

96th Annual General Meeting

Monday, 30 April to Friday, 4 May 2018

New England Girls' School, Armidale

This pull out is for use by the branch to discuss motions and to provide advance information for delegates. Only delegates will receive further information at registration, observers need to keep this section to take to the AGM for reference.

Draft Program

Sunday 29 April

12.00pm–3.00pm Registration (NEGS)

3.30pm Ecumenical Service (Saints Mary & Joseph Catholic Cathedral)

4.30pm–5.30pm Registration (NEGS)

Monday 30 April

Morning Official Opening

Afternoon Business Session

Evening Free

Tuesday 1 May

All day Business Session

Late Afternoon Country of Study Information Session

Wednesday 2 May

All day Business Session

Evening Gala Event (Armidale Ex Services Club)

Thursday 3 May

9.00am–6.00pm Committee displays/Workshops

Morning Award Ceremonies and Committee Reports

Afternoon Tours

Friday 4 May

9.00am–3.00pm Committee displays/Workshops

Draft Agenda

Association Activities

1a) Central Western, Far Western, Monaro and Wollondilly Groups:

“That the specific Health Research Fund Annual Project for 2018-2019 be Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (a form of children’s brain cancer)”.

1b) Blue Mountains and South West Groups:

“That the specific Health Research Fund Annual Project for 2018-2019 be Alzheimer’s Disease”.

1c) Nepean and Phillip Groups:

“That the specific Health Research Fund Annual Project for 2018-2019 be Endometriosis”.

Agricultural/ Environmental

2. Bingara Branch, Gwydir Group

Preamble: The Grey Headed Flying Fox are affecting communities across Australia. Colonies are spending longer in areas, resulting in a

myriad of problems. Exhaustion of food sources could increase the risk of disease caused from malnutrition and overcrowding. Destruction of habitat for many smaller mammals, birds, lizards and insects combined with the contamination of waterways by excreta could become an environmental disaster.

A lack of sleep, stress and depression affects residents, along with the smell and noise, reducing their quality of life. Pets, especially dogs, can be affected by the sonar noise of the bats resulting in behavioural and health problems. Increased financial burden due to physical damage to vehicles, roofs and electrical equipment and a downturn in tourism. We are not disputing the endangered species status, but are asking for an equitable approach to the management of colonies across Australia for all concerned.

“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for, as a matter of urgency, the creation

and implementation of a strategic management plan to protect the health and sustainability of communities and environments affected by the feeding and roosting of the Grey Headed Flying Fox”.

3. Berry Branch, Wollondilly Group

Preamble: Feral cats have contributed to the extinction of at least 28 mammal species since they first arrived in Australia and continue to wreak havoc. They imperil around a third of our threatened mammals, reptiles, frogs and birds. 124 species of native wildlife are at risk of extinction from feral cats. Each feral cat kills up to 1,000 native animals a year, ranging from crickets to lizards and small mammals. The Mammal Action Plan 2012 and a report published in 2014 by the US National Academy of Sciences ranked feral cats as the highest threat to Australia’s mammals. Their threat factor was more than double that of red foxes, the next highest threat, and triple that of habitat loss

and fragmentation. In January 2017, Dr Sarah Legge from the University of Queensland estimated the feral cat population was about 2.1 million across Australia during drought and nearly six million in wet seasons.

“That the policy of the CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for and support efforts to control, by culling, the feral cat population of Australia”.

4. Bowral Branch, Wollondilly Group

Preamble: The Murray-Darling Basin is a vibrant farming area and supplies many areas of Australia with wheat, dairy produce, fruit and vegetables. Water is essential to every community and industry in the area. Quotas are regulated by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority under strong compliance regimes to ensure that water is not misused or stolen. Often in time of drought, water allocation from the Murray-Darling Basin is reduced if there is a lack of available water.

One of the difficulties with water allocation in the area is that the Murray-Darling Basin crosses several state boundaries—NSW, SA, ACT and QLD. All have vested interests in maintaining their quotas. Following allegations of water theft and meter tampering in NSW aired by the ABC's Four Corner's program 28 July 2017, it may prompt the Commonwealth Auditor-General to expand an investigation into the Federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. If the allegations of unlawful removal of water is substantiated, then it must be addressed not only for the people of the Murray-Darling Basin, but for the whole of the Australian community.

“That the policy of the CWA of NSW shall be to support and encourage the proposed audit and assessment of the NSW section of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan and the Federal Government overview and assessment of the full Murray-Darling Basin Plan”.

5. Dunedoo Branch, Castlereagh Country Group

Preamble: Our landfills are becoming increasingly difficult to manage with

huge amounts of materials being dumped that can't be broken down quickly. Plastic is one of the biggest problems. An estimated 3.76 billion bags or 20,700 tonnes of plastic are disposed of in landfill sites throughout Australia every year. It is estimated that around 50 million bags enter the Australian litter stream every year. It is estimated that Australians use a billion takeaway coffee cups a year, the majority of which cannot be recycled. Many thousands of marine mammals and seabirds die every year around the world as a result of plastic litter. When the animal dies and decays the plastic is free again to repeat the deadly cycle.

“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to encourage all retailers to use containers and bags made from alternatives to plastic”.

6. Terramungamine Branch, Macquarie Group

Preamble: Ovine brucellosis is caused by a bacterium called Brucella ovis. All breeds of sheep are susceptible to brucellosis, which causes considerable economic loss due to reduced fertility in rams, resulting in reduced lamb marking percentages and extended lambing periods, and necessitating increased culling of rams, which must then be replaced. It is estimated that one in four flocks in NSW are infected (Dr J Kelly, pers com). The disease produces inflammation of the epididymis in rams and of the placenta in pregnant ewes, causing abortion and increased neonatal lamb deaths. Transmission of the disease at the time of delivery may occur if rams are running with lambing ewes.

The purchase of infected rams for breeding purposes results in the spread of the disease to previously uninfected flocks. If all rams sold through saleyards were 'for slaughter only' unless certified to be brucellosis free, there would be fewer infected rams entering the breeding system.

“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be that all rams sold through sale yards be 'for slaughter only' unless accompanied by veterinary certification that they are brucellosis free”.

7. Stanwell Park Branch, Illawarra Group

Preamble: Deer are considered a pest by Wollongong City Council, this definition is not legislative as deer are not a declared pest under the Rural Lands Protection Act 1998. Deer populations have soared in NSW by 60% between 2009 and 2016 according to the Invasive Species Council. Landholders and residents say the damage to agriculture and sensitive rainforest is wreaking havoc. There is damage to new tree plantings and vegetation, with tree guards and barbed wire fences being no deterrent. Deer also cause ongoing damage to fence infrastructure on rural properties. Increasing deer numbers on roads in the Illawarra area are causing a safety hazard. Residents are now seeing them in urban backyards and public safety has become a real issue. Sydney Trains said there had been more than 30 collisions involving deer wandering on the rail corridor over the past 12 months.

“That the policy of the CWA of NSW shall be that deer be classified as a pest species to allow the legal culling of these animals”.

Education

8. Pleasant Hills Branch, Riverina Group

(Motion to be confirmed at the February Executive meeting)

9. Sydney City Branch, Phillip Group

(Motion to be confirmed at the February Executive meeting)

Health & Social Security

10. Eden Branch, Far South Coast Group

Preamble: Aged Care (and the associated Home Care) is very important to all regions, particularly in rural and remote areas of NSW. The change from a Home Aged Care (HAC) program to the new Consumer Directed My Aged Care packages (MAC) with the Department of Health and Ageing has caused problems for some clients. A client rings MAC for an assessment, they are subsequently given an ID number and placed in

a national queue—with city and country people in the same queue. The queue favours the aged in cities, due to ageing population numbers alone, while rural and remote areas wait for packages to be assigned.

“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be that the Federal Government be urged to ensure equity in the distribution of My Aged Care packages”.

11. Wagga Wagga Evening Branch, Riverina Group

Preamble: If a medical practitioner does not have automatic claiming facilities for a private health care rebate and/or a Medicare refund, you must apply for a refund after you have paid a sizeable account. Not only is this a lengthy process at Centrelink, but waiting for a refund can take up to a few weeks. The Government can only strongly encourage health providers to use electronic processing for claims. If it became legislation, then medical practitioners would have to adhere to it.

“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for all medical practitioners to use electronic or digital claiming to allow their patients to receive refunds promptly”.

12. Moruya Branch, Far South Coast Group

Preamble: Harm may be caused to an older person by a spouse, family member, partner, neighbour, friend or persons providing a service. Domestic and/or family violence can play a major part as well as paid caregivers preying on their elderly patients. Types of abuse include physical, psychological/emotional, elder financial abuse, sexual and neglect. Abandonment, Rights Abuse, Institutional Abuse and Self Neglect are also recognised as elder abuse. The key component for prevention of elder abuse is recognising and acting on acknowledged signs.

“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for the promotion of awareness of elder abuse”.

13. Oaklands Branch, Murray Group

Preamble: Current research indicates that psychological suffering and poor mental health are the most significant and potentially treatable factors in the dying process for terminally ill patients and their families. The presence of psychological distress has been shown to increase a person's perception of pain. Mental health problems can lead to increased distress and worry among friends and family. Emotional distress and depression is often viewed by clinicians as a normal, inevitable and an appropriate response to dying. Depression is not a normal part of dying.

“That CWA of NSW advocate for the inclusion of psychological distress in mental health criteria, under the current Medicare initiatives, for both people living with advanced chronic and terminal illnesses and their families and caregivers.”

14. Oaklands Branch, Murray Group

Preamble: Medicare rebates are available to patients under strict mental health criteria, only when they have been referred by a GP, psychiatrist or a paediatrician. Research shows that due to a lack of education/awareness, medical professionals have difficulty recognising symptoms and behaviours displayed by people (and their family/caregivers) coping with dying, as reflective of psychological distress. There are very few referrals for people with terminal illness or their families to appropriately qualified psychologists or social workers for psychological support and therapy. Many patients are prescribed antidepressants, where best practice indicates that psychological therapies deliver significant improvement in mental health, even for people nearing death.

“That CWA of NSW advocate for accredited Mental Health clinicians to be able to provide psychological services in rural communities for people living with advanced chronic and terminal illnesses, their families and caregivers, through Medicare, without a GP referral.”

15. Oaklands Branch, Murray Group

Preamble: The difficulty in attracting allied health clinicians into rural practice is similar to those faced in attracting GPs. Currently only GPs and medical specialists are provided with a rural loading by the Federal Government for the additional time and cost in providing essential services in regional, rural and remote communities. They are also paid a practice incentive to bulk bill clients. Other Medicare accredited allied and mental health care professionals are not provided with similar recognition. These include Mental Health Accredited Social Workers, Psychologists, Occupational Therapists and Speech Pathologists.

“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for a review of the Medicare benefits payment schedule to include an appropriate and commensurate rural loading or incentive payment for Medicare accredited allied health care professionals working in regional, rural and remote communities”.

16. Albion Park Evening Branch, Illawarra Group

Preamble: Female genital mutilation (FGM) is one of the most barbaric practices performed on women of all ages still in operation today. On 23 March 2017 the Australian Medical Association (AMA) condemned the practice of any form of FGM. Despite the practice being illegal in all states of Australia, children and women are still being forced to endure the pain and suffering and in some cases ongoing discomfort attached to this procedure. It is also a criminal offence to remove a child from Australia, or to assist whether overtly or tacitly in such a removal for the purpose of submitting her to any form of FGM overseas.

“That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to promote the enforcement of the law with regard to female genital mutilation/cutting”.

17. Walgett Branch, Barwon Group

Preamble: The NSW Government must ensure that monitoring systems are in place and actively monitored at all times to ensure that

all health employees are protected. Most violence is perpetrated by patients and visitors. Many health employees are threatened or exposed to verbal aggression. Health workers most at risk included nurses and other staff directly involved in patient care, emergency room staff and paramedics. Worldwide, nurses are more likely to be attacked than prison guards and police officers. Studies show that 90% of emergency ward staff have experienced some type of violence, but it's not isolated to the emergency department.

"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for protection against violence and assaults for all health employees".

18. Kyogle Evening Branch, Far North Coast Group

Preamble: Abortion is illegal in NSW under the Crimes Act 1900, although court decisions have established that abortion will not be unlawful if a doctor reasonably believes it is necessary to save the woman from serious danger to her life, mental or physical health. However, women seeking abortions, as well as their doctors, remain vulnerable to persecution for unlawful abortion and removing it from the criminal law will provide certainty to patients and doctors about their rights to access these health services.

"That the policy of the CWA of NSW shall be to support the repeal of Sections 82-84 of the NSW Crimes Act, relating to abortion offences".

19. Bangalow Branch, Far North Coast Group

Preamble: Women over 55 are the fastest growing demographic of homeless people. These women have not been homeless before but now find themselves in that situation due to adverse life events such as family violence, widowhood or illness. Older women's homelessness differs and is more hidden. Older women are not generally found sleeping rough, but are living in backpacker accommodation, hostels, staying with friends or sleeping in their cars. When they are homeless older women find it much harder than older men

to access homelessness services because many are targeted to men, families and to rough sleepers.

"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to campaign for specific housing options for older women faced with homelessness or a housing crisis".

20. Scone & District Branch, Hunter River Group

Preamble: The Family Court currently relies on the parties in dispute to either be honest in making a full frank disclosure of their income, or either party to provide evidence of under payment of child support payments. Such evidence includes indications that the paying parent is living beyond their stated means, or in a new relationship where the cost of living is being shared. Instead of relying on the parties in dispute to provide evidence, the Federal Government is asked to set in place a process for the incomes of paying parents to be independently checked on a regular basis, and that the resources be provided in order for this to happen.

"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for stronger and more varied processes for the incomes of separated parents to be independently and regularly checked, to ensure that they are contributing a true share of child support payments".

Miscellaneous

21. Sydney City Branch, Phillip Group

Preamble: Full funding of Community Legal Centres is vital so that they can continue to improve and provide vital legal services across NSW at no charge for those that are vulnerable and most in need of representation, but can't afford it. Free legal advice is needed for issues such as family violence, welfare, employment and tenancy. Significant funding is needed to help reduce the rates of violence and its subsequent effects.

"That the policy of the CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for the full funding of Community Legal Centres in line with the recommendations of the 2014 Inquiry Report of the

Productivity Commission titled "Access to Justice Arrangements".

22. Rowena Branch, Barwon Group

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

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

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

First Special General Meeting

Monday, 30 April 2018 commencing at 1.15 pm.

The following motions on the agenda will be considered and voted upon:

1. Sydney City Branch, Phillip Group

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

Regulation 18 would then read:

Nominations for the State President shall be in the hands of the Chief

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

2. Sydney City Branch, Phillip Group
(Motion to be confirmed at the February Executive meeting)

Please note: The Agenda and Program may be subject to change following input from the Executive Committee and/or legal advice.

Delegates to 2018 AGM

Group and branch secretaries are requested to forward group and branch delegates’ forms to State Office by 7 March 2018. Both forms are available in the Procedures Manual (pages F 4-1-715 and F 4-2-715) or from the CWA of NSW website (in the downloads section). If no delegates are attending from your branch, please still return the form noting “no delegates attending”.

Branches are entitled to send two delegates to the Annual General Meeting. Please ensure that delegates are financial members of the branch they are representing and that they are able to attend the full length of each session.

Information for Delegates

Registration

Group and Branch delegates, Group Representatives, State Office Bearers and Past State Presidents are required to register their attendance at the registration desk to receive their voting card and delegate’s papers.

It is important to note that delegates will require their gold membership card in order to register. If you are attending as a delegate and have misplaced or do not have a membership card, please contact your Branch Secretary to organise a replacement. If a gold card is not provided at registration, a form of personal identification will be required in its place.

Registration will take place in Saumarez House within NEGS. It will be open Sunday, 29 April: 12.00–3.00 pm and then at 4.30–5.30 pm and on Monday, 30 April: 8.30 am–9.30 am (for late arrivals only).

Voting

Voting for State Office Bearers and the Medical Research Project will also be located in Saumarez House within NEGS. The voting area will be open for delegates to vote from 5.00–6.00 pm on Monday, 30 April

then 8.00–9.00 am, 1.00–2.30 pm and 4.30–5.30 pm on Tuesday, 1 May. Delegates will receive their ballot papers only after they present their voting card and have their name marked off on a separate roll. All voting is to take place in the designated voting area and ballot papers must be placed in the ballot boxes provided.

Tours

A reminder that information and order forms for the State Conference and Partner Tours was provided in the December 2017 journal. (Partner tour is on Tuesday, 1 May). Please note that your tour order forms and payment must be received by Friday, 6 April 2018.

Lunches

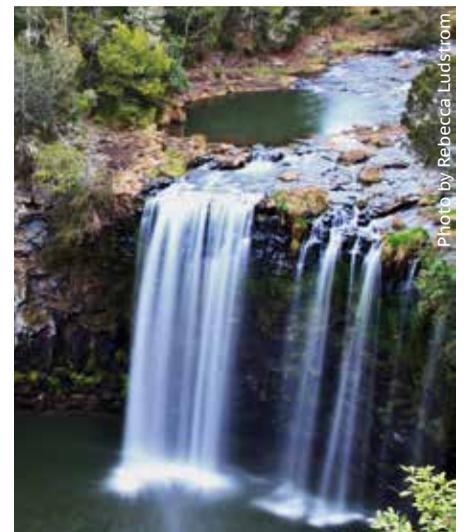
Two lunch options will be available from Monday to Thursday: a \$12 pre-ordered lunch pack (sandwich, popper juice and fruit) and/or a barbecue lunch (payable on the day). There will be one sandwich option available each day for the lunch packs. Please advise if you have any special dietary needs.

Monday: Ham and salad sandwich, Tuesday: Egg and lettuce sandwich, Wednesday: Chicken Caesar Wrap,

Thursday: Corn beef and salad sandwich.

An International Day lunch with a variety of food stalls will be held on Tuesday, 1 May.

The lunch packs must be paid for in advance with your coupon and money due by Friday, 13 April 2018. Please make cheques payable to “CWA of NSW” and send with your completed coupon and a self-addressed stamped envelope (for tickets and receipt to be sent back to you) to Mrs Bev Eichorn, PO Box 1127, Armidale NSW 2350. Tickets are not refundable.



Dangar Falls, Oxley Wild Rivers National Park

Gala Event

The Gala Dinner will be held at the Armidale Ex-Services Club (137 Dumaresq Street) on the evening of Wednesday, 2 May. Tickets are \$55 each and must be paid for in advance with the coupon in the December 2017 Journal (page 10). Payment is due at State Office by 6 April 2018.

Alternatively you can pay for your ticket via Try Booking (go to www.trybooking.com/337743).

Medical Condition Form

If you have a chronic medical condition please refer to page 22 of this journal to locate the Medical Condition form to fill in, cut out and send to your own Group Secretary. Do not send to State Office.

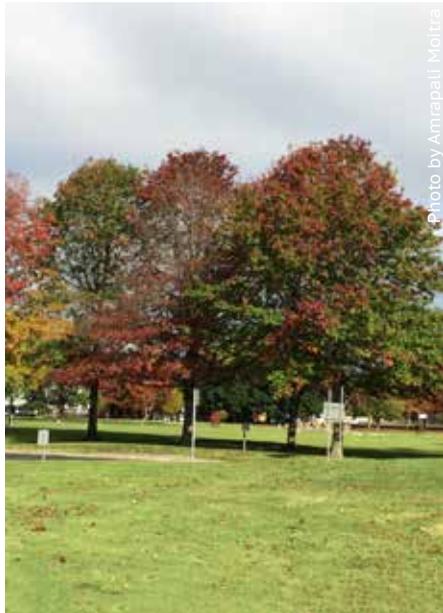
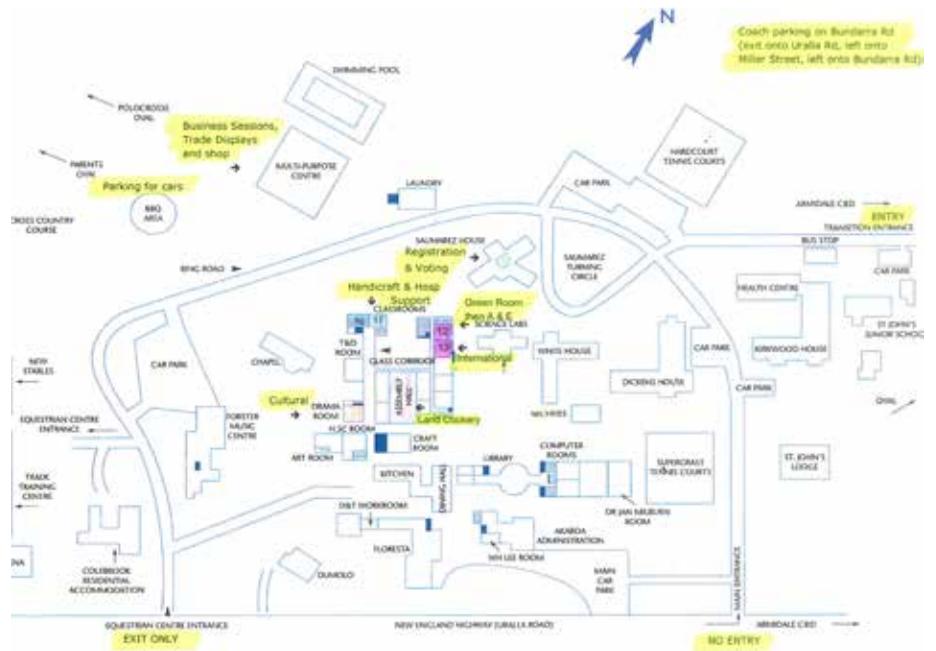


Photo by Amrapali Moltra

Curtis Park, Armidale

Where will everything be located within NEGS?



NB: Shop location may change to Saumarez House

Order Form: Conference Lunch Packs

Refer to the lunch options in your journal. Please insert the number of lunch packs you require for each day.

Lunch packs

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|
| Monday 30 April (Ham & salad sandwich) | <input type="checkbox"/> | x \$12.00 |
| Tuesday 1 May (Egg & lettuce sandwich) | <input type="checkbox"/> | x \$12.00 |
| Wednesday 2 May (Chicken Caesar wrap) | <input type="checkbox"/> | x \$12.00 |
| Thursday 3 May (Corn beef & salad sandwich) | <input type="checkbox"/> | x \$12.00 |

TOTAL = \$ _____

Name(s): _____ (if space insufficient, attach list)

Address: _____ Post Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Branch: _____ Group: _____

Please send this form with cheque (payable to **CWA of NSW**) plus a **stamped self-addressed envelope** by **Friday, 13 April 2018** to Mrs Bev Eichorn, PO Box 1127, Armidale NSW 2350.

Tickets are **non-refundable**. Prices include GST

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