



VIEW Busselton Newsletter 2024

Who we are.

A valued part of The Smith Family

VIEW Clubs of Australia is a leading women's organisation and support network that empowers women to have their voices heard on issues of importance in Australian society. VIEW stands for Voice, Interests and Education of Women. Thousands of women across Australia belong to VIEW.

VIEW is the only national women's organisation solely focused on supporting and advocating for the education of young disadvantaged Australians. It is a non-religious, non-political organisation.

VIEW provides women with the opportunity to meet regularly with other women from all walks of life, establish lasting friends and help disadvantaged Australian children through supporting the work of children's charity, [The Smith Family](#). Education and leadership opportunities are also part of the VIEW offering, in addition to the chance to be purposeful in supporting community need.

Editor:

Pauline Rockley

President 30/11/24





Merry Christmas to all the Busselton members. What a momentous year we have had, or should I say, what a great five meetings for 2024, as well as our outstanding Inaugural Luncheon, which had seventy-two people attending.

It has been a pleasure to serve as President, and I thank all members for their support and friendship.

For a new club, we have done a lot. So, let us look at what has happened in 2024, and as we read over this, be immensely proud of our achievements.

Membership:

We ended the year with forty-two members. A few left us along the way for family reasons, but we also had the same number of new members. That is not bad at all for a new club.

The Committee:

Unfortunately, we lost three committee members in the first couple of months. Our Secretary Karen and Project Officer Cher, have health issues that need them to take care of themselves. It is sincerely hoped that they will both return in 2025. Our second Project Officer Wendy decided VIEW was not for her, and we wish her well in all future endeavours. Despite having these vacancies, the remaining members have worked together seamlessly to ensure our meetings, and purpose continued. They have been an excellent group of ladies to work besides, with ideas, and plans for 2025 already in motion. My sincere thanks to all of them, and I am looking forward to seeing what 2025 brings for us.

NOTE: We still have the Publicity Officer and one Project Officer vacancies. Do not be shy, come, and ask about these positions if interested or just need more information.

Meeting Attendance:

The attendance at meetings went up and down, with the lowest being only twenty-two members and the highest being over thirty. We all have lives, families, and holidays. We get sick, our families get sick, and sometimes we just do not want to go today. All of that is fine because everyone who comes to any meeting is appreciated, regardless of how many and how often.

Speakers:

June: Kate Searle, who is a wife, mum, Geologist, and an author of children's books.

July: We held our Inaugural Luncheon.

August: there was no speaker:

September: Abigail and Angela school Pastors from Geographe Primary and Cape Naturaliste High Schools explaining their role in schools.

October: Karen Bardon from ED Connect. Telling us about the key role of school volunteers and the work done with the children they support.

November: Sue Riccelli was the final speaker for the year providing valuable information about domestic and family violence. Sue is an ex-police officer, was a Local Government Councillor, and is currently employed as a manager at Anglicare.

Organised Social Events:

Our first social event outside of the meetings was an afternoon held at the Goose restaurant. This provided an opportunity for members who attended to get to know each other on a more personal level and was well-attended.

Our next event was a Christmas Sundowner, also held at the Goose, attended by twelve members. Going by the pictures they did a lot of socialising and eating. I was unfortunately unable to attend, and I also received apologies from several members, as this is a busy time of year for all of us.

The outings to the Goose have been well received and the venue seems to be suitable for all who have attended.

We plan to organise another similar event in January before recommencing our meetings in February.



Fund Raising:

Our Bring and Buy table has given over \$100 on each occasion. The variety of fresh homemade/grown goods members have bought has been fantastic, with cakes, jams, chutneys, pickles, eggs, and lemons all being sold very quickly.

I discovered that Marg Tickle makes the most delicious chocolate cake, and my son and family have loved the variety of marmalades and pickles. We will look at continuing this in 2025 although with a variation to the theme.

The Melbourne Cup luncheon with the best hat competition was well attended, and at \$5 per head, this was also a nice fundraiser. Two sweeps were run, there were lots of jokes, laughter, with genuine fun and friendships. "Bring a plate" was not a dinner plate but a platter, so yes, there was lots of delicious food. Thanks so much to Paula Taylor and her husband for making their home available for us to run this event. It was appreciated by everyone who attended. The winners of the best hat were Maria and Anne.

Maria's hat was made with newspaper from the racing pages and was so cleverly put together. Beyond fabulous is an effective way to describe this hat and deserving of the win.

Anne's hat was a classic elegant hat that matched her overall dress that day. A very Audrey Hepburn look their Anne. I guess that was to be expected as Anne had very recently been a model for the Echo Fashions on parade, which were held in Busselton.

WE HAVE SO MUCH TALENT AND CLASS AMONG OUR MEMBERS.





Member Speakers:

When times permitted, we had members stand up and tell us something about themselves. To date, this has included. Pauline Rockley, Ann Stanton, Paula Taylor, Beverly Clarke, Fiona Kealy with Joy Poustie being first cab off the rank in 2025.

Themed Meetings:

Due to our short life span in 2024, we have only had one themed General Meeting, this being our Xmas meeting. Members came dressed for Xmas, and Tonic by the Bay allowed us to decorate the tables. We were entertained by a ladies' ukelele choir "The Lady Bugs." They were fabulous and enjoyed by everyone. They finished their set with three Xmas carols, with a few, "very few" members reluctantly singing in the mic that was carried around by myself.

As I wandered around talking to members after the meeting it seemed unanimous that we want The Lady Bugs back in 2025.



Behind the scenes:

- A member's survey was given out over two meetings, to obtain feedback, and elicit ideas for speakers, social events, and fundraising.
- I prepared a skills audit for the committee to enable me to know more about the talents of the group. This included a brief Bio, and I learnt a lot around previous employment and education which confirmed for me some of the reasons we all work together so well.
- Monthly committee meetings have meant that we are able to plan, organise, share ideas, and formulate our club's future plans.
- Paula's mother who is in her nineties, has been making the most beautiful cards for all occasions for us. These have been used to thank our guest speakers and are greatly appreciated.

So, what is in store for 2025:

- ✚ In February, our speaker will be Barry House talking about community representation and what is involved.
- ✚ March we will have Jo Harrison Ward, presenting to us "Empowering Women." International Women's Week is held in March, so this will be our first themed meeting for the year. Capes VIEW has also asked me if we would like to join them during this time for an event. It might be a luncheon. Yet to be confirmed.
- ✚ April has Natasha Teakle Chairperson of the Jetty joining us.
- ✚ We (Paula) are also trying to line up someone to address Cyber Scams and AI, and I have not forgotten the request to hear what is happening with "Saltwater." Sharon Clusters is the person to contact, and I will do that later in the year.
- ✚ Our Easter meeting will be all about chocolate eggs, bunny ears, tails, and whatever Easter means to everyone. This will be discussed once we return.
- ✚ As already mentioned, the bring and buy table will continue, but not every meeting, as this means we do not think of other ways to do fundraising. The thought has been that one month it is bring and buy, such as fresh produce and plants, followed by a raffle the next month. Then maybe hats, handbags, and scarves etc. Anyway, more discussion will occur.

- + Other ideas that have crossed our minds are, in between each meeting we have a coffee meetup for those interested. The where has not been discussed at this point.
- + Another option may be to have an occasional high tea at a member's home, where we all pay \$5 and bring a "high tea plate".
- + Capes VIEW has asked me to please invite them when we have functions. They are keen to get to know us.

THE BIGGEST PLANNING NEEDED IS OUR BIRTHDAY IN JULY

On the few occasions during meetings when this has been discussed the consensus seems to be that we do not need/want something similar to our Inaugural Meeting/Lunch.

Please try and produce ideas in readiness for this discussion when we return, as the planning will need to commence early in the year.

Maybe there are a few of you who would like to get together in a small sub-committee and develop ideas to present to the committee. This is just a thought that crossed my mind as I was sitting here typing.

The committee want to ensure that it is something that is inclusive of everyone's financial circumstances.

We became aware after the fact that a few members found the cost of our inaugural lunch beyond their means, and we do not want this to happen again.

Sometimes simple is best, and less is more.

Social Media:

At the request of some members, a WhatsApp VIEW members group was started however, so far less than half have joined it. I realise that some may not want to, but also, that joining might be difficult for others. If you have WhatsApp on your phone and want me to resend you the link, please let me know. It is another quick way to communicate outside of our meetings.

We need to also develop a Facebook page, but without a Publicity Officer, this has not happened. While there may be members that could do this, they need to be on the committee, so to address this until the position is filled, I will create the page over the break, and then this can be handed over to the Publicity Officer when we get one.

Having our club on Facebook and posting information about what we do is a wonderful way of attracting new members.

In Conclusion:

I have tried to cover the year as best I can, and I apologise if I left something out that was important to you.

This has been a great exercise for me and only confirms that we have done so well for such a new club.

Finally, we will be able to sponsor our first child early next year. This is the reason we all joined and needs to remain our focus for the future of VIEW Busselton.

To maintain our focus, we also need to ensure that we continue to have the funds every year, which support the children we will sponsor. We need collectively to develop innovative ways to fundraise, to remember to pay our \$10 each month or where possible, pay this upfront for the year, and we need to wear our badges at all meetings with pride.

I will include some photos taken at our last meeting on the final page. The biggest thanks possible to all of you for all your support, friendship, and camaraderie.

Pauline Rockley President.





VIEW

Busselton