



## MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**9 December 2015**

### **Santa's sack will be jam-packed with sweets and savouries from the CWA market stall at the Sydney Living Museums' 2015 Christmas Fare**

One woman has pieces of apricot stuck in her hair, another's hands are stained almost permanently purple from hand-cut beetroot – and there's the distinct scent of marmalade and strawberries in the air!

In homes from North Sydney to Surry Hills, Bondi Junction to Birchgrove, the ladies of the Sydney City Branch of the Country Women's Association (CWA) of NSW have been working to craft 1,200 special jars in over 40 flavours of some of the nation's finest homemade jams, chutneys and relishes.

And all of them will be for sale at Sydney Living Museums' Christmas Fare, held on Thursday 17 December from 4pm to 9pm at the historic Hyde Park Barracks Museum.

'We reckon there's no jam in the world that's better than CWA jam,' said Silvana Griffin, President of the CWA of NSW Sydney City Branch. 'You know it will be great. It's the perfect little treat this Christmas season.'

Also for sale will be hand sewn Christmas tree decorations and quality, time-honoured CWA merchandise including tea towels, aprons and gift packs, along with the renowned *Jam Drops and Marble Cake Cook Book*, jam-packed with over 60 years of award-winning recipes.

And best of all you can enjoy these long-lasting pantry staples over the holidays and months to come knowing the money raised from sales goes directly to those in our community who really need it. CWA Sydney City Branch funds raised at the market will go towards education grants for NSW families in need and the Association's 2015/16 medical research project, Lyme Disease.

Challenging the CWA stereotype, the Sydney City Branch is an active group of 40+ professional women, ranging in ages from 25 to 65, who meet monthly in the Sydney CBD.

Sydney City Branch offers women of all ages a diverse range of opportunities. There's how-tos on baking the perfect scone, yes, and the chance to meet like-minded women; but you can also get stuck into community projects, campaign on issues affecting all Australians and fundraise for educational scholarships as well as for health and medical research.

'With the advent of popular TV cookery programs, gourmet chefs and the rejuvenation of 'granny-skills', there is increasing community interest in Australian-made, fresh local produce, home cooking, preserving and handicrafts,' Mrs Griffin said.

'Along with reviving these traditions, CWA raises awareness and drives change around vital community issues including sustainability and the importance of eating locally by supporting Australian farmers and produce.'

The CWA of NSW is committed to promoting self-sufficiency and valuable life-skills and also publishes a range of renowned cookbooks suitable for beginners to experts.

Follow us on social media for recipes and more information

Instagram: @cwasydneycitybranch and #cwascb

Facebook: CWA Sydney City Branch or go to the Association's website:

[www.cwaofnsw.org.au](http://www.cwaofnsw.org.au)

CWA Sydney City Branch will be at Sydney Living Museums' Christmas Fare at Hyde Park Barracks Museum, Queens Square, Macquarie Street, Sydney on Thursday 17 December 2015, from 4pm to 9pm.

---

#### **For more information or comment contact:**

##### **Jessica Best**

Publicity Officer

CWA Sydney City Branch

Mobile 0402417609

Email [jessica.e.best@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.e.best@gmail.com)

##### **Silvana Griffin**

President

CWA Sydney City Branch

Mobile 0405 000 411

Email [silvana.griffin@bigpond.com](mailto:silvana.griffin@bigpond.com)

##### **Jessica Whipp**

Secretary

CWA Sydney City Branch

Mobile 0423522958

Email [cwasydneysecretary@gmail.com](mailto:cwasydneysecretary@gmail.com)

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- The Country Women's Association (CWA) of Australia is the largest women's organisation in Australia with a membership of approximately 25,500 in 1500 branches around the country.
- In this state, CWA of NSW was established in 1922 by rural women in Crookwell.
- In 2015 there are over 10,000 country and city members in over 300 branches committed to service and improving life for rural women and families.
- Sydney City Branch meets on the third Monday evening each month from 6pm-8pm in Sydney's CBD
- The CWA is a self-funded, non-party political and non-sectarian organisation.
- Sydney City Branch is one of 9 metropolitan branches which comprise Phillip Group.
- In 2014, Phillip Group alone raised and disbursed over \$26,000 in annual educational grants to NSW families in need and, through the Sylvia Osborne Scholarship, provided over \$13,000 in grants to young women studying textiles as their career choice.
- The Association aims to improve conditions for women and children and make life better for families, especially those living in rural and remote Australia.
- CWA of NSW is often associated with 'tea and scones' but its many achievements over the past 90 years are greater than this homely stereotype.
- Since the 1930s, members have raised funds to set up baby health centres, fund bush nurses, build and staff maternity wards, hospitals, schools, rest homes, seaside and mountain holiday cottages.

- CWA of NSW continues to have a role lobbying State and Federal Governments on issues related to health, education, the environment and land care. For example, it is currently involved with the debate on coal seam gas, foreign land ownership, the call for a ban on energy drinks to minors, mental health issues and drought relief for rural communities.
- The major annual fundraising event for CWA of NSW is through the Tea Rooms at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. In 2015, some 49,000 scones were baked and over \$80,000 raised for medical research into Crohn's Disease.
- Each year, CWA of NSW disburses on average \$1 million to medical projects, education grants, drought, bushfire and flood relief projects in NSW.
- Social events, baking, cookery and handicraft are important and valid activities for CWA branches and members to extend friendship and support, and to fundraise for specific projects.
- The work of the CWA has certainly changed over time but its organisational framework is enduring because the importance of its local branches is central to the constitution and strength of the Association.
- The aims of the CWA of NSW are:
  - To bring all women and families together and form a network of support.
  - To provide a forum for the voice of all women in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.
  - To improve conditions and welfare of all women and families, especially in country areas.
  - To support schemes which enhance the value of country living, especially health and educational facilities.
  - To encourage development in regional areas and to increase the viability of rural communities and the environment.
  - To provide a voice to Government at all levels.
  - To promote international goodwill, friendship, understanding and tolerance between all people.

- END -