

2016/17

Greater Shepparton Women's
Charter Alliance Advisory
Committee
2016-2017 Annual Report



WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT COALITION STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES
THROUGH WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION



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Welcome – Cr Seema Abdullah – Charter Champion



I am proud to be the Charter Champion for the Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Alliance Advisory Committee (GSWCAAC).

I joined the GSWCAAC as a community member in February 2015 and in December 2016 (after becoming a Councillor) I was particularly honoured to be appointed the Charter Champion (or Councillor Representative) to the Committee.

The GSWCAAC makes a difference to the lives of women in the local community, whilst simultaneously providing its members with an opportunity to learn new skills and gain confidence and knowledge.

The GSWCAAC work very hard to make a difference, in line with the three guiding principles of Gender Equity, Active Citizenship, and Diversity.

I congratulate the members on their achievements throughout 2016/17, and thank them for their commitment in supporting and promoting women.

I believe the GSWCAAC has a bright future, and I am looking forward to another year of achievements in 2017/18.

Seema Abdullah

2016-2017 Highlights

No	Charter Principle	Activity/Event	Achievement/Outcome
1	Gender Equity & Active Citizenship	Annual membership drive	<p>GSWCAAC reached membership capacity (20) for the second year in a row and started a waiting list for potential members.</p> <p>Demonstration of committee's important role as a platform to work on women's issues and development goals.</p> <p>Opportunity for members of membership working group to be a part of application assessment and decision making process.</p>
2	Gender Equity & Active Citizenship	Process improvements in committee's administration e.g. induction sessions for new committee members, conference call facility to members for monthly meetings, GSWCAAC members providing a report at the conclusion of Working Group activities	<p>Enhanced member's knowledge about committee's role and their responsibilities.</p> <p>Flexible arrangements for members to remotely participate in the meetings and be included in committee's decision making process.</p> <p>Followed best practices approach in committee's operations and transformation into an efficient organisation</p>
3	Active Citizenship	Initiated Female Youth Public Speaking competition event.	Extended an opportunity to young female students from a local school to develop confidence and skills such as critical analysis of a topic of interest, presentation of arguments in a logical manner, oral presentation, etc.
4	Active Citizenship	Establishment of a new honour board at the Queens Gardens to list the names of the GSWCAAC Award recipients.	Demonstration of recognition of women's contribution and achievement in the local community
5	Active Citizenship	Restoration of the Women of the Year honour roll award roses and honour role at the Queens Gardens, Shepparton	Demonstration of community's pride in recognition of inspiring women.
6	Diversity	The committee membership continued to represent women from diverse backgrounds e.g. Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ), aboriginal, disability group.	<p>Demonstration of Committee's aim to promote diversity on its platform.</p> <p>Opportunity to benefit from the range of women's development ideas/issues presented by a diverse group of women.</p>

7	Diversity & Gender Equity	The committee membership represented skills and experience of women from a variety of professional backgrounds (nursing, teaching, project management, office administration, community/social workers, journalism, environment)	<p>Opportunity for women to learn from a diverse range of skills and ideas during event planning and discussions.</p> <p>Knowledge development and sharing of ideas among the members.</p> <p>Opportunity for women to utilise their diverse professional expertise in decision making and the community engagement process.</p>
8	Gender Equity and Active Citizenship	<p>GoWomenLG 2016 event hosted by the Greater Shepparton City Council in association with GSWCAAC in May 2016.</p> <p>Elections held in October 2016.</p>	<p>Successful outcome of GSWCAAC efforts in encouraging women from all backgrounds to stand for election to local government in partnership with VLGA GoWomenLG 2016 program.</p> <p>Four women candidates were declared successful in Greater Shepparton City Council local government election 2016;</p> <p>At least three first time women councillors (out of a total of 9 councillors) had attended the GoWomenLG 2016 and benefitted significantly from the distributed information material (Gender Agenda Kit) and the panel discussion of sitting women councillors during the event.</p> <p>Former GSWCAAC community member, Seema Abdullah, became a councillor appointment as well as the Charter Champion of the GSWCAAC, after her success in local government election 2016.</p>
9	Gender Equity & Active Citizenship	Gender Equity training imparted to GSWCAAC members and friends.	<p>Education on gender roles, expectations and gender equity transformation strategies.</p> <p>Better understanding on gender equity meaning and practical implications</p>
10	Gender Equity & Active Citizenship	A sold-out International Women's Day community event organised by the GSWCAAC on March 8, 2017; approximate attendance was 230.	<p>Celebration and acknowledgement of women's achievement.</p> <p>Event organisation skill development opportunity for local women (Charter members and co-opted members)</p> <p>An opportunity for local young and older women participants to perform in front of an audience of 200 plus community members and enhance their confidence and experience through presentations such as slam poetry, storytelling, singing, poetry creation and public speaking.</p>
11	Gender Equity, Diversity and Active Citizenship	Women's Achievement Award and Aboriginal Women's Award recognition during IWD event	<p>Recognition of women's role in their contribution to the community.</p> <p>Inspiration and role model for other women.</p>

12	Gender Equity, Diversity and Active Citizenship	GSWCAAC organised six events during the year through the joint efforts of council staff and its committee members working on volunteer basis.	<p>Provided opportunities to its diverse group of members (women) to develop creative ideas and useful skills such as teamwork, administration, decision making, communications, risk management and event planning and organisation, etc.</p> <p>Development of women's leadership and management skills.</p>
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Background

The Women's Charter was first launched by the Women's Participation in Local Government Coalition in 1996. The Charter's three principles of Gender Equity, Diversity and Active Citizenship are now supported by more than 60 local governments.

Greater Shepparton City Council officially endorsed its commitment to the Women's Charter in 2010 and an action plan followed. In 2011 an advisory committee was initiated and was officially endorsed by Council in February 2012. The Committee is known as the Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Alliance Advisory Committee (GSWCAAC).

The GSWCAAC is an Advisory Committee of Council under the Local Government Act.

The GSWCAAC is made up of community representatives and Council Officers who volunteer their time and the Committee is supported by Greater Shepparton City Council.

Aim

The aim of the GSWCAAC is to support and promote women in leadership roles and all levels of decision-making, including business or workplace positions, community groups or boards of management.

All of the GSWCAAC's work is based around the three principles of Gender Equity, Diversity, and Active Citizenship.

The three principles

Gender equity: That women and men have an equal right to be representatives in local governments, committees and decision-making positions.

Diversity: The inclusion of different experiences and perspectives in local governments and community decision-making strengthens local democratic governance and helps build cohesive communities. Councils and communities encourage and welcome the participation of all women.

Active citizenship: Local governments will work with the community to increase the numbers and participation of women in public life, so that decision-making more clearly represents and reflects the interests and demographics of communities.

Accessibility

The GSWCAAC prides itself on being accessible to all. When planning for activities and/or events the GSWCAAC always considers accessibility to minimise or remove barriers to participation.

2016/2017 Membership

In the 2016/17 financial year the GSWCAAC reached membership capacity (20) for the second year in a row and started a waiting list for potential members.

The GSWCAAC currently has two year memberships, and also has the ability to co-opt members for a short period of time in order to utilise outside expertise. The 2016/17 financial year was the first time the GSWCAAC utilised the co-option opportunity and saw 10 people co-opt to work on specific projects.

At the end of the 2016/17 financial year the GSWCAAC had 243 Friends. 'Friends' of the GSWCAAC sign up to the GSWCAAC email list and receive notifications of upcoming events, consultations, and other general information.

The Council endorsed GSWCAAC membership for 2016/2017 included:

- One Council Charter Champion
- Three endorsed Council members
- 16 endorsed community members
- Eight co-opted members

The 2016/17 financial year began with Councillor Dinny Adem as the Charter Champion. In December 2016 one of the GSWCAAC community members – Seema Abdullah – was elected as a Councillor for the Greater Shepparton City Council. Councillor Seema Abdullah subsequently became the GSWCAAC Charter Champion.

The GSWCAAC Terms of Reference currently allow for up to 17 community members, and up to eight members (including the Charter Champion) who are also Council staff. Membership never exceeds 20 members in total.

A list of members can be found at Appendix one.

Meetings

The GSWCAAC met on a monthly basis throughout 2016/2017.

Administrative activities

The GSWCAAC works very hard to revise and streamline their administrative processes and procedures.

In 2016/17 further improvements to the administrative functions of the GSWCAAC included:

- Council endorsement of the revised GSWCAAC action plan.
- Council endorsement of the revised Terms of Reference.
- Obtaining feedback about activities undertaken
- GSWCAAC members providing a report at the conclusion of Working Group activities
- The introduction of an induction for new members
- Commencement of a review of the GSWCAAC Award processes

Working Groups

A Working Group consists of members of the GSWCAAC, as well as members of the community who may have been co-opted for their special skills and/or expertise.

In the 2016/17 financial year the GSWCAAC had the following Working Groups:

- GSWCAAC Award Working Group
- International Women's Day Working Group
- Membership Working Group
- Terms of Reference Working Group

The GSWCAAC also chose representatives of the Committee to organise/liaise for particular activities. These included:

- Queen's Gardens Honour Boards 'Launch'
- Female Youth Public Speaking Award
- Conversations for Change (delivered by Primary Care Connect)
- Refugee Week (Queen of Katwe) movie event
- Gender Equity Training

2017 LGPro Conference

In 2016 Council won the LGPro (Local Government Professionals) Award for Excellence in Organisational Diversity for the work of the GSWCAAC. In 2017 Council was invited to conduct a presentation about the work of the GSWCAAC at the 2017 LGPro Conference held in February.

Please see Appendix two for a copy of the poster that was used for the presentation.

Events

In 2016/2017 the GSWCAAC (and its partners) held the following events:

- Queen's Gardens Honour Board 'Launch' – 15 September 2016
- Female Youth Public Speaking Award – 25 November 2016
- International Women's Day – 8 March 2017

The GSWCAAC also partnered with Council for an event for Refugee Week, and participated in Conversations for Change delivered by Primary Care Connect.

The GSWCAAC believes events such as these are a great way to reach a variety of audiences, provide information, knowledge, resources and strengthen community ties. They are also a way of gaining new members, and provide an opportunity for consultation.

The GSWCAAC has made a conscious decision to provide resources specifically for women at its events.

Queen's Gardens Honour Board Launch

When: Thursday 15 September 2016.

Where: Shepparton Senior Citizens Centre, Welsford Street Shepparton.

Who: Approximately 40 people attended.

In 2016 the GSWCAAC oversaw the restoration of existing honour boards in the Queen's Gardens Shepparton, and established a new honour board to list the names of the GSWCAAC Award recipients.

The existing honour boards acknowledged the recipients of the Business and Professional Women Group Award (which ceased in 1997) and various women's organisations working for and within the community.



Left: *One of the restored honour boards in the Queens Gardens Shepparton.*

To acknowledge the restoration of the existing signs and the establishment of the new GSWCAAC Award sign, the GSWCAAC held a 'launch' event in September 2016.

A full evaluation (M16/71779) of the event is available on the Greater Shepparton City Council website at:

Female Youth Public Speaking Award

When: Friday 25 November 2016

Where: The Board Room, Greater Shepparton City Council Offices, Shepparton.

Who: Shepparton High School students and staff, and GSWCAAC members.

The GSWCAAC 2016 Female Youth Public Speaking Award was held for the first time in 2016.

The GSWCAAC 2016 Female Youth Public Speaking Award provided female youth the opportunity to develop their research skills in relation to a topic for change or cause.

After conducting their research and preparing their speeches, the six participants delivered their speeches to members of the GSWCAAC.

The six participants were year 9 and year 11 students from Shepparton High School.

The winner was Sienna Mehmet – a year 9 student. Sienna's topic was: 'State government should increase funding to literacy programs in state education'.

Each speaker was presented with a certificate of participation by Councillor Seema Abdullah and Ms Kimberley Tempest, Assistant Principal of Shepparton High School.

A full evaluation (M16/92234) of the event is available on the Greater Shepparton City Council website at:

[http://greater-shepparton.com.au/assets/files/documents/community/neighbourhoods/Womens_Charter_Alliance/Youth_Public_Speaking_2016 - Event Evaluation.pdf](http://greater-shepparton.com.au/assets/files/documents/community/neighbourhoods/Womens_Charter_Alliance/Youth_Public_Speaking_2016_-_Event_Evaluation.pdf)

International Women's Day

When: Wednesday 8 March 2017.

Where: St Paul's African House, Poplar Avenue Shepparton.

Who: Approximately 240 people attended.

Theme: Putting Women On the Map.

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women¹ and is held on 8 March each year.

The GSWCAAC International Women's Day event was part of the Shepparton Arts Festival. The 2017 festival theme was 'Mapping Shepparton', so with this in mind the GSWCAAC chose to name its event 'Putting Women on the Map'. On the night participants literally put themselves on a map of Greater Shepparton and created a literary map via an acrostic poem which was inspired by edgy poetry readings.

¹ International Women's Day website: <http://www.internationalwomensday.com/Resources> Accessed 15/3/2016.

The evening also included the presentation and acknowledgment of the GSWCAAC award winner and nominees.

Aunty Merle Miller, Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, conducted a Welcome to Country and Susan Benedyka of the Regional Development Company was the MC.

Julie Best, Yorta Yorta Woman, acknowledged the three aboriginal women from the Shepparton area who are now on the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll:

- Clara Luttrell (Garisou).
- Gwen Atkinson (Thorpe)
- Pam Pedersen (Nicholls)

Renata Spiller from Women's Health Goulburn North East provided a presentation regarding an introduction to gender equity. Renata's presentation also noted the 'Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy'².

The evening finished in dance celebration with the local signing group 'We are 4' who are Congolese singers from St Pauls African Choir.



Above: 'We are 4' provided entertainment at International Women's Day.

Although the event was free, money was collected from patrons for local not-for profit VincentCare's Marian Community who provide support to women and children escaping family violence.

A full evaluation (M17/32758) can be found on the Greater Shepparton City Council website at: http://greater-shepparton.com.au/assets/files/documents/community/neighbourhoods/Womens_Charter_Alliance/International_Womens_Day_2017_-_Event_Evaluation.pdf

Partnership events

In the 2016/17 financial year, the GSWCAAC was involved in events as a supporting partner. A snapshot of these is provided below.

Conversations for Change – Primary Care Connect

When: Thursday 23 February 2017.

² The Strategy can be found at the Victorian Government website: <http://www.vic.gov.au/women/gender-equality/a-victorian-gender-equality-strategy.html> Accessed 1/5/2017.

Where: The Hunter Room, Greater Shepparton City Council Offices, Shepparton.

Who: GSWCAAC members

Primary Care Connect invited various organisations and groups to participate in their Conversations for Change Project³. The aim of the Conversations for Change Project is to engage over 1000 people across the Shepparton area in conversations regarding their understanding, knowledge, and ideas around possible solutions to community and family violence.

The GSWCAAC chose to participate in one of the conversations facilitated by Michelle Dunscombe of Primary Care Connect.

It provided an opportunity for GSWCAAC members to contribute their experiences and ideas regarding family violence in a safe and structured way. Primary Care Connect will utilise this information to inform an achievable innovative plan for our region on reducing community and family violence.

Refugee Week – Queen of Katwe

When: Wednesday 21 June 2017.

Where: Village Cinemas, Shepparton.

Who: 190 people attended

On 21 June 2017 the Greater Shepparton City Council, via the Council's Multicultural Development Officer, delivered a free screening of the movie 'Queen of Katwe', as part of Refugee Week 2017.

Queen of Katwe is the story of 10-year-old Phiona and her family who live in the slum of Katwe in Kampala, Uganda. Her world changes one day when she meets Robert Katende, a missionary who teaches children how to play chess. Phiona becomes fascinated with the game and soon becomes a top player under Katende's guidance. Her success in local competitions and tournaments opens the door to a bright future and a golden chance to escape from a life of poverty.

The trailer for Queen of Katwe can be viewed here: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4341582/>

The guest speaker was Lorraine Ngwenya, an inspiring young woman who is committed to helping young people discover their true potential.

The GSWCAAC provided funding to contribute to this event.

Though the event was free, the GSWCAAC asked audience members to contribute a gold coin donation to go toward the Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre.

Terms of Reference review

The Terms of Reference are able to be reviewed at the request of the GSWCAAC, or biennially.

The current Terms of Reference were endorsed by Council on 20 September 2016, with the below changes:

- Changing the title of Sub-Committees to Working Groups
- Changing the ratio of Council Members/Community Members
- Removing voting rights from the Team Leader Community Strengthening

³ Further information about the Primary Care Connect Conversations for Change Project can be found at: <http://www.primarycareconnect.com.au/conversations-for-change-2/> Accessed 1/5/2017.

- Introduction of a limit to the number of terms members can serve
- Introduction of co-option
- Outlining of partnership procedures
- Introduction of committee conduct principles

Action Plan review

In 2016/17 the GSWCAAC finalised its Action Plan 2016 - 2018.

The Action Plan was endorsed by Council on 20 December 2016.

The Action Plan focuses on the three principles of the Women's Charter: Gender Equity, Diversity, and Active Citizenship, and is intended to guide the activities of the GSWCAAC.

A copy of the GSWCAAC Action Plan can be found at:

<http://greatersepparton.com.au/community/neighbourhoods/wcaac>

GSWCAAC Award

The GSWCAAC allocates an award to an outstanding individual or community group on an annual basis.

Nominations were judged using the following criteria:

- How the nominee made a difference to the community, particularly within the Greater Shepparton area
- How the nominee has acknowledged and embraced diversity
- How the nominee inspired and encouraged women

The 2017 GSWCAAC Award was presented at the GSWCAAC International Women's Day event. The Award recipient was then acknowledged the following day at the International Women's Day Breakfast held by Soroptimists International Shepparton Inc.

The nominees for the 2017 GSWCAAC Award were:

- Betul Tuna
- Lisa McKenzie
- Dr Margreet Stegeman
- Rachael Willis
- Rika Beeton
- Robynne Nelson
- Sonia Strachan

The 2017 GSWCAAC Award recipient was Lisa McKenzie.

Right: *Councillor Seema Abdullah with the 2017 GSWCAAC Award recipient Lisa McKenzie.*

Some of Lisa's contributions include:

- Being an early driver of the Community Fund Goulburn Valley
- CEO of Fairley Leadership Program
- Founding Chair of the Goulburn Valley Lift Off scholarship program
- Various roles on Boards
- Establishment of the Lighthouse Project



The GSWCAAC are undertaking a review of the GSWCAAC Award application and selection process.

Scholarships

In the 2016/17 financial year the GSWCAAC provided tickets for two women to attend the Community Dinner in Support of White Ribbon.

Community Dinner in Support of White Ribbon

The GSWCAAC voted to purchase two tickets to the Community Dinner in Support of White Ribbon held in Shepparton on Tuesday 22 November 2017. The tickets were valued at \$80 each.

It was the aim of the GSWCAAC that two women who may not normally attend such an event be given the opportunity to do so. This was co-ordinated through an Expression of Interest process.

Training

As well as trying to provide opportunities for women outside of the Committee, the GSWCAAC also looks to provide opportunities for its members.

Such opportunities range from gaining skills 'on the job' such as meeting procedure, chairing, etc., to more structured training.

Induction

In 2016/17 the GSWCAAC began providing an induction for its new members. The induction is intended to give new members an overview of the GSWCAAC as well as outlining member opportunities and responsibilities. Currently induction has been received by four new members.

Gender Equity Training – Women's Health Goulburn North East

When: Friday 23 June 2017

Where: La Trobe University, Shepparton

Who: GSWCAAC Members and Friends

The GSWCAAC engaged Women's Health Goulburn North East (WHGNE) to deliver Gender Equity training to its Members and Friends.

The purpose of the Gender Equity training was to enable participants to explore what gender means, gain an understanding of gender, know what informs gender (including men), understand where are there inequities for women (and men), and be aware of what frameworks and legislation inform this work.

Victorian Honour Roll of Women

On a yearly basis, the Victorian State Government calls for nominations to the Victorian Honour Roll of Women.

The Victorian Honour Roll of Women is a Victorian State Government initiative that aims to recognise and celebrate the great achievements of inspirational women in the community.

The GSWCAAC released a media statement calling for the Greater Shepparton community to nominate a woman they felt would be worthy of such recognition.

Website

The GSWCAAC has a page on the Greater Shepparton City Council's website.

The page has background information about the GSWCAAC, as well as expression of interest (membership nomination) forms, the meeting schedule, and information about past and forthcoming events and activities.

The page also has links to other organisations/websites that have resources and information relevant to women.

Visit: <http://greater-shepparton.com.au/wcaac> .

Relationships/Partnerships

The GSWCAAC recognises seeking expertise from organisations/individuals who work in specialist fields is integral to the success of its activities, and for engaging appropriately and successfully with the wider community.

Partnerships for 2016/17 included:

- Greater Shepparton City Council
- Primary Care Connect
- Refugee Week
- Shepparton Festival
- Soroptimists International Shepparton Inc.
- Ethnic Council of Shepparton and District
- Fernwood Shepparton
- Avonlea Flowers
- Marian Community (VincentCare)
- Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre

Promotion

In the 2016/2017 year the following mediums of promotion were utilised:

- EventBrite (for ticketing)
- Facebook
- Greater Shepparton City Council website
- GSWCAAC friends mailing list
- Individual networks
- Internal Greater Shepparton City Council newsletters
- Internal Greater Shepparton City Council website
- Posters
- Radio One FM
- Shepparton Adviser
- Shepparton News

Where possible, Council provides opportunity for GSWCAAC members to participate in media interviews, including radio, press, and social media.

In 2016/17 the GSWCAAC released eight media releases, had ten articles in print media, and conducted three radio interviews.

For examples of some of the media coverage the GSWCAAC has received, see Appendix three.

2016/2017 Budget

The GSWCAAC was allocated a \$17,060 budget by the Greater Shepparton City Council for the 2016/2017 financial year.

As an advisory committee of Council, the GSWCAAC always works to ensure the money allocated to its activities is spent in an appropriate and responsible manner.

The GSWCAAC has sought funding from other organisations to supplement their budget, and to ensure its activities are delivered to a high standard.

The growing reputation of the GSWCAAC has also meant the GSWCAAC did not need to pay to advertise its events during the 2016/17 year.

A breakdown of the budgetary activity for the 2016/2017 financial year is tabulated below:

Sub Account	2016/2017 Budget	YTD Actual
Grand Total	\$15,896	\$13,440
Operating Income		
104 Other income	-\$664	-\$664
106 Contributions	-\$500	-\$286
Total Operating Income	(\$1,164)	(\$950)
Operating expense		
361 Advert/Promo/Market	\$2,850	\$1,073
371 Materials or Services	\$13,710	\$13,288
365 Stationery/office expenses	\$500	\$29
Total Operating Expense	\$17,060	\$14,390
Annual Variance		(\$2,670)

Appendices

Appendix one: Membership list

Amy Masunu	(Resigned March 2017)	Member - Community
Connie O'Dea	(Retiring member, term ending 30 June 2017)	Member - Community
Councillor Dinny Adem	(Stood down as Charter Champion at the start of Caretaker Period, September 2016)	Member - Council Charter Champion
Councillor Seema Abdullah	(Was a Community Member until becoming Charter Champion on 20 December 2016)	Member – Council Charter Champion
Denise Stewart	(Resigned December 2016)	Member - Community
Diane Baglin		Member- Community
Fatmatta Munu		Member - Community
Fran Smullen		Member- Community
Jan Phillips		Member - Community
Jean Young	(Retiring member, term ending 30 June 2017)	Member – Council
Jennifer Broadbent	(Retiring member, term ending 30 June 2017)	Member - Community
Jo Fasano	(Resigned September 2016)	Member – Community
Kate Montgomery	(Retiring member, term ending 30 June 2017)	Member - Community
Kelly McPherson	(Retiring member, term ending 30 June 2017)	Member – Community
Letitia Okely		Member- Community
Lyn Hewson	(Resigned August 2016)	Member – Community
Margo Koskelainen, OAM		Member - Community
Michelle Bertoli		Member - Council
Patricia Moran	(Retiring member, term ending 30 June 2017)	Member - Community
Sharon Sellick		Member - Community
Suzanne Wallis	(Retiring member, term ending 30 June 2017)	Member – Community
Terri Cowley	(Retiring member, term ending 30 June 2017)	Member – Community
Acacia Burns		Co-opted Member
Angela McLeod		Co-opted Member
Jessica Clarke		Co-opted Member
Katrina Penfold		Co-opted Member
Leanne Raditsas		Co-opted Member
Sandra Saenz		Co-opted Member
Shira Lam		Co-opted Member
Vatsala Agarwal		Co-opted Member
Yasmin Bhat		Co-opted Member
Emma Hofmeyer		Council Support Person

Please note: this membership list was current as at 30 June 2017.

Appendix two: Examples of promotion

Below: The poster that was used for the GSWCAAC presentation at the LGPro Conference.

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES
FOR THE FUTURE

GREATER SHEPPARTON

GREATER SHEPPARTON WOMEN'S CHARTER ALLIANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Advisory Committee to Council

Three Principles <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Gender Equity2. Active Citizenship3. Diversity Working groups <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Established as required• To work on particular projects	Aim <ul style="list-style-type: none">• support and promote women in leadership roles• all levels of decision-making <p>For example: business or workplace positions, community groups or boards of management.</p>	Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Malala Day – Love Marriage in Kabul• Better Money Management: Financial Workshop for Regional Women• Forced Marriage Forum for Professionals• International Women's Day• #SuperWomenPose campaign• GoWomenLG 2016 Local Government Forum• Refugee Week – Desert Flower• Youth Public Speaking event• GSWCAAC Award	Membership <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20 members <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 17 community members• Up to 7 Council members• 1 Councillor (Charter Champion) <p>And Co-opted members.</p>
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Women are on the money
FINANCIAL WORKSHOP BRINGS EDUCATION ON MANAGING FINANCES AND PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Free Movie Night
This Refugee Week event is proudly sponsored by Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Alliance Advisory Committee

Below: The poster that was used to promote International Women's Day.

PUTTING WOMEN ON THE MAP

WED 8 MARCH 6PM

The Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Alliance Advisory Committee invites you to a **FREE** event celebrating International Women's Day. All are welcome for an evening of powerful storytelling, poetry and exploring our own map via experiences. Renowned facilitator **Susan Benedyka** will oversee the event with a number of guests presenting and entertaining throughout the night.

When: Doors open at 5.30pm, with proceedings commencing at 6pm – Wednesday 8 March 2017

Where: St Paul's African House, 54 Poplar Avenue, Shepparton.

Further information: Phone Emma during business hours on (03) 5832 9479 or email women@shepparton.vic.gov.au

This is an accessible event. Light catering provided. Please contact us with any requirements.

FREE EVENT

Tickets are available at:
www.puttingwomenonmap.eventbrite.com.au



Below: The poster that was used to promote the screening of 'Queen of Katwe'.



QUEEN OF KATWE

A true inspiring story of a 10 year old girl Phiona living in the slum of Katwe, Uganda. Through chess that is taught by a missionary, she learns that the game teaches you how to make a plan and that sometimes the place you are used to, is not the place you belong, you belong where you believe you belong – Where is that for you?

Guest speaker Lorraine Ngwenya *"Do what you can, where you are, with what you have."*

Lorraine is an inspiring young woman who is committed to helping young people discover their true potential. With an entrepreneurial spirit Lorraine founded Useful Link, an organisation that bridges the gap between youth and key stakeholders who most affect their future. From her journey she has learnt that you need to learn from others, she believes mentorship is important and you need to keep learning. She also works with young people through a workshop format that empowers them with the skills and network they need to take ownership of their own career

WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE 2017

VILLAGE CINEMA – 9-13 STEWART ST, SHEPPARTON

FROM 5:15pm - CATERING PROVIDED WILL BE PROVIDED

RSVP – <https://queenofkatwe.eventbrite.com.au> or

Charlene on (03) 5832 9527 or CommunityAdmin@shepparton.vic.gov.au



Appendix three: Examples of print media

Below: The article that appeared in the Shepparton News regarding the Queen's Gardens Honour Boards relaunch.



Already recognised: Original Woman of the Year Award recipients include Erna Werner (left), Carmel Johnson (middle) and Assunta Depino-Curtis.

Celebration of women's award

By Tara Whitsed

The restoration of a Shepparton-based project that began 25 years ago will be celebrated at the Queen's Gardens this week, recognising the achievements of local women.

The Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Alliance advisory committee said all were welcome to join and celebrate the restoration of the Women of the Year award roses and honour boards on Thursday from 2 pm to 3 pm.

The alliance said the awards were

introduced in 1983 by the Business and Professional Women Group and subsequently the organisation planted a rose garden in 1991 at the International Village — one rose for each recipient of the award.

"In 2001, as the International Village was no longer operational, the roses were relocated to the Queen's Gardens . . . along with an honour board noting the names of the award recipients," the alliance said.

The restoration comes after the alliance last year received a report outlining the significance of the roses and honour

boards in the gardens, conducted by the Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee.

The celebration will also include the establishment of a new board to list the recipients of the award.

All are welcome to join in the gardens to celebrate and meet some of the women who have received a rose garden honour.

● For more information, phone a Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Alliance advisory committee support person on 5832 9479 or email women@shepparton.vic.gov.au

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Below: A Shepparton News article featuring Assunta Depino-Curtis whose name is on the restored Queen's Gardens Honour Board.

Awards get a new lease

PAST WOMAN OF YEAR WINNERS ATTEND CELEBRATION

By Tara Whitised

Assunta Depino-Curtis said when she sat on council in the 1990s she went from being Shepparton's Mother Teresa to its bulldozer.

"1993 was a turning point in my life," she said, referring to when she crossed over into the realm of local government.

As a result, Mrs Depino-Curtis was awarded Woman of the Year in 1993 by the Business and Professional Women's Club of Shepparton, among 15 women who received the award between 1984 and 1997.

She was joined by fellow recipient Carmel Johnson at the recently held celebration of the restoration of the award's honour boards in Shepparton's Queen's Gardens.

According to Greater Shepparton City Council, the award recipients were first remembered with a rose garden planted in their honour at the now defunct Shepparton International Village.

In 2001, when the village



Recognition: The awards were initiated by the Business and Professional Women's Club of Shepparton in 1984.

Pictures: Holly Curtis

closed, the roses were moved to the Queen's Gardens, with the honour board and another board that featured names of various women's groups.

Despite there being no current Shepparton BPW Club, the Woman of the Year title was started again this year by Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Alliance Advisory Committee, which awarded Tracey Sofra as this year's recipient.

"I hope this will continue for future generations," Mrs Depino-Curtis said.

Mrs Johnson said it had been a great honour for her to be the recipient of the

award in 1988.

"When I look at the esteemed group, I feel humbled and proud to be on a board with such significant women," she said.

Greater Shepparton City's Council's Emma Hofmeyer said the restoration would not have been possible without the work of Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee, which presented a report on the significance of the honour boards and rose gardens to the GSWCAAC in 2015.

"It's due to their work that we are standing here today," Ms Hofmeyer said at the celebration.



Honoured: Assunta Depino-Curtis was the 1993 Woman of the Year recipient — her name appears on restored honour boards in Shepparton's Queen's Gardens.

Below: The Shepparton News reported on the 2017 International Women's Day event.

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SHEPPARTON NEWS, FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2017

'Keep challenging



Girl power: Helen West, Nora McCarthy and Kate Montgomery enjoyed the International Women's Day event in Shepparton.

ACHIEVEMENTS RECOGNISED

By Declan Martin

Shepparton's International Women's Day event at Africa House on Wednesday night celebrated the achievements of women and also acknowledged the struggles and obstacles still faced today.

Master of ceremonies Susan Benedyka said we had to continue to strive for equal opportunities and rights.

"We have to say no to prejudices and bias and to have women present in the decision-making arenas," Ms Benedyka said.

"Today is a reminder that lots has been achieved, but there is still more to come."

Ms Benedyka spoke about her own story growing up in a privileged background and advancing in her career to chief executive positions and fighting for childcare in rural NSW in the 1980s.

She also spoke about her struggles with bipolar, being a single mother, having a near-death experience and being in an abusive relationship.

"When you're in that situation, you talk yourself into your own confines, I felt it was not long before I would be killed, but thanks to my family I was able to get out," she said.

"The women who helped me had great courage and inspire me to give back."

"We are the sum total of our experiences and what we make of it."

The night run by the Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Alliance advisory committee was highlighted by the recognition of amazing women in the community

WE HAVE TO SAY NO TO PREJUDICES AND BIAS AND TO HAVE WOMEN PRESENT IN THE DECISION-MAKING ARENAS.

— **SUSAN BENEDYKA**

through the committee's award nominees.

In a competitive field Lisa McKenzie was the award winner for her incredible community contribution, particularly through the establishment of the Lighthouse Project that aims to help Shepparton children from school to workforce entry.

"A quarter of kids are falling through the cracks and we have to say we won't accept that for our children," she said.

Ms McKenzie said being a strong woman was about challenging the status quo by stepping on toes, making people uncomfortable and creating radical change.

Yorta Yorta women Julie Best also recognised the work of Clara Lattrell, Gwen Atkinson and Pamela Pederson who have acknowledged on the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll.

The night also featured poetry from students and a presentation on gender equity and gender equality by Renata Spiller from Women's Health Goulburn North East.



Recognition: Julie Best speaks about Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll acknowledgements to Clara Lattrell, Gwen Atkinson and Pamela Pederson.



Inspiring others: Facilitator Susan Benedyka shares her story at the International Women's Day event in Shepparton.



Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Alliance advisory committee Award nominees: Aunty Robynne Nelson, Sonia Strachan, Dr Margaret Stegerman, Rachael Willis, Lisa McKenzie (award winner), Seema Abdullah (charter member), Rika Beeton and Betul Tuna



Inspiring words: Poetry readers Brigitte Bertolus, Carol Davidson and Jessica Eldred spoke passionately.