

History Matters

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In 2017 we asked VIEW members to write to us with their memories or stories, to put pen to paper and tell us about their VIEW journey. In this issue we will showcase two VIEW stories and hope that this inspires more members to share the story of their VIEW journey.

Is this a VIEW record?

Westside VIEW Club recently held a special decade pins presentation luncheon. Past National Vice President Shirley Norris and a former National Manager Jane Stranger presented pins and certificates to five members who have served VIEW in many roles, including those of Past National Vice President, Zone Councillor, Club President and numerous other Committee positions. Westside VIEW is justifiably proud of these women and their achievements.



L-R: Joan Olsson (30 yrs), Judy Clarke (10 yrs), Carmel Devir (40 yrs), Ros Cole (50 yrs) and Sally Agnew (20 yrs).

From the Tribune 10 June 1964.

Have you seen V.I.E.W. Clubs referred to in the press? The initials stand for "Voice, Interest and Education of Women" and they describe themselves as a club, not an auxiliary, sponsored by the charitable organisation, the Smith Family, run "with the aim of banishing loneliness and boredom through new interests and the reviving of old interests." Some V.I.E.W. Clubs have been willing to hear progressive speakers on various subjects. Ask them.

During the 1960's, Dr. Faith Bandler a driving force behind the 1967 referendum, was on a mission to address every VIEW Club in Australia. During an interview with Women's Weekly in 2017 her daughter explained "they all gave her a teaspoon with their crest on it and we ended up with a lot of those teaspoons. She would attend the meeting, sit and talk with anyone who asked her believing that if you throw a stone into a pool, somebody will take up that stone and throw it into another pool.

Ready for convention!

Representatives of Parramatta, Granville Rydalmere and Guildford VIEW Clubs will be among the 450 delegates to the first convention of VIEW Clubs at the Empress Ball room, Mark Foy's, on May 8. Director of VIEW Clubs Mrs. Betty Stephenson, said there were now more than 30 clubs with a membership in excess of 3000 women in the metropolitan area of Sydney. "The VIEW Clubs' annual convention will be one of the association's most important services," Mrs Stephenson said.

"It is understood that the very word 'convention' has a special and exciting meaning to members and to those associated with VIEW Clubs," she said. Mrs. Stephenson said the convention would give office bearers an opportunity to become better informed and to exchange ideas.

The convention will commence with morning tea followed by a welcome to delegates from Mrs Stephenson.

Secretary of The Smith Family, Mr. G. H. Forbes will speak of the role of VIEW Clubs in the community. Following his talk, delegates will have the opportunity to ask questions; on all aspects of VIEW Clubs' activities.

Cumberland Argus 2 May 1962

BARBARA COLSON
VIEW MEMBER EXTRAORDINAIRE

The year 2000 marked the New Century – the meeting marked an auspicious beginning.



January 2000 and the Vauxhall Owners' Club of Aust. were in Tasmania and currently cruising on the Gordon River. Barb Colson was approached by a woman who said she had been told to speak to her, as she had a reputation for getting things done. The stranger turned out to be Bev Holland from N.S.W., and a VIEW National Councillor. She stated that the Smith Family was about to move to the West to extend their Learning for Life Program and would welcome a VIEW Club in W.A. to support them.

Bev chose the right lady! Interest aroused, Barb set about learning all she could regarding VIEW and was soon contacting friends and neighbours who she thought might be interested.

As early as 20th March 2001 two "Interest Meetings" were held at Barb's home. Laurel Fatharly, a former VIEW member and

Past National Vice President, attended to give ladies much needed background information and an idea became reality! Kingsley Tavern was approached and agreed to provide the venue at no cost and the first Friendship meeting was held there on April 2nd 2001. The name, **The First WAVE**, was selected, after much members' input, as being the most appropriate for W.A.'s entrance into the VIEW fellowship.

The Inaugural Dinner was held on July 2nd, 2001 and Committee members were presented with badges of Office. Barb was elected to the prestigious position of First President of the new VIEW Club, a position she held through to 2003.

In 2001 First WAVE made a club decision to adopt a Primary School as part of their Community Involvement program. Westminster Junior Primary School was suggested and Barbara liaised with the then Principal, Peter Mulcahy, to form a strong bond which still exists thanks to ongoing member involvement. Also, at this time David Ansell from the Smith family asked for volunteers to assist with ongoing school programs. Barbara, and Monica immediately put up their hands to help, firstly at Mirrabooka checking enrolments, and soon after moving to Perth office where they did voluntary work for the next sixteen years.

A Development Committee was soon formed to bring VIEW into higher profile, and this committee, headed by Barb, was soon involved with the formation of Subiaco (now Western Suburbs), Rockingham, West Coast, Melville and Bayswater. An incredible energy was required to see each of these ventures through to completion. An energy and conviction which luckily Barb, and the Committee, possessed.

2007 to 2009 saw Barbara take on the position of Zone Councillor; a position she filled with dedication and attention to each and every VIEW Club in the W.A. Zone. National Conventions were attended and Western Australian VIEW and its members became an integral part of the whole.

Believing that the history of our club is important to preserve Barbara compiled photos and details of members and activities for the first ten years of its being. First WAVE history makes fascinating reading and all current members should endeavour to understand the commitment and passion of those early times to enable an appreciation of who, and what, we are. In 2012 Barb was awarded the VIEW National President's Award.

In 2013 a strong band of women decided we should have our own convention, so work commenced on setting the guidelines and as a result the first W.A. State Convention was held at Margaret River in 2014. This memorable event came about through dedicated team work of the organisers; a strong link in this chain of command being Barbara.

Moving on a year, and Greg Ryan-Gadsden (Smith Family General Manager at that time) recognised the service Barbara had given to VIEW, The Smith family, and the many disadvantaged students of school age who had been assisted in reaching their potential. He did his homework and then placed a nomination with C.O.T.A. for the W.A. Seniors Awards 2014 for Barbara Colson of First WAVE Club. Barbara was a successful finalist for the Bendigo Bank Intergenerational Award. An honour well deserved.

International Women's Day is the current focus and her well-known enthusiasm for a cause carries on. If there is a query or concern, Barb is the one to turn to. At the beginning of the century she was approached because she "got things done". No better person could have been asked to carry out the mammoth task of bringing a new concept to our State. She researched, and cajoled, with passion and enthusiasm to create FIRST WAVE and its continuing membership. For all of your hard work and dedication our membership thanks you.