

Chance made us
colleagues but the fun
and laughter we share
made us friends

Exec NEWS

FROM THE IWA EXECUTIVE
APRIL 2026



Time for change

From President Clare

Our theme this month is 'Time for Change' and we are seeing changes all around us at the moment. Seasonal *changes* bring the start of cooler temperatures in our Southern States and regions and hopefully and end to the rain in the North. We are digging deep for any spare *change* as we get out and about for our 2 for 10 walks or sponsor someone who is walking for our National Project. Our Clubs and Districts are preparing for a *change* of committee.



During March I have visited some more of our Districts around the Country. It is an absolute pleasure to be part of your District meetings and learn a little bit more about what you are all getting up to. I have seen some new pull up banners and tablecloths which have been purchased, and heard first-hand about your Facebook campaigns and other promotional activities covered by the membership grants. I have a few more Districts still to visit in the coming weeks, which I am very much looking forward to.



The new Inner Wheel Club of Canberra continues to take positive steps forward. It is exciting to be part of this process. Even more exciting is the news that this club will fall into the newly defined boundaries of District A54.



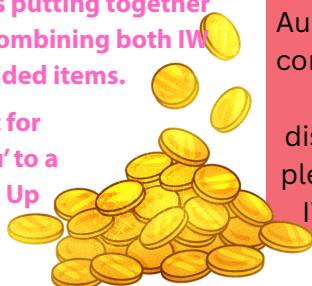
Our **'Leading by Example'** forums on Zoom have been very well received. Even those with very short advance notice were well attended, and I want to thank you all for that. We have held three so far - one for District Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and Junior Vice Chairmen, one for District Secretaries and one for District Treasurers. We shared tips and ideas in a relaxed environment, and I have been very pleased with the feedback. We will plan a further forum for each of these groups during May. In the meantime, we will be running one for our Non-Districted Club Executive soon. We have been approached by Clubs in A60 and A70 for donations from our Disaster Fund. Both these requests were carefully assessed and subsequently agreed to. In A60, these donations will provide support in the form of vouchers to go to families in the Harcourt area impacted by recent bushfires. Bendigo IW Club which is nearby is organising an event and will provide a meal, entertainment and care bags. Local businesses are also getting involved, and we wish them well for the evening. In A70 the support has gone to Rotary S.A. who are organising a Pioneer Adventure Day on 3rd May for farming families and rural communities who continue to struggle with the drought conditions. Last year, we contributed to a load of hay to these regions. During the distribution of the donated fodder, volunteers reported heartbreaking stories of hardship, depression and even families surviving on one meal a day. This Adventure Day will offer a glimmer of hope to so many desperate families. A vast range of services will be provided and the support we have given is immensely appreciated. You can read more about the day here: <https://rotarypioneeradventureday.au/>



Speaking of change - we are in the process of making changes to our merchandise page on the IWA website.

Merchandise Officer Wendy is putting together some great specials for you combining both IWA Branded and Non Branded items.

These specials might just be the perfect gift for that special person, or just to say 'thank you' to a committee member who has really Stepped Up this year.



Disaster Fund top up - can your club help?

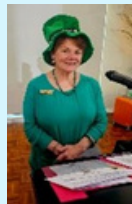
You will have read about the donations Inner Wheel Australia has recently made to support some of our communities to get back on their feet following one disaster or another. As you consider the distribution of the funds you have raised this year, please consider whether you can send some to the IWA Disaster Fund. Use Form 25 on the website.

From Vice President Yvonne

Hello again, here in Melbourne, autumn is settling in, bringing cooler nights and crisp, misty mornings that often change to beautiful sunny days. If you're planning to join us for the IWA Changeover, be sure to pack some winter woollies!

The news around the world continues to be very upsetting, with so many innocent people caught in the middle of conflict. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all, and we only hope that peace will come very soon.

March was an especially busy month for the IWA Executive. Our wonderful President, Clare organized a series of Zoom meetings with District and Club Executives, to explore how IWA can better support our members into the future.



I was fortunate to act as MC for our A62 Friendship Day, hosted by my Club of Warragul. The theme was a Travel Expo, with Warragul proudly showcasing Ireland—hence the green outfit! It was a fantastic day, with all ten clubs representing different countries, while sharing in fun and friendship.

Easter is upon us and is one of my favorite times of the year. Each Good Friday, our extended family gathers in a park to spend a special day together—children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, sisters, nieces, and more. It is a day always filled with games, laughter, plenty of food, and nonstop chatting.



The invitations & registration form for the IWA Changeover are on their way out, and we look forward to welcoming as many members as possible for what promises to be an enjoyable occasion. Kate Luxford (IWC Cranbourne) is looking forward to assisting anyone who needs accommodation, so please don't hesitate to contact her.

I wish you all a very happy Easter,
VP Yvonne



From Treasurer Jenni



Hi Ladies

April is upon us and lots of you will be busy organising your IWA Walk Two for Ten activities. Good Luck this year. We already have enough funds for one grant this year!!

Can we raise another \$130,000 to be able to present three grants this year??

At our recent Zoom forum with District Treasurers and interested members, we discussed some of the forms and have been trying to make them more user friendly. It is a work in progress and we welcome your feedback. New forms will be on the website in the next few weeks to help make advising IWA National Project Coordinator and IWA Treasurer easier – we hope!

Please try to get your walks and events finalised by the end of May so that we can have figures and funds in the bank before the end of the financial year – 30/06/2026. It is coming very quickly!

Take care
Jenni

From Immediate Past President Julie



Summer has finally disappeared and Autumn is here. We wait patiently for the change in season in northern Australia. With the arrival of Easter, we are reminded that change can be both beautiful and meaningful. The photo shows our resident Curlews—Arthur and Martha—with their twins, B1 and B2, born just a week ago. They are a joy to watch, as the parents gently guide their young through the basics of life—how to crouch when danger is near, scramble across paths, and forage for food.

A beautiful reminder of nature’s quiet lessons in care, protection, and growth.



This season encourages us to reconnect with ourselves, each other and with our communities. We have seen wonderful photos on Facebook of members out in their community engaging in the “Walk 2 for 10”. This is our National Project.

In our clubs, we continue to see inspiring examples of growth and renewal. The use of Facebook advertising and TV promotions, along with teardrop and pullup banners have led the way with this year’s Membership Grant Submissions. Like the changing season, we are constantly evolving, learning and adapting to new ways of promoting Inner Wheel.

New friendships are formed, ideas blossom, and our shared commitment to service strengthens throughout our great nation. It’s heartwarming and inspiring to see friendships blossoming in Canberra and Wonthaggi. Coffee mornings are always welcome!

Wishing you all a joyful and meaningful Easter.

Julie

From Secretary Sharon



April derived from the Latin word aperire ("to open"), is traditionally throughout the world widely considered a time of change, of renewal and re-birth, of nurturing and cultivating.

For example:

Easter and Passover: Frequently falling in April, these holidays symbolize resurrection, new life, and liberation

Springtime in the North: In North America, Europe, and parts of Asia, April is a time of rebirth, warmer weather, and longer days.

Autumn in the South: Conversely, in the Southern Hemisphere (e.g., Australia, Argentina), April falls during autumn, signifying a change in leaf colour and cooler temperatures.

"Slash-and-burn Moon" (Finland): In Finnish, April is huhtikuu, referring to the time when land was prepared for farming

"Month of Plants" (Slovenia): Historically known as mali traven, when plants start growing.

Cherry Blossom Season (Japan): April is highly significant for the appearance of cherry blossoms (sakura), representing fleeting beauty and new beginnings.



And for fun, who can forget April Fool’s Day?



So how can we in our Inner Wheel World signify April, what changes can we make, how can we align ourselves to new beginnings. For some organisations April is tabbed as a “Bridge Month” a time to reset following the first quarter with the focus being on innovation as a mindset encouraging employees to challenge their assumptions and themselves. Can we forge new beginnings and experiment with new approaches for the future of our organisation, is it time for us to shed that old grey coat and wear a bright new one? Let’s try ladies, let’s create a new springtime for Inner Wheel, together all things are possible.

With Kind thoughts and best wishes to you all for a beautiful Easter

IWA Secretary

Shazie

