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*VIEW is a national women's organization with 16,000 members across Australia. Members are connected by a common purpose to improve the life outcomes of Australian children and young people in need. VIEW exclusively supports The Smith Family by sponsoring the education of young Australians experiencing disadvantage.*

*VIEW's supportive network helps women build lasting friendships, empowered and connected by the common purpose to support The Smith Family and make a difference to Australian children experiencing disadvantage.*



## Message from our President Pauline Rockley



November marked our final meeting for 2025, and with Christmas just around the corner, I would like to sincerely thank all members for their support throughout the year. I hope you enjoy a joyful Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Our club has continued to grow in many ways. We now have 50 members and proudly support two Learning for Life students. Attendance at our monthly socials has increased, and it is clear to the committee that the social aspect of VIEW is greatly valued. Friendships have blossomed, and each month the room is filled with smiling faces and lively conversation.

Planning for 2026 is already well underway. Our Programme Officer has arranged an exciting line-up of speakers, socials, and events, including another fashion parade. We will be looking for models, so please consider joining in and “strutting your stuff” on the catwalk!

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at our first meeting of the year, when we will elect the committee to guide our club through 2026. It has been a genuine pleasure to share time with each and every one of you. The friendship, support and encouragement I’ve received have created many memorable and meaningful moments.

Yours in friendship

Pauline Rockley

## Committee Update

Our very first AGM will be held in January 2026 when all committee positions will be vacated. The VIEW Charter states that any member wishing to join the committee must nominate for one of the following committee roles. President, Vice President, Secretary, Asst Secretary, Treasurer, Asst Treasurer, Delegate, Program Officer 1, Program Officer 2 or Publicity Officer.

Whilst we all lead busy lives, our Committee members commit to attending as many monthly committee meetings as possible. Our 2025 Committee Members have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and whole-heartedly encourage other members to give it a go! If you are interested and have not already submitted a nomination form you can do this on the day at the AGM.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. See you in 2026!



Back Row L-R Kath Green, Ann Stanton, Karen Gaillard (Vice President), Pauline Rockley (President), Robyn Robertson (Secretary), Paula Taylor



## Our Meetings

Our meetings are on the third Thursday of each month and feature a guest speaker, some formalities and some time to socialize. Members meet at 10am for a 10:30am meeting start and to keep things interesting, we sometimes have a theme to our meetings which is sourced from calendar events like International Women's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, Christmas etc. The theme will be supported with a suggestion for attire and we encourage you all to join in. Generally, some members stay after the meeting to share a bite to eat and what can I say, the more the merrier!

On **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August** our General Meeting was well attended by members and we welcomed 6 new guests, despite the wintry weather being experienced in Busselton. Everyone was incredibly impressed by the raw stories told by our very own Barb Noble of how she managed to bring up a family whilst having a 66-year career in the legal profession in an era when equal opportunity was just a dream. The "bring and buy" table again proved popular and the meeting finished on a high note with our President, Pauline, announcing that we now had enough in our coffers to start sponsoring our second child. After the meeting a number of members stayed on at Tonic and socialised over lunch.



On **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September** we hosted our General Meeting at Tonic by the Bay where we welcomed one new member and 7 guests. There was a buzz around the room when we heard that that we had signed up to sponsor our second Smith Family Learning for Life child and in the glow of this buzz many members enthusiastically volunteered to be "buddies" to assist our guests at future meetings. After which our guest speaker, Gizelle Salame a local Dance and Movement Therapist, entertained and educated us with how dance and movement can be used to invoke empathy and connection. Gizelle put a smile on all our faces when she persuaded everyone to join in some interactive dance exercises. After the meeting a many of the attendees stayed on at Tonic to enjoy lunch and socialize.







The October General Meeting of the Busselton VIEW club held at Tonic on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October** was extremely well attended by members and guests alike. Maybe everyone wanted to get back to their “normal” lives after the frenetic activity associated with school holidays. The room was a sea of pink in a show of support for all the people living with Breast Cancer! Guests were well entertained and educated by our self-confessed, “unhinged” guest speaker, Kate Grainger, from local Breast Cancer Support group, the Shitty Titty Committee. Kate spoke passionately about her personal experience of suffering a breast cancer diagnosis, whilst pregnant in her 30’s, and also shared the powerful stories of some of the beautiful and incredibly brave friends that she has made in her subsequent journey of discovery and recovery. After the meeting some of our members stayed on at Tonic and enjoyed the sunshine whilst socializing over lunch.



On **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November** we met at Tonic for our final meeting 2025. The Christmas spirit was channelled by Christmas themed raffle items, “Bring & Buy”, decorations and especially all the fabulous outfits worn by our many wonderful ladies. Our guest speaker was the inspiring James Jarvis, CEO of Busselton Hospice Care Inc, who spoke thoughtfully about his own personal journey and how it led him to Busselton Hospice Care. James alluded to the concept popularised by Simon Sinek that “it’s not what you do, it’s why you do it” which argues that people are sometimes more inspired by the purpose, belief, or “why” behind actions than by the actions themselves. Certainly, food for thought as we approach the holiday period which can a bittersweet time for many. After the meeting over 20 ladies stayed for lunch and the convivial chatter continued.





Upcoming Meetings

Date	Venue	Details
15 <sup>th</sup> January	Tonic by the Bay	AGM and guest speaker is a Perth VIEW member who enjoys oversea bike tours with minimal luggage.
19 <sup>th</sup> February	Tonic by the Bay	A local Busselton resident who has recently published an autobiography.
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Tonic by the Bay	Celebrating International Women’s Month where the meeting will be followed by our annual Sustainable Fashion Show. Please put your hand up to be one of our models on the day.

Social Events

Whilst the primary function of the Busselton VIEW Club is to raise money to support the educational needs of disadvantaged children through frameworks provided by the Smith Family, we are also committed to providing a safe and friendly atmosphere where women from all walks of life can connect and establish new friendships. Whether you are a long-term Busselton resident or a blow-in like myself, it is always good to meet new friends and enrich your social sphere. So don’t be shy and make the most of these opportunities! If you have a suggestion for an event, please share it with a committee member who will ensure it is considered.





On **Wednesday 3rd September** the Busselton VIEW Club met at Amelia Park Tavern for our monthly sundowner. Not sure whether it was the venue or maybe it was the wonderful spring weather that encouraged such a good turnout but keep it up ladies and make the most of these opportunities to socialize outside of our meetings!



On **Wednesday 1st October** a small number of us met for some drinks at the Fire Station in downtown Busselton. Whilst our numbers were small, due to many members having school holiday family commitments, the conversation was still hilarious!



On **Thursday 30 October** we met for morning tea at the eclectic South West Bottega and there was such a good turn out that we had to spread across 2 tables. Not sure whether it was the delicious food but the conversation was sparkling and there was much laughter to be had. It really is a joy to behold how the friendships between our ladies have developed over the last year







On **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November** we enjoyed a fabulous Melbourne Cup where we had frocks, hats, food, raffles, the big race, winners, grinners, smiles, laughter and oh so much chatter. Thanks to Paula for being such an excellent hostess, to Keith for his excellent taste in hats and to all you ladies who made it such a great day! For those of you who couldn't make it, you were missed!



On **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November** Pauline, Paula, Robyn and myself thoroughly enjoyed ourselves when joined the ladies from Capes VIEW for Christmas lunch at Lamonts. The food was delicious and we were highly entertained by the Odd Bunch performing an assortment of Christmas tunes.



It's good to remember that VIEW not only gives us a chance to connect with ladies in our own club but also offers opportunities to meet with ladies from other clubs at events like this or if you wish to go national you may wish to add the 2027 National Convention in Geelong to your calendar!

On **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December** over 20 of us met for morning tea at Anniebrook Farm Café where the delicious homemade fare promoted much amiable chatter and a little retail therapy at the Farm Shop completed the experience. Think we may have to revisit this one!





On **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December** 25 ladies met for Christmas Lunch at the Deck and a fat time was had by all. Barb Noble won the best Christmas outfit by a country mile and Jan Bott finally received her member badge after a marathon wait. Our laughter overpowered any negative vibes at neighbouring tables and it was so lovely to see the friendships that have developed over the past year. Ladies we really have set the bar high for next year!



## Upcoming Social Events

Members will be notified by email and / or WhatsApp about any upcoming social events but one to watch out for is an early January outing to the Robertson farm to pick mulberries and enjoy an alfresco morning tea. Details will be confirmed in the new year.





## Communications

Information pertaining to club business like meeting details, minutes, agendas and Smith Family information will always be sent to members by email from the Secretary.

To promote the group and attract new membership we regularly post to Facebook, where we now have over 215 followers. Ideally, we would like all of our members to “follow” us on Facebook so that they can observe and comment on how this channel is being managed. We are all a part of this team; every voice deserves to be heard and any suggestions will be considered.

Social communications between members are via our WhatsApp group and if you have not already joined this group, please approach a committee member who will help you get started. This group is a self-managed private chatline that allows members to send messages to the group. Use it if you want to find a coffee pal, require a dog walker or share something that is on your mind. Like most groups it will only be as good as its members, so we encourage respectful behaviour when using it.

## Fund Raising

Whilst most of our fundraising is based on the meeting entry fee, we are constantly looking for new ideas as to how we can raise money without asking too much from our members in terms of time and money. If you have any ideas, please raise it at a meeting or approach a committee member who will ensure the idea is considered.

In 2025 our club raised over \$6K from a combination of our meeting donations, raffles, Bring and Buy and other activities. This generated a net profit of almost \$4K after paying for 2 children and a Digital Learning Package. So well done ladies!

## 2026 Membership Fees

Membership fees are due in January or before the first meeting that you attend in 2026. As we have added a January General Meeting to our 2026 schedule, the upfront Meeting Donation will increase from \$100 to \$110. The Annual Membership fee is \$20 and new Members will have to pay the additional one-off \$20 Joining Fee. We would prefer that you pay the required fee by a bank transfer to our bank account with your name in the narrative, so it can be processed by the Treasurer prior to the meeting, and our front desk ladies are not overwhelmed processing payments at the meeting. As our books are closed for 2025, please don't pay until January so that these payments do not impact our 2025 accounts and email [busseltonview@gmail.com](mailto:busseltonview@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

**Account Name** Busselton VIEW **BSB** 633 000 **Account Number** 219648508

To further complicate matters the Annual Membership Fee and Joining Fee will both increase from \$20 to \$30 in March 2026, so we advise you to get in before this increase occurs. For clarification both these fees are set at a national level and are transferred directly to The Smith Family on payment.





## Learning for Life Program

Most of the money raised by our club is channelled into the Smith Family *Learning for Life Program* and there have been discussions at recent meetings about how this money is used. For those members that missed these discussions here is a brief summary of how it all works.

The Smith Family's Learning for Life program is an evidence-based program that is successful in achieving long-term outcomes for young people experiencing disadvantage. By providing targeted support that begins early in a child's life and continues throughout their first two decades, Learning for Life keeps students engaged at every stage of their education by providing:

- financial support to help families meet the cost of school essentials like uniforms, books, and excursions;
- guidance and advice from a dedicated Learning for Life Coordinator to make sure students and their families have the practical and emotional support they need throughout their education; and
- ongoing access to other Smith Family programs

When our club sponsors a child we make an annual commitment to this child for the rest of their schooling, which equates to \$694 per annum whilst in kindergarten to Year 10 and then \$984 per annum for Year 11 and 12. The Smith Family distribute the money to the child's parents who are required to report back to The Smith Family as to how it was spent. The Smith Family reports the following statistics for children in the program:

- 83.8% average school attendance rate for high school students who participated in Learning for Life in 2021
- 83% of Learning for Life students in Year 12 were employed or in study 18 months after graduating from high school.

## Our Children

Our second sponsored child is an 11-year-old boy called Kawhi who lives in NSW and will be heading off to high school next year. Kawhi lives with his mum, 2 younger brothers, baby sister and step dad, who he calls dad as he has been around since Kawhi was 1. Kawhi is crazy about Rugby League and hopes one day to play NRL. Fiona Kealley has volunteered to communicate with Kawhi on the behalf of the club and we are waiting on Kawhi's response to her letter.

We have sent both Joaquim and Kawhi \$50 gift vouchers to help them enjoy the holiday break.





## Members Corner

This section of the newsletter is devoted to members who wish to share their stories with the club. Whilst some members will be happy to present to the group at a General Meeting, others may just wish to send us their written story and we will work with you to get it ready for publishing. Sharing your story may help you connect with other members who have similar, shared or crossover experiences that you were unaware of. Nothing better than a bit of “remember when...” “with a person who 5 minutes before, was a complete stranger!

Our first story is from Barb Noble who was the speaker at our August General Meeting and this is a summary of how Barb inspired us.

### Barb Noble



*Barb aged 16, 1956*

Barb Noble was born 1940 in Melbourne, Victoria. Between 1954 to 1956 Barb attended MacRobertson Girls High School, a selective entry school for high achieving students. Barb left school when she was 16 years old, much to the chagrin of her mother, to start her first job as a legal secretary at a Melbourne law firm. When Barb was 18, she met and married her first husband and very soon found herself to be 24 years old and working full time with 3 young children. By the age of 34, Barb had a comfortable position in an established legal firm and plenty of practical experience but frustration with some of her more credentialed male colleagues made her decide

to enrol in Law at Monash University as a mature aged student. For 4 years Barb juggled study, work and family life. I feel exhausted just thinking about the pressure she must have been under. It was all worth it when she graduated from Monash with her law degree in 1979. Around the same time her first marriage broke down.



*Graduate Barb with her 85 year-old grandmother 1976*



*Wedding of Barb and Stan in 1984*

Shortly after graduation Barb set up her own practice called Collins & Collins where the second Collins was only added to avoid the stigma / prejudice associated with a sole female practice. In 1981 Barb met her second husband Stan and after a long-distance relationship, upped stakes and moved to Perth to be with Stan. In Perth Barb became the head of the Family Law Section of the Legal Aid Commission, where between 1983 to 1988 she supervised 6 lawyers, as well as performing her own case work. In 1988 Barb and Stan moved to Busselton and between 1988 to 2022 Barb worked at Shaddicks, where she became a Principal Partner before





tapering off into a consultancy role. In 2022 Barb retired after a rewarding 66-year career in the male dominated legal profession, in an era when gender discrimination was a fact of life and equal opportunity a dirty word. Barb credits her great grandmother, who lived to 102, her grandmother and her mother for giving her the drive and fearlessness required to succeed and advises all women that education and financial independence are critical to being able to chase your dreams and make your own choices. Barb is still married to Stan today and they are enjoying their retirement in Busselton. Whilst Barb's career was a huge part of her life, she freely admits that her personal legacy is her family of 3 children, 9 grandchildren and so far, 11 great grandchildren. Barb Noble we are so proud of your achievements and thank you for sharing your story with us!



## VIEW National Convention 2025 from Robyn and Paula



575 VIEW members from around Australia attended the 57<sup>th</sup> VIEW National Convention to celebrate 65 years of VIEW. We were part of the 23 strong Western Australian contingent and throughout the whole convention we felt a fabulous connection with the other VIEW women enjoying friendship, learning, celebration and camaraderie.

The beautiful and appropriate rendition of Helen Reddy's "I AM WOMAN", immediately silenced the 575 chatting ladies and brought them to attention. During the days the speakers covered a wide range of subjects, radiated inspiration and stirred our hearts and minds. Our evenings were filled with captivating entertainment, good food, wine and meaningful friendships were formed.

Whilst *what happens at Convention stays at Convention*, we wholeheartedly encourage other members of our club to consider going to the next convention in Geelong in 2027. We will both be dusting off our glad rags and ready to kick our heels up again.







## In Remembrance



It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Win McGill, 8/2/1933 – 29/10/2025. Win not only met the expectations of her generation, she exceeded them! She was a teacher, leader, artist, carer and inspiration to those fortunate to know her over the course of her nine-decade life. Win was a great friend and almost member of the Busselton VIEW Club and she will be fondly remembered for the lovely gifts and cards that she made for our many guest speakers. Our thoughts are with her daughter Paula, who we are so lucky to have as our Program Officer.



## New Members

Congratulations to the following members were presented their club badges at recent General Meetings. Apologies for any members who are still waiting on their name badges. Unfortunately, this service is subject to delays, outside of our control, so we are starting a competition as to who has waited the longest for their badge. So far, the winning member waited for 6 months!



**August Sally Delroy and Faye Mildenhall**



**September Jill Lumbus**



**November Kerry Laidley**



**December Paula for Win McGill, Marilyn Eaton and Jan Bott**

## Birthday Celebrations....every month some of us get a little older....



**September Jeanette Craggs**



**October Robyn White, Paula Taylor and Eileen Lamb**



**November Julie Avery, Carolinn Parmenter, Ann Stanton, Elizabeth Horne**



**December Ann Mitchell**





## Busselton VIEW Club thanks....

Tonic by the Bay for providing the venue for our monthly meetings

## Contact Details



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<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61569459233708>



<https://chat.whatsapp.com/ISty3JDLOX52IZkEif1EYB>



<https://instagram.com/BusseltonVIEW/>

*Well that's a wrap for our Christmas edition, so ladies stay safe, be kind to yourselves and others. A very Merry Christmas to us all and may 2026 bring even more joy and happiness!*

