



COUNTRY **WOMEN'S** ASSOCIATION



Baldivis Belles

Annual Branch Report for 2018

We have had another amazing year here at the Baldivis Belles! Our branch continues to grow in leaps and bounds and our reach into the community has stretched even further this past year, improving the lives of hundreds of women. As we start a new year in 2019 it is time to reflect on our great achievements in 2018.

Membership

We started out our year with 38 paid members and grew our membership to 60 members! In 2017 we finished our first full year with 60 members as well so it is fantastic to see us maintaining such a large number of memberships yet again.

Our branch managed to volunteer over 583 hours throughout the year at our various events and fundraising activities. This is an incredible 9.7 hours on average per member! It is inspiring having such an active branch where there are so many opportunities for our members to participate in the community doing as much or as little as they can to make the lives of others better while improving our own. 2019 is looking to be another active year for our branch and it will be great to see us maintaining or growing our member base yet again.

Refuge Tin Donations

Throughout the year we placed our women's refuge donation tins in local businesses and on show at our events. The beautifully decorated tins could be found on the counter at Bingo regularly, as well as the tables at our Bunnings Sausage Sizzles, Kmart Donation tables, Fairs we attended and the Bake Sales. Throughout the whole of 2018 we collected a total of \$1,258.55 .

Bingo

Bingo continues to be one of our greatest fundraising activities again in 2018. Volunteers help out at the Baldivis Mega Cash Bingo hosted at the Mary Davis Library and Community Centre, either in providing baked goods to be sold or in manning the canteen. In 2018 we raised \$2,896.27. This is an increase of almost \$1,000 on last year.



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Kmart

Our Kmart Kits continue to be our best resource of support towards helping Women escaping from Domestic Violence. These kits are donated to various Women's Refuges in our local area, who in turn pass them out to women who are now leaving the refuge to start their lives again. Many times these women are leaving the refuges with nothing except their clothes and the idea of finding and buying the essentials to start a new home are daunting. We held two stalls at Kmart during 2018 and at these stalls as well as donations throughout the year we received a value of \$4,500 worth of goods to be turned into kits!

Bunnings

This year we launched a new kit to further our work with the refuges we support, and we launched a Bunnings Starter Kit made up of products you find at Bunnings to complement our Kmart Home Essentials Kits. Donations of items are taken in from Bunnings while we also run a very worthwhile sausage sizzle, taking all profits to donate towards our fundraising efforts. We managed to raise an amazing total of \$4,765 over 5 sausage sizzle sessions. This worked out to be an incredible average of 600 sausages sold at each sizzle. Well done to all of our amazing (and tasty) volunteers!

Fundraising

We diversified our fundraising efforts a little this past year and reaped the rewards! Keychains and earrings are proving to be a hit amongst our members, other branches and the community bringing in \$107.95. We ran our first ever cake stalls at two fairs and raised \$579.70 at the two events. Baldivis Fair raised \$405, however our first ever raffle at the fair raised a whopping \$942! Sale of our shopping bags continues to bring in fundraising money to the tune of \$221 for the year. Other fundraising events worth a mention include our first night market at Settlers Primary School (\$45), Seniors and Carers Expo (\$100), the bring n buy table at our meetings (\$94) and the sale of misc merchandise (\$67). Add this all up with our Bunnings and Bingo fundraising efforts and in total we raised \$10,222.65 over the whole of 2018!



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Grants and Donations

During the year we were fortunate to receive a number of incoming donations from grants our members applied for as well as from other organisations to help us continue our work. The Baldivis Community Association presented us with \$1,000; the City of Rockingham grant of \$1,650 again covered our costs of room hire for our meetings for the year. Grill'd sent us a donation of \$100 towards our work after we held a charity bucket collection at their restaurant for a month. The Rotary Grant we received for \$1160 was used exclusively towards creating Starter Kits for the Lucy Saw Refuge. We were presented with the Clarice Ruddick Award by the CWA for our amazing work and shared in the award money of \$500.

Craft

2018 provided us with a number of opportunities to run some very popular craft events. Our Mothers Day themed Cupcake Decorating class and the Little Garden Workshops both proved to be incredibly popular and were much loved by those who attended. Later in the year we hosted button craft, Christmas craft, shopping bag creation, sewing, and yarn bombing. As our members interests change and evolve and new members arrive with different interests, it will be great to see what amazing craft sessions we can offer in 2019.

Social

We attended and ran a number of very successful social events throughout 2018. The Comedy night Fundraiser with Zonta House proved to be a great night of laughs, while the White Lakes Brewery Lunch allowed us to bring along our families to a more relaxed session. We attended and lost at the Rotary Club Quiz Night in September, and enjoyed a Ladies night out at the Rockingham Theatre for Ladies night 2. Dinner at Catalano & Co, a local restaurant, was much loved by all those who came, while the HMAS Stirling Charity High Tea allowed many members to enjoy a day out at Garden Island. The Ladies Aspire Inspire Camp at Camp Kulin was lifechanging for those who attended and with interest will hopefully be attended again in 2019. Another Quiz night for the Crew in April proved to be an excellent way for other members to bond and have fun. Add this onto our regular monthly Chill n Chat sessions and you can see we have had an abundance of opportunities for all our members to make friends and socialise!



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Guest Speakers

We had several notable guest speakers attending our meetings and chill n chat sessions throughout 2018. Angie from Zonta House came to speak to us early on in February to tell us about the work they do with women escaping from Domestic and Family Violence. As much of our work centres around creating kits for these women, it was amazing to hear how much of an impact we are having in helping these women to start new lives.

In July we heard from Owen Farmer, a local man who is head of the Western Australian Homeless Advocate, helping homeless men and women throughout our local area. It was inspiring to hear how he had changed his own life around and was now helping so many of the most vulnerable to turn their lives around.

Michelle Newman spoke to us about an initiative called Bras for Bali, collecting items to take over to help out a mountain village in Bali that does not have access to the basic necessities.

Cathy Howard spoke to us about her work in Leonora and the struggles the community are having in getting access to basic clothing for their children.

Promotional Activities

Our name has been getting out to the community in a variety of ways this past year. We ran a very successful Facebook competition to win two CWA Cookbooks, an article featuring several of our members featured in the Baldivis Living Magazine. We attended the Makybe Wellness Fair and held two stalls at Kmart in April and September collecting donations. We ran 5 Bunnings Sausage sizzles (selling over 2750 tasty sausages), and in April we marched on Parliament House contesting the Education Cuts. Finally we launched our very own website, which gives us a greater online presence, allowing members of the community who may not have Facebook, another means to find out about our organisation and the work that we do.



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Community Impact

With all of our promoting and fundraising this year, it is obvious we have improved our reach in helping the local community. Our donations to help others went far and wide, and our impact in changing lives can be felt all over Australia and the world! The Baldivis Belles have helped in a variety of different communities this year; we donated \$1,050 to Drought Angels, \$100 to CWA NSW Bega branch to help those affected by the Tathra Bushfires, Soul were given \$1,130 to help feed our local community, Care Team received \$400 to help out local foster care families. We donated \$100 worth of shopping bags to Anglicare, and sent \$200 to Leonora DCP as well as clothing donations to help them get access to basic necessities for their children. In August we sent various clothing, stationary and other items to Bali, and continued our support of Camp Kulin by providing 3 children access to this amazing Camp. When Camp Kulin put out the call for help upgrading their Kitchen, we also sent through \$1,000. We donated \$2,500 internally to the CWA of WA towards their various projects in the WA community at the end of the year.

Women's Refuge Kits

Our main focus area for our branch continues to be our support of local Women's Refuges in the provision of Kits to help women starting their lives anew. We are now supporting three different local refuges, Zonta House, Lucy Saw and Pat Thomas House. In 2018, after our amazing fundraising efforts, and our stalls at both Kmart and Bunnings and various grants received for this specific purpose, we donated an amazing 58 Kmart Starter Kits totalling a value of over \$8,700, and 43 Bunnings Home Essentials Kits valuing over \$4,859! In total that means we have donated 101 kits to the refuges. We also passed a motion during the year to include a CWA Cookbook in these kits that includes a personalised message of hope from our branch. These kits are having a massive impact on improving lives and making that transition to starting again just that little bit easier for these women.



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Our Members

Thank you to our beautiful members and volunteers for making 2018 such an amazing year. We could not have achieved any of this without you!

Anita Etridge, Annette Reid, Annette Watts, Alexandra Acton, Ash Bryant, Bree Armstrong, Catherine Shaw, Cathy and Eddie Panizza, Cathy Howard, Chantal Pringle, Deb Reid, Denise Murray, David Taylor, Edna McLaughlin, Elle Adams, Ellen Clossick, Erin Smith, Elizabeth Lourensz, Francis Hoskins, Faith Draper, Gaynor Cluett, Gail Oakley, Jade Gonzalez, Jennifer Rhodes, Jenny Gandy, Jill Murfet-Smith, Julie Senini-Taylor, Julie Wade-Graham, Jenny Ell, Jane Bennison, Josh Taylor, Kailie McGrath, Kathryn Parker, Kelly-Anne Kain, Kim Wren, Kristina Rose, Kelly Berwick, Kristy May, Kaycee Wade-Graham, Leanne Knowler, Linda and Ian Tammen, Lyn and Tony Clements, Lyn Watkins, Leah Feast, Margaret Ranson, Melissa Hutchinson, Michelle McCarthy, Michelle Pond, Michelle Hyatt, Michelle Newman, Michelle Harvey, Michelle Burgin, Miranda De Goede, Miranda Greaves and Robert von Pirch, Maxine Ambrose, Mrs Tee, Natalie Whitby, Nicole Blackburn, Paul Wheeler, Rachel Martin, Rebecca Gordon, Rebecca Ponting, Rhonda Roe, Robyn Spyra, Sarah Mylotte, Sharna Mullings, Sophie Taylor, Tania Byrnes, Tina and George Stephen, Toni Ralph, Tracie Coleman, Trish Wheeler, Tsitsi Kurangwa, Vanessa and Richard Meloy, Wini and Dan Cooke.