



Country Women's Association of NSW

*Incorporated in 1931 by an Act of NSW Parliament
Constituent Society of the Associated Country Women of the World*

ABN 82 318 909 926

Media Release

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CWA of NSW bucks the trend with membership numbers on the rise

While the likes of service clubs, not-for-profits, unions and sporting groups are all battling falling membership numbers, the Country Women's Association (CWA) of NSW is proving to be an exception to the rule.

For the first time in over 10 years, the organisation has revealed a positive result in terms of its membership for 2017/18, along with the addition of several new branches.

"Between September 2017 and September this year our membership numbers grew rather than fell, and while it's not by an enormous number, it does represent a very significant shift," said CWA of NSW president Annette Turner.

"For years prior to that the number of members leaving the organisation has exceeded the number of new members, so for us, the past 12 months shows we're bucking the trend and reinvigorates our efforts to ensure the CWA of NSW is around for generations to come."

In mid-September membership numbers stood at over 8000, with close to 400 branches, making the CWA of NSW the largest CWA body in Australia and also making it the largest advocacy group for rural, regional and remote people in NSW.

Mrs Turner said this change in fortunes could be attributed to a number of things, including refocusing on the organisation's primary aims, working hard on the lobbying front and ensuring that communication with members and the general public was a priority at all times.

"The role of advocacy and lobbying for real change for rural and regional NSW has been a big focus for us in the past 12 months, particularly as drought conditions worsened across the state, and our branches have really come to the fore in terms of supporting their communities," she said.

"People can see the difference these efforts are making and that being a member of the CWA is a way of being empowered and part of something bigger than themselves. Women of all ages and from a range of backgrounds also find friendship and support through their branches, with regular craft, cooking and information days allowing members to build on their skills, develop new ones, share ideas and expand their knowledge.



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“Members also share a common desire to make their communities better places to live, and maintain the traditions of an organisation founded on hard work, determination, ingenuity and friendship.”

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