

## **March 1966 – June 1968**

### **Meeting to Discuss formation of an Australian Association of Inner Wheel Clubs**

In March 1966 a meeting of the Executive Members of Districts 50 and 51 was held to discuss the possibility of forming an Australian Association. An invitation was extended to all Past District Chairmen and a good representation attended. This meeting was called in response to suggestions from the Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in England that we give consideration to becoming more self-sufficient. The formation of our own Association seemed a formidable task and most members were not very optimistic about success – the question of finance was a real problem. However, it was decided to appoint five delegates from each of the two Districts to meet and hold further discussions when required.

These meetings and discussions continued for the next two years and it is interesting to note that in the early stages of the discussions District 51 was enthusiastic and optimistic but over the discussion period this eased while interest and support strengthened in District 50.

The biggest problem to be overcome was the matter of finance, and this was solved by the very generous cash grants amounting to \$750 received from International Inner Wheel. This money was to be used for the formation of a National Association and it certainly made this step possible.

Finally, on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 1968, the big step was taken when a resolution was made that 'The Australian National Council be formed and commence functioning from 1 July 1968'.

It was further resolved that the Council would consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and one Council Member from each District and, in addition, the District Chairmen of Districts 50 and 51 would be ex-officio Council Members for the first year. So that both Districts would be united it was decided that Clubs from Districts 50 and 51 would each nominate a member to be their candidate for the position of President. All Clubs would vote, and the candidate with the most votes would become President and the other Vice President.

## Inner Wheel Australia

### Past National Presents Year Book

**1968 – 1970**

#### **President Kath Armstrong**



On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1968 the new committee came into being under the Presidency of Mrs Kath Armstrong. There were so many things to arrange and organise, but gradually priorities were established and high on this list was the matter of new District Boundaries.

The previous division of District 27 into District 50 and 51 was based on Rotary District boundaries. It was decided that Clubs would be grouped geographically with due consideration to mileages. A combined meeting of all clubs was held at the Hotel Australia, Sydney on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1968 during the first ever visit of an IIW President, Lavender Weightman. Thirty eight clubs were represented, modifications to the division presented and adopted. It was decided to apply to the IIW Board for the Districts to be numbered A50, A51, A52 and A53.

The visit of President Lavender Weightman was eagerly awaited, and was invaluable in solving so many problems.

In February 1969 Australia was represented for the first time at the IIW Board Meeting, where President Kath presented a draft proposal for the Australian National Council Constitution and By-Laws which had been drawn up and approved by the Council.

Elections for the Office Bearers for the four new Districts were successfully completed and on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1969 the foundation Chairmen were installed in their respective committees.

District A70 was formed in October 1969 in time to be represented at the first October Conference which was held at The Hotel Manly, Manly. The Conference Committee was made up of Vice President Gwen Davies as Chairmen and Council Member Rose Manches as Secretary. 190 registrations were received and all Past District Chairmen, with one exception, were present, together with the five District Chairmen and Executive Officers.

At this time it was decided to publish a National Magazine to be circulated to all Clubs within the ANA as part of the members' capitation fees. Two magazines were published that year.

President Kath and Vice President Gwen both officially attended the Conference of Inner Wheel Clubs in GB&I held at Blackpool, the IIW Board Meeting, held in London and the first IIW Convention at The Hague. There were 1,500 registrations and Inner Wheel was honoured by the attendance of Queen Juliana of The Netherlands at the Opening Session.

1970 saw the Bi-Centenary Celebrations to commemorate the discovery of Australia and Inner Wheel had been invited to join a Pageant to acknowledge the work of Women in the Community. This proved a very popular attraction.

30<sup>th</sup> June 1970 was the date of the final meeting for the year and was followed by a luncheon and changeover of Officers.

**1970 – 1971**

**President Gwen Davies**



On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1970 the Australian National Council became known as the Australian National Association of Inner Wheel Clubs.

As a result of a visit in September to Queensland by President Gwen, Bundaberg, Cairns, Innisfail and Rockhampton Clubs decided to affiliate with ANA. Not long after a club in Townsville was formed.

In October eight clubs in Victoria became affiliated with ANA.

The second Annual Conference was again held in Manly, and it was in conjunction with the First Council Meeting of the year. They were very honoured to be able to welcome the IAW President, Elsebeth Bagar to the Council Meeting and to the Business Session next day. Elsebeth Bagar visited California, Australia, New Zealand and India at this time.

It was decided to make a ruling that the Vice President of ANA (Australian National Association) would also be the Conference Chairman each year.

The IAW Board Meeting was held in February 1971 and was attended by Vice President Letty Pearce – Representative for Australia. Ten Countries were represented including California, and USA.

The Rotary International Convention was held in Sydney in May 1971 and President Gwen and her committee took the opportunity to arrange a get-together of Inner Wheel Members visiting Australia for the Convention. Over 200 members from many countries attended the Masonic Club, Sydney, and were impressed with the success of the day. The highlight of the afternoon was a short address by IW member Millicent Gaskill, who wrote the book 'Home and Horizon' which, in the early days of IW was the only guide available to members from countries outside GB&I.

**1971 – 1972**

**President Letty Pearce**



The ANA continued to progress and they were honoured to have IPP Gwen Davies appointed to IIW Extension Officer to Australia. This enabled her to contact wives of Rotarians through Australia, who were outside the District Boundaries, and encourage them to form clubs.

The first Council Meeting of the year was held in October in conjunction with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference at the Manly Hotel for the third time. The Conference was well attended, numbers being higher than in 1970 with 51 Clubs being present. IIW President Nancy Sharp sent a letter of greeting and best wishes for the success of the Conference. A rise of 10¢ in Capitation Fees was approved.

At this time there were 95 member Clubs of the Association with 3,453 members. Six Clubs with 186 members were not affiliated at this time. This gives a total of 101 Clubs, in Australia, with 3,639 members.

During this year President Letty reported that she had been able to attend the Changeover Functions of all five Districts within the Association. She had also visited clubs in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and NSW. A number of new clubs were formed during this time.

**1972 – 1973**

## **President Maude Genders**



At this time there were five Council Members – A50, A51, A52, A53 and A70

The ANA was growing in importance and status every year, expanding its activities throughout the Country.

A severe illness incapacitated President Maude soon after taking office and whenever necessary other ANA Executive acted as substitutes. However, President Maude soon recuperated sufficiently to carry on and especially to officiate at the Manly Conference. Thereafter she enjoyed a very fruitful and rewarding year.

Past President Gwen Davies, in her position of Extension Member had the opportunity of approaching the wives of Rotarians with the aim of encouraging new Inner Wheel Clubs.

During this year four clubs were chartered – Scone, Gosford North, Claremont-Brighton and Morwell

The Fourth Inner Wheel Conference and 19<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting were held at the Hotel Manly, Manly in October and were well attended with 217 registrations from 47 clubs, including Victoria, South Australia and Canberra. The innovation this year was the Hospitality Room, which was very popular and well patronised.

At this time there were 96 Clubs in District, or Affiliated with 3,456 members and 6 Clubs not affiliated with 184 members. Making a total of 102 Clubs with 3640 members.

The older clubs still flourished with North Sydney celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Sydney and Parramatta had their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries, whilst Penrith came of age with its 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Unfortunately, Coonabarabran (A52) and Lake Cargelligo (A5) had to disband because of lack of members.

In May Vice President Rose Manches attended the IIW Board Meeting as IIW Representative for Australia and also attended the IIW Convention in Copenhagen.

## 1973-1974

### President Rose Manches



The fifth Annual Conference was again held in Manly. Fifty Clubs with 229 members were represented. Visiting members were given the opportunity to inspect the Opera House.

President Rose presided over the business session and it was at this meeting it was decided to hold the next Conference at Orange in October 1974.

It was also reported that Mrs Gwen Davies had been nominated as Vice President of IIW for 1974-1975

New Clubs were formed at North Hobart, Prospect, The Entrance, Queanbeyan, Young and Lockhart.

This being the Golden Anniversary of the forming of Inner Wheel, a telegram of congratulations to Manchester Club was sent on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1974.

IIW Representative Aimee Bennett attended the Board Meeting held at Stratford upon Avon where it was decided to hold the 1976 Convention in Australia.

President Rose visited each District before the end of 1973. She also attended the Inter Club meeting of Victorian Clubs and Berwick.

Travelling to Queensland she visited each Club individually and informed them of the later news of Inner Wheel.

She also represented Inner Wheel at the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme in Canberra.

November saw the unexpected arrival of the IIW President and members of the Executive were able to show her some of the proposed venues for the 1976 Convention, as well as entertain her and show her some of the beauty spots of Sydney.

Past Association President Gwen Davies was elected International Vice President 1974-1975

At the end of 1973-74 Australia registered 106 clubs in 5 Districts with a membership of 3,712 – the third largest in the world.

**1974 – 1975**

**President Aimee Bennett**



The first council meeting of the year was held in conjunction with the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Conference at Orange. This was the first Annual Conference held away from the Metropolitan area and proved to be an outstanding success. Total registrations were 284 members from 51 Clubs.

President Aimee extended a special welcome to IIW Vice President Gwen Davies and to the Members of new Clubs who were attending their first Conference.

At this meeting it was decided the venue for the October 1975 Conference would be at Hotel Florida in Terrigal.

A Convention Committee had been recommended and accepted by IIW. Chairman - Rose Manches, Secretary/Treasurer - Vera Wood and Ex Officio - Gwen Davies, Aimee Bennett and Georgia Laws. It was announced that Willoughby Town Hall, Chatswood had been chosen as a venue for the Convention to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May 1976.

Two clubs were formed in Tasmania – Kings Meadow and Beaconsfield and Geraldton North in WA.

Because of the widespread damage caused to Darwin by Cyclone Tracey, President Aimee requested a National Inner Wheel Appeal which resulted in the sum of \$4,207.50 being forwarded to the Secretary of the Combined Darwin Rotary Clubs Cyclone Trust Fund, to help furnish a Home Unit for aged persons.

IIW Representative Georgia Laws attended the Board Meeting held in Brussels in February 1975. It was from discussions at this meeting that a further increase in Capitation Fees, over and above the one to come into force in 1976, was circulated to all clubs. The result of which was a majority vote in favour.

President Aimee visited each District, attended the Victorian Inter Club Meeting, held at Bendigo, and visited all affiliated Clubs in WA.

To avoid increasing the Association Capitation fees, there were only two Council Meetings during this year 1974-75. All Clubs and Council Members had been kept well informed by mail.

**1975 – 1976**

## **President Georgia Laws**



The installation of President Georgia marked the beginning of a momentous year for IWA. For the first time an Australian member, Gwen Davies held the office of International President and for the first time Australia was the venue for an International Convention. This was the first time that an International Convention had been held outside Europe and the venture was a great challenge. Its outstanding success was due to the leadership of President Gwen and the very capable Convention Committed headed by Chairman Rose Manches and supported by all clubs. Registration was about 1,000 from 19 countries.

Many functions were arranged to entertain Board Members, including Civic Receptions at the Sydney Town Hall, and Willoughby Town Hall. The Convention was held at the Willoughby Town hall at the beginning of May and was presided over by President Gwen Davies and was opened by Sir Eric Willis, Premier of NSW.

A number of overseas members stayed on after the Convention and they became guests of members in many country centres and locally in Sydney.

It was an exceptionally busy and difficult year for President Georgia as her Secretary Vera Wood became ill and had to resign.

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Conference and Council Meeting were held at the Hotel Florida, Terrigal. The Central Coast was at its best and the coach tour of the district showed some of the beauty spots.

The Combined Districts' Christmas Party was held at 'Aruluen' and the Christmas cake was again made by Council Member Lois Reid of District A52.

In March 1976 President Georgia and Secretary Fay Yelf visited all clubs in Queensland and during that visit District A76 was formed.

President Georgia also visited all Districts and the Victorian Inter-Club Rally which was held at Maryborough, VIC.

Unfortunately three clubs handed in their Charters – Canberra North and Port Kembla in A51 and Port Augusta in A70. However three new clubs were formed – Portland-Wallerawang A50, Glenorchy, Tasmania and Smithfield A53.

**1976 – 1977**

**President Marjorie Hart**



This was a most stimulating and eventful year with most welcome growth of the Inner Wheel family.

IIW Executive expressed both congratulations and appreciation of the wonderful organisation of the Convention and special greetings and good wishes were received from International President Gwen Davies.

The first Council Meeting and 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference were held at the Hydro Majestic, Medlow Bath in the Blue Mountains. There were 250 registrations from 56 clubs. President Marjorie was delighted to welcome District A76.

At this meeting it was decided to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to review the Australian National Association By-Laws, District and Club Rules. Money left in the Convention Hospitality Fund would be used to help defray the cost.

Following the death of Vice President Fay Yelf, the Council appointed Helen Irvine as Vice President and IIW Representative.

The Combined Districts' Christmas Party was held at 'Araluen', Epping with 114 members representing 29 clubs.

President Marjorie visited all Districts and accompanied by Secretary Helen and Treasurer Alma attended the Victorian Clubs' Rally at Geelong East.

In February IIW Representative Helen Irvine attended the Board Meeting in Stockholm. At this meeting the boundary for District A76 was approved, and in March President Marjorie flew to Cairns for the long-awaited first meeting. To conclude a very busy day Chairman Yvonne Cairns had the pleasure of presenting the Charter to the IWC of Cairns North. Before returning home President Marjorie, VP Helen and IPP Georgia were able to attend the Charter Presentation to the IWC of Port of Townsville.

President Marjorie also attended Charter Presentation to the IWC Parkes, IWC Port Macquarie West and to the Tasmanian Club of Howrah.

**1977 – 1978**

**President Helen Irvine**



President Helen attended the four District Changeovers in NSW and many Club Changeovers, accompanied by members of the Executive.

The Combined Central Coast Clubs held their second Changeover on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, District A53 held their Spring Picnic on 5<sup>th</sup> September. District A52 meeting was held at Murrurundi and President Helen was accompanied by Secretary Von, Treasurer Beryl and VP Irene. Mrs Ivy Cook the Board Member for New Zealand also travelled with the Executive to attend the Meeting.

After President Helen attended the Victorian Inter-Club Meeting it was announced that Victoria had decided to form a District.

New Clubs were formed at Parkes – A50, Baulkham Hills - A53, Port of Townsville – A76, Howrah, Tasmania, West Wyalong – A50, Malanda – A76, Trafalgar, Victoria, Yarrawonga – A50 and Kenthurst – A53.

Dubbo City extended the hand of friendship to 382 members and husbands from 60 clubs at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

A fire at the RSL Club destroyed all Innisfail Club's belonging including the President's Jewell, Banners etc.

The division of District A50 was explored.

The Board Meeting was held in Amsterdam and Board Member Irene took the opportunity to visit two Inner Wheel Members who had attended the IIW Convention in Australia and had visited Lithgow for a few days. She visited Uppsala, Orebro and Stockholm Clubs in Sweden and experienced wonderful hospitality to an 'Australian from down under'. She also travelled to Belgium with Board Member, Anne Lebeau and met members of Brussels and Antwerp Clubs.

**1978 – 1979**

**President Irene Johnson**



The year commenced by attending District A52 Changeover and Rally at Murrurundi, then to District A51, and A50.

Official visits began in September at Muswellbrook visiting District A52, then to Wollongong to District A51. The interest taken in choosing and supporting International project was most gratifying.

The Constitution Committee meetings, chaired by Past IIW Gwen Davies were of real benefit on amendments and matters pertaining to the Constitution which came up for discussion.

The ANA History, compiled by Past IIW President Gwen Davies came into print. This History, which contained many photos and a reprint of the early history 'Unity', was a great asset to members.

District A60 was formed in Victoria with 7 Clubs.

A most successful Conference was organised at Glenelg, SA. President Irene welcomed 487 members and friends. Wonderful fellowship was enjoyed at all the outings organised by the enthusiastic Conference Committee. On the way home to NSW many members went to Swan Hill to attend the Victorian Rally.

President Irene then headed north to Cairns and Innisfail to officially visit District A76. In February she attended the presentation of the Charter to the Huskisson Club and the meeting of District A51. In March she travelled to District A70 in SA and in June to the Inaugural Meeting and Dinner of District A60.

IIW appointed a new Secretary in time for the London Board Meeting and International Convention, held at Brighton in May. The Convention was opened by the Duchess of Gloucester and the business was conducted with full participation of all members world-wide.

All the Executive Officers were able to accompany President Irene on many Official Visits and the year concluded with the Council Meeting and Changeover of Officers.

**1979 – 1980**

**President Yvonne Bellizia**



The year began with wonderful fellowship at the District Changeovers and President Von attended all but Districts A70 and A76. District visits were interspersed with Club Changeovers.

The Charter Dinner of Newcastle West in District A52 was an outstanding night with 200 present. Membership was taken from the wives of 7 Rotary Clubs.

The Executive accompanied President Von to Sydney and Murrurundi and accompanied by PP Irene she attended District A60 at Mildura.

The Kiama Conference had an excellent program and President Von received a letter from World President Anne Lebeau with greetings and congratulations.

After the Conference President Von visited all the Queensland Clubs, District A50 at Jenolan Caves and the Christmas Party with District A53.

President Von visited Tasmania and had a meeting with Clubs there, where Inner Wheel is very strong and active. Next was a visit to District A60 for the Charters of Box Hill and Bendigo South.

Extension had been handled by Helen Irvine with success and distinction – three new clubs.

After a year packed with action, President Von returned to Araluen for the second Council Meeting. The Executive and Constitution were thanked for their assistance and support throughout the year. Luncheon was followed by Changeover, with Assemblies for incoming District Officers.

**1980 – 1981**

**President Peggy Jones**



The first official duties were attending District A53 in NSW and many Club Changeovers, accompanied by other members of the Executive.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Central Coast Changeover and Dinner was held at Gosford in July, and in September President Peggy travelled to Scone for the District A52 Meeting.

Just prior to the Conference it was off to Victoria to attend the A60 District Meeting and Luncheon.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was held at Gosford, with the Central Coast Clubs being hosts. President Peggy welcomed 400 members, husbands and friends at the President's reception.

After the Conference there were more District Meetings. The Combined Districts' Christmas Party was delightful. Money collected from the Christmas Bowl and raffle was given to Nordin Bin Hajo Othman, a Malaysian crippled child who was having artificial limbs fitted at the Far West Home. It was asked that this money go towards Nordin's schooling when he returns home. Nordin was sponsored by the Guildford Rotary Club.

President Peggy attended the Charter of five new Clubs – Ipswich (non-districted) in Queensland, Narre Warren – A60, Launceston West (non-districted) in Tasmania, Balgowlah – A51, Geelong – A60. Unfortunately, Peggy was unable to attend the Combined Club's Luncheon in Tasmania because of an air strike.

Board Member Ruth Towle attended the Board Meeting in Sorrento, where she presented a report on Inner Wheel in Australia.

15<sup>th</sup> May was a special day. President Peggy, in company with the Executive attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first club in Australia – Ballarat. A gold ribbon Collar was presented to the President.

The Clubs of Melville, Deloraine and Subiaco in WA have affiliated with the Association.

The second Council Meeting was held at Araluen with all business being attended to. This was followed by luncheon with the Changeover of Officers and Assemblies for all incoming District Officers.

**1981 – 1982**

**President Ruth Towle**



The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Changeover was held at Araluen and within the first three months of office, President Ruth had attended 14 Club Changeovers and three District Changeovers and commenced her Official Visits to Districts and Non-Districted Clubs through Australia. The visit to WA Clubs resulted in an inaugural meeting of Clubs to form a District to be known as A40 and comprising the whole of the State of Western Australia. Six Clubs gave their approval to join the District.

Whilst visiting A60 in Victoria President Ruth was advised that their members were giving consideration to dividing their District into two.

The Annual Conference was held in Cairns hosted by District A76. A record attendance of 695 enjoyed the hospitality. 80 Clubs were registered.

In District A52, Coffs Harbour Club was formed and Chartered and in District A53, Blacktown City was formed and Chartered.

Early in 1982 President Ruth made her Official Visits to District A76, and all non-districted Clubs in Queensland. The latter expressing their desire to belong to a District.

In May President Ruth returned to WA for the Charter of Karrinyup, followed by the Charter Dinner of Mundaring Club, and finally the celebration dinner of the new formed District A40.

The Board Meeting was held in Paris and Board Member Phyl Hines submitted her report. Seventeen Countries were represented on this Board. The fellowship throughout the Board Meeting and the Convention which followed was superb.

It was interesting to note that Switzerland had formed its first Club, the extension work for the formation having been done by France.

At the Council Meeting held in June, Council Member for the new District in WA reported the formation of a total of three more Clubs.

President Ruth, during her year in office, visited Tasmanian non-districted Clubs, District A70, and Districts A51 and A52 in NSW.

**1982 – 1983**

## **President Phyl Hines**



During her year, President Phyl presented eight Charters and two more clubs were formed.

Official Visits began in August and President Phyl was welcomed to Districts A40, A50, A51 and A52. In WA it was the first meeting of District A40 since their inaugural dinner and there was no doubt that the formation of their District and of the nine new Clubs in that District since had been the birth of Inner Wheel in WA.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was held in October in Canberra with Canberra-Woden Club hosting.

In February IIW Representative Gladys Potter left Australia to attend the Board Meeting in New Delhi, India. At this Board Meeting South Australia was refused permission to incorporate, and the Division of A60 was refused on the grounds that the Division did not follow Rotary District Boundaries.

President Phyl had the pleasure of attending Charter Presentation Dinners of Campbelltown – A51, Rossmoyne – A40, Burnie, Tasmania, Griffith East – A50 and Irymple – A60. She also had the pleasure of attending North Sydney Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

Official visits continued until April and President Phyl enjoyed her visits to Districts A60, A70 and A76 and especially to the Non-Districted Clubs of Ararat in Victoria and Adelaide East in South Australia and Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Ipswich in Queensland.

At the second Council Meeting application had been received for A50 to Divide and this was accepted by the Association.

Constitution Meetings under the Chairmanship of Past IIW President Gwen Davies were held and President Phyl was grateful for the time given by Past Association Presidents and Members of her Executive for the re-writing of the Handbook to apply to Australian conditions.

A number of benefits were achieved during this year

- a) A 15% discount for all Inner Wheel members who travel by air with Ansett to IW meetings, when travelling less than 7 days
- b) Extension materials for new Clubs and Districts had been updated
- c) Four separate recommendation and Resolution books were prepared recording every recommendation and resolution since the inception of the Association
- d) Conference Secretary and Conference Chairman's names and addresses to appear in the directory
- e) Following a suggestion by an interested member, the year of Charter will appear beside the name of the Club in the Association Directory in future.

**1983 – 1984**

**President Gladys Potter**



President Gladys was the first President to come from Queensland.

In August President Gladys had the pleasure of congratulating Bendigo on their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Her first Official Visit was to District A40 and Bridgetown celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which President Gladys was able to attend.

In October the Mildura Conference was held with the attendance of IIW President Esher Vibal.

In November the new club of Tamworth in District A52 was chartered and Gladys was able to combine her Official Visit to A51 with this Charter celebration.

Another 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was celebrated by Prahran Club in A60, although President Gladys was unable to attend, as after her A51 visit she travelled to Lithgow for her Official Visit to District A50. It was at this meeting that they decided to proceed with the division of A50 into Districts A50 and A54. This division was approved at the 1984 Board Meeting.

It was at the Official visit to District A70 that the matter of Incorporation was discussed and approved, ready to put to the 1984 Board Meeting. Whilst in SA she was able to attend the Charter of Glenelg Club.

During the year a further number of clubs were chartered – Gosford West, Emerald, and Lismore.

During this period a National Insurance Scheme was introduced, Guidelines for conducting the Annual Conference were compiled and the foundation work for the new Districts of A61 and A54 was undertaken.

## 1984 – 1985

### President Olga Bennett



July 26 1984 saw the formation of a new District A54 and President Olga attended the Inaugural Luncheon in Albury. This brought the total number of Districts to nine.

With the blessing of IIW incorporation of clubs in South Australia (A70) was proceeding well, with most clubs now incorporated. Other clubs through Australia were also looking at incorporating.

Lilydale Club (A60) was Chartered in October, unfortunately, President Olga was unable to attend, but Vice President Barbara Healey represented the Association.

Two new clubs were chartered in October – Sutherland and Dee Why.

However, it was sad to receive the news of the disbandment of Geraldton North Club in A40.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Conference was held in Bathurst with the total number of registrations being 480. This proved to be four days of fun and fellowship.

After formally opening the Conference President Olga proudly drew attention to the new Association Collar – worn for the first time at a Conference. This Collar was generously donated by IIW President Gwen Davies and her husband Ron. The original Collar had been carefully preserved and was filed with past Inner Wheel records at Rotary House, 21 Argyle Street, Parramatta.

At the Council Meeting prior to this Conference, discussion took place re the possibility of forming a National Insurance Scheme. It was agreed that “we accept the Scott & Broad National Insurance Scheme, at a cost of \$1.20 per member, as from 1 September 1985, such monies to be collected by Clubs and forwarded to the Association Treasurer with fees”. Cover for 4,000 members for \$500,000 including regalia, etc.

News of the division of District A60 was received, and this division was to take place as from 1 July 1985.

The Charter of Non-Districted Club Darwin Combined took place in March and was sponsored by Cairns West Club.

During May (1985) the Board Meeting was held in London, followed by the World Inner Wheel Convention in Orlando, Florida, and Australia was represented by VP and Board Member, Barbara Healey. Although attendance at this Convention was down to 1,100 the true spirit of Inner Wheel was well in evidence. A profit of US\$15,000 was made.

During President Olga’s year, 13 Clubs were formed, including the re-formation of the Echuca Club. Two new Districts were formed, A54 at the beginning and A61 at the end.

**1985 – 1986**

**President Barbara Healey**



Prior to her induction, President Barbara had represented IPP Olga at the division of District A60 into A60 and A61, giving us 10 Districts in the Association.

Under the direction of Association Editor, Diane Jones, the National Magazine was produced in a new formation and proved very successful and very popular. A new method of distributing the magazine was introduced whereby magazines were delivered to Districts for further distribution to clubs.

In October, a very successful Annual Conference was held in Launceston, Tasmania, where registrations totalled 610.

The Inner Wheel Club of Brisbane was chartered while President Barbara was in the area visiting Non-Districted Clubs Toowoomba and Ipswich.

During Barbara's year of office our National Insurance, with a \$2 million cover, was finalised and Incorporation instituted in many clubs and district.

It was also decided that, henceforth, Non-Districted Areas would only be visited once every two years because of the great expense of travel and also because of the complications of more districts to be visited by the President.

New Clubs chartered during this year were – Tea Tree Gully and Mobilong in A70; Bulli in A51; Scarborough Beach and Rockingham Kwinana in A40; Maitland in A52 and also Brisbane Club. New Clubs were formed on the Sunshine Coast; at Pakenham in A61; Maffra A61; and Highton A60.

During her year Barbara presided over five Executive Meetings and two Council Meetings. She also attended three Constitution Committee Meetings.

The Board Meeting in 1986 was held in Berlin and was attended by VP Vi Johnson.

The Association finished 1986 with 172 Clubs and 5,020 members.

**1986 – 1987**

**President Vi Johnson**



The National Conference was held in Sydney; headquarters being the Koala Motor Inn, and the Business Session was held at the Sir John Clancy Auditorium NSW University. It was a great success with 584 registrations.

The highlight of the Conference was the visit of IIW President Minna Kapur. She gave a superb speech at the Business Session, which was taped, enabling all interested Clubs throughout Australia to hear her words of wisdom.

After the Conference President Vi left for an extended tour to make her Official Visits to various Districts, but before doing so attended the 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dinner of Wollongong Club, of which she had been a Charter Member.

President Vi's first official function in the New Year was to attend the Charter Dinner of the Armidale Club in February. It was a wonderful night with over 200 in attendance.

Early in April President Vi flew to Townsville, to visit the Clubs in A76. Tasmania was visited in early May in Launceston and during her talks to the various clubs Vi urged them to give serious consideration to the formation of a district in that area.

President Vi then flew direct to Alice Springs where she had the pleasure of presenting their Charter to them.

Upon her return, President Vi attended the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner of the Windsor Club.

As the year came to a close, President Vi was very happy to hear that many Clubs and Districts had already conducted 'workshops' as requested – all had reported that these had been a huge success; they also reported having appointed 'Readers' to deal with Minutes from District, Association and International, and had found this to be a very successful way of handling same.

Much time had been given to Incorporation during the year and thankfully many Clubs through Australia are now Incorporated.

Membership remained static this year with some Clubs folding and others being formed, thus resulting in a membership of approximately 5,000 with 172 Clubs.

**1987 – 1988**

## **President Marjorie Allen**



After attending a successful IIW Board Meeting in London Marjorie, a member of the IWC Albury was installed as Association President in Albury. This was the first time an installation had been held out of Sydney, and was an important day for Albury and District.

The conference in 1987 was held in Perth and President Marjorie travelled to Perth and combined her Official Visit to A40 with her meeting with the Conference Committee to finalise matters for the Conference.

The Conference was a great success and afterwards Marjorie set out to visit the northern Non-Districted Clubs, taking in Alice Springs en-route . This proved a most interesting visit and helped the members realise that although isolated they were members of the Inner Wheel Family.

The Inner Wheel Clubs of Brisbane, Ipswich, Toowoomba and Sunshine Coast were visited by Marjorie and she found them eagerly planning the 1988 Conference.

A quick trip to Tasmania followed and it is hoped at a District will be formed there before too long.

During her year Marjorie had much pleasure in welcoming the new clubs of Inverell, Camden, Port Hacking, Wagga Wagga, Gold Coast and Hinterland and Collingwood Fitzroy. All are functioning well.

It was upsetting to lose the clubs of Donnybrook (A40), Granville (A53), Dural (A53) and Ararat (A60), but some members have joined existing clubs.

Marjorie visited all Districts during her year and found them enthusiastic and hard-working.

One of the highlights of Marjorie's year was an invitation to be present at the State Luncheon for Her Majesty the Queen when she visited Albury.

**1988 – 1989**

**President Gwen Bowman**



President Gwen was from Belmont Club and there was a large attendance and many prominent citizens of Newcastle and District, and this marked the first time the gentlemen had attended an Association Changeover.

The International Theme for the year was 'Protect the Children – they are our future' President Gwen added her own theme for her year 'Take Time', and she emphasised this theme through her year at all her meetings with Clubs and Districts.

Gwen's first duty was to preside at the division of her own District A52 into Districts A53 and A55 and the new District is thriving.

The Non-Districted Clubs in Queensland were next on Gwen's list, and here she promoted the idea of forming a District to bind the Clubs together. This was enthusiastically received and a new district was on the way.

District A76 was visited next and unfortunately, Gwen became ill with Ross River Fever and had to return home. Although this illness persisted throughout her year Gwen very stoically carried out all her duties.

The 1988 Conference was held in Brisbane and was a great success and well attended. Our IIW President Alison Dowson, and her husband Keith were able to attend and this added to the celebration.

Some Districts in NSW and Victoria were visited following the Conference and Brunswick Club was Chartered.

Districts A70, A40, Alice Springs and Darwin were visited and Gwen had the honour of holding the Inaugural Meeting of Litchfield Club where office bearers were elected.

Gwen was very happy to be able to charter the IWC of Brisbane South – another club for their new District.

**1989 – 1990**

**President Margaret Levecke**



Margaret was the first Inner Wheel Member from Victoria to attain such high office. She had previously attended the IIW Board Meeting at Rhodes (Greece) to prepare her for her year of office.

During this year five charters were presented: Litchfield (Darwin), Wangarra (A40) Kiama Downs (A51), Nambucca Heads (A55) and Kalgoorlie-Boulder (A40).

The highlight of the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Charter was the induction of two members by telephone hook-up during the presentation.

Early in July, A77 held their first Meeting and Inaugural Dinner; this District having as its first District Chairman Association Past President Peggy Jones (1980-81).

The division of District A51 into A51 and A56 to take place from 1 July 1990 was accomplished during President Margaret's year. The establishment of District A80 in Tasmania was also planned during this year and will take place from 1 July 1991. Both these undertakings required much thought and hard work.

Margaret visited all Districts as well as the non-Districted Clubs of Darwin and Alice Springs and, of course, the newly chartered club of Litchfield. This required a great deal of travel which was done by car, light plane and commercial flights.

It was during this year that the decision was made for the Council to meet three times instead of twice a year. This was thought necessary because of the increase in the number of Districts and the length of time between Council meetings.

The Annual Conference during Margaret's year was held in Adelaide and it was well attended and very successful with great credit to Past Association President Barbara Healey and her Committee.

**1990 – 1991**

**President Judy Christensen**



For the first time the Inner Wheel Association Changeover was held in Perth, Judy being the first President elected from WA. A large number of members travelled from the Eastern States and seventeen clubs from A40 attended.

The theme was 'Wider Horizons', and Judy emphasised this theme, encouraging members to take a broader view of their membership and to realise that Inner Wheel had to adapt to changing times and so present a high profile in the community. Judy herself carried this out by appearing on television, giving a Radio interview and drawing the major prize in the WA \$100,000 Lottery.

Three Clubs were chartered during this year, Sale (A61), Balmain (A51) and Daylesford (A60). District A51 was divided into A51 and A56 and in June 1991, after 45 years of Inner Wheel service in Tasmania District A80 was chartered in Hobart. This brought Tasmania into the fold making a total of 14 Districts within the Association.

Judy presided over the Conference held in Penrith, NSW which was hosted by District A53, with Past Chairman Val Gibson as Conference Secretary. The Conference was well attended with the added attraction of the attendance of International President Margaret Spenning from Norway.

With the idea mooted of Australia hosting the 1993 Convention in Sydney, Judy and Secretary Rhonda Johns put in many long hours researching the project and those Australian members attending the 1991 Convention at The Hague were delighted when the submission was successful. This promised to be a busy and exciting time for all our members as Gwen Bowman was elected International Vice President for 1991-1992.

**1991 – 1992**

**President Audrey Jones**



Before being inducted as Association President in June 1991, she had attended the Board Meeting in England, the International Convention at The Hague, and the GB&I Conference in Blackpool. She had many tasks to perform at the Board Meeting on behalf of Australian members, but none more important than her submission and presentation of a bid to hold the 1993 Convention in Australia.

During this year Audrey attended the Inaugural Meeting, Workshop and Dinner of District A80 in Hobart, the first Birthday Meeting of the Sale Club, the 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Darwin Combined, the 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday of Townsville and the 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Kiama. Audrey also attended the first Conference of the National Council of New Zealand, conveying greetings from Australia and was Guest Speaker at Fitzroy Club.

Audrey's Conference held at Ballarat was a most enjoyable and friendly function. It also celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Ballarat Club, the first club formed outside GB&I.

Charters were presented during the year to Drouin, Campsie, Phillip Island and Runaway Bay. During her year Audrey visited all 14 Districts. District A40's meeting being held for the first time in Kalgoorlie – an 8 hour trip from Perth. Whilst there she assisted Kalgoorlie-Boulder Club to fill and seal a Time Capsule to be opened on their 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

The staging of the Convention in Sydney in 1993 gave Audrey many hours of work and she was able to bring her experience to the fore when asked to be Guest Speaker at the Sydney Convention Centre Ideas Fair.

**1992 – 1993**

**President Margaret Roberts**



Margaret was installed as National President in the historic city of Bendigo when she became the second President from Victoria.

Official visits to all Districts were made by Margaret with meetings being held as far afield as Launceston, Goulburn, Beaconsfield, McLean, Sydney, Adelaide, Perth, Townsville, Gold Coast, Gosford, Cowra and Yarrowonga. The non-Districted Club of Darwin was also visited where preliminary plans were discussed for the 1994 Conference.

The 1992 Conference was held in Albury, which was attended by International President Gwen Bowman.

During this year Charters were presented to the Inner Wheel Clubs of Dandenong, Townsville Sunrise, Cranbourne and Williamstown.

Margaret travelled to Sydney to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the North Sydney Club which was celebrated with a Charter Member in attendance, and whenever possible she attended the Committee Meetings for the planning of the 1993 International Convention which was held most successfully at Darling Harbour.

Margaret hosted the Inner Wheel Breakfast at the International Rotary Conference held in Melbourne in May 1993 with 620 people attending. The official guests were IIW President Gwen Bowman and Rotary International President Clifford Dockterman. An Information Booth was ably manned during the Convention to promote Inner Wheel and also the coming Convention.

Another of Margaret's activities for the year was to participate in a Television hook up with A60 District Inner wheel Clubs of Mildura, Swan Hill and Irymple. Association Treasurer Jean Hutchinson assisted Margaret and the studio audience were members of the Bendigo, Bendigo South and Castlemaine Clubs.

During the year members had worked towards a project to help underprivileged children in recognition of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of International Inner Wheel and at the 1993/94 Changeover a sizeable cheque was handed to a representative of the Save the Children Fund.

**1993 – 1994**

**President Lovise Richardson**



Lovise Richardson was installed as the 25<sup>th</sup> National President at the Association Changeover held at Doltone House, Sylvania in June 1993.

A Charter Member of Sutherland Club Lovise held various executive positions on District A51 before serving on the National Association.

Under the theme of ‘Together we can Achieve’ Lovise set out to bind the clubs together with an outstanding project ‘Clothes for Russia’s Forgotten Children’. This was a most successful project. Clothes came in masses from clubs throughout Australia. A great deal of publicity was engendered with television and radio interviews and articles in newspapers and ‘Rotary

Down Under’.

To celebrate the Association’s 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday and Inner Wheel National Art Prize of \$2,000 for the best woman artist was awarded at Wollongong University to an artist from Hobart, Tasmania.

Some highlights of Lovise’ year included membership reaching 5,000; the chartering of 9 new clubs – Strathpine, Wangaratta, Bairnsdale, Sawtell, Ballina, Nepean, Liverpool Combined, Belrose and Maryborough Queensland; the successful suggestion of the name change to Inner Wheel Australia and Lovise was National President during the very successful International Convention in Sydney when she proudly carried our National Flag onto the stage. Lovise moved and spoke on proposals as the Association’s delegate and played a part in assisting in the hosting of the many overseas visitors having attended meetings of the Convention Committee for over two years.

Because of the International Convention, the Australian Conference was held at Queanbeyan over a weekend in November 1993. The program which included a guest speaker at the Saturday breakfast, provided very successful with a large number of registrations.

Lovise updated various protocol sheets attended special meetings held to update the By-Laws and Rule Book and prepared the new book for printing.

Many Rotary Districts invited Lovise to speak at Conferences, which resulted in the formation of new Clubs. Articles and publicity in RDU and Information Sheets on Inner Wheel also helped to spread the news.

**1994 – 1995**

**President Carole Buchanan**



The Changeover weekend was held in the Berwick area, Victoria with many members and husbands being hosted by members of the Berwick Inner Wheel Club, with assistance from the Pakenham, Narre Warren and Cranbourne Clubs.

The 1994 year was the 'International Year of the Family' and President Carole inaugurated a national project in conjunction with the Red Cross called the 'Red Cross/Inner Wheel Clothing Appeal'. All Inner Wheel members in Australia were asked to donate a new article of clothing for Australia's needy children. Over 5,000 articles of clothing were donated and were distributed just prior to Christmas to needy families, particularly in drought affected country areas.

With the responsibility of Official Visits to all Districts Carole managed to fit in as many functions as her timetable would allow including Past District Chairmen's Luncheons of A40 and A70, the 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of Dee Why Club and a number of Charter Presentations. Seven Clubs were chartered during this year being – Wandin, Bayside and Bundoora (A61), Narooma (A56), Broadbeach (A77), Singleton (A52) and Armadale (A40).

Carole was invited to be a Guest Speaker at a Ladies Night of the Rotary Club of Berwick and was honoured with the award of a Paul Harris Fellowship which to her delight was presented by her 85 year old Paul Harris Rotarian Father.

The annual Conference was hosted by the non-districted Club of Darwin.

The Annual General Meeting was an important milestone in the history of Inner Wheel in Australia when a motion was carried convincingly – 'that the name of the Organisation be changed from the Australian National Association of Inner Wheel Clubs to Inner Wheel Australia'. A new name for Today's Woman in Today's World.

The name change created an enormous amount of administration work for the Executive Committee including the reprint of the Australian By-Laws, District and Club Rules and the Handbook. This mammoth task was undertaken by IPP Lovise in consultation with Past International Presidents Gwen Davies and Gwen Bowman and Past Presidents Rose Manches and Vi Johnson.

During the year the decision was taken to recognise the value of the advice and help given to the National Executive by the Past Presidents in their role as members of the Constitution Committee by paying the travel expenses of the Constitution Committee Chairman and Secretary to attend future meetings. It was also decided that travel costs and two nights' accommodation be paid for the National Editor so that she may personally report at the AGM and report in the Inner Wheel Australia Magazine on the Conference.

Vice President Fay Cox, as the last International Board Member attended the Board Meeting in Manches, England in March 1995, and Lovise Richardson was elected as the first International Board Director from Australia to attend the International Board Meeting in Brussels, March 1996.

**1995 – 1996**

**President Fay Cox**



To celebrate the first National Changeover held in Tasmania members travelled from all over Australia to witness the installation of Fay Cox as President of Inner Wheel Australia.

Fay's first duty as President was to officiate at the Division of District A61 held in Melbourne and the inauguration of District A62 at which time she was proud to present the collar and jewel to the new Chairman.

During the year ten new Clubs were formed – Albany and Busselton in A40, Grafton, Wee Waa, Alstonville, Gunnedah and Glen Iris in A55, Belmont in A60, Wodonga in A61 and Warragul in A62.

The Annual Conference of IWA was held in Narrabri in District A55 in October 1995. The Conference Committee did a mammoth job in accommodating over 500 people in their small community. Eleven proposals changing the District and Club rules were passed at the annual general meeting, also one Agenda item for an increase in Capitation Fees to take effect from 1 July.

To assist with communication a fax machine and a computer, complete with program were purchased for the Treasurer's use during the year. In order to conserve funds the Executive Committee included weekends in their meeting times as cheaper fares were available if staying away on a Saturday night.

It was suggested and resolved that Past Association Officers should, in future, wear their badges on a green ribbon to signify that they have held office on the Executive of IWA.

Inner Wheel was well accepted and acknowledged by Rotary during Fay's year and it was pleasing to see the coverage in 'Rotary Down Under' and the invitations to speak at Rotary Meetings and Conferences.

Official visits were special times giving Fay the opportunity of joining members not only at District Meetings but also at social functions.

**1996 – 1997**

**President Jane Green**



Jane Green was inducted as National President in Surfers Paradise.

During her year five clubs were formed and Charters were presented to Ascot (A40), Wishart and Moura (A77), Hobart Sunset (A80), and Mission Beach (A76). Sadly after 29 years IWC Auburn (A53) handed back its Charter. Celebrations were held when the IWC Sydney reached the milestone of 50 years of active service.

Jane presided over the IWA Conference hosted by District A52 in Gosford and one of the highlights being the attendance of IIW President Beth McNeill.

The Business Session had a full program with a number of changes being made to By-Laws, District and Club Rules. It was passed that the Governing Body must vote in accordance with the decision of the Council, or abstain. The wording 'at the time of nomination' was deleted from the positions of District Secretary, Treasurer etc. to enable qualified members to move on faster. Current, or Past Officers of the Association holding membership in an Inner Wheel Club are permitted to speak at District meetings but do not have a vote. At a District meeting members of the Executive must vote in accordance with the decision of the Executive, or abstain and a member transferring from one club to another club within her District retains her qualifications.

With many small clubs within Australia the number which determines the club's representation at both Inner Wheel Conferences and District meetings were changed.

During Jane's presidency an Inner Wheel Convention was held in Berlin and she represented Australia as Voting Delegate and was honoured to be asked to carry the Australian flag. Of the many Constitution changes the membership qualifications were the most significant with a female partner of a male Rotarian being able to take up membership, and the mother, sister and daughter over 18 years of a Rotarian (male or female) offered membership

A highlight of the year was the election of Lovise Richardson as International Vice President for 1997-98 and Fay Cox as Board Director for the same year.

**1997 – 1998**

**President Margaret Sansom**



Margaret was inducted as National President in Melbourne.

In August members throughout Australia mourned the passing of Past President of IWA Rose Manches.

During the year five Charters were presented – Laurieton (A55), Bundaberg Sunset (A77), Morwell, Moe and Mornington Peninsula (A62), and the formation of the three clubs of Holdfast-Marion (A70), The Southern Highlands (A56) and The Hills (A53) took place. Unfortunately, four clubs disbanded – Geraldton (A40), Belgrave (A61), Windsor (A53), and Port of Townsville (A76).

The annual Conference was held in the garden city of Toowoomba in Queensland where an Inner Wheel garden had been planted out in the colours of blue and gold. It was a privilege to have IIW Vice President Lovise Richardson and Board Director Fay Cox in attendance.

Five proposals were carried at the Business Session changing District and Club rules and many positives came from the Conference including the decision to make appointments of future Head Tellers who will be responsible for voting procedures.

President Margaret requested District Chairmen to list the projects carried out by the Clubs and was delighted and proud of the volume of personal service given by members during the year.

President Margaret had the privilege of addressing Rotarians and partners at the Conferences of Rotary District 9700 and 9670.

Much was achieved during the year. Two editions of the magazine were produced and were of a very high standard, a new format for the Directory was introduced which included the names of partners from pages 1-23 and a reprint of the Constitution By-Laws , District and Club Rules and General Information being colour coded and larger in size.

The new Extension Brochures proved to be very successful and the introduction of Inner Wheel merchandise was most profitable for IWA.

Another highlight of the year was the visit of IIW President Dr Elizabeth Jones to Melbourne.

President Margaret made time to attend the National Conference of New Zealand and took part in an Open Forum which included President Elizabeth and Past International Presidents Beth McNeill and Allison Dowson.

A Civic Reception organised by District A51 to congratulate and farewell International Vice President Lovise prior to her departure for England to be inducted as International President was a great success.

President Margaret concluded her year with memories of official visits to all Districts and the IWC of Darwin Combined.

**1998 – 1999**

**President Yvonne Cavazzi**



Yvonne Cavazzi was inducted as National President in her hometown of Kalgoorlie, WA where members from Perth and interstate gathered for the celebration.

The year was significant being the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of Inner Wheel. Clubs within Australia were encouraged to celebrate this milestone.

During the year three clubs were chartered – Southern Highlands (A56), The Hills (A53), and Holdfast Marion (A70), also Foster Tuncurry (A55) and Port Curtis (A77) were formed. It was disappointing that four clubs disbanded – Cairns West, Chadstone, Nelson Bay and Kiama Downs, but not all members were lost with many transfers to other clubs.

Special anniversaries were celebrated – Berwick 30 years with Cowra, Narrabri, Prahlan, Rylstone-Kandos, St Marys, Wendouree, Woodville, Wyong and Yenda all achieving 40 years. Manly and Sydney received the Gold Collar Ribbon from IWA to commemorate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries.

Membership remained static during the year at 4,985.

A boundary change was made between Districts A76 and A77 in Queensland. The boundary was altered to include the township of McKay in A77. Interest had been shown by McKay to form a club and access to other clubs within A77 was easier as opposed to A76.

Members were proud to have Lovise Richardson serve as International President and during her year President Lovise asked all clubs to contribute to her project of helping to educate a child.

During the year computerisation of International Headquarters in Cheshire was put in place ready for the forthcoming changeover, and IIW gave permission to allow IWA to produce and use the IIW Flag. The International Board of 1998-99 introduced badges to be worn by the Inner Wheel United Nations Representatives.

A breakthrough in extension occurred with the charter of the first club in Japan, the IWC Sapporo chartered in March to coincide with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rotary Club of Sapporo.

International statistics as at 30 June 1999 - Clubs 3,772, Districts 167, Countries/Geographical Regions 94, and Membership 103,670.

The Annual Conference hosted by A40 in Perth was a great success with 574 registrations, including 24 visitors from Malaysia, 3 from the UK and one from New Zealand. All members were honoured to receive International President Lovise as their special guest.

A new format was introduced for the distribution of voting slips and for the first time the Constitution Chairman participated in conjunction with the President throughout the Proposals segment of the Business Session.

**1999 – 2000**

**President Jo Weekes**



Jo Weekes was inducted as National President at Nowra NSW.

During her term of office President Jo made official visits to Clubs and Districts, visited the Conference in New Zealand and

It was regrettable that during the year 6 clubs returned Charters – Bellerive (A80), Townsville Sunrise (A76), Nambucca Heads (A55), Manly (A51), Mildura (A60) and Emerald (A62). On a brighter note 3 clubs were chartered – Port Curtis (A77), Forster/Tuncurry (A55), and Adelaide Hills (A70), with some members of the disbanded clubs transferring to others. The national membership stood at 4787 as at 30 June 2000.

International statistics as at 30 June 2000 were: Clubs 3,804, Districts 166, Countries/Geographical areas 97 and membership 103,479.

Past IWA President Carole Buchanan was elected IIW Vice President and IPP Yvonne Cavazzi had been elected International Board Member.

IIW Convention was held in Stockholm, Sweden and a large contingent of members travelled from Australia and enjoyed the interesting Business Sessions where a number of significant proposals were carried amending the criteria for membership, members at large, Transfers, Board Directors, and Conventions.

As a result of the Goods and Services Tax being introduced 1 July 2000 research needed to be instigated to find out how, when and where this would affect Inner Wheel. This resulted in Inner Wheel registering for GST as our financial turnover was greater than the amount allowed.

The Annual Conference was held at Frankston with registrations of 601. Two Proposals were carried. There was also a General Motion that an account be opened in the name of IWA Inc. Conference Account to be used for the profits and losses from the Annual Conference.

At the Governing Body meeting held in June 2000 the Council Members recommended that IWA have a national project. After much discussion it was suggested that a Research Fellowship for the Cord Blood Foundation be instigated. This to be further investigated and voted upon at the next Council Meeting to be held at Glenelg Conference.

## 2000 – 2001

### President Anne McGill



The Conference in Glenelg, Adelaide was added to by the presence of IIW President Vivienne Bolton. A Forum was conducted with many members attending and discussing relevant Inner Wheel matters. For the first time a Banner Parade took place with all District participating. There were many hand sewn banners depicting clubs of their Districts.

The Business Session ran smoothly with some changes to the By-Laws being passed.

Qualification and Tenure of Office: Council Members – A Council Member must attend at least one Council Meeting held in any one year before being eligible for nomination of Association Vice President.

A Council Member must attend at least one Council Meeting held in any one year to have the right to speak at a District Meeting as a Post Council Member holding membership in an Inner Wheel Club of the District to which her Club belongs.

Annual Conference – Paragraph 5 to read – Each Officer of the Association and each member of the Council shall be a Voting Delegate ex-officio. Ex-officio Delegates are not entitled to appoint a proxy. Any Past President of the Association, holding membership in an Inner Wheel Club has the right to speak at the AGM and Conference, but has no vote.

Mr Colin Storey from the Haematology Department of the Children's Hospital, Adelaide spoke in support of the Cord Blood Bank. The purpose of this was to inspire a project, whilst promoting the image of Inner Wheel, to donate financially to a worthy cause.

The Cord Bank was adopted as a National Project for a 3 year period, starting officially on 1 July 2001, to raise funds but the enthusiasm of members for this project was immediate and by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2001 half the first year's requirement had been collected.

The year 2000 was the year of the Olympic and Paraplegic Games in Sydney and Inner Wheel joined with Rotary in promoting these Games and hosting visiting members. Two members, Robyn White and Aileen White were invited to carry the 'Torch'. Arrangements were made for IIW President Vienne Bolton to attend the opening of the Paralympic Games and she was an honoured guest at a Rotary International function.

Membership stood at 4,689 within 188 Clubs and Internationally membership stood at 103,253 within 3,816 Clubs, 169 Districts and 98 Countries and Geographical areas. Members served with consultative status on various committees of the United Nations. The main concerns being - 'Rights of a Child' and the 'Status of Women'.

Regrettably during the year eight clubs intimated that they would disband at the end of the 2000 Inner Wheel year – Portland Wallerawang (A50), Dee Why (A51), Sawtell (A55), Goulburn (A56), Castlemaine, Maryborough and Ballarat (A60), Georgetown (A80). However, there were celebrations in June when President Anne attended the Charter of the Inner Wheel Club of Gayndah in District A77, and during the year the IWC of Seaford requested, and was given permission for a name change to IIW of Nepean.

## 2001 – 2002

## President Vivienne Anderson



The 2001 Changeover took place at The Manly Pacific Hotel, where comedienne Jean Kittson attended as special guest to launch the National Project in support of Cord Blood Bank Research.

In keeping with the theme for 2001-2002 'Enthusiasm Creates Action' the members whole heartedly supported the National Project, organising fund raising events. With continued support from all clubs the funds eclipsed the original target and a decision was made to allocate all the funds available. Three recipients were selected by an independent committee and on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2002, in the presence of Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, at a reception held at Parliament House, Sydney, grants were presented to Dr Ngaire Elwood and Dr Rosemary Sparrow both from Victoria and April Goodyear and Leigh Mison from NSW.

In October President Vivienne presided over the annual Conference held in Cairns. The Forum was most informative and well attended and adding to the sense of occasion was the presence of International President Carole Buchanan.

The following changes to the By-Laws were carried – Committees – Add paragraph 2. Constitution Committee – 'The Governing Body will appoint a Past President of the Association as Chairman of the Constitution Committee who may serve for a maximum of three consecutive years. The President and Vice President of the Association are members of this Committee. Meetings of the Constitution Committee will be held at the discretion of the President of the Association.'

Annual Conference – Insert as 8 – 'Any proposal containing similar subject matter to one presented and defeated at two consecutive Conferences will not be accepted for the following two Conferences'. 8 then becomes 9, and 9 becomes 10.

District Rules – Voting – Delete 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph replace with – 'At a District Meeting each member of the Executive Committee must vote in accordance with the decision of the Executive on any proposals submitted by the Executive Committee'.

Membership in Australia, at the end of June 2002 totalled 4,526 in 182 clubs, and internationally membership stood at 101,804 in 3,844 Clubs, 169 Districts and in 96 Countries & geographical regions.

Four new clubs were Chartered during the year – Norwest (A53), Kuring gai Chase (A51) and Brisbane West and Brisbane North (A77). Regrettably it was indicated by the clubs of Murrurundi (A52), Narooma (A56) and North Launceston (A80) that they would have to disband at the end of the Inner Wheel year.

In March, on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IWC of Balgowlah approval was given by IIW for a name change to the IWC of Northern Beaches.

## 2002 – 2003

### President Robyn Murray



The 2002 Changeover Dinner was held at the Mingara Convention Centre on the Central Coast. President Robyn immediately embraced the International Theme – Care for the Future – with her participation, and creating awareness amongst members of the National Project of Cord Blood Bank Research. During the year a number of grants were presented and cord blood facilities visited with the opportunity to hear first-hand from scientists of their work.

16 May 2003 was designated 'Coin for a Cord' national fundraising day. It was successful financially with increased public awareness of Inner Wheel. A TV commercial featuring Jean Kittson and Inner Wheel members was produced and distributed through Australian TV networks, and it was the first time Inner Wheel members had worked together on the same day for the same project; the first time a TV commercial was produced and the first time a project was registered with a trademark.

The annual Conference was held at the Wrest Point Casino in Hobart which was highlighted by the presence of IIW President Solveig Svensson.

There was one proposal presented, and passed – Conference Standing orders – delete 'The proposer of an amendment will have the right of reply but must not speak for more than two minutes'.

At the 12<sup>th</sup> IIW Convention held in Florence, Italy, President Robyn proudly carried the Australian Flag at the Opening Ceremony where 47 Australian members and partners were amongst the large contingent present.

Of 53 proposals put at the Business Session, 15 were carried and two General Motions were lost. Of particular interest was the passing of Proposal 9 relating to Honorary Members. 'Honorary Members, having served for a least two years within a Club, may then be offered membership as Active members of the Club, providing that a majority of the Club agrees. This category of membership must not exceed 4 at any given time'.

Also passed was the removal of the restriction of office relating to having a position in Rotary and Inner Wheel at the same time.

As at June 2003, membership of IWA stood at 4,456 in 178 clubs which included the new club of Rockhampton Sunset.

A significant step was made with the establishment of a website. Margaret Unwin was appointed as Webmaster and the domain name of [www.innerwheelaustralia.org.au](http://www.innerwheelaustralia.org.au) was agreed upon. Software was purchased and the site was up and running by the end of 2002.

At the A53 District Meeting in December President Robyn was included in the presentation of a well-deserved Margarett Golding Award to Past IIW President Gwen Davies. It was significant that four Margarett Golding Awards were presented to worthy members during the year 2002-2003.

## 2003 – 2004

### President Robyn White



The 2003 Changeover Dinner was held in Sydney, and in her Changeover address, President Robyn likened Inner Wheel in Australia to a magnificent building and to the Past Presidents of IWA as the architects, supervisors and leaders, who built each floor or level. The 34 floors – each built on each other – each different and decorated in the style of the times and influenced by the President of that year. President Robyn thought that the lower floors of the Inner Wheel building were the tradition and heritage. They provided the strength and security and it was up to those who followed to build on them, but not necessarily follow their design rigidly.

President Robyn's first duty was to attend the 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations of the IWC of Bendigo, where a Margarett Golding Award presentation was made to Past IWA President Margaret Roberts.

Due to a very successful year of fund raising for our National Project, Cord Blood Research, and the success of the first Coin for Cord Day in 2002/2003 when excess of \$113,000 was raised; the total raised, since its inception was \$500,000. Invitations to apply for Research Grants were extended and five were received, with four being successful. Presentations of the Grants took place at the Children's Hospital Randwick, Sydney and the Bone Marrow Donor Institute in Melbourne with a Seeding Grant presented to a research team in Adelaide. Recipients were Leigh Mison, Jessica Sylianou, Dr Ngaire Elwood and Dr Rosemary Sparrow. By June 2004 Cord Blood Research Fund had released Grants amounting to \$433,983 over the three year period of the Fund's life.

A highly successful National Conference was held in Orange with 605 registrants from all over Australia. A change was made to the format of Conferences, allowing more involvement of partners in the program. The membership of IWA had asked for less paperwork, procedures and protocol. A regular newsletter was introduced as a first step to help in this regard.

During the year, the IWC of Mersey (A80) was chartered. Unfortunately we saw the closure of two clubs – Prospect (A7) and Sale (A62). By June 2004 membership in Australia stood at 4,401 – a net loss for the year of 55 members. Internationally, the figures were 3,826 Clubs in 170 Districts with 99,702 members. In 2004 IIW issued 58 Charters to balance the disbandment of 64 clubs.

A highlight of the year was the continued expansion of the IWA website in the capable hands of Webmaster Margaret Unwin. 34 pages of information were available at this time.

Three Margarett Golding Awards were approved by IIW for well deserving Australian members and the recipients of these Awards joined an ever increasing roll displayed in the Award Section of the IWA website.

The one successful Proposal at the Conference Business Session required that By-Laws relating to Annual Conference be set out differently and relevant matters put together. Consequently the previous ten items under ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1.18 were deleted and replaced by eight.

**2004 – 2005**

## **President Hilary Gardner**



President Hilary visited all Districts and non-Districted Clubs.

At the IWA Conference in Surfers Paradise both IWA President Metje van der Kamp and her husband Dick were amongst the 584 delegates and partners from all parts of Australia. The Conference had many highlights including the launch of the CD 'I Love my Inner Wheel', a fund raising exercise by A53. This music followed President Hilary around the Districts as she made her official visits.

There was one proposal carried – Page 20, 1.06 Nominations – *District Committees may nominate with the consent of the nominee one (1) members qualified for each of the following association positions –*

- President*
- Vice President*
- National Representative*
- Deputy National Representative*
- Secretary*
- Treasurer*
- Editor*

*If a District receives two or more nominations for the one office, there must be an election within the District to select the nominee of that District. A member of the Executive Committee must not be an officer at District or Club level. Nominations in writing must be sent to the Association Secretary by 10<sup>th</sup> November.*

During the year an Amendment was submitted to the IIW Constitution – General Motion from the Eleventh Convention, proposing that the wording be changed to read 'an award be created in the name of Margarette Golding for highly commendable personal service through Inner Wheel or in the community'. This amendment was subsequently adopted.

Clubs chartered during the year were: IWC Beecroft (A53), IWC Trinity After Dark (A77) and Mersey (A80). Unfortunately, a number of clubs were disbanded – IWC Sale (A62), IWC Prospect (A70), IWC Parkes (A50), IWC Tenterfield (A55), Kiama (A56) and Port Moresby (A76).

Membership numbers for the year were – IWA 4401 members in 174 Clubs. Internationally there were 99,702 members in 3626 Clubs in 176 Districts, with 58 Clubs chartered and 64 Clubs disbanded.

President Hilary was in Bundaberg on the occasion of their 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday and presented them with their new Collar ribbon. In April and May 2005 she presented Cord Blood Research Grants of \$65,00 each to Dr Ngaire Elwood in Melbourne, Associate Professor Richard D'Andrea, Dr Ian Lewis and Dr Simon Barry in Adelaide.

It was disappointing that IWA did not support the Margaret Roberts Research Scholarship into Motor Neurone disease which was set up by the Rotary Club of Bendigo South, as IWA had a great commitment to Cord Blood Research.

During the Christmas period of 2004-5 the Tsunami occurred in South East Asia and there was a great response from members in all Districts wishing to help in whatever way they could. It was during this time that South Australia suffered tragic bushfires in the Port Lincoln area.

## 2005 – 2006

## President Carolyn Brown



Membership at June 2006 stood at 4,145 in 169 Clubs and internationally there were 3,742 clubs holding approximately, 100,000 members.

In October the IWA Conference was held in Canberra near Lake Burley Griffin. The Forum provided a great learning session led by President Carolyn.

There were no proposals or amendments so two interesting speakers entertained members during the afternoon session.

President Carolyn visited all 15 Districts and Darwin Combined during the year. She visited Ipswich Club on their 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday and went to Sri Lanka where she spoke at the Rotary Club of Colombo who took her to the school in Galle where our funds (raised after the Tsunami) were being used to equip a computer library at the Uswethum Hasan MV School. During the year President Carolyn gave speeches to 15 Rotary Clubs around Australia.

President Carolyn led the Australian contingent (approximately 70 of us) to the 13<sup>th</sup> International Convention in Christchurch, New Zealand in 2006 and presented General Motion 'A' (the rewording of the Margarett Golding Award Clause) in the Business Session.

At the October IWA Council Meeting it was voted to replace the out of date lap top complete with portable printer, software etc., for the President's use while travelling. Internet banking, involving two signatories is now used by IWA and badges for IWA Appointed Positions were designed. (no 'Past'.. Appointed Positon badges will be made). The Newsletter (bi-monthly) from the desk of the President was put on the website for members to download.

Cord Blood Research was well supported – continuing to supply funds for our Cord Blood Research Grants. This year two were recommended, by an independent panel, and Dr Ngaire Elwood from Melbourne and Prof Kerry Atkinson from Brisbane were the successful applications. Each grant was for \$65,000. Christmas Cards were produced to raise funds for Cord Blood Research.

President Carolyn visited Hervey Bay (A77) for the Charter of their new IW club with 21 new members. Unfortunately, to contrast with this increase to our numbers seven clubs disbanded during the year. Bankstown (A53), Busselton (A40), Daylesford (A60), Ku-ring-gai Chase (A51), Mundaring (A40), Toukley (A52) and Young (A50).

**2006 – 2007**

**President Val Corva**



President Val's name was to be the last on this Collar which now held forty names of Past Presidents.

The IWA Conference in October was held in Geelong with 471 registrants, including some from IWNZ. During the Parade of Banners at the Opening Ceremony photographs of the Club Presidents in each District were shown on the screen for the first time. There were no proposals to alter the IWA By-Laws. The General Motion as whether to continue the National Project in support of Cord Blood Research until at least 2009/10 was unanimously passed. Two congratulatory Certificates were presented to those Clubs with the highest membership growth in the preceding 12 months – A61 Williamstown and A62 Cranbourne each gaining 6 members. Five interesting speakers were added to the afternoon's session, including a Research Grant recipient as well as a young Cord Blood recipient, James

English.

Two Cord Blood Research Grants were awarded – Prof Simon Barry in Adelaide (\$57,000) and Prof Kerry Atkinson in Brisbane (\$65,000). At the Changeover in June 2007 the presentation an oversized cheque for \$1,000,000 was made to National Project Co-ordinator Anne McGill, acknowledging that we had surpassed the 'Magic Million' in fund raising for Cord Blood Research.

Unfortunately, after the IWA Conference President Val stumbled and broke her leg. She was able to resume her re-arranged travels, on crutches, within two weeks, and also able to accept the invitation to attend the IW India Triennial Conference in Mumbai, and the IWNZ Conference in May.

President Val attended two Club Charters – a 'New Gen' IWC North East Sunset (A70) and IWC Clarence (A80), however, these were countered by the closure of 10 Clubs. Scarborough Beach and Subiaco (A40); Singleton and Toukley (A52); Sydney (A51); Laurieton (A55); Dandenong (A62); Brisbane South (A77) and the Clubs of Claremont and Hobart (A80). Sadly IWC Hobart disbanded at the end of their celebratory 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dinner.

This year IWA introduced a brooch to be attached to the 'V' of the Club Presidents' Collar ribbon to celebrate those Clubs who had reached 50 years. These were presented retrospectively to: A40 Subiaco (0.7.52), A51 North Sydney (1.10.32) and Sydney (9.6.47), A52 Gosford (6.4.52), A53 Parramatta (0.3.51) and Penrith (0.4.52), A60 Bendigo (19.8.32), A77 Bundaberg (1.3.55), A80 Launceston (19.10.54). Clubs that turned 25 this year were: Karrinyup (A40), Northern Beaches (A51), Blacktown City (A53), Coffs Harbour South (A55), Geelong (A60) and Foster (A62).

President Val visited all Districts and the Non-Districted Club of Darwin during this year. With the approval of IIW the name of IWC Coffs Harbour South was changed to IWC Coffs Harbour.

At the year-end Membership numbers in Australia were 3,986 in 161 Clubs with 8 Members at Large – a drop of 169 members over the year. Internationally there were 98,061 members in 171 Districts and 3,813 Clubs, a loss of 1939 members during 2006/7.

## 2007 – 2008

### President Liz Ralston



Liz Ralston had the privilege of being the first IWA President to have her name inscribed on the new Collar of Office as she became the 39<sup>th</sup> IWA President.

Red waratahs continued President Liz's theme of red through a very successful Conference organised by members of A53, led by Laurel Peel, at Peppers Resort, Leura (in the NSW Blue Mountains). There were 573 registrants from all Districts. The Business Session was interrupted by a Proposal from the floor during the AGM. It was unsuccessful and there were no other proposals.

Whilst IIW Membership had been expanding into new countries (94 to 103), growing the number of Districts (169 to 170), IIW Club members fell to 99,409 in 3789 clubs. By contrast Australia's numbers at June 2008 were 3,891 in 159 Clubs. During the year two clubs (Ascot A40 and Dandenong A62) closed and although gaining 101 new members the 'exits' outweighed the 'ins'.

IWC North Sydney celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary – the oldest club outside GB&I. Parramatta (A53) and Sydney (A51) turned 60. Narrabri (A55), Yenda (A54) and St Marys (A53) turned 50, and Goulburn (A56) turned 40.

Whilst visiting Darwin Combined Club, President Liz met two indigenous midwives, Karen Burke and Mundullulu Koops who were encouraging mothers to allow their cords to be harvested for the benefit of other Aboriginal children through the Blood Bank (not for research).

In March 2008 IWA hosted the visit to A40 of IIW President Kamala Ramakrishnan, visiting IW/Rotary combined projects, the Blood Bank, and on hearing Anne McGill's informative Cord Blood Presentation, President Kamala wishes to begin Cord Blood Research in India.

A plaque with baby logo, stating 'the women of Inner Wheel Australia proudly fundraise in support of Cord Blood Research' was placed by President Liz in the Cord Blood Bank in Melbourne. Two Research grants were presented during 2007 – one in Adelaide \$61,094 to Associate Professor Simon Barry et al; and in Melbourne \$59,089 to Dr Faten Zaibak et al, making a total of 19 Grants so far presented.

During the year the Governing Body approved that future Cord Blood Research Grant cheques be presented at the IWA Conference, not the researcher's facilities. It also approved the availability of a fund for IW promotion at Rotary Conferences and that Members at Large fees be the same as regular members (without the Club component).

The website development has continued with interactive forms (Form 43 for Clubs, Form 44 for Districts and DA for directory alterations; new merchandise order forms and a Find the Club sector, with great stories on 'News' and 'National Project' pages.

**2008 – 2009**

**President Joan Beech Jones**



This was only the third time that a Western Australian member had become President and the Lord Mayor of Perth held a reception at Council House to honour this occasion.

One of the highlights of the IWA Conference in Port Macquarie NSW was the presentation of a Margarett Golding Award to National Project Co-ordinator Anne McGill, who has steered this project from its inception.

During the Business Session, five proposals were carried and two lost. A further vote was taken with members voting unanimously to extend the support of our National Project, Cord Blood Research for a further three years to 2013. Coin for a Cord Day merchandise, which includes Cordy and Cordelia Bear – announced an addition to their family – baby Corduroy.

The Governing Body decided on three important matters –a) That IWA transfer \$1,200 annually to a Term Deposit Account for the next three years to self-insure IWA equipment. b) That Districts, or Clubs who have their own websites be reminded to abide by the Government Privacy Policy Act; c) IWA records, equipment and memorabilia is now to be stored in Storage World, Tuggerah.

President Joan visited all Districts and the non-Districted Club of Darwin during the year and presented 50 Year Collars to Rylstone-Kandos (A50), Woodville (A70), Prahran (A61), Lithgow (A50), and Wyong (A52). The 75 Year Badge was presented to the second oldest Club in Australia IWC Bendigo (A60).

Unfortunately, during the year five clubs disbanded – Maitland (A52), Prahran (A61) having just received their 50 Year Collar. Trafalgar (A62), and both Woodville and Thebarton-Hindmarsh (A70), and Gold Coast & Hinterland (A77). IWA membership stood at 3,801 in 148 Australian Clubs. IIW membership was at 99,886.

During May 2009 the National Body of Malaysia & Singapore hosted the 14<sup>th</sup> International Inner Wheel Convention in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah and approximately forty Australians and President Joan attended. 36 Proposals were presented with 14 being carried. The results were reflected in the 2009 issue of the IIW Constitution and Handbook.

IIW Executive, rather than only reviewing changes to By-Lays made by countries yearly, will now vote on the acceptance (or not) of any member country's Constitutional Amendments at Each Executive meeting.

Three Cord Blood Research Grants were awarded and presented – Associate Professor Simon Barry et al, Adelaide \$63,016; Dr Ngaire Elwood, Melbourne \$44,280 and Professor Kerry Atkinson et al, Brisbane \$65,000. In future all Grants are to be presented at IWA Annual Conferences to allow greater IW member participation.

Vast areas of Victoria were devastated with bush fires (Black Saturday) with the loss of homes and 173 lives. IW members rallied with donations of materials to make rugs and quilts and money (\$38,495) which was distributed between the three Victorian Districts.

**2009 – 2010**

**President Lorraine Hyde**



Lorraine Hyde became the 41<sup>st</sup> President of IWA in Wyong, NSW in June 2009.

IIW President Anne Fryer attended the National Conference in Wangaratta and whilst there she planted a tree to commemorate her visit. Building contractors had worked hard to make sure the very new Performing Arts Centre was ready for its first users – Inner Wheel Australia. It proved to be an excellent venue for the 584 attendees.

President Lorraine launched her white lapel button with the message ‘Ask me about Inner Wheel’, which drew immediate, positive responses from the public at large. There were three proposals and five general motions presented. Two proposals and all General Motions were carried with one proposal being lost.

Two Cord Blood Research Grants of \$65,00 each were awarded – one to Dr Michael Doran, from the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, University of Queensland, who gave an insight into the scope of his research. The second Grant was awarded to Dr Alla Dolnikov from the Bone Marrow Transplant Facility at Randwick Children’s Hospital (NSW). The total amount of funds raised so far was \$1,383,642.39.

President Lorraine attended the Charters of IWC Hamilton (A60), The Hawkesbury (A53), Sydney Inner West (A51) and Warrnambool (A60). Vice President Pam Watkins attended the Charter of IWC Boonah (A77). During the year IWC Cowra (A50) turned 50. This made a total of 3,806 members in 152 Clubs. IIW membership worldwide at 30 June 2010 stood at 98,173. Unfortunately, during 2009-2010 the Clubs of Canberra-Woden and Queanbeyan (A56) and Maclean-Yamba (A55) notified IWA of their intended closure.

Following the May 2009 International Convention & its update of rules and requirements in the Constitution, early in 2010 the Australian edition of the IIW Constitution and IWA By-Laws and Rules 2009 was re-printed and distributed to all members.

A National Competition for a Scarf design, to be worn by Australians at all future International Conventions, resulted in some wonderful patterns, and the winning design is a rectangular silk chiffon scarf depicting the varied Australian landscape from the deserts, forests, native flora to the sea.

## 2010 – 2011

## President Pam Watkins



219 members and partners travelled to Tasmania to witness Pam Watkins being invested as the 42<sup>nd</sup> President of IWA.

Members showed their commitment to IWA President's theme of by raising \$48,300 for the IWA Flood Appeal which was launched in January 2011.

During this year the IWC of Mandurah (A40) was chartered and Bondi Junction (A51) and Melville (A40) turned 50.

The National Conference was hosted by the IWC Leeton (A54). A wonderful country experience was enjoyed by all 421 members and partners who attended. In his welcome address the Mayor of Leeton, Paul Maytom, said that the IWA Conference had given a boost to the small town that was recovering from a 10 year drought.

The Business Session saw one proposal to amend the By-Laws which was carried.

National Project Officer, Anne McGill congratulated members for their support and in the 10 years since the project was first suggested \$1.5 million had been raised. This year was the first year that Research Grants were not given out. President Pam commented that the Assessment Panel had exercised their right not to recommend the applicants receive a grant this year due to the quality and content of the applications.

The most significant event during the year would have to be the disbanding of District A56 and the formation of new boundaries for A51 to accommodate the six now non-districted clubs. Although the disbandment occurred at the end of the previous year President Pam worked through the sometimes difficult process of the inclusion of the clubs in to District A51. The IW Clubs of Camden, Campbelltown, Southern Highlands and Wollongong joined District A51 and IWC Canberra Belconnen remained non-districted.

Unfortunately, the IW Clubs of Highton (A60), Collingwood-Fitzroy (A61), Glen Innes (A55), and Armadale (A40) all made the decision to hand in their Charter.

At 30 June 2011 there were 3,672 Inner Wheel members in 146 clubs and 14 Districts, in Australia.

**2011 – 2012**

**President Val Gibson**



The National Conference this year was hosted by the members of A40, Western Australia and 437 members and guests attended.

The Business session saw four Proposals passed, submitted by the Governing Body, relating to the voting of 'Council members. All were carried.

National Project Officer, Anne McGill introduced 'Ryan' to members and guests, a recipient of Cord Blood and now a healthy and happy 17 year old. A vote was taken to extend the project for a further three years and it was passed resoundingly.

At the Conference Dinner Dr Michael Doran from The Royal Children's Hospital in Victoria and Dr Alla Dolnikov from The Sydney Children's Hospital were present to receive their Cord Blood Research Grants. They were grateful and gave short talks on their projects. The third recipient Dr Simon Barry from The Women's and Children's Research Institute in South Australia was unable to attend and sent his thanks and apology

In April President Val and a huge contingent from Australia attended the 15<sup>th</sup> International Convention in Istanbul, Turkey, with over 2,000 attendees, crowds, colours and different languages. It was a wonderful experience for all who attended. Proposal 17 to simplify and clarify categories of membership; and to include full open membership to women over 18, submitted by the IWC Kalgoorlie Boulder was passed with thunderous applause. It was a memorable proposal that will change International Inner Wheel forever.

To keep abreast of current events and happenings in this age of social media IWA opened up a Facebook page. It is there for those who want to participate with news and photos of club and district activities.

By the end of President Val's year she announced that IWA were in the process of having a new TV advertising campaign for Cord Blood Research. Circus Advertising was willing to make a 30 second commercial, free of charge, with minimal cost to IWA. It was envisaged that this would be released in time for 'Coin for Cord' Day 2012.

President Val visited all Districts, including the non-districted clubs from the disbanded A56 and, Darwin where she was co-pilot, Island hopping in an unforgettable experience.

Membership stood at 3,715 up by 84 on the previous year. There were 149 Clubs, 14 Districts and two non-Districted Clubs – Darwin and Canberra Belconnen. One New Club – IWC Mandurah. However, four Clubs handed in their Charter, and five of the clubs from the Disbanded District of A56 joined A51.

**2012 – 2013**

**President Margaret Whitchurch**



The year 2012-2013 was one of birthday celebrations. Five Clubs: Dubbo, Bathurst, Blayney, Ryde and Swan Hill reached 50 successful years of friendship and service to their communities. The IWC of North Sydney (A51) celebrated in style 80 wonderful years since the presentation of their Charter. President Margaret also attended the 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday of IWC of Burnie (A80).

The National Conference was held in Launceston, Tasmania and organised by all the clubs in District A80, with 446 registrants from all over Australia and New Zealand.

For the first time Open Space Networking was introduced on the Wednesday before the Opening Ceremony, and IIW President Carole Young honoured IWA by attending. The wife of the Governor of Tasmania Mrs Underwood opened the Conference and accepted Honorary Membership of District A80.

The Business Session saw one Proposal relating to finance which was submitted by IWA Governing Body. This was carried.

IWA was privileged to have IIW President Carole make several more visits during her Presidential year. Apart from the Conference she attended the 80<sup>th</sup> celebrations of the IWC of North Sydney and accompanied IWA President Margaret to the Charter of the IWC of Orange Minhi on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013.

President Margaret visited all 14 Districts and the 2 non-districted Clubs. President Margaret was invited to the Monash Institute of Medical Research where she saw first-hand the amazing work being carried out in the field of Cord Blood Research. The work made possible because of the grants they have received from Inner Wheel Australia.

A very successful TV ad was filmed and distributed for the promotion of IWA National Project Cord Blood Research.

The very beautiful Honoured Active Brooch was made available to members thanks to favourable exchange rates with GB&I.

President Margaret thanked all Clubs and Districts for converting to a Gmail account in accordance with the guidelines required by International Inner Wheel.

In December 2012 President Margaret and several members travelled to Bali for the Charter of the IWC of Bali Seminyak. Margaret presented the members of the new club with their badges and a gift from the members of Inner Wheel Australia.

Sadly the Inner Wheel Club of Drouin handed back their Charter.

**2013 – 2014**

**President Chris Kirby**



This year the IWA Conference was held in Caloundra. 476 members, friends and overseas visitors attended

Four Development sessions were presented offering members food for thought on contemporary IW issues; the website, extension, media and marketing.

Five proposals were presented and passed. They covered such issues as mediation/expulsion, electronic payments at Club and District levels, clarification on the running of an AGM and Extraordinary meetings and permission to include voting by email when voting by post.

Two Cord Blood Research grants were presented to Drs Susie Miller and Michael Doran.

President Chris initiated discussions with IWNZ as to the development and maintenance of closer ties between the two bodies, and their members, for the mutual benefit and betterment of Inner Wheel.

During the year Chris visited all Districts and non-Districted Clubs and travelled to the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IWC Bendigo (A60) and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of Innisfail (A76) and Orange (A50). Two new Clubs were chartered IWC Casinia (A62) and Kinglake Ranges (A61). Unfortunately, five clubs handed back their charters - Bendigo South (A60), Gunnedah (A55), Gosford (A52), Glenelg (A70) and Rylstone-Kandos (A50).

Membership in Australia stood at 3,437 in 141 Clubs including 10 members-at-large. International Inner Wheel was now established in 102 countries and had 102,460 members in 3745 clubs, 173 Districts.

Other achievements this year included –

Inviting PP Val Corva to resurrect her role in IWA's unsuccessful bid to hold the 2015 IIW Convention in Melbourne and to redirect a revised bid towards the 2016 IIW Convention.

The introduction of an e-library on the website to include the IIW Constitution, IWA By-Laws, District and Club rules and the Past IWA Presidents' History Book. The re-activation of the IWA Facebook page, and the appointment of a Facebook Administrator. Plans to upgrade the IWA website, and to investigate having it done professionally, in order to attract new and younger members.

The writing and augmentation of the existing written IWA history, from the year 2000 to the present

A Proposal to the 2015 IIW Convention to further refine the membership criteria as passed in Proposal 17 (2012).

The Re-establishment of the IWA Disaster Relief fund to allow Clubs' and Districts' consolidated funds to be distributed by vouchers.

The initiation and continuation of investigations into tax deductibility to assist Charity endeavours.

## 2014 - 2015 President Beverley Crowe



The International Theme by International Inner Wheel President Abha Gupta was 'Light the Path'

The Changeover was held on Saturday 21st June 2014 at RACV Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast. Bev was the 46th President of IWA, a member of Brisbane Club Queensland, which is in A77 District.

The Annual Conference was held from the 15-19th October 2014 at InterContinental Hotel, Adelaide. The Theme was "The place to be seen in 2014" (colour green). The special guest at the Conference was IIW President Abha Gupta from India. The IWA History Books (1932-2014) had been updated from 2001-2014 by Past IWAP Liz Ralston and were on sale at the Conference. The Cord Blood Research Project approved to be extended from 3 years to 10 years, as at July 2016.

Members continued to raise fund for The National Project, Cord Blood Research and at the Conference, two recipients received a \$65,000 grant each and they were:

- Dr Margie Castillo-Melendez, The Richie Centre, MIMR-PHI Institute of Medical Research, Victoria.
- Dr Michael Doran, Stem Cell Therapies Laboratory-Group Leader Institute of Health & Biomedical Innovation (HBI) Queensland University of Technology.

As at the 20th June 2015, we had 3385 members and 139 Clubs. There were two Appeals that received donations during Bev's year, the Flood Relief for Malawi (\$4,075) and the Earthquake Appeal for Nepal (\$18,580)

The International Inner Wheel Convention was held from 7-9th May 2015 in Copenhagen. On the final day of the Convention IWA members wore a uniform of black pants/skirt with white top and IWA scarf. This was because Past IWA President, Past IIW Board Director Val Corva and her team had prepared a bid for the 2018 Convention to be held in Melbourne. The bid was successful.

Bev completed her official visits to all 14 Districts Clubs and non-Districted Clubs (Darwin Combined & Canberra-Belconnen). Bev was able to attend the 60th Anniversary of Launceston Club, Tasmania (A80) on 8th October 2014 and Bundaberg Club, Queensland on 14th March 2015. Darwin Combined Club disbanded on 24th February 2015 just prior to their 30th Anniversary.

Some of the Highlight of Bev's year, were to present Margarete Golding Awards to

- Pam Woodhouse (A77)
- Margaret Moore AM (A80) Bestowed posthumously
- Moira Kelly AO at A60 Meeting. (Moira adopted conjoined twins Trishna & Krishna from Bangladesh and brought them to Australia for the operation to separate them)
- Attend the Charter of Inner Wheel Club of Swan Valley (A40) on 6th September 2014

## 2015 - 2016



### President Kay Morland

IWA President was Charlotte De Vos from Belgium. Charlotte's theme for the year - Unique and United.

Changeover was held at the Pullman Mercure in Albert Park, Melbourne.

This year the IWA Conference was held in 'Wonderful Warrnambool' and attended by IWA President Charlotte together with 410 local and overseas members and guests.

Speakers were Jean Kittson (our initial CBR Project Patron) who entertained with humour and passion, Karen Foster spoke on

Strategic Communication and Rachael Robertson told of her experience as the first woman to lead an Antarctic Expedition.

#### **CBR Grants were awarded to:**

**Dr Ngaire Elwood** - "Towards Establishment of a Cord Blood Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell Bank for Therapeutic Use"

**Dr Alla Dolnikov** - "Development of Novel Immunotherapies from Cord Blood"

**Margie Castillo-Melendez** - "Umbilical Cord Derived Endothelial Progenitor Cells for the treatment of Brain Injury in Growth Restricted Newborns"

We were fortunate to have two Margaret Golding Award Recipients this year.

Sandra Richards from the IWC Townsville QLD awarded in August and Frances Blake, IWC Coffs Harbour NSW awarded in September.

During the year President Kay attended the charter of two new clubs, in October the IWC of Whorouly in Vic District A61 and in April the IWC of FNQ Tablelands in Qld District A76.

Kay also visited all Districts and our non-Districted club of Canberra-Belconnen as well as attending the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for the IWC of Kalamunda in WA District A40 and the 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday of the IWC of Bundoora in Vic District A61.

In April President Kay represented IWA at the IW New Zealand Conference in Christchurch, together with 30 other IWA members.

The first electronic edition of the IWA Magazine was produced in August signalling a significant move towards the future and in line with our moving forward, our new IWA website became live during the Conference in October.

Following the IWA Exec meeting in June, IWA was granted permission to replace the word Extension with Membership.

At the Australian Events Awards Industry Night of Nights on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> of November in Sydney, IWA Cord Blood Day was awarded the 'Best Charity or Cause Related Event' of the Year in ACT, QLD and TAS providing the opportunity to showcase our National Project to an entirely new demographic.



The IWA Presidential changeover was held in Glenelg, South Australia where more than 190 members and guests joined to celebrate the year of IWA President Kay Morland and the incoming 48<sup>th</sup> IWA President Marilyn Armstrong, with theme the 'Touch A Heart'.

We were thrilled to charter 2 new clubs Geraldton with 19 members in A40 in August and Pt. Cook with

17 members in A61 in September.

Our Leeton IW Club celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday, a fantastic achievement, congratulations.

All Districts and non- districted club Canberra Belconnen were visited, unfortunately, IW Clubs of Rockhampton, Ipswich, Irymple, Casinia, and Coffs Harbour made the decision to return their Charters.

Our conference was held in Warringah in NSW ably engineered by representatives of each of the clubs in A51 with approx. 375 registrants. Our IAW President Oluyemise Alatise attended and was a willing speaker to our District Chairman's breakfast gathering and at our business session. Attendees were treated to a business session and Gala Dinner held at the Miremare Gardens Function Centre, while the Friendship Dinner was held at the amazing Luna Park on Sydney Harbour.

After many years of hard work by many, we celebrated achieving Tax Deductibility for our Cord Blood Research project, which continues to bring many of our clubs together working toward a common cause.

Our clubs were asked for financial help where flooding, on 2 occasions, in Lismore was a great concern, and with our near neighbours NZ when an Earthquake hit the area of Kaikoura, several clubs felt they could help, we thank them.

Congratulations go to Patti Stafford on being awarded a Margarett Golding award so well deserved, for her community work.

The tireless work of our LCC working toward the IAW Convention in Melbourne April 2018 continued throughout this year.

Our IWA executive worked together taking the responsibility to keep all areas running smoothly.

This position of service is a privilege.



The year 2017-2018 began with the changeover at the Pullman in Brisbane.

The National Conference was held in Lismore, a city that in the early part of 2017 was devastated by floods. Our sincere thanks to the members of the Lismore Club for continuing with the planning under extreme circumstances, but what a wonderful conference with total registrations of 317. This year IWA was asked to model a new format for Conference with the Conference beginning on Thursday, as well as offering members' part registration for local members to attend the business session only. Feedback on this format was positive. Our International Inner Wheel President Dr Kapila Gupta attended Conference and during the opening ceremony she presented Telka Williams with a Margarett Golding award, a lovely and memorable part of the Conference. At the Gala Dinner thanks to the efforts of members' fundraising we were able to award three Cord Blood Grants to Dr Alla Dolnikov, Dr Sylvie Shen, and Dr Salvatore Pepe.

A Q and A was held at Conference and we were able to address all 9 of the questions received; as well as the Head Steward for the IIW Convention had an opportunity to address the members about how the voting system would work at the upcoming International Convention, these sessions are well received by the members. The Business Session was a busy one with 4 Proposals, a Special Resolution and the Adoption of the Incorporation Document. All were passed. The work of both Rhonda Johns and Joan Beech Jones must be acknowledged for the many months they spent bringing the IWA Incorporation information up to the WA regulations where the organisation is Incorporation

A highlight of the year in April was the 17<sup>th</sup> IIW Triennial Conference held at the Melbourne Convention Centre. 'Team Melbourne' the LCC worked tirelessly for three years to bring together members from around the world. Members, partners, friends and everyone who helped and attended showcased the finest that our country has to offer and Convention was certainly a highlight of the year foreveryone.

Throughout the year I visited all Districts and our Non-Districted Club. These visits afford the President an opportunity to hear first-hand what members are doing in their communities and how they are being IW members. Sincere thanks must be extended to everyone who made those visits possible and enjoyable.

Two new badges were added into the Badge List both for years of service a 25year and 50years of service badge, both have been well received and many members are now wearing these badges with pride.

During the year a few significant birthday celebrations were held Gosnells 50<sup>th</sup>, Narrabri and Yenda both celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> and while I was in Tasmania Burnie celebrated their 34<sup>th</sup>.

We welcomed two new Clubs into the IWA Family Wollundry Club in Wagga Wagga and Corowa Districts, both Clubs are in District A54. Sadly, however, two struggling Clubs handed in their Charter Hamilton Club A60 and Morning Peninsula A62.

IIW President Kapila's theme 'Leave a Lasting Legacy', challenged us to reflect on what our own legacy to Inner Wheel would be. Though I am still trying to find that, I can say that the year spent as President left a lasting memory to add to my Inner Wheel Journey begun in 2003.

2018 - 2019

## President June Muller



My year of Inner Wheel Australia President was one that will be remembered as one that created International Inner Wheel History.

It is the first time that two sisters have held the position of President on their Governing Body. The year 1998/1999 saw my sister – Yvonne Cavazzi as President of Inner Wheel Australia, 20 years on I took the office. It is also relevant that in Yvonne's year of office the International President was an Australian – Lovise Richardson, I also had the privilege of an Australian IIW President – Christine Kirby.

My Changeover was held in Mandurah, Western Australia and I was honoured to have my sister Yvonne install me.

During the year I visited 13 of the 14 Districts plus the non-districted Club of Canberra-Belconnen. I was unable to visit District A52 – unfortunately my Husband was extremely ill and hospitalised at the time of my scheduled visit.

It was very special that in my year two New Clubs Chartered – Cowen at Sunset in A40 and Tuggerah Lakes in A52. I attend both these Charters.

My year also saw two very special occasions which I was most fortunate to attend - The 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the IW Club of Wyong and the 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the IW Club of Berwick. It was my pleasure to be able to attend both functions. I was most privileged to induct four new Members to the IW Club of Berwick at their special birthday celebration.

I, along with several Members of Inner Wheel Australia attended the New Zealand Conference. We all had a superb time in the land across the ditch and were made very welcome by our Kiwi Sisters.

I choose to travel by train whenever possible to District visits in New South Wales & Victoria. This allowed me to see first-hand just how severe the "Drought" really was. I could not believe the devastation that had impacted on so many rural areas – this was truly very sad.

Thank you to the Members who home hosted me during my visits to Districts and to those who assisted by transporting me to the various events – your hospitality and kindness will remain with me forever.

My year ended in Wagga Wagga (The place of many crows) when I relinquished The Presidential Collar to incoming 2019-2020 IWA President Robyn Gillespie.

**2019 - 2020**

## **President Robyn Gillespie**



The changeover was held in the regional city of Wagga Wagga NSW with an attendance of 220. A country theme for the Friday friendship night and a elegant dinner for the Changeover.

The year commenced with several new appointed officers including Badge Officer Pauline Barratt who took it upon herself after advice from the executive to revamp and update the badge orders for both Clubs & District. These have been quite successful resulting in payment before badges are delivered.

The Conference held in Cairns was a great success with many members attending from around Australia as well as a contingent of our friends from IWNZ. A proposal was put to the delegates and passed allowing Club Presidents to complete a second year without the need to ask for permission from IWA Executive. A further proposal to limit the number of council members was withdrawn due to a technical issue.

During the AGM a motion from the executive was presented to increase the Capitation fee's. A subsequent amendment was passed allowing for the fee's to rise by \$2.50.

During the October Executive meeting drastic cuts were made to all allowances for Executive, Council Members and Appointed Officers. This was a direct result from two years of losses bought about mainly by the drop in membership and a substantial loss at a conference. Executive meetings were held in Wagga Wagga and most members were home hosted by the President making for a very economical year.

In November an appeal was launched for the bush fire victims across Australia. An amazing fund of \$116,121.00 was raised with the majority coming from Inner Wheel Clubs across the world. Funds were distributed in a way to support as many victims as possible and assisting devastated communities to rebuild.

President Robyn completed visits to A76, A77 in Queensland, A60 in Victoria, A55, A50, A51, A53 in NSW as well as A70 in SA. Unfortunately the Covid 19 pandemic put a stop to any further visits leaving A61, A62 A40 and A80 without a visit.

It was disappointing to finish the year with a loss of 6 clubs. Penrith and Smithfield in A53, Shepparton in A61, Port Curtis and Maryborough in A77 and Launceston in A80. District A52 with 5 clubs also moved that the District be disbanded leaving IWA with 6 non districted clubs.

Total Membership at the end of June 2020 was 2858.