

History Matters

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Vale Dulcie Callaghan National President - 1976 -1977. With the recent death of Dulcie we farewell another wonderful woman who will be remembered for her commitment to VIEW. We will all have our own personal and special memories, of the mark she left in the lives of those who knew her and we pay tribute to her in her own words.



VIEW has taken up the greater part of my life – it began as a necessity and gradually became a way of life when after the birth of my fourth child I needed to find some social activities to lift my spirits. I was told that a new women's club was being formed and the President was to be the Mayor of Canterbury, Enid Pate. I joined VIEW Club in September, 1960 and it provided me with a lifeline to happier times and I never looked back from then on.

V.I.E.W. – Just four simple words, but implying a wealth of meaning for me. Warmth of friendship, interest in many phases of life I had never explored and the knowledge that in all our activities we are offering a helping hand to the not so fortunate.

I feel we have something to give each other, whether it be a shoulder to lean on in troubled times, material help, or sharing our knowledge gained throughout the years. I firmly believe if a Club function gives a little happiness to one member, my position as President has been worthwhile.

To me it has been the most rewarding and busiest time of my life – I try to think what part I enjoyed the most and I know it was visiting the clubs and meeting the wonderful women of VIEW and promoting VIEW.

Visiting the country for their Seminars was wonderful – the hospitality was second to none – each country town seemed to outdo the last. We would arrive and our welcome started from the time we stepped off the plane. We would be taken either to a luncheon or dinner and these warm friendly women would see we were fully entertained till they took us back to the plane.

However, my most memorable moment as National President was being invited on board the US Blueridge; the Flag Ship of the American Navy, for cocktails, it was such a great honour. I was 'piped on board', a cake with Australian and American flags crossed with the words "Friendship across the Waves" was the centerpiece of the occasion.

During my term as President, I visited 486 clubs throughout NSW and the ACT and helped establish approximately 30 new clubs. I also attended three Premier's Receptions; a reception in Canberra where the guest speakers were Fred Daley and Ted Noffs, and met Lady Sonia McMahon when she was Guest Speaker at the VIEW Combined Dinner during Convention Week 1977."

In 1979 I received a Gold Commemorative Medal from Canterbury Council in its Centenary Year, for service to the community, and a Citation from the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Vernon Treatt, for Voluntary Service to the Community.

The friendships that I formed have continued to enrich my life and are mostly due to my association with VIEW. My family has grown to become successful and responsible citizens,



and I am very proud of them, I would describe myself as 'fortunate'. Most importantly I would like to be remembered as a dependable friend who was there in good and bad times.

At almost 92 years of age, and 50 years in VIEW, I can reflect on so many wonderful memories. I admire all of the women who have made it an organisation that we can be proud to be associated with.

V.I.E.W. – to me is a way of life and I am proud to have been associated with such a wonderful organisation for so many years.

(Source: Dulcie Callaghan from her notes and letters)