

Newsletter Volume 1, 2026

Dear Members,

As President of the Women's Museum of Australia, I am honoured to reflect on the incredible events we have hosted and the meaningful impact they have had on our community. Most recently, the **International Women's Day Breakfast 2026**

highlighted the power of collaboration, advocacy, and celebration. This event brought together inspiring discussions and networking opportunities, creating a unique platform for businesses and individuals to connect and share knowledge.

We were privileged to feature **Rae Johnston, an award-winning Australian STEM journalist and broadcaster**, whose remarkable journey and insights inspired all in attendance. It was a moment to celebrate women's achievements, promote gender equality, and strengthen ties within our community.

The breakfast also served as a vital fundraising opportunity, ensuring the sustainability of the museum and its operations. The funds raised will help us preserve the stories that shaped our world and provide educational experiences for thousands of visitors, including local schoolchildren.

As we look to the future, I invite you to join us in continuing this important work. Your support—whether through financial contributions, volunteering, or advocacy—ensures that the Women's Museum of Australia remains a vibrant, inspiring, and educational space for all. Together, we can create a more inclusive and equitable society, where women thrive and communities rise.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our mission. Let us continue to give generously, knowing that every contribution is an intentional multiplication of opportunities and support for women.

Sincerely, Karen Eva-Stirk, President, Women's Museum of Australia and Old Gaol



A BIG thank you to our sponsors for the IWD Breakfast:

Lights N Fanz R Us, Povey Stirk, Plaza Wellbeing Centre, Alice's Ultimate Beauty, Robyn Lambley, Mad Harrys, A Home Like Alice, Priceline, Swank Shoes, Red Kangaroo Books, CWA Alice Springs, Double Tree by Hilton, Lisa Hatz Photography, Metal Therapy, Meegan Sullivan Art.



Northern Territory Government



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TRANSPORTABLE BUILDINGS

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST 2026 MADIGAN'S AT THE ALICE SPRINGS DESERT PARK



On Saturday 7th March we were involved with **Equal Futures Fare**, another IWD event. The Organising Committee consisted of 8CCC radio, WOSSCA, Catholic Care NT, CAWLS, MHACA, MCSCA, Rotary Alice Springs, Alice Springs Town Council.

This was a community event held to raise awareness of the services for women, talk about the theme 'Balancing the Scales'. There was a free BBQ, food and drink vans, musical and dance entertainment, stalls, jumping castle, face painting and more! Another successful event.

There has been **new air conditioners** installed in our HerStory archive, Curators Office, storeroom where a lot of textiles and more temperature fragile items are stored. Future grant applications will provide us with an **archival quality compactus** for even more appropriate and secure storage of our collection and refreshed metal interpretive panels throughout the main museum and the women's and men's cell blocks.

We have had members renew, some new, new volunteers—a big thank you to Robyn and Linda and some generous donations too. **Ghan tours, Fun For Over 50's and some school tours start up from the end of this month.**

The committee thank you for your continued support.



Roses galore!

Volunteer, **Ross Peterkin**, has been incredibly devoted to our gardens and lawns for such a long time. The wet weather we have had since February has proven challenging with outdoor events planned and grass up to our knees! Ross has been in almost daily digging out Buffel grass and mowing our expansive lawns with a domestic mower. We are in awe of his work and have so much appreciation for him. **Thank you Ross for all of your hard work, you are a vital part of the museum and our grounds maintenance!**



Early February before the museum opened to the public, we had a **working bee** to remove items to the tip and deep clean the women's museum (old kitchen) and women's cell block. It felt really good to start the year off to a fresh clean start. Thank you to our President, Karen Eva-Stirk, committee members Annie Tangey and Julie Sutherland, Meegan and Husband Owen, John, Felicity and Wendy.



Grey-Nomads for On-Site Caretakers 2026-2027

We are on the look out for people interested in being **caretakers for the museum**. You get to set up on site in the grounds of the Old Gaol in return for shop sitting, grounds maintenance, general handy person jobs and adhoc things as they come up. Close to the town centre and lots of facilities, restaurants, supermarkets and more.

Register your interest by emailing Meegan at **admin@pioneerwomen.com.au** and we can send you the 'position description'.



ANZAC Day 25th April will see the museum selling **ANZAC biscuits** at the march through Alice Springs. Based on a Scottish recipe using rolled oats and other ingredients that didn't spoil easily—sugar, plain flour, coconut, butter, golden syrup or treacle, bicarbonate of soda and boiling water—the Anzac biscuit that we know today was invented. Our team of volunteers and staff make the standard recipe and a gluten free version for sale.

Searchlight Women of WWII exhibition is on display with interpretive panels, video's of Dorothy, Phyllis and Helen who operated the searchlights guiding friendly planes into land in Darwin when Darwin was being bombed.

New fundraiser ideas!

We have put our thinking caps on to brainstorm some more fundraising ideas. So far the idea of movies under the stars, car boot sales, a vintage car show and silent movie to celebrate the 100th anniversary re-enactment of Australia's first commercial Transcontinental Passenger Service, trivia night under the stars, murder mystery dinners in the men's cells and 2 art competitions. Watch our Facebook page for developments.

Old Gaol Gift Shop restock



The start of 2026 has seen visitors from Switzerland, Norway, France, Germany, Canada, USA, Aussies and local Alice Springs residents. Stock has been shifting and its time to restock our books, stubby coolers, Indigenous printed designed gift items and introduce new Australiana postcards and Indigenous resin earrings which I think will be popular both for travelers and Alice locals alike. **Given the crazy wet weather we will also be stocking stunning Indigenous printed umbrellas!**



IMPORTANT LINKS



Facebook: www.facebook.com/WMoAus



Website: www.wmoa.com.au



Instagram: www.instagram.com/wmoa_alicesprings/

Opening times

**Tuesday to
Saturday**

10 am until 3 pm

**Last entry
2.30 pm**



Give Now is the platform we have chosen for **making donations** an easy and smooth process. Simply click on the QR code to be taken straight to the Give Now site. See how much has been already raised, select the Donation button, choose One-time or Monthly and select your donation amount. Follow the steps from there to be emailed your tax receipt. **Remember that all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.**

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