak, Narromine Branch

3rd Kay Dean, Pleasant Hills Branch

Microwave Strawberry Jam

1st Amanda Colwell, Coonamble Evening Branch

2nd Mark Williamson, Grafton Branch

3rd Donna Moffatt, Bundarra Branch

Tomato Jam

1st Anne Gault, Grenfell Evening Branch

2nd Christine Parkes, Bredbo Branch

3rd Yvonne Cole, Bega Branch

Pineapple & Onion Relish

1st Michelle Stocks, Kellys Plains-Dangarsleigh Branch

2nd Dorothy Lynch, Lake Cathie-Hastings Branch

3rd Chris Tarlinton, Queanbeyan Evening Branch

Apple & Cranberry Chutney

1st Gail Whelan, Bermagui Branch

2nd Lyn Sjolander, Raleigh-Repton Branch

3rd Noelene Pursehouse, Bellawri Branch

Junior Section: Decorated Cup Cakes

1st Luna, Jamberoo Branch

2nd Annalise, Bega Branch

3rd Joseph, Colingullie Branch

Junior Section: Packet Cake of Your Choice

1st Ella, Euberta Branch

2nd Ava, Jamberoo Branch

3rd Annalise, Bega Branch

Junior Section: Chocolate Butter Cake

1st Charlyt, Glenbrook Branch

2nd Zara, Camden Branch

3rd Declan, Branxton-Greta Branch

The Land Special Awards

Less than 16 members

1st Delungra Branch, Gwydir Group

2nd Deer Vale Branch, Northern Tablelands

3rd Morpeth Branch, Hunter River Group

[The Land Special Awards 16-25 Members](#)

1st Lisarow-Ourimbah Branch, Northumberland Group

2nd Gunghalin Branch, Monaro Group

3rd Terrigal Evening Branch, Northumberland Group

[The Land Special Awards 26-50 Members](#)

1st Wongarbon Branch, Macquarie Group

Equal 2nd Grafton Branch, North Coast Group

Equal 2nd Cessnock Evening Branch, Hunter River Group

3rd Maitland, Branch, Hunter River Group

[The Land Special Awards More Than 51 Members](#)

1st Umina Beach Branch, Northumberland Group

2nd Woy Woy Branch, Northumberland Group

3rd Nowra Branch, Wollondilly Group

The Land Cookery Committee State Award

Winner Far South Coast Group

The Land Cookery Committee Chairperson's Award

Winner Yvonne Cole, Bega Branch

Membership Fees for 2025/2026

Full Member—1 Year: \$50.00

Full Member—3 Years: \$150.00

Student Member: \$39.25

New Member from 1 April 2026: \$28.50

Continuing Life Member: \$7.00

Note: from 2025/2026, the TSP is no longer applicable. The Conference Fee portion will be \$7.00 (including GST). Fees above include Conference Fee.

CWA of NSW Publicity Award

To offer all Publicity Officers a platform to showcase the role they have performed in all forms of media with the presentation of a portfolio or collection of reports.

Scope

- Entries may be either individual or a collaboration of members from within your branch or group.
- Please note: Intra-branch and intra-group communication to members should not be included unless it is used for external publicity.



Condition of Entry—Electronic

- Electronic entries can be posted on a USB or emailed.
- Electronic presentations, use a slide format, e.g. PowerPoint, of no more than 30 slides.
- Scan in hard copy articles.
- Add URL links for TV and radio interviews.
- Social media links or photos.



Condition of Entry—Portfolio

- Written entries in the form of an A4 portfolio of no more than 30 pages.
- Photocopy/ or original articles and photos.
- Handwritten or typed.
- Add URL links to TV and radio interviews.
- Add social media links or photos.
- Please ensure that no entries are submitted in a spiral bound book.



Lodgement of Entry

- Entries must be received by 1st March in following year.
- Entries to be mailed in a clearly labelled envelope with entry form available from the Procedures Manual. Entries received without this form will be disqualified.
- Digital entries can be emailed to CWA.publicityforum@gmail.com or posted on USB. The entry form must be attached.
- All entries will be acknowledged upon receipt.
- All postal entries, please include a self-addressed and stamped envelope for return mailing post judging.



Judging Criteria

- All publicity included must be for the calendar year: 1st January to 31st December.
- Judging will be undertaken by a panel of three persons, approved by the Publicity Support Forum (PSF).
- Consideration will be given to the presentation based on press involvement, either digital / hardcopy, including social media statistics, and the extent of coverage and diversity.
- Entries may include printed media, social media, radio and television achievements.
- Remember that all relevant privacy permissions must be gained prior to publication.

Award

- First Place winner will be awarded the CWA of NSW Publicity Award Medallion.
- Certificates will be awarded to all place getters.
- Winner to be announced at the State Conference in the following year and included on the CWA of NSW website.

Questions

- Email the Publicity Forum at CWA.publicityforum@gmail.com
- Utilise the Facebook page to start conversations: CWA Publicity Officers www.facebook.com/groups/539500381185082

Welcome New Members

A warm welcome to these 251 new members of our branches:

Adaminaby Isabella Kanturek

Ardlethan Meegan Garrett

Armatree Martine Traill

Armidale Megan Hofman,

Carmel Yeomans **Bangalow**

Pamela Forward, Rachael

McDonald, Isabelle Reinecke

Barellan Lynette Cathcart

Batemans Bay Michele

Benson, Sofia Keady, Virginia

Pascoe **Bathurst** Margaret

Hamilton, Rhonda Hodges

Bathurst Evening Michelle

Genders, Deborah Hoolihan,

Jasmyn Nankervis, Sonia Nunan

Belconnen Annett Jarvis

Belmont Rebecca Barnett,

Christine Harle **Bingara**

Kerriane Anderson, Michele

Bowrey, Pamela Davis, Ruth

Davis, Roxene Dennis, Alison

Druitt, Marianne Frost, Margy

Hincksman, Beverley Houghton,

Tanya Morse **Blackheath**

Gaele Perazzo **Blacktown**

Jocelyn Felizardo, Mishl Morris

Borenore Ann Druhan **Bowral**

Jessica Taylor **Braidwood**

Laura Hurley **Broken Hill** Karen

Gelmi, Jillian Graham, Katherine

Green, Kaye Janes, Maxine

Mckenzie, Barbara Preston,

Chris Vincent **Bungendore**

Brigid Cassells, Jane Robinson,

Patricia Street, Carole van Eldik

Camden Ameer Follington,

Cheralyn Livingstone, Susan

O'Brien **Campbelltown**

Patricia Briars, Silvana

Fabian, Kate Minogue, Renae

Wilson **Canberra** Kim

Lowrie, Samantha Mullins

Canowindra Audie Lam, Julie

Trudgett **Casino Evening**

Pat Borham **Castle Hill**

Jennifer Gray **Cessnock**

Evening Gemma Spradbrow-

Hunt **Coffs Harbour** Rayleen

Barnett **Collie** Patricia Henry

Collie Evening Jordan

Bremer **Coutts Crossing**

Katrina Ashton, Tabatha Ellem

Cumnock Azaria Munro

Delungra Pauline Phillips

Dubbo Evening Ines

Martin **Dungog-Clarence**

Town Tracey Lowrey, Karen

Turner **East Maitland** Britt

McPherson, Irene Parsonage,

Diana Thorburn, Jan Usher

Eastwood-Epping Adamina

Drazkiewicz-Narushevich, Rachel

Eagleton, Martina Fox, Margaret

Gibson, Tanya Macri, Deborah

Ricketts **Eden** Sharon Fitzpatrick

Euberta Michelle Langridge

Eugowra Sharon Riley, Lesley

Smith **Evans Head** Salli-ann

Mollard **Fairfield** Gillian Bechini,

Felicity Henderson, Kathy King,

Liziana Pun, Rita Pun **Galore**

Nicole Young **Georges River**

Kathy Crispin, Annette Pyle,

Karlie Rutherford, Fiona Winters

Glenbrook Kristin Abela,

Katrina Fowler, Elaine Hoolahan,

Nadja Lawrence, Claire Turner

Glenbrook Evening

Tara Brouwer, Harmony Field

Gloucester Kelly Boyer,

Sharon Hill **Goulburn** Megan

Jones, Amanda Taylor, Dianne

Wilkinson **Grenfell Evening**

Jan Meyers **Greystanes**

Nilva Egana, Stephanie Naidoo,

Yogeeta Naidoo, Andreia Shaw,

Marleyana Shaw **Griffith** Kaye

Bailey, Gabriella Cirillo, Alison

Ryan **Gundagai** Helen Castles,

Cate Minogue **Guyra Evening**

Carolyn Webb **Hawkesbury**

Evening Nicole McNally **Hay**

Margaret Kearns **Hornsby &**

District Emily Burnett, Jessica

Parker **Ilford-Running**

Stream Tracey Pleffer

Jindabyne June Beevers,

Ann Munslow **Keiraville** Ellen

Francis, Stella O'Toole **Kendall**

Mildred Frost **Kikoira** Annette

Clarke, Vikki Crowe **Kurrajong**

Kareen Anforth, Catherine

Brocktoff **Kyogle Evening**

Dianne Fraser, Lisa Merrett **Lake**

Cathie-Hastings Catherine

Hennessy **Leura** Jennifer

Hughes **Leura Evening**

Sharon Chapman, Chris Harvey,

Leonie Marchello **Lismore** Kay

Armour **Lismore Evening**

Judy de Vries, Jacqueline

Scutt, Kerrie Wawn **Little**

Billabong-Holbrook Ollie

Hawker **Maitland** Kathleen

Follington **Maitland City**

Evening Amelia Cockbain,

Gemalla de Beuzeville-Howarth,

Prudence Garrett-Jones, Tara

Hawley, Fiona Lane, Kylie Young

Manilla Evening Christine

Kirsch **Manly** Jan Beeston,

Natasha Beeston, Deborah

Clifford, Pepi Henry, Winnie Lui,

Peta Wyborn **Mannering**

Park Cristina Carneiro, Jennifer

Cartan **Mendooran** Deborah

Gersbach **Millthorpe** Casey

Bawden **Mittagong** Debra

Whaley **Morriset** Rebecca

Bishop **Moruya** Lyn Barling,

Irene Burke, Linda Campbell, Sally

Davic, Emma Donaldson, Shantell

Dowling, Jaye Edwards, Jennifer

Hawke, Margaret Hopkinson,

Emma Hutchinson, Betty Lowe,

Carmen Nazareth, Kae Nicholson,

Suzanne Rizvi, Mary Fabbo **Moss**

Vale Evening Maureen

Nicholls, Michelle Stewart

Murray Hut Heather Bruce

Murwillumbah Evening Lesley Doherty, Frances Lynden,
Roslyn Oakes **Narooma**
Diana Walsh **Nelson Bay**
Louise Jones, Fay Shadler
Newcastle Evening Sarah
Juchau **Nowra** Maggie Hope
Orange Christine MacKenzie,
Sharron Sestic **Pambula-**
Merimbula Annie Ellis
Parkes Sharon Crowe, Bianca
Kalergis-Buscemi **Penrith**
Karyn Paluzzano **Pleasant**
Hills Veronica Heald, Wendy
Howard **Port Macquarie**
Rebecca Collen **Sawtell** Sandra
Nicholls **Scone & District**
Evening Annabelle Norrie

Singleton Carolyn Richards,
Robyn Upson **Southern**
Highlands Evening Brigitte
Bucek, Alexis Gilchrist, Wendy
Green, Margaret Morris, Christine
Maree Windeyer **St George-**
Sutherland Shire Corinne
Dowsett, Lisa Pratt, Lily Winter
Stanwell Park Kim Holloway,
Margaret Leslie **Sydney City**
Michelle Anderson, Cherrie
Bourke, Kerry Doolin, Louise
Doolin, Elizabeth Grozdanovski,
Chicky Hampshire, Holly Hankin,
Rachel Hardy-Vassallo, Gabrielle
Meagher, Jessica Meldrum,
Soumi Paul Mukhopadhyay, Gina
Musumeci, Kim O'Heron, Clare
Thompson, Georgia Waters,
Anne-Marie Wright **Tambar**

Springs Bonnie McGlashan,
Helen Zanardi **Tilligerry** Jane
Twohill **Toongabbie** Judith
Bartolo **Tooraweenah**
Vannessa Voysey **Tumut and**
Surrounds Marion Jones,
Heidi Portors **Virtual** Emily
Austen, Sharelle Smith **Wagga**
Wagga Evening Elizabeth
Crawford **Wallamba** Trish
Murray **Warren** Belinda Bell
Wauchope Julie McDade,
Julie O'Shea, Teresa Wallis **Yass**
Rebecca Colvin **Yenda** Wendy
Murwood, Crystal Webster.

A letter enclosing your membership card has been sent to you.

Agnes Garry Award topic

The 2026 topic of the Agnes Gary Award (previously Garry Prize) has been announced.

The topic encourages members to examine the problems with internet and telecommunications services in remote, rural, and regional NSW.

"Because when a phone call can mean the difference between life and death, 'good enough' simply isn't good enough." This line from Immediate Past State President, Joy Beames' article in The Land newspaper (February 2025) is a stark reminder about the inequity of standards when it comes to internet and telecommunications in regional, rural and remote NSW.

Satellite based services have made a difference. However, these come at a significant cost. When you apply this inequity of standards to everything from the running of farms and app-dependent farm equipment, emergency response and recovery to telehealth as well as the simple things such as your children or grandchildren wanting to play the latest video game or you watching your favourite show—you know the great divide is more than just a geographic feature.

Topic: What needs to change to make the provision of telecommunications and internet services more equitable across the entire state?"

This annual essay competition is open to members only. Essays are to be of 500 words length (not including title), typed or clearly handwritten on one side of the paper only, double spaced.

Remember, a well-referenced essay lends greater support to your arguments.

Each member may only submit one entry. Entries should be accompanied by a separate cover sheet, listing your name, address, branch and group, and the number of words used in the essay.

All entries are to be sent directly to the editor at her home address or emailed. These details are found on the inside cover of the journal or in the official directory.

Please state "Agnes Garry Award" on the outside of the envelope or in the subject line of the email.



Mrs Agnes Garry, MBE,
State President 1941-1945

Celebrations

Talbragar Branch



Talbragar Branch celebrated its 90th birthday in April with a luncheon at the Western Plains Cultural Centre with a smaller number of members but those in attendance enjoyed fellowship. Group President, Marjorie Blatch, and long standing member May McArdle (pictured) cut the cake.

Gungahlin Branch



Congratulations to Gungahlin Branch's Leona Irvine who was presented with life membership. To say she was surprised is an understatement. Leona joined Gungahlin Branch after moving to Canberra in 2017. Branch members were pleased to have Monaro Group President, Liesbet Shiel, and State Executive Committee Member, Sue Chambers, as guests.

Keiraville Branch



Congratulations to Keiraville's Bev Connaughton who celebrated her 90th birthday recently. An avid knitter, Bev loved the beautiful knitting themed cake created by Branch Vice President Jenny Anderson

East Maitland Branch



East Maitland Branch celebrated its 75th anniversary with a special luncheon for members and guests. The Branch was honoured to have State President, Joy Beames, join them on the day. Much laughter, companionship and the recalling of memories over the day ensured a joyful celebration. To mark the day the first girl and boy born on the 30th March 2025 will be presented with a gift basket and a junior membership.

Tooraweenah Branch



Tooraweenah Branch members, guests, family and friends came together during April to celebrate 100 years of service to the community. Special guests on the day were local Mayor, Cr Doug Batten; Cr Brian Mockler; Macquarie Group President, Marjorie Blatch; and Branch Patron, Cluna Gale. Cluna Gale, accompanied by Marjorie Blatch unveiled the centenary plaque.

Albury Evening Branch



Albury Evening Branch celebrated its 10th birthday with a Sip and Paint session. Branch President, Lynette Buck, was presented with a long service bar much to her surprise. Lyn has held a number of positions at branch and group level during her 22 years membership with CWA.

Dorrigo Branch



Congratulations to Dorrigo Branch member, Edwina Whitworth, who received Life membership and a 50 year badge; serving 40 years with Wagga Wagga Evening Branch and 10 years with Dorrigo. Edwina has held office as Secretary, Vice President, Publicity and Cultural Officer. Branch President, Julie Edmonds, presented Edwina with her life membership certificate and Group President, Leonie Saunders, presented the 50 year badge.

Bowral Branch



80 members and guests gathered to celebrate the Bowral Branch's centenary at Milton Park Historic Hotel during April. Before being seated for high tea, emcee Margaret Smith, AO, welcomed State President, Joy Beames; Ken Beames; Judy Hannan, Member for Wollondilly; Rev Dr Gavin Perkins, Rector of St Jude's Bowral; and Amy Perkins. Dr Perkins gave the grace. As guest speaker, Joy gave an overview of CWA's past 100 years. Ms Hannan also spoke and Branch Patron, Margaret Chambers, OAM, read a history of the branch.

Story of the Month

Northumberland Group

Delivering mother and baby items, first aid supplies and material aid items on behalf of the CWA of NSW was a highlight of a trip to Tanna Island, Vanuatu for Northumberland Group members, Elisabeth Hodgson and Peta Jennings. During their time there, they met with Jeannie Barton, founder of TAFEA Health Association, a non-profit Australian registered charity working to provide essential healthcare in the Tafe

Province of Vanuatu. Jeannie, an Australian midwife, has been working tirelessly to bring to completion the building of a lifesaving maternity hospital on the grounds of Lenakal Hospital on Tanna Island. This facility will provide safe and hygienic health care to the mothers and babies of Tanna and surrounding islands of Aneityum, Futuna, Erromango and Aniwa. Peta and Elisabeth were able to see first-hand the astounding progress already achieved and the absolute need for support in the areas



of childbirth, community, and family care.

From our Branches

Belconnen Branch



Sr Noelene Quinn RSJ and Sr Colleen Howe RSJ, members of Sisters of St Joseph were guest speakers at a recent branch meeting. They gave a presentation on the services provided at MacKillop House in Lyneham, ACT. MacKillop House is an outreach from Marymead Catholic Care in the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. MacKillop House provides a safe, short-term emergency accommodation for women and children experiencing homelessness and/or escaping domestic and family violence. The program offers temporary shared accommodation for up to 20 women, featuring private bedrooms, as well as six separate townhouses for mothers and

their children. The branch donated to MacKillop House at the end of September last year. At the March meeting, members donated in-kind items, including ladies' toiletries, which will be given to the women upon their arrival and during their stay.

Belmont Branch



Belmont Branch held a lovely Mother's Day morning tea in May and members shared stories of their mothers or mother figures. This was accompanied by a morning tea with food items that reminded members of their mothers, a quiz on motherhood and lucky door prizes. Within the branch there are several family groupings of mothers and daughters, grandmothers, great grandmothers and

granddaughters and mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law. Members (back)- Sandra, Kerry, Marianne, Mikali, Joan, and Leigh along with Jo and Ellie (front row) who are related in some sort of mothering way to at least one other person in the branch.

Blackheath Branch



Blackheath Branch President, Kathryn Hibbert, with the refurbished wreath that she laid at the local Anzac Day service. The wreath, made by branch members features red poppies

which symbolise remembrance of those who died in war. The purple poppy honours those animals who served in war.

Bundarra Branch



The fibre blending workshop at Bundarra Branch in January was an enormous success. Louise and Sarah from Our Little Gallery in Guyra came and showed participants how to use a blending board with various textured wools, silks, and fibres to create rolags which can then be spun. Participants had fun making their own blends for their projects and enjoyed a light lunch provided by the Branch. Due to the success of the workshop the next workshop planned will be embroidery with workshops on resin art and others to follow.

Exeter Branch



The largest Scottish gathering in the Southern Hemisphere is held annually in early April at Bundanoon in the Southern Highlands. Exeter Branch have been holding a stall here for many years. Not a scone in sight, but plenty of Scottish Shortbread, Dundee Cakes, Scottish Tablets and Flies in the Graveyard. During the day Terry, Colleen and Alik

(pictured) helped a customer choose from our wonderful array of goodies.

What is the history of the Brigadoon? The legend of Brigadoon is the story of a mythical village in the Scottish Highlands. The village became enchanted centuries ago remaining unchanged and invisible to the outside world except for one special day every hundred years when it could be seen and even visited by outsiders.

Gresford Branch



Gresford Branch recently hosted an entertaining talk by writer Tony Cavanaugh, which was organised by its affiliated book club. Tony has wide experience in the world of film, television and publishing and is an invigorating speaker, who kept his audience captivated for well over an hour.

He spoke of his start with Hector Crawford Productions, where he was an assistant to the lowest grade of worker, and his movement through cinematography, production, scriptwriting, directing and novel-writing. After discussion of *Through My Eyes*, a mini-series about Lindy Chamberlain that he co-wrote, he moved on to discussion of *Kingdom of the Strong*, a novel read by the book club. This was based on real events in Melbourne decades ago, which were placed in a detective novel framework.

Members, including Joyce Byron (pictured), also took advantage of Gresford's Easter Saturday Billy Cart Derby to hold a successful

cake/craft/book and bric à brac stall.

Illabo Evening Branch



In March, Illabo Evening Branch made purple poppies to present to the riders on the Chauvel Anniversary Light Horse Memorial Ride as they came through Illabo on their 750 km ride. The poppies were attached to the horses' bridles; a symbol of remembrance for the horses who served alongside people in war. The riders were thrilled with the poppies members presented to them. With the horses and riders kitted out in full military uniform, the Chauvel Anniversary Light Horse Ride pays tribute to the courage and sacrifice of those who served in the Australian Light Horse regiments. The anniversary ride began in Shepparton, visiting Light Horse memorial sites along the way throughout NSW and Victoria, and ends in Tallangatta on the 160th Anniversary of Chauvel's birth on 16th April.

Jindera Branch

Jindera Branch members focussed on Anzac Day during their April meeting. Cultural Officer, Marie Leddon, gave an informative talk honouring the Anzacs and the veterans from all wars. Branch patron Helen Glachan (pictured) displayed an Anzac themed quilt she made for her grandson Oscar, who is currently in the Australian Airforce. Each Anzac Day, branch



members decorate the local cenotaph with red poppies and help provide morning tea after the mid-morning service.

Maitland City Evening Branch



Maitland City Evening Branch held an informal members and partners' lunch in April, at beautiful Nelsons Plains, overlooking lush green paddocks. The meal had an international flavour, as we explored the cuisine and culture of Korea. With a branch of amazing cooks, it was a feast for all the senses. Bulgogi, barbecue pork, kimchi fried rice, fried chicken, spicy prawns, glass noodles, vegetable pancakes, cornbread, South Korean doughnuts and cream ppang were sampled by the appreciative diners. It was a fabulous opportunity to relax among friends and get to know the branch's newest members.

Portland Branch

It's been a busy time for members as they have completed running the tea rooms for the Portland Art Show. After a hectic but fun weekend, members were able to get into the fresh air and continue

their tai chi sessions.



Sydney City Branch



Sydney City Branch provided the scones for the Mother's Day Family Night at Bunnings Rozelle. Mums, dads and kids were treated to scones with jam and cream and homemade Anzac biscuits with many coming back for seconds. The kids enjoyed fun activities like getting a fake tattoo and making Mum a special present at the craft table. There was also a weaving demonstration. The Family Night was celebrated by Bunnings stores right across Australia to mark Mother's Day. Pictured are Sydney City Branch President, Alicia Kell, with Publicity Officer, Lyn Justice, and Vice President, Yvette Henderson.

Tuggerah Lakes Branch



The installation of a defibrillator and first aid training for Tuggerah

Lakes Branch members were the result of a recent \$3000 grant from the Honourable Emma McBride MP, Member for Dobell. This grant for the defibrillator is incredibly important to the community, particularly given the significant elderly members and renters. This equipment will offer invaluable peace of mind to everyone who uses the local CWA rooms.

Virtual Branch

The Virtual Branch holds Virtual Craft Bees each month via Zoom. Members bring craft projects they are working on or just come along for a chat. This year the branch is devoting a few Virtual Craft Bees to learning new skills. A Learn to Crochet Night, held in April, aimed at learning or improving crochet skills and included Mid North Coast members. Molly (15), a junior member and a talented crocheter, was mentor/instructor for those needing assistance. YouTube video links were sent before our Craft Bee and everyone was asked to practise what they learned. On the night, members shared our projects and Molly did an amazing job, answering questions, advising, demonstrating, and problem solving as needed. By the end of the night, our new crocheters felt more confident and were busily working on their projects. The night was a success and everyone learned a great deal about crocheting.

Wagga Wagga Evening Branch



Wagga Wagga Evening Branch

held its annual January get together at the Wagga Botanic Gardens. A lovely salad and meat luncheon was provided by the members and fruit platters. It was a friendly day although very warm but all enjoyed getting together after the Christmas break. Since then, members have launched into their 2025 activities and welcomed another new member into the branch.

Yass Branch

Yass Branch welcomed Inspector David Cowell, Officer in Charge

of the Yass Police Station, to talk to us about online safety and protection. Members of the community were also invited to the gathering. David covered topics such as scams, frauds, nuisance calls, phishing and revenge porn. Statistics suggest that the older members of the population (60-80 years) were a particularly vulnerable group, with 20-29 year olds becoming more high risk as they have grown up with computers and social media, and may be overconfident. Members of the



audience were encouraged to share their own experiences with these intrusive and potentially dangerous practices, and to ask questions on how best to protect themselves and their data.

From our Groups

Central Western Group



They say location is everything and that was the case for Central Western Group members for this year's handicraft and recycled item competitions. After the official judging was completed, the entries were displayed at the Orange City Library for the rest of the week, where members of the public can view the work of the CWA members. This display also allowed Central Western Group members an opportunity to see the beautiful work created by other members and hopefully encourages more entries for the next year. The library staff were more than happy to assist with publicising the display and keeping a watchful eye on the items being displayed during the week. This display was an excellent opportunity to showcase the CWA in the Orange area and hopefully gain new members. This year, the Deputy

Mayor Tammy Greenhalgh presented the awards at the close of the exhibition on Friday afternoon.

Hume Group



A highlight of the recent Hume Group meeting was the presentation of the Emily Martin Scholarship. This is awarded every second year to a relative of a member, living in the Hume Group area who is studying for a career in medicine or other medical-related field. This year's recipient is Jasper Makeham, grandson of Margaret Makeham of Eurongilly Branch. Jasper is in his second year of nursing and hopes to follow this with further study to become a paramedic. Jasper attended, along with his grandparents, and received

\$2,000 towards his education expenses.

Namoi Group



Namoi Group held its first Agricultural & Environment Day at the Quirindi Rural Heritage Village. Guest speaker was Kirsty Quayle who spoke on growing cut flowers. Kirsty has grown her small business due to the wonderful support she has received at the local level. Members came from Gunnedah, Goolhi, Curlewis, Willala, Manilla, Werris Creek and Quirindi. Members visited the Museum of Yesteryear, enjoyed a train ride on the miniature rail and a Devonshire morning tea. Thank you to the volunteers at the museum for a wonderful day.

Garden of Remembrance

Berrigan

Michelle Thornton—came to Berrigan some time ago and enjoyed our country life. Her little shop full of interesting articles was a great conversation piece for locals and visitors alike. Michelle joined CWA to feel a part of the community and we enjoyed her company even though it was only for a short time. Michelle will be missed for her happy nature and love and caring of people—aged 67.

Broken Hill

Kathy Reid—joined CWA in March 2020 and was Broken Hill Branch President for the last four years. Also, Darling River Group President for the last two years. Kathy loved fundraising, was a great cook and enjoyed many crafts. She volunteered whenever she could and looked forward to travelling with the branch members to group meetings. Kathy was keen to attend the State Conference this year. She will be marching with us in spirit at the Anzac Day March. She was a valued member, a dearly loved friend and will be sadly missed—aged 66.

Casino

Irene O'Neill—an adored and valued branch member who assisted group for 52 years. Irene was a long time Secretary of Kyogle where she was a member for 42 years, before joining Lismore then Casino. Life member, beautiful knitter, loved craft, gardening, great sense of humour and avid reader. In 2025 Irene held the position of Vice President. A treasured friend sadly missed—age 93.

Coonabarabran

Theresa Rice—a former active member of Coonabarabran and Coonabarabran Evening Branches who passed away quietly in 2024. Theresa enjoyed

her role as Agricultural & Environment Officer for many years. She particularly enjoyed her contact with the children of all the schools in Coonabarabran promoting the colouring and project activities which encouraged the pupils to learn about our environment. Theresa was always happy to help with the branches fundraising and loved selling raffle tickets to locals and visitors always accompanied by a chat. Remembered warmly and missed.

East Maitland

Lynne Penna—passed away unexpectedly in May and was a member of East Maitland Branch for 6 years. Lynne was an active member and always cooked for Competitions and our Market Days. During this time Lynne held the Branch positions of Handicraft and International Officer twice. Lynne enjoyed the social activities and as a valued member will be sadly missed.

Ganmain

Gwen Boughey—members were saddened by the recent death of Gwen Boughey. Gwen was a stalwart of the branch, serving as President and Secretary and Council Member for Riverina Group.

Ivanhoe

Thelma Joyce Whitchurch—an Icon of Ivanhoe passed away on 14th April 2025, aged 95 years. She was a valued and treasured member for 60 Years of Ivanhoe Branch (life member) who worked tirelessly to keep our branch going. Thellie held many positions and served the branch enthusiastically over those years and even from afar when she moved to Orange. Thellie will be sadly missed by her many friends, a lovely lady who will be fondly remembered.

Kikoira

Ruth Rutledge—was an active and dedicated member of Kikoira Branch for over 40 years. She had been a Branch Vice President, International Officer and delegate to Hume Group, as well as Branch President several times. Ruth competed in The Land Cookery and International Competitions at group level and was part of Kikoira's miming group travelling to Sydney and various towns in NSW. Kikoira members will miss our friend Ruth, her lovely smile and companionship over many years.

Paterson

Cathy Cheetham—a member of Paterson Branch for over 14 years, aged 73. A lovely lady who was very good at international and cultural affairs. Hence her taking on our International Officer, and Cultural Officer roles in our branch. She was a good cook and was excellent at craft and flower arranging. She was also involved generally within the Paterson community. Sadly missed.

Picton District Branch

Margaret Higgins—joined CWA on the 1st October 2010. Margaret was a long-term member until her health deteriorated a few years ago which meant Margaret was no longer able to attend the meetings. Margaret was a valued member of Picton District Branch especially in the early years when the branch reformed. Margaret enjoyed the friendships and activities of the branch.

Somersby

Noeline Brown—joined in 1990 and held many positions: Branch President (twice), Treasurer, International Officer and Vice President many times as well as Group Treasurer, Executive Committee Member, Hospital Visiting Treasurer then Chairman

and spent many years visiting those in hospital. Noeline received the long service bar in 2010. Noeline was always there to help with all branch activities, and to help new members to understand CWA and a shoulder for the new officers when needed. Our branch will be sure to miss Noeline and her knowledge.

Tamworth

Tory McCulloch—life member of Tamworth Branch, joined Spring Ridge Branch in 1954, then Currabubula and Werris Creek. Growing up on a farm near Tamworth and marrying a farmer, she embraced what CWA stood for. In Tamworth Branch, her knowledge about CWA was well appreciated. She held all positions in Tamworth Branch and won awards for her

cooking and sewing skills. She was awarded the long service bar, 50-year medallion (2003) and Life Membership (2009). She was also Tamworth's Citizen of the Year. Her experience, advice, generosity and friendship will be missed by our members.

Tenterfield (closed)

Patricia (Pat) Curr—Pat joined the Tenterfield Branch in 1982 and was a very valued active member until the branch closed in 2015. She was awarded long service bar. Pat was renowned for her cooking and held the position of The Land Cookery Officer for many years. She excelled in many handcrafts—aged 99 years.

Tuggerah Lakes

Margaret Heathcote—an

extremely dedicated and hard-working member since 2014. Branch President for eight years 2016–2024, Northumberland Group President 2021–2024. She wrote several successful grant applications which helped to upgrade our hall. Prodigious maker of cakes, jams, pickles and all things chilli. Renowned for zooming along with the top down on her red Mini convertible—aged 73.

Branch Secretaries: notifications should be mailed direct to State Office (PO Box 222, Mascot, 1460) or emailed to membership@cwaofnsw.org.au.



Accommodation and Mini Ads

Members Outsourced Accommodation

The Metro Hotels Group has been chosen as the accommodation provider for the CWA of NSW.

A 15% discount off the BAR (Best Available Rate) at the time of booking, when using the code, is available at Metro Aspire Hotel Sydney, Metro Hotel Marlow Sydney, Metro Apartments on King and Metro Apartments Darling Harbour, Metro Hotel Miranda, Metro Mirage Hotel Newport, Metro Hotel Perth (South Perth), Metro Hotel Perth City and Metro Advance Apartments & Hotel Darwin.

Booking can be made online via www.metrohotels.com.au. The accommodation code is only applicable to online bookings.

The code must be entered (in the promotional code section when searching for rooms).

The code can be obtained from the website (after logging in) or by calling CWA State Office.

Bowral Branch

Tulip Time 2025

12th Sept to 6th Oct

Help support the maintenance of our 100 year old building and promote CWA during Tulip Time.

Bowral Branch is open to general public to providing morning & afternoon tea. We are seeking volunteers to help for a 2 hr shift. Free entrance to Corbett Gardens included with shift. Contact Branch Secretary: kathypea@yahoo.com.au 0490 418 070

Epping (Sydney)

Homestay Apartment

Lovely leafy short term/holiday fully self-contained furnished 2 bedroom apartment for rent – at the front of our home (Separate entrance). Close to transport, hospitals and unis. 2 night min stay. Linen and starter kit breakfast included.

From \$100/night.

Contact CWA member Kaye: 0410 68 9915 or kmacca63@gmail.com

Bermagui Seaside Cottage

The CWA Bermagui Seaside Cottage comprises a family room off the kitchen and 2 bedrooms containing: queen bed and single bed, and twin beds. Cutlery supplied. Bring own linen.

Enquires and applications to:

The Secretary,

PO Box 123, Bermagui 2546

cwaseasidecottage@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook

The CWA of NSW Facebook page shares branch activities, CWA news as well as items of interest.

We welcome anyone to follow the page at www.facebook.com/cwaofnsw.

The CWA of NSW Members closed group on Facebook is a way members can share and discuss areas of interest with each other. It is for CWA of NSW members only. It can be found at www.facebook.com/groups/cwaofnsw (please answer the questions after clicking "join group").

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