

CWA for SHN 21st May 2018 - “Local Leaders”

“Highlands women add their voices”

The talents, knowledge and decision-making skills of CWA members have been put to the test this month. Eight hundred members from every part of the state have met in Armidale at the AGM and Conference. Each branch can send two delegates to this annual conference. The Wollondilly Group was led by Mrs Jennifer Blinkhorn, the Group President and member of the Southern Highlands Evening branch.

The event runs over five days, and includes educational workshops and tours, usually at least one has an agricultural focus.

Bowral branch proposed a motion relating to the full Murray- Darling basin. This stimulated much discussion by the members affected across this whole area of the Basin, and was accepted unanimously.

These discussions produce thoughtful debate with so many women present from so very many areas of rural life. All these motions for the policy decisions had been fully discussed in each branch, so the delegates, representing their branches, were well informed. The CWA takes its advocacy role very seriously and many of the successful motions from the conference will shape the association’s lobbying efforts for the year ahead.

The various competitions were judged and the state winners announced. The display of these projects, international books and dolls, publicity books, and handicrafts are of great interest. Virginia O’Neill of Moss Vale branch was awarded first place in The Land Section, for her hand weaving.

CWA is the largest women’s organisation in Australia and does have an effective voice in government for the well being of women and families in rural Australia. Contact your local CWA branch for more information on the matters debated.

Pat Hughes

Wollondilly Group Publicity officer (the Highlands)