

HISTORY OF PPSEAWA AUSTRALIA

by

Doris Mitchell

Revised 1994 Val Nicholas and Phoebe Bischoff

Revised 2004 Katrina Gulliver

Foreword

The Member Associations of the International Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association join me in conveying best wishes to our long-standing friends and staunch supports of international understanding and peace – THE MEMBERS OF PPSEAWA AUSTRALIA.

From the year 1928 when the First Pan Pacific Women's Conference was convened in Honolulu – to this year 1993 when PPSEAWA members are preparing for the Nineteenth International Conference to be held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga – PPSEAWA Australia members have played significant roles in the development of the International PPSEAWA as well as their own association. At all past 18 International Conferences, Australia PPSEAWA teams came strong – in numbers – in qualifications – in earnestness and always ready to share the responsibility of the administration of the International Association. PPSEAWA is proud of the long record of work of the many distinguished Australia members who served as International Presidents, Vice Presidents, International Secretaries, International Treasurers, Bulletin Editors and International Conference Organising Chairpersons.

Dear Australian members, your PPSEAWA friends in other 18 countries in Asia and Pacific region appreciate and value your friendship and contribution. We count on your continued strong support of the International PPSEAWA and wish you great happiness and many more achievements in the future.

Thanpuying Sumalee Chartikavanij
International President

June 1993

Introduction

2004 sees PPSEAWA Australia celebrating 50 years since the founding of the Australian Association although members have been active in PPSEAWA since 1928 when the first Pan Pacific Women's Conference was held in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Times have changed, activities have changed, groups have come and gone however the aims of PPSEAWA stand firm and remain the core of members' activities in 2004.

The Executive of PPSEAWA Australia 2001-2004 felt that 2004 would be an ideal year in which to revise the *History of the Association* booklet, printed in 1995 when the Association received funding under the National Agenda for Women's Grants Program, Office of the Status of Women, Dept. of Prime Minister and Cabinet. This funding enabled the Association to print a leaflet and a brochure as well as the history.

This revised history includes information from *The First Sixty Years - Australia's Part -* Author Doris Mitchell OAM and the History of 1994 and has been produced with funding from the Women's Development Program - Office of the Status of Women, Dept. of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

In 2004 the Objectives of PPSEAWA are increasingly important as we strengthen the bonds of peace by fostering friendship and better understanding among women in all areas of the Pacific and Southeast Asia.

Mary Cabrera
President of PPSEAWA Australia

April 2004

1928-1953 – The first 25 years

PPSEAWA has its origins in the Women's Conference held in Honolulu in 1928 by the Pan Pacific Union. Australia's delegates to the Conference were chosen by a provisional standing committee, which included representatives of the Australian Federation of University Women, the Australian Federation of Women Voters, the Federal National Council of Women, the Australian Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the National Young Women's Christian Association. They accredited thirteen delegates from all States. The delegation elected three office bearers – Mrs B M Rischbieth, JP, Chairman; Mrs A B Roberts, JP, Vice-Chairman and Dr Ethel Osbourne, Hon. Secretary and was accompanied by a representative of the Sydney Sun newspaper, Miss Constance Stephens.

'The Pan-Pacific Women's Association, later renamed the Pan-Pacific and Southeast Asia Women's Association, was one of a number of organisations which grew out of international conferences in Honolulu sponsored by the Pan-Pacific Union in the belief that if people from countries in the Pacific Basin were brought together to discuss matters of mutual interest, they would understand one another better and become friends' (Forty Years in Retrospect - A history of PPSEAWA - Dr Vivian B. Appleton 1968)

In her Presidential address at this first Conference, Miss Jane Addams of the USA extended a warm welcome to the 'many long-distance travellers' - more than a hundred delegates from a dozen countries were present - posing the question 'Why have we come together?' She felt that the answer lay in the desire of women to meet one another, to share their problems, their aspirations and their hopes and to establish friendships. Two of the Australian delegates were invited to deliver major addresses at this first Conference. Mrs Rischbieth spoke on 'The Influence of Women in Government' and Miss M. Heagney on 'Trade Union Women'.

The Mid-Pacific Magazine of September 1928 – a special Pan-Pacific Women's Conference issue – contained several articles bearing on the Conference deliberations, including one by an Australian delegate, Miss Gladys G. Armstrong, on 'The Meals of the Girl Who Works'. In it she discussed the legislative provision for meal breaks and the arrangements made by employers for dining room facilities. Miss Armstrong was the Welfare Superintendent of a large retail establishment in Sydney. The method of arranging discussion groups using Round Tables, which have remained a feature of Pan Pacific Conferences, was suggested by an Australian, Miss Eleanor Hinder, Conference Program Chairman, who attended as a member of the delegation from China.

The Australian delegates to the first Conference returned home full of enthusiasm and reported to the various women's organizations with which they were associated. One result was the establishment of the 'Australian Pan-Pacific Conference Women's Committee', which included in its membership not only the organisations represented on the earlier Provisional Standing Committee but also The Australian Federation of Medical Women, Australian Nursing Federation, Australian Baptist Women's Board, Combined Federation of Women Teachers' Organisations, Federated Association of Australian Housewives, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. The Chairman of this Committee was Dr. Ethel McLennan and the Hon. Secretary Miss Julia Rapke.

Seventeen fully accredited delegates and two associate (non voting) delegates were selected from Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia to represent Australia at the Second International Conference, held in Honolulu in 1930. Dr Georgina Sweet, Chairman of the Australian Pan-Pacific Women's Conference committee, led the delegation. Following their return, a printed report was issued, showing that countries represented at the Conference included China, Japan, Korea, Canada, USA, Philippines, New Zealand and Australia. The range of subjects dealt with included Education, Health, Women in Industry, the Cinema as an Educational Agency, Social Service and Women in Government. It is interesting to note that Mrs Cooke, of South Australia, presented papers on 'Australian Aborigines' and 'The Status of Alien Women in Australia'.

The Third International Conference held in Honolulu in 1934 was important for the history of PPSEAWA Australia, as Australia's Dr Georgina Sweet presided as International President. Australia was represented at the Conference by five delegates, led by Miss Margaret M. Flynn. After the Conference, the delegates prepared and published a report, dealing in detail with the Conference Sections, which included Education, Home Economics, Health, National and International Relations.

The joint Standing Committee was continuing to function under Dr Georgina Sweet's leadership and in some States, local groups had been established; in Adelaide in 1931 with Dr Constance Davey as President, and in Brisbane, a study group set up under the auspices of the National Council of Women focused attention and interest on Pacific affairs and began to prepare for the next International Conference.

In July 1937 the Fourth International PPWA Conference was held in Vancouver, the first to take place outside Hawaii, with Mrs C. Tsune Gauntlett of Japan presiding. Mrs JW Beveridge of NSW led the Australian delegation of twelve. At this Conference, Miss Mary Ballert of Canada was elected to the office of International President. To commemorate the event, the Canadian poet, John Murray Gibbon, wrote 'An Ode to the Pacific'. As had happened previously, the Australian delegates issued a printed report of the Conference. The next meeting, planned for 1940 in New Zealand, was postponed due to the Second World War.

The Australian Pan-Pacific Women's committee continued to function, and at their Annual Meeting in April 1946, members paid tribute to the memory of Dr Georgina Sweet, their former President. Subsequently a decision was made to disband. Later the Australian Liaison Committee of International Voluntary Organisations was established bringing together the leaders of several national women's organizations whose aim was to develop and use opportunities for cooperation. The Sixth International Conference was eventually held in Christchurch New Zealand in January 1952 with the theme of 'The Pacific in Today's World'. Australia was represented by a delegation of twenty, led by Senator Agnes Robertson.

In an article published in 'The Business and Professional Women in Australia', July 1952, Senator Robertson wrote: '... the widest spread attendance since the inception (of PPWA). One hundred and twenty-five delegates came from nineteen countries, in an area stretching from Japan to the USA in the East, Pakistan in the Northwest and Australia and New Zealand in the South. The Conference was presided over by Miss Josephine Schain from New York, who had personally visited the countries represented and encouraged them to send delegates.'

1953-1978

On 27 January 1954 representatives of the groups established earlier in the State capitals met in Canberra and agreed to form the Pan-Pacific Women's Association of Australia. Senator Agnes Robertson, who acted as Chairman, was elected the first President and a draft Constitution was discussed and adopted.

Plans were made for Australian participation in the Seventh International Conference to be held in Manila, the Philippines in the following year. In this connection, approaches had been made to the Prime Minister, Treasurer and Minister for External Affairs requesting financial assistance. The draft Constitution was amended to provide for the appointment of two Vice-Presidents and the Reverend Winifred Kiek (SA) and Mrs L C Webb (ACT) were chosen. An important decision reached was that 'corporate' members were to form the basis of the PPWA structure; the acceptance of individual members was agreed to in principle, decisions to be made by the State Groups.

Australia was well represented at the Seventh International Conference held in Manila early in 1955. Senator Agnes Robertson again led the delegation of seventeen and later reported: 'There were 148 delegates from 21 different parts of the Pacific and South East Asia and the Conference was held in the University of the Philippines at Quezon City where dormitory accommodation was provided. The large Assembly Hall in which we met was most beautifully decorated with tropical shrubs, trees and even coconut palms, from which a ripe one fell occasionally!' Some of the subjects dealt with were 'Participation of Women in Social and Economic Life', 'Handicrafts and Home Industries' and 'Education of Women and Girls'. The Australian delegates returned convinced that the Association had a valuable role to play in developing international understanding.

One of the decisions made at the Manila Conference was to amend the title of the Association to include the words 'and South-East Asia'. At the meeting of the Australian Association held in Melbourne in July 1955, this change was ratified and it was decided to print copies of the Constitution of PPSEAWA-Australia and to arrange for the National Committee to meet annually. In 1956 it was decided to establish a National Travel Pool to provide travelling expenses for delegates attending National Committee Meetings.

At the Eighth International Conference held in Japan in 1958, two Australian delegates were appointed to International Office, Miss Rose Gallagher as International Secretary and Mrs Thelma Kirkby (Bate) as International Treasurer, both members of the NSW group. The Conference had the theme of 'The Role of Women in Community Development in Pacific and Southeast Asian Countries'.

In August 1960, Viscountess Dunrossil, wife of the Governor-General, became Patron of the National Association and later in the year received the National Officers.

Australia hosted the Ninth International Conference in Canberra in January 1961. The Australian delegation, led by their President, Senator Agnes Robertson, included 25 voting and four associate delegates, all seven State Groups being represented. The International Council invited, as special guests, the Reverend Winifred Kiek, Mrs Bessie Rischbieth, Miss Eleanor Hinder and Miss A Viola Smith, all of whom had attended the first Conference in 1928. The theme was 'Education for Women in a Changing World', and 153 women from 17 countries attended.

At this Conference, Miss Jessie Robertson of Australia was elected International President. Through her personal contact with women in many Pacific and Asian countries, she enabled the Australian membership to establish friendly ties with their PPSEAWA counterparts abroad. Another Australian, Dr Nancy Burbidge, an eminent scientist, took office as International Secretary and made an outstanding contribution to the work of PPSEAWA and in the field of international relations.

At the National Committee Meeting in Melbourne in September 1961, Senator Agnes Robertson was congratulated on her leadership, noting that she had led an Australian delegation to four International Conferences in 1952, 1955, 1958, and 1961. At this meeting new office-bearers were elected, Mrs L. Webb (ACT) became President and Mesdames Kaye Cameron (Vic) and Kate Burrow (NSW), were elected Vice-presidents. Sadly, in the following year, Mrs Webb died as a result of a road accident and Mrs Cameron became National President, an office she held until 1969.

Mrs Cameron led the Australian delegation to the Tenth International Conference of PPSEAWA held in Tonga in 1964.

The thirty Australian delegates had to charter an aircraft to reach the island. Her Majesty Queen Salote attended this conference, which had the theme of 'The Role of Women in Preserving the Cultural Heritage of Mankind'. At the Australian National Committee Meeting the following year, reports of the Conference stimulated interest in the establishment of the Women's Community Training Centre in Suva, Fiji by the South Pacific Commission.

A highlight of 1966 for PPSEAWA Australia was the visit of Mrs Clorinda Lucas, the International President, who travelled to several States meeting members as well as attending the National Committee Meeting and Conference held that year in Canberra. Mrs Kay Cameron, National President, wrote: 'Mrs Lucas delighted us all with her warm friendliness and clear thinking. She also charmed the Press and PPSEAWA had some good publicity which was important for our work'.

The Eleventh International Conference, held in Honolulu in August 1968 marked the 40th Anniversary of the Association. Mrs Clorinda Lucas presided with Dr Nancy Burbidge as International Secretary. This Conference discussed 'Problems Arising from the Growing Population of the World'.

The National Committee Meeting held in Melbourne in March 1969 marked the end of Mrs Cameron's Presidency and she was succeeded by Mrs Kate Burrow of NSW. At this meeting several important policy decisions were made. A new Constitution was adopted which limited the term of office-bearers to not more than four years. The PNG Education Fund was established to provide annual scholarships to help girls in Papua New Guinea to complete their secondary education. All State Groups contributed annually to this fund, assisting over 150 girls in many areas of Papua New Guinea. Another important decision was to publish a National Newsletter to be issued biannually, providing a vehicle for the exchange of news and expression of opinions.

The Twelfth International Conference was held in Auckland, New Zealand in 1972, on the theme of 'The Family in Modern Society'. 223 delegates from 17 countries attended.

During the 1970s, PPSEAWA had opportunities to be involved in joint ventures with other women's organisations. In 1970, the National Council of Women of Australia established a Committee, comprising representatives of national women's organisations including PPSEAWA, to work for the establishment of a Hall of Residence for women students at the University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby. In 1973, their efforts, generously supported by the Commonwealth Government, resulted in the construction of Luavi House, providing accommodation for 150 women students. PPSEAWA Australia was represented at the official opening ceremony.

In 1975, PPSEAWA Australia was invited to join the National Committee for International Women's Year, established under the auspices of the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA). The National IWY Committee continued its activities as the 'Decade for Women' Committee, with a view to educating public opinion regarding the World Plan of Action (Mexico 1975) and to involve non-government organisations (NGOs) in its implementation at all levels. The long-standing association of the International Council of PPSEAWA with the United Nations and its specialised agencies has been recognised in Australia by the inclusion of a National UN Officer as a member of the National Executive. This officer has the responsibility for maintaining links with the PPSEAWA representatives at UN centres around the world and supplying Groups with relevant information.

Also in 1975, Australian delegates attended the Thirteenth International Conference in Seoul, South Korea. The theme was 'Women and the Environment'. After the Conference, the delegates spent three days touring South Korea as guests of PPSEAWA-Korea.

PPSEAWA groups have maintained a continuing interest in the needs of Aboriginal women and children. Some Groups have made provision for scholarships and prizes awarded to Aboriginal students at secondary and tertiary level, along with support of training programs. In 1975, the Association was instrumental in influencing the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in Canberra to meet the costs of sending two Aboriginal women to Fiji, where they attended a training course at the

SPC Community Education Training Centre. The Department agreed to have this course included in future arrangements for training Aboriginal women. A project in 1983 provided an annual prize (A\$200) to a distinguished woman student at the University of Papua New Guinea.

Australia sent delegates to the International Conference in Apia, Western Samoa in 1978. The theme was 'Women's Widening World' and the Conference marked the Golden Jubilee of PPSEAWA.

1979-2004

USA hosted the Fifteenth International Conference in 1981, on the theme of 'Lifelong Education and Training for Women'. After a week at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, the conference moved to New York City and included a special day at the United Nations. This Conference drew 353 delegates from 18 nations.

The Sixteenth International Conference was held in Tokyo, Japan, in 1984. Miss Taki Fujita, President of PPSEAWA-Japan, who had been the youngest of the Japanese delegates to the Honolulu Conference in 1928, gave a welcoming address. This was the largest ever conference with 442 delegates from 20 countries.

At the National Committee meeting held in Sydney in March 1985, it was agreed to extend an invitation to the International Council to hold the next International Conference (the Seventeenth) in Australia in 1988. That year was significant as it marked the Bicentennial of British Settlement in Australia and it was also the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Pan Pacific Women's Association.

The International Council accepted the invitation and PPSEAWA Australia welcomed delegates from 18 countries throughout the Pan Pacific and South East Asian area to the Conference at the Australian National University, Canberra, in January 1988. The theme was 'One World to Share' and featured top-level speakers in special areas including 'Past and Future Indigenous Cultures', 'Partners in Agricultural Research in the Pan-Pacific Area', 'Migrant Women, Literacy and the Home Tutor'. A special session was devoted to a panel of Aboriginal people discussing Aboriginal cultures.

The International President Miss Ellestan Dusting, OBE, of Australia presided at this Conference; Mrs Emilie E Wilson, the National President was the delegation leader.

The Eighteenth International Conference was held in Bangkok Thailand in November 1990, on the theme 'The Changing World: Our Heritage and Future'. An Australian, Lady Carrick AC, former Chief Commissioner of Guides Australia presented a paper 'The Future Heritage of Women in Asia Pacific' also participating as a panel member in the plenary 'Future vision of Asia/Pacific Women'. The Conference was attended by 28 delegates and observers from Australia and the delegation was led by Mrs Paddy Firstenberg, the National President. Mrs Phoebe Bischoff, of Australia, the International Secretary, took part in the Pre-Conference Workshop on 'The Role of Women in Environmentally Sound Programs'.

PPSEAWA International President, Thanpuying Sumalee Chartikavanij of Thailand, attended Australia's National Conference in Canberra in September 1991.

The Nineteenth International Conference was held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga in August 1994. The theme of the Conference was 'Women of Wisdom are Pillars of Nations'. Mrs Val Nicholas, the National President, led the Australian delegation of 18. The Conference Keynote address by Dato' Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Bte Hj Mohd Ali of Malaysia, focused on the potential of women to contribute to the progress of nations and the need to press for equal rights and justice.

In 1997, Australian delegates attended the Twentieth International Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with the theme 'Strengthening Alliances for a Better World Towards the 21st Century'. Mrs Mary Cabrera, the National President, led the delegation, and 32 members from around Australia participated in the conference program and discussions. Two indigenous women, Ms Kiri Hata and Ms Evelyn Schaber were funded through AusAID's International Seminar Support Scheme. Mrs Jo Lees from Queensland, a member of Guides Australia, and Mrs Joan Elliston AM, PPSEAWA Member from NSW attended the pre-conference workshop, 'Women Entrepreneurs: Challenges & opportunities in the 21st Century', jointly funded by PPSEAWA Malaysia and Nestles SA. Miss Margot Ballard completed her term as one of four Vice President of the International Council and Mrs Mary Cabrera was elected to this position. This conference was opened by the Queen of Malaysia, Her Majesty the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah with the keynote speaker Her Majesty Queen Halaevalu Mata'aho of Tonga and was attended by the Patron of PPSEAWA Malaysia H E Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah bte Haji Mohd Ali who gave the closing

plenary presentation 'Women -The Way Forward'. Much was achieved and following the conclusion a Plan of Action 1997-2003 was formulated and circulated to all member countries for their use.

The Twenty-First International Conference was held in Rarotonga, the Cook Islands, in November 2000. The theme was 'Ignite the Power of Peace'. Led by the National President Mrs Glennie Cumming-Summers Australia's 32 delegates were among 270 participants, representing 21 member countries. Included in the Australian delegation were two youth delegates, Leilani Bin-Juda a Torres Strait Islander and a member of the ACT group and Lucinda Broad from NSW nominated by the YWCA of Australia. Leilani and Lucinda attended the Pre-Conference Workshop with the themes 'Good Governance and Human Rights' and 'Mechanisms and Linkages'.

National Conferences and workshops in recent years have always been co-hosted by local Groups. Themes and topics have included:

1990 - The Changing World - Our Heritage and our Future (Perth Western Australia)

1991 - Keynote address - Older Women (ACT)

1994 - Views, Values and Visions -(Melbourne Victoria)

1995 - Changing Relationships - Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women (Sydney NSW)

1996 - Women and Poverty (Melbourne, Victoria)

1997 - A Life Worth Living (Kent Town, South Australia)

1998 - Women and Governance, Women and Technology and Women as Mentors and The Ocean Our Birthright: Tides and Currents (Sydney, NSW)

1999 - Women accessing the Law and Women accessing Information Technology (Sydney, NSW)

1999 - Children, the Family and Health (Western Australia)

2000 - The Power of Peace (Perth, Western Australia);

2001 - Showcasing Volunteers (Sydney, NSW)

2003 - A Day at the National Museum of Australia - Australian Identity in a Global Context and Gallery of the First Australians and the Eternity Exhibition (PPSEAWA ACT) and Sharing a Culture of Peace (Canberra City ACT).

PPSEAWA Australia has been represented at international workshops hosted by member countries and the International Council and with financial and other support from Nestle SA, Air France, UNESCO and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Recent workshops were

1992 - The Environment and the Family (Auckland New Zealand)

1994 - The Family and Food (Tonga)

1996 - Women, The Family and Health (Samoa)

1997 - A Life Worth Living - Teenagers, the Family and Health (member countries)

1998 and 1999 - Children, The Family and Health (Hawaii and Singapore)

2002 - Healthy Lifestyle and Mindset - Children, Education and Human Rights (Japan).

1995 to 2004

PPSEAWA Australia sponsored Mrs Val Nicholas as a delegate to the UN Women's Forum in Beijing, China. Also, financial assistance was given to the Maprik District Council of Women, East Sepik Province, PNG, through Community Aid Abroad, to assist literacy, health and awareness programs for women.

Two PPSEAWA grants of \$1000 each were awarded to two students: i) a post graduate student at the School of Asian and Pacific Studies at the Australian National University and ii) an Australia Day award through the National Council of Women of NSW to a final year student in the Faculty of Health - Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) at the University of Western Sydney.

PPSEAWA Australia was incorporated as the Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association of Australia Incorporated on 5 April 1994 under the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 of the Australian Capital Territory. The constitution was revised in 1998 enabling unincorporated branch Groups to be covered under the PPSEAWA Australia Constitution with individual Group By-laws; and the incorporated ACT Group to retain its legal entity.

The Association has given continuing support to the Reconciliation Movement with members around Australia joining with members of indigenous communities in activities of reconciliation between all Australians.

International Women's Day is an occasion important for all women and PPSEAWA Australia with UNIFEM Australia hold a fundraising lunch annually supporting UNIFEM projects in Asia and the Pacific.

PPSEAWA Australia has given financial support to the new PPSEAWA PNG Association.

Due to the distance separating members, the Association successfully commenced teleconferencing for some executive meetings. An Annual General Meeting was also held via teleconference.

The Association has protested against the use of land mines, violence against women and pornography on the Internet.

PPSEAWA has continued to be represented by members participating in many seminars and consultations around Australia including the National Women's Consultative Council Forum to discuss preparations for the Fourth United Nations World Conference for Women in Beijing; Money Management for Women; International Year of Older Persons - consultations with older women; UNESCO questionnaire on education issues relating to women and girls; Sexual harassment information for PPSEAWA Malaysia and in 2004 input into the topics on 'Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, conflict management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building' and 'The role of men and boys in gender equality' in preparation for the Australian presentation to the Commission of the Status of Women - 48th session New York.

PPSEAWA has been regularly represented the at the Round Table of National Women's Organisations in Canberra, meeting with the Federal Minister for Women until the setting up of the Australia Women's Secretariats. In 2002 PPSEAWA Australia was accepted as a member of the Australian Women's Coalition (AWC) with Mrs Mary Cabrera as delegate and Mrs Coral Fleming as the alternate delegate. This coalition was formed to further develop networking between women's organisations, to develop policies of benefit to women and to give a stronger voice for women in the community. Key objectives are: to increase communication within the women's sector; to identify clearly the needs of women represented by the consortium partners; and to initiate policies, programs and partnerships to address these needs. The group meets at regular intervals with the current member organisations being Australian Church Women (ACW), Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW), Council of the Aging (Australia) (COTA), Guides Australia, National Council of Women of Australia (NCWA), Pan Pacific and Southeast Asia Women's Association of Australia (PPSEAWA), Soroptimist International, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and Zonta International.

BRANCH GROUPS

Australian Capital Territory

Following a public meeting called by the Association of Women Graduates held on 24 March 1953, it was decided to form a branch of the Pan Pacific Women's Association in Canberra. Senator Agnes Robertson, who had attended the 1952 Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand, spoke on the aims of the Association. At the inaugural meeting in June 1953, a draft Constitution was adopted and office bearers were elected, Mrs L C Webb being the first President.

The Canberra Group had two main functions – to increase members' knowledge of the Pacific and South East Asian countries and understanding of their problems and to participate in preparations for the Pan Pacific Conferences, to send delegates to them and to make their proceedings widely known. The first delegates from the ACT to attend an International Conference were Mrs Dora Coombs and Dr Nancy Burbidge, who reported back to the Groups on the Conference held in Tokyo in 1958.

Dr Nancy Burbidge was a valued member of the Association and an outstanding botanist. In the Australian National Botanic Gardens, the Nancy T. Burbidge Memorial Garden in the form of an amphitheatre honours her memory, and a commemorative plaque indicates that she was a member of PPSEAWA.

Canberra was chosen as the site of the Ninth International Conference of PPSEAWA, in January 1961, the first to be held in Australia. Meetings were held at St John's Hall, Reid, and delegates were housed at the Hotel Kurrajong. Delegates were taken on a tour of the Australian Alps, Mt Stromlo Observatory, and a city tour.

Early in 1963, the Group, as a member of the Coordinating Council for Overseas Students, undertook to assist with the reception and entertainment of overseas students during their stay in Canberra.

The Group supported the National Association's Papua New Guinea Scholarship Fund for many years. The group has a history of raising money and materials for a variety of causes within their area of interest. These projects include assistance to the Cranio-Maxillo Foundation, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNESCO projects, disaster relief to afflicted areas, and books and sewing aids to Island nations.

In 1979-80, the UN-designated Year of the Child, an Aboriginal girl, Corinna Martin, was sponsored to undertake a Mothercare Nursing Diploma at the Tresilian Petersham Home, NSW. Miss Martin subsequently joined the Aboriginal Education Development movement in Adelaide to assist with determining strategies for training courses for her people.

In 1988 Canberra was selected as the venue for the Seventeenth International Conference, which coincided with the celebration of PPSEAWA'S Diamond Jubilee, and Australia's Bicentennial Year. Miss Ellestan Disting OBE, the International President and member of the Group presided at the Conference. The overseas visitors were entertained at a garden party at the home of Sir Harold and Lady White, a lake cruise, visits to a Nature Reserve, the Australian National Gallery, the new Parliament House and a country barbecue. A quilt was made which has been displayed at subsequent international conferences.

The Group has continued to encourage participation in international conference and many firm friendships have been established. Increasing numbers of members have participated either as delegates or observers in Conferences in New Zealand, Korea, USA, Western Samoa, Japan, Thailand, Tonga, Malaysia and the Cook Islands.

Members have been actively involved in studying the themes set at international conferences and have met regularly to research and discuss topics and produce relevant papers.

National Committee Meetings and Conferences have been held in Canberra hosted by the Group, and the Group has always sent delegates and observers to interstate meetings.

The Group is proud that one of its members, Miss Moya Simpson-Lee designed the PPSEAWA Australia badge. The waves depicted in the badge represent international friendship.

Members attend a monthly business meeting followed by a presentation from a guest speaker. Topics over the decades have covered a wide range of interests including the World Food Program, world travels and pilgrimages, Cook Island quilts, Life in the Pacific and Women's role in the rebuilding of Afghanistan following the war in 2002. Small group activities have been an important part of the ACT program, allowing friendships to form through common interests. They are important for international members to form friendships with ACT members. Groups for bridge, tennis, English conversation, craft, books, movies and mah-jong have all operated successfully. Since 1968, the monthly 'welcome' afternoon teas held on Saturdays give members an opportunity to meet overseas visitors to Canberra and are the highlight of PPSEAWA activities. The group also runs annually one- or two-day bus trips out of Canberra or special outings in Canberra to allow international members the opportunity of learning more about Australia.

Major functions over the years, with the cooperation of members of High Commissions and Embassies, have been International Parades of Costumes, International Doll Exhibitions, International Bridal Displays, International Children's Fashion Parade, Fetes, Christmas parties for children of PPSEAWA members. Afternoon Teas served to the public at the Prime Minister's Lodge were the main fundraising activity for many years.

In March 2003 this Group co-hosted the National Meetings with the Canberra City Group, PPSEAWA ACT organising a Day at the National Museum of Australia where the museum staff with the Director of the Museum, Dawn Casey challenged members for their thoughts about the Australian identity in a global context. Two galleries were explored with museum guides and the day finished with a presentation about Nancy Bird Walton, the first female commercial pilot in Australia. The Group is affiliated with the United Nations Association, ACT Division, and the National Council of Women, ACT Division. The Country Women's Association of NSW, Canberra Branch, is an affiliated organisation. The Australian Federation of University Women, ACT is an honorary member. The Group has Life Members – Miss Mary Doyle, BEM, Mrs Dora Coombs and Miss Moya Simpson-Lee.

Australian Office Bearers:

President:

Mrs LC Webb
Miss Ellestan Dusting OBE
Mrs Val Nicholas

Vice President:

Mrs Coral Fleming

Hon. Secretary:

Miss M Bates BEM
Mrs Phoebe Bischoff OAM

National Program Director:

Mrs Phyllis Montgomerie OAM
Mrs Coral Fleming
Mrs Judy Mikkelsen

PPSEAWA International Office Bearers:

International President:

Miss Ellestan Dusting OBE

International Secretary:
Dr Nancy T Burbidge
Mrs Phoebe Bischoff OAM

International Treasurer:
Miss Mary Doyle

Canberra City Group

The inaugural meeting of the Canberra City Group was held on 17 June 1996. Canberra City started out as an evening group. The first office bearers were: President – Mrs Val Nicholas, Secretary – Mrs Phoebe Bischoff, Treasurer – Mrs K Reid, Program Director: Mrs Jan Evans.

Meetings have been held in members' homes, the Weston Creek Community Centre, the Grange, Deakin and currently at the Canberra Museum and Gallery. General meetings include guest speakers every second month, alternating with group discussions. Over the years, eminent guest speakers have included:

Andrew Gosling 'Taiwan – yesterday and today'; Shobha Joseph 'Taste of Danger in Paradise' (Sri Lanka); Father Phillip Tuli 'Religious Tolerances in Indonesia's Eastern Regions'; Joon Garfit 'Grameen Bank'; Professor M. Ricklefs 'Crisis in Indonesia'; Bill Tully 'East Timor'; Geraldine Triffitt 'Village Life In Fiji'; Justine McLaren 'Traditional Weaving in Laos'; Luisa Latukefu 'Parenting Between Two Cultures' (Tonga/Australia); Peter Buscombe 'Water in East Timor'.

Topics relating to Australia have included Lyn Pedvin, retired teacher, on VISE – Volunteer for Isolated Student Education; Robyne Bancroft, Policy Officer, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Council of Aboriginal Affairs; Dr Helen James, University Graduates Exchange Scheme; Ms Kerrie Tucker, ACT Legislative Assembly 'Global Greens Conference'; Julia Goldstein and Maureen Scott, discussing their work with the ACT Bushfire Recovery Centre; Ingrid Reid, Prevention of Suicide; June Ashmore, Canberra Blind Society – Sending Braille books to Fiji.

Canberra City Group also holds regular social gatherings. These have included get-together lunches and a series of visits to religious buildings in Canberra to expand knowledge of the religious philosophies represented in PPSEAWA member countries. In addition to this, the Group has held cultural theme evenings, to learn more about the cultures in PPSEAWA.

Regular market stalls are held, raising money for projects to assist women and their families. Projects have included sending books to Laos, soft toys to Burma, trousers for Thai children, clothing for a remote Aboriginal community, and material for quilts for fire victims.

The Canberra City Group logo was designed by Margie Ruiz-Flor and shows an early settler cottage and a kangaroo, symbols of Australia's heritage.

In March 2003 this Group co-hosted the National Meetings with PPSEAWA ACT with the Canberra City group organising a symposium on PEACE based on the sub themes for the twenty second International Conference to be held in Singapore in 2004 - People Power, Enhancing Education, Affirmative Action, Compassionate Connection and Economic Empowerment.

Honorary Life Members PPSEAWA Australia:
Mrs Phoebe Bischoff OAM, Mrs Val Nicholas

New South Wales

The Australian delegation to the first Pan-Pacific Women's Conference in 1928 included delegates from NSW. On their return, they created interest through their reports and soon formed a study circle linked with similar groups in other States through the Australian Pan-Pacific Women's Association. After a break in activities during the Second World War, the Pan-Pacific Women's Association in NSW was re-established on 26 September 1950 at a meeting attended by about eighty representative women. The Committee met regularly until November 1951 when it merged with the Australian Association for the United Nations, functioning in cooperation with the Standing Committee for Trusteeship and Pacific Affairs of that Association.

The Australian Liaison Committee, located in Sydney, organised a delegation from Australia to the sixth PPWA International Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand, in January 1952. On their return, Delegates resolved to establish the National Association on a permanent basis and on 27 January 1954, the Pan-Pacific Women's Association of Australia was launched, with the strong and active support of representatives from New South Wales.

The NSW Group was also established from that point and has continued to grow with an active and enthusiastic membership of individual members and representatives of corporate members - Australian Church Women, Country Women's Association of NSW, Guides Australia-NSW, Salvation Army, Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), Uniting Church of Australia Adult Fellowship and the YWCA of Sydney.

The warm and friendly daytime meetings are held monthly in the city centre of Sydney and feature guest speakers on current PPSEAWA issues and also focus on specific projects of which members have personal knowledge - supporting PPSEAWA in Papua New Guinea, collecting knitted scarves and hats for an orphanage in Russia, knitting and crocheting rugs for the elderly, sending medical supplies and educational materials to East Timor, contributing towards building a Meeting Room for women in Vanuatu and purchasing sewing machines for Pakistan.

Fund raising events include Bring and Buy Mornings and Chinese banquet luncheons to which other women's organisations are invited. In reciprocation the NSW Group actively participates in the wider community and has awarded Fellowships to young women University students through the National Council of Women of NSW, a Scholarship to a school child through the Country Women's Association, Christmas gifts to the needy through the Salvation Army and Guides NSW and a Certificate of Recognition of an Inspiring Woman to an indigenous leader through the Women's Reconciliation Network.

The NSW Group maintains a long tradition of participating in PPSEAWA at national and international levels by attending National Meetings wherever they may be held in Australia and PPSEAWA International Conferences, which in recent years have been held in Tonga, Malaysia and the Cook Islands. Members have been honoured to serve as office-bearers at National and International levels.

Honorary Life Members – NSW Group : Miss Rose Gallagher, Miss Jean Arnot, Mrs Jo Lee Martin, Miss Doris Mitchell OAM, Mrs Lillian Schoupp, Mrs Jennifer Bennett.

Australian Office Bearers:

President:

Mrs Kate Burrow

Miss Doris Mitchell OAM

Mrs Jo Lee Martin

Mrs Mary Cabrera

Vice President:

Miss Kaylin Simpson Lee
Mrs Joan Elliston AM

Hon. Secretary:

Miss Rose Gallagher
Miss Doris Mitchell
Mrs Jo Lee Martin
Mrs Jennifer Bennett
Mrs Leigh Harley

Hon. Treasurer:

Miss Rose Gallagher
Miss Edith Chase
Mrs Joan Egan
Mrs Marie Majoor

Program Director:

Miss Kaylin Simpson Lee
Mrs Jannette Smith
Mrs Mary Minns

UN Officer:

Miss Doris Mitchell
Miss Marjorie Wood OAM

International Office bearers.

Mrs Thelma Kirkby (Bate), Miss Rose Gallagher, Mrs Mary Cabrera, Miss Kaylin Simpson Lee

Honorary Life Members PPSEAWA Australia:

Miss Doris Mitchell, Miss Rose Gallagher, Mrs Bonnie Ware (QLD/NSW), Miss Kaylin Simpson Lee, Miss Sylvia Munday (SA/NSW)

Queensland

The Queensland Group was formed in 1930. Early records do not exist but thanks to a history of the National Council of Women in Queensland, the following has been obtained:

'Brisbane people listened eagerly to Dr Georgina Sweet of Melbourne, who told the affiliated organisations of the valuable work of 'Pan-Pacific'. They decided to form a study circle in preparation for a conference in Honolulu in 1930. Mrs Longman and Mrs Cumbrae Stewart were appointed the Council's representatives. With a break during the Pacific operations in World War II, the Brisbane Group has continued to seek increased knowledge of the problems of the women of the South East Asian, the Pacific Islands and the West Coast of North American regions, and to promote greater understanding'.

Mrs G L Byth OBE, BA, was President for many years to 1968, Mrs C B P Bell for three years to 1971, Mrs Esma B Findlay for nine years to 1980, Mrs H Bonnie Ware for eleven years to 1991 and Mrs N Gooda for two years to 1993. In 1979/82, Mrs Esma Findlay was elected National President (the first Queenslander to hold this office), Mrs Bonnie Ware National Hon. Secretary and Mrs R Irwin, National Hon. Treasurer.

The first National Committee Meeting and Conference to take place in Queensland was held in Brisbane in February 1970 (President Mrs Bell). The second took place in February 1982 at the end of Mrs Findlay's term as National President.

Queensland delegates have attended international PPSEAWA Conferences at Vancouver (1937), Hawaii (1949), Christchurch (1952), Tokyo (1958), Canberra (1961), Tonga (1964), Auckland (1972), Apia (1978). Mrs Findlay was leader of the Australian delegation USA (1981). Mrs Ware was Australian leader in Tokyo (1984).

The Queensland group consisted of representatives of affiliated Societies – QCWA, Girl Guides and previously YWCA and WCTU – and individual members. It has been affiliated with the National Council of Women (Qld), and the United Nations Association (Qld Div.).

From 1970, the Queensland Group sponsored one or two girls at a Papua New Guinea High School under the PPSEAWA Scholarship Fund. Members made personal contact by letter and sent Christmas parcels of dressmaking materials. In 1983, the Qld group inaugurated an Award to an outstanding woman student at PNG University, donating \$100 to the \$200 given annually from Australia. This group is currently in recess with members attached to NSW.

National Office Bearers:

President:

Mrs Esma Findlay

Hon Secretary:

Mrs Bonnie Ware

Treasurer :

Mrs R Irwin

National Life Members:

Mrs Esma Findlay

Mrs Bonnie Ware (QLD/NSW)

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South Australia

Miss Lena Swann represented South Australia in the Australian delegation to the Pan-Pacific Women's Conference held in Honolulu in 1928.

The 1930 Conference in Honolulu was attended by Dr Constance Davey – a Psychologist in the Education Department of South Australia. She was Deputy Chairman of the Australian Delegation.

Delegates returned from these Conferences charged with the responsibility of forming a Pan-Pacific Women's Association in their own areas and in 1931, Dr Davey was successful in forming a PPWA in South Australia. She was Chairman and Miss Swann Honorary Secretary. The South Australian Association remained in existence during the Second World War.

The PPWA was originally composed of delegates from Women's organisations with national and international affiliations. Later individual members were added.

The SA Group has been represented at all National Conferences and at several International Conferences. Also it has supported projects inaugurated by them. Members have participated in a variety of interesting activities, lectures, study groups (on themes proposed by National and International committees) and social functions.

In 1981 South Australia's Golden Jubilee celebrations coincided with a meeting of the National Committee in Adelaide. The album of photographs taken during these celebrations has been placed in the State Archives Department.

Like other State Groups, SA has contributed to the PNG Education Fund. In addition, it has given support to local community efforts in the health and welfare field.

This group is currently in recess with its members affiliated to NSW.

Australian Life Members: Mrs Gladys Reynolds; Miss Sylvia Munday (SA/NSW)

Australian Office Bearers:

National Vice-President:

Rev Winifred Kirk

Mrs A J Mosel

National Program Director:

Miss Sylvia Munday

Mrs Gladys Reynolds

United Nations Officer:

Miss Frances Gallagher

Tasmania

In August 1952, Miss Merle Weaver called a public meeting to found the Tasmanian Group. About 60 women attended – teachers, nurses and women interested in civic and international affairs who were inspired by the ideals of PPSEAWA.

At this time, Colombo Plan students had started coming to Hobart and PPSEAWA members were able to give active assistance by teaching English, offering hospitality and being available whenever problems arose. To help establish contacts with overseas students and nurses, social functions were held regularly, many of them arranged by Miss Margaret Shoobridge. Disaster relief funds and medical and educational work overseas have been assisted by the Group from time to time. Tasmania wholeheartedly supported all national efforts like raising funds for the establishment of a Hall of Residence for female students at the University of PNG and the PNG Scholarship Fund.

The activities of PPSEAWA Tasmania centred on spreading knowledge among members and maintaining contacts with the National Association and other State Groups. The Group welcomed interstate visitors in February 1968 when the National Committee Meeting and Conference were held in Hobart, and again in March 1977, for the same reason.

The influx of Vietnamese and other Asian refugees gave Tasmanian members further opportunities both to offer practical help and to learn more about the lifestyle and culture of those who have settled here – thus providing a two-way benefit. They cooperated with the Churches in 'adopting' families and some members helped by teaching English and generally assisting the refugee women in coping with their difficulties adjusting to life in a new environment.

In recent years, the Group had a special interest in a Cambodian student who was in Hobart to learn English. The Group has supported the World Guide Centre and the Fred Hollows Eye Project.

This group has been in recess since 1995.

Victoria

Victorian women have been involved in the Pan-Pacific Women's Association since its inception. Dr Georgina Sweet, a Victorian, was one of the earlier International Presidents.

Following the establishment of the National Association in 1954, Dame Ada Norris called together representatives of organisations with international affiliations to form the Victorian Group. Later, individual members joined the Group which met monthly.

From the outset, the aim was to have small groups who were prepared to study and so become a body of well-informed women. The composition of the Group ensured meaningful discussions on a wide variety of subjects and so prepared members to undertake leadership responsibilities at State and National level. The Group participated in maintaining the PNG Scholarship Fund set up by the National Association some years ago. In order to meet its obligations in this respect, fundraising functions were organised from time to time. It was a matter for regret that membership decreased causing the Group to go into recess for six months, following which it reformed in 1998 as PPSEAWA Victoria - Mornington Peninsula.

The Victoria Group donated money to the International Red Cross Somalia Fund and held a fundraising lunch for the Cranio-Maxillo Foundation (new faces for the deformed) at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne.

The Victoria - Mornington Peninsula Group has been able to sponsor a delegate – Rev. Faye Donaldson, to attend youth conferences in Singapore (1998) and Thailand (2003).

Members have held fundraising social luncheons to enable them to support a scheme for providing warm clothing for local needy children, to support Nungalinya College in Darwin for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and a coffee project for East Timor.

Some members of Mornington Peninsula Group have also attended the Constitutional Conference in Melbourne (2003) and National and International Conferences.

Australian Life Member: Mrs Emilie Wilson

Australian Office bearers:

National President:

Mrs Kaye Cameron OBE

Mrs Emilie Wilson

Hon Secretary:

Miss Margot Ballard OAM

United Nations Officer:

Rev. Faye Donaldson

PPSEAWA International Office bearers:

Vice President International Council:

Miss Margot Ballard OAM

Editor International Bulletin:

Mrs Emilie Wilson

Western Australia

Mrs Bessie Rischbieth, leader of the Australian delegation to the first Pan-Pacific Women's Conference, held in Honolulu in 1928, lived in Western Australia and, throughout her long life, maintained a keen interest in the Pacific area. Today the WA Group of PPSEAWA meets in the Women's Services Guild Suite in Perth under Mrs Rischbieth's watchful eye – for her full-length portrait, in formal garden party attire, hangs there – a special link with the pioneer women of our State.

The WA Group of the Pan Pacific Women's Association was established in 1953, Senator Agnes Robertson being the first President. She and her daughter, Jessie, greatly influenced the development of the movement in our State, both being much involved in the work at national level. In addition, their interest in the welfare of Aborigines was shared by the WA members, who translated it into action by the provision of financial assistance to Aboriginal school girls.

The great distance that separates WA from other States, has made it difficult for the Group to be represented as fully as it would have liked at National Committee Meetings and Conferences. However, the Group was pleased to host these in 1968, 1974, 1990 and 2000. On other occasions, those who were able to make the long journey reported fully to us on their return. Reports were also presented by members who were able to join the Australian delegation at International Conferences.

The Group participated in the National Committee's PNG Scholarships scheme.

In 1988, West Australian Mrs Ivy (Paddy) Firstenberg, MBE, was elected National President of PPSEAWA. The National Secretary, Mrs Olga Ramasamy, and Treasurer, Mrs Beryl Davies also came from Western Australia. During her term of office Mrs Firstenberg led the Australian delegation to the International Conference in Thailand, 1990.

In May 1990, Perth hosted the National Conference of PPSEAWA, which was held at the Country Women's Association, Hay Street, West Perth. The theme was 'The Changing World – Our Heritage and our Future'. One speaker, Dr Keith Suter, from the Trinity Peace Research Institute, gave an overview of the current state of the arms race and issues of the environment. This group also hosted the National Meetings and Seminar in 2000 with the theme 'The Power of Peace'

Mrs Glennie Cumming-Summers OAM was elected National President in 1999, leading the Australian delegation to the International Conference in the Cook Islands in 2000.

Some of the projects PPSEAWA of Western Australia participated in, have been Radio Lollipop – the Princess Margaret Children's Hospital – a radio station set up for the patients; Save the Children Fund – money donated to set up a tube well in Bangladesh; and St John's Ambulance – through the Girl Guides Association of WA, providing hand knitted teddy bears for each child carried by ambulance.

During the nineties women's organisations changed in some significant ways. More women entered the work force and with families to look after found difficulty in keeping up with community affairs. It followed that NGOs had problems in finding candidates to become office bearers or to help in the various functions of the organisation.

New organisations sprang up with some government support. One such in WA was the Australian Asian Association. PPSEAWA has always supported this organisation. Prominent in its founding was Clarice Forsyth, a long time member of PPSEAWA and their present CEO is Olga Ramasamy OAM, who was the national secretary of PPSEAWA 1988 to 1991. PPSEAWA members have maintained their interest in migrant women through the Australia Asian Association. The WA Group is affiliated with the Australian Asian Association and the National Council of Women

Honorary Life Members - PPSEAWA Australia: Mrs Ivy (Paddy) Firstenberg MBE

Australian Office bearers:

National President:

Senator Agnes Robertson

Mrs Paddy Firstenberg MBE

Mrs Glennie Cumming-Summors OAM.

Vice President:
Mrs Nancy Brazier

Hon Secretary:
Miss J Robertson
Mrs O Ramasamy
Ms Hannie Jasper

PPSEAWA International Office bearers:

President:
Miss Jessie Robertson

Vice President:
Senator Agnes Robertson

APPENDIX

Pan Pacific and Southeast Asia Women's Association of Australia Incorporated office bearers

Australian President

1954-1961	Senator Agnes Robertson	WA
1961-1962	Mrs L C Webb	ACT
1962-1969	Mrs Kaye Cameron OBE	Vic
1969-1972	Mrs Kate M Burrow MBE	NSW
1972-1975	Miss Ellestan Dusting OBE	ACT
1975-1979	Miss Doris Mitchell OAM	NSW
1979-1982	Mrs Esma Findlay	Qld
1982-1985	Mrs Jo Lee-Martin	NSW
1985-1988	Mrs Emilie E Wilson	Vic
1988-1991	Mrs I (Paddy) Firstenberg MBE	WA
1991-1995	Mrs Val Nicholas	ACT
1995-1999	Mrs Mary Cabrera	NSW
1999-2001	Mrs Glenorchy Cumming-Summors OAM	WA
2001-2004	Mrs Mary Cabrera	NSW

Honorary Secretary

1954-1961	Miss J Robertson	WA
1961-1969	Miss Rose Gallagher	NSW
1969-1972	Miss Doris Mitchell OAM	NSW
1972-1975	Miss M Bates, BEM	ACT
1975-1979	Mrs Jo Lee-Martin	NSW
1979-1982	Mrs Bonnie Ware	Qld
1982-1985	Miss Rose Gallagher	NSW
1985-1988	Miss Margot Ballard OAM	Vic
1988-1991	Mrs O Ramasamy	WA
1991-1995	Mrs Phoebe. E. Bischoff OAM	ACT
1995-1999	Mrs Jennifer Bennett	NSW
1999-2001	Ms Hannie Jasper	WA
2001-2004	Mrs Leigh Harley	NSW

Australians who have served as PPSEAWA International President

Dr Georgina Sweet	1930-34
Miss Jessie M Robertson	1961-64
Miss Ellestan Dusting OBE	1984-88

Australians who have served on the PPSEAWA International Council

Dr Georgina Sweet	Vice President	1934-37
Miss B V Beveridge	2nd Vice President	1937-40
Dr Phyllis Cilento	Vice President	1949-52
Senator Agnes Robertson	Vice President	1952-55, 1955-58

Mrs Thelma Kirkby/Bate	Treasurer	1955-58, 1958-61
Miss Rose Gallagher	Secretary	1958-61
Dr Nancy Burbidge	Secretary	1961-64, 1964-68
	2nd Vice President	1968-72
Miss Mary Doyle BEM	Treasurer	1964-68, 1968-72
Miss Ellestan Dusting OBE	2nd Vice President	1975-78
	1st Vice President	1978-81, 1981-84
Mrs Phoebe Bischoff OAM	Secretary	1988-90
Miss Margot Ballard OAM	Vice President	1990-94, 1994-97
Mrs Emilie Wilson	Bulletin Editor	1990-94
Mrs Mary Cabrera	Vice President	1997-2000, 2000-04
Miss Kaylin Simpson-Lee	By-Laws Chair	1997-2000

**Honorary Life Membership
PPSEAWA Australia Incorporated**

Mrs Phoebe Bischoff OAM	ACT
Miss Ellestan Dusting OBE	ACT
Miss Rose Gallagher	NSW
Mrs Emilie Wilson	Vic
Mrs Esma Findlay	Qld
Miss Doris Mitchell OAM	NSW
Mrs Gladys Reynolds	SA
Mrs Ivy (Paddy) Firstenberg MBE	WA
Mrs Bonnie Ware	Qld
Mrs Val Nicholas	ACT
Miss Kaylin Simpson Lee	NSW
Miss Sylvia Munday	SA/NSW