

## **SHN for 18<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2018 “Local Leaders”**

### **“CWA a force for Education of women”**

Alligator weed, Pomegranates, Owls, Wild Deer, Orchids, Poland and Endometriosis. What do these things have in common? Nothing, except they are all areas of study and information for members in CWA branches throughout NSW in 2018.

CWA was formed in 1922, a time when children in rural areas were not receiving the same standards for learning as in the city schools. Correspondence education had started in 1916, but largely the responsibility for education for children fell on the parents. Many parents in these areas also had poor educational standards.

Over the years, with its ever-widening interests in aspects of rural education, CWA has broadened experiences both in its communities, and within its membership. Opportunities are provided for women to learn about various aspects of agriculture, the environment, other countries, and the more homely activities of cooking, sewing and handicrafts.

Topic areas are set annually for suggestions for themes, speakers, and experiences. In 2018, these are Country of Study- Poland, Flora- Orchids, Fauna- Owls, Primary Product- Pomegranate, Foes- wild deer, and Alligator weed.

At State conference each year, the medical research area for funding is selected by the members. For up to the next three years, endometriosis will be supported by CWA of NSW. Lyme disease has received this funding support for the past three years. These conditions are not listed as study topics, but members do gain an understanding from guest speakers and their own research.

In a future column information will be included on the historical and continuing interest CWA has for education in communities.

Pat Hughes