

* * INFORMATION PAGE * *

ALL A.C.W. MONIES -- Affiliation Fees, Fellowship Of The Least Coin, Newsette Subscriptions, Offertories for Special Days, Payments or Donations, should be sent, pending appointment of a new Treasurer, to the Secretary, Mrs Isabel Hewitt
16 Hillcrest Avenue,
STH STRATHFIELD 2136.

FEES from AFFILIATED GROUPS are due 1st March each year as follows:

Denominational Groups :	\$25.00 per annum
A.C.W. Local Branches :	\$15.00 per annum
Organisations eg WCTU, The Girls' Brigade :	\$15.00 per annum

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES due 1st Jan : \$10.00 per annum
(includes subscription to Newsette)

NEWSETTE is the official journal of the NSW State Unit of Australian Church Women, which is published four times a year in February, May, August and November. Annual Subscription is \$5.00.

CONTRIBUTIONS to Newsette are requested from readers and should be sent to the EDITOR:

Mrs Beryl McLaughlin,
2/15 Morwick Street,
STRATHFIELD 2135,
(Tel: 9744.8609).

Changes of Address should be sent to the Newsette MANAGER:

Mrs Nola Dickson,
1/14 Forest Grove,
EPPING 2121.
(Tel: 9869.2559)

PLEASE NOTE: ALL CHEQUES to be made payable to AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW UNIT and **NOT** to any individual person.



NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN -- NSW UNIT

A C W seeks:

- ♦ to unite Australian churchwomen in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;
- ♦ to provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together.

Mission Statement

Australian Church Women believe that there is one God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit; one God, Three-In-One. We believe that Scripture teaches that salvation is only through faith in the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's only Son.

PRESIDENT: Mrs Jean Porteous Tel: 9727.2580

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

My Dear Friends,

Since our last Newsette was printed much has happened in our lives, hasn't it? Some have been ill, some in hospital and some have known the deep sadness that comes when a loved one dies.

While we have been engaged in prayer for our own needs and those of our families and friends, we have also spent time in prayer for the world situation. Peace is the desire of all peace-loving people. While we long to see worldwide peace, deep in our hearts we know that this will not be. True and lasting peace can only be found in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am writing this to you on Palm Sunday. Today all Christendom has read and thought about the triumphal entry into Jerusalem of our Lord Jesus. In a few more days we will be remembering His atoning death, burial and resurrection. How privileged we are to live in a land where we can freely worship the true and living God, obey His commands and also

read our own copy of His word, the Bible. As we thank God for this freedom, let us pray daily for those who do not enjoy this wonderful liberty which we sometimes take for granted.

"May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever." (Hebrews 13:20,21)

These words from the pen of St Paul are as timely for us today as when they were written to the Hebrews all those years ago. May God bless you, may He richly bless with His love, joy, comfort and peace.

Yours sincerely, Jean Porteous

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

ANNUAL SERVICE of DEDICATION

At Church of Christ
(31 Bridge Street Epping)

On Monday, 19th May, 2003
At 10.30 a.m

Guest Speaker: *Mrs Martha Nixon of Outback Patrol*
Lunch will be served following the Service

RSVP Friday May 9 to Isabel Hewitt, Phone 9642.7137

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT DAY

On 5th Floor, 222 Pitt Street Sydney
On Monday, 21st July, 2003

Theme: *In Quietness & Confidence Focus on Prayer*

10.00 am. Morning Tea
10.30 am Welcome & First Session
11.15 am Second Session
12 noon Third Session
12.45 pm Lunch and Fellowship

Morning Tea supplied Bring Your Own Lunch

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

It was great to hear news from April (*Lai Mui Ching*) in Hong Kong, our 2002 Scholar. She apologises for lack of correspondence, due to her difficulty with English. She has been doing part-time work and caring for her child, as well as doing the Women's Studies Course which gained her our support. Of two papers she had presented for assessment, one is to link up annotated bibliographies for women workers under globalisation, the other on women and religion in Chinese literature. Please continue to remember April in your prayers.

Further details on one of our three Scholars for 2003...*Monique Crabtree* who is married with four children, lives in Northam, 100 km east of Perth and worships at the local Church of Christ. Her studies have given her experience in Science, Business and School Religious Education. She has worked as a Secretary at a High School and was a co-leader in Study Tours in North America and South Africa/South America.

Monique has worked intermittently since the arrival of her children, has done further studies and is presently full-time at Tabor College, Perth where who wishes to continue the Bachelor of Ministry Degree (3-5 years). She is active in leadership roles in her church, has taught Sunday School, Scripture, with Bible Study and Ladies' Fellowship involvement also. Her aim is to work full-time in a church, especially in pastoral care and preaching. Monique will appreciate our prayers, along with the other 2003 Scholars, *Gaye Inall* (Deaf Ministry, Brisbane) and *Susan Liersch* (Support Ministry to Army Trainee Cadets & families, Wagga).

The WKS leaflets for 2003 will be posted to branches with the services for Fellowship Day in July, the offertories from which go to support the Scholarship. The theme for this year's service is "*Empowered By Love*".

ACW NSW Unit had a copy of the book "*Winifred*" written by her daughter Margaret Knauerhase, which was borrowed but not yet returned. We are hoping for it to be returned soon, so that others may read it and learn more about Rev Winifred Kiek, for whom the Scholarship was named.

Judith Cayzer, WKS Convener

POSITION VACANT !!

Two years ago we welcomed *Elaine Wilson* as our State Treasurer but as she is about to move from Sydney she is not able to continue. We would very much like to hear from someone able and willing to serve in this very important capacity. Computer skills would be an advantage and Elaine says that a disc could be given with a suitable program if wanted.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

There has been a steady flow of donations towards the Fellowship for which we are grateful and give thanks to the Lord for generous hearts. \$13,000 was sent to National Executive in February and at the time of writing a further \$276.65 had been received. We rejoice that as well as the coins, this represents much prayer for peace and reconciliation.

I had my first commitment as a speaker for FLC at Miranda - a learning experience for me as well as for the people there. I have FLC donation boxes and information about the Fellowship which may give your group or fellowship more insight about supporting it. Circle of Prayer booklets produced by International FLC Committee are also available which can be used for devotions as a reminder of our need to keep praying for and giving to those who desperately need our prayers and support. I can be contacted at (02) 9555.2628 (H) or 9266.9880 (W).

Nancy McLaren, FLC Convener

MINUTE OF APPRECIATION:

In February Newsette our prayers and sympathy were extended to Life Member *Dorothy Woodhouse* on the loss of her husband *Les*. A Minute of Appreciation was passed by the State Council, worded as follows:-

"ACW NSW State Unit reports with sorrow the death of Les Woodhouse, husband of our Life Member, Dorothy. The History of our Unit has been enriched by the recording of our activities over many years, through photographs, audio and video tapes produced for us by Les Woodhouse. His quiet, reliable and unflinching support of Dorothy when she was in office as Secretary and inaugural Newsette Manager in ACW was so important to her that she averred that 'half of her Life Membership award really belonged to Les.' In retirement he continued to support Dorothy in her work for ACW through the Kincumber Branch of ACW. The Unit was represented at his Thanksgiving Service by several members of this Council.

We take this opportunity to record our appreciation of many 'serving husbands.' The support given to our Presidents and other officers of ACW, over many years, by their husbands is unheralded but incalculable, and we now record our gratitude."

TRADING TABLE AT COUNCIL: We record our gratitude to *Elsie Cox* who has looked after this fund-raising effort for several years. *Helen Hill* has now accepted this responsibility, and readers who attend Council are reminded of this 'Bring and Buy' which the Executive has recommended be in operation at every Council meeting from now on.

ACW NSW SPECIAL DAYS:

Once again during 2002 God blessed us with very successful meetings.

For *FELLOWSHIP DAY* Services in July, written by Tasmania Unit, the Theme was *"Rejoice In The Lord."* Services were held at 24 centres throughout NSW and proved a great time of blessing. Participants commented that the Service was well-written and had a lovely selection of Scripture - a bright, joyful Service. The speakers were described as moving, challenging, delightful, enthusiastic; soloists, organists and pianists were 'wonderful' also the fellowship over morning tea or lunch.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY, in October had the theme *"Be Still And Know That I Am God,"* the Service having been prepared by the West Australia Unit. Those taking part felt that the Service was very meaningful. Speakers brought out many aspects of the theme and were inspiring and helpful. Beautiful solos, duets and choir items added to the spirit of peace, love and community which prevailed. Some Services were held in beautiful churches with a prayerful atmosphere, all feeling at one with Christ as the various denominations mixed over refreshments.

Themes for 2003 Special Days are: Fellowship Day *"Empowered By Love"* and World Community Day *"Love In Action."*

Irene Carder, Special Days Convener

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:

At the Quadrennial Assembly in Seoul, Korea last September, at which *Lisa Jackson* was one of our Australian delegates, Nepal was accepted as the 18th member of the ACWC family.

At the Assembly, each member country is linked with a 'prayer partner' country so that the partner countries keep in touch and share their concerns and prayer needs. For the past quadrennium, ACW Australia's partner country was *Pakistan* but since the September Assembly our new partner country is *Hong Kong*. At this time, when we are all so aware of the terrible threat of the SARS virus, our prayers are especially needed for our sisters and their families in that region.

The Assembly called for women to heed the cry of those in areas of conflict and countries torn by religious and internal strife, and also the issue of migrant workers who for economic reasons leave home and family and are abused in the foreign land. Church women are encouraged to make this a serious concern and help migrant workers, especially women.

(From ACW National Executive Circular)

6.

SOCIAL ISSUES CONCERNS:

A recent analysis of statistics by the Advertising Standards Bureau listed advertisements most complained about, complaints which were upheld and complaints modified or withdrawn. Many of these ads featured littering, vandalism, or irresponsible driving. However, 160 complaints about the sexual imagery of a particular magazine and billboard advertisement for jeans were dismissed; the Bureau's Board found that there were no grounds to ask for the removal of the ad, ruling that "Tolerance is a feature of prevailing community standards. The activity portrayed in the advertisement carries the endorsement of current law. It seems such advertisements will only be withdrawn if many more concerned members of the community are prepared to voice their concerns with letter writing, e-mail or telephone protests.

DOV (*Decade to Overcome Violence*) is an initiative of the World Council of Churches, which in 2001 the Executive of the National Council of Churches of Australia adopted as a focus for the work of the whole Council.

How can we contribute to a culture of Peace? Participate in some of the following:

- ◆ *Simply Sharing Week* May 25-June 1.
- ◆ *Sorry Day* May 26
- ◆ *Week of Prayer for Reconciliation* May 27-June 3
- ◆ *Refugee Sunday* August 31
- ◆ *Peace Sunday* September 21
- ◆ *Social Justice Sunday* September 28

For more information, contact:

DOV National Council of Churches Australia, 379 Kent St Sydney 2000. (Postal address Locked Bag 199, Sydney NSW 1230) Phone (02) 9299.2215 Fax (02) 9262.4514. Email eninnes@ncaa.org.au or jinkpin@ncca.org.au Visit <http://www.ncca.org.au/dov>

Cela Cooper, Social Issues Convener

ACW NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2003
At Swanleigh in Perth, Western Australia
October 6th to 10th 2003

Theme: *Towards Community*

Registration \$75 (\$65 if paid before June 30)
Accommodation \$240 Mon-Fri + \$36 Sunday night
Tours available Oct 4-5 \$230 and 10-14 \$500

7.

COOEE ! COME CELEBRATE ! COOEE !

This was the theme of a special Sunday at Strathfield Uniting Church last November at a celebration not only of 25 years of the Uniting Church in Australia and therefore 25 years for the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship, but also 90 years of the work of Frontier Services (formerly Australian Inland Mission), in The Year of The Outback.

With 150 men and women present, the afternoon got off to a swinging start with the Bush Band Sing-a-long with musicians *John Healey, Alan Maddox* and *Michael Waring*. The *Rev Ivan Roberts* acknowledged the Owners of the Land and we launched into an afternoon of fun and education. The hymns we sang reflected the mood of the Celebration: "Lord of Earth and All Creation," "God of Justice and of Mercy" and *David Manton's* "Hymn for the People of the Outback."

Speakers were *Margaret Chase*, who told about the Frontier Services Support Group, past and present; *Rev Stephen Reid*, who inspired with his story of the transformation of an ailing Day Group into a vital new Fellowship for men and women; and *Enid McDonald*, the special invited guest who told of her experiences as a nurse with AIM Frontier Services, with whom she now serves as a Chaplain in Queensland. Enid was a Strathfield girl and we were delighted that one of her granddaughters, and her mother were present. A greeting was brought by *John Oldmeadow*, whom it is always great to have with us.

A highlight of the afternoon was when 86 year old *Maurice Smith* recited the 'Travelling Post Office' - what a memory! - Maurice even outshone his daughter, 'our' *Lyn Drabsch*, who brought us the poem 'Women of The West.'

There was a truly Australian display in the church - kerosene lamps, a hurricane lamp, a saddle and bridle and a bag of straw, a Mrs Potts iron and a flat iron, amongst other items. The afternoon concluded with an Aussie Afternoon Tea of damper and cocky's joy, lamingtons, Anzac biscuits, scones, sandwiches, sponge cakes and *Margaret Naughton's* famous passionfruit shortcakes. With cups of tea, of course!

Frontier Services Support Group had a good display on show, and everyone had opportunity to mix and have fellowship together. An offering of \$820 was given to the Synod Drought Appeal.

It was such a good day that we are looking for an excuse to do something similar this year!

(Reported by Edith Ridge in UCAF Newsletter, of which she is Editor)

THE GIRLS' BRIGADE:

The Girls' Brigade aims "To help girls become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ and through self-control, reverence and a sense of responsibility find true enrichment of life." Our further aim is to equip girls with leadership skills for their service to the Lord Jesus not only in Girls' Brigade but also within the church and the wider community.

As the girls progress into their High School years, the Brigade provides opportunity for them to attend weekend training, focussing on the different requirements of leadership. These weekend training days are held throughout the year and one such was held at Brigade House on April 5-6 for about 30 girls. Ladies are also equipped for their leadership role in their Company, covering the four aspects which make up the set programs, that is, Spiritual, Educational, Social and Physical. Girls' Brigade NSW recently ran a Saturday Leader Workshop which was sponsored by the Asthma Foundation and gave the 95 Leaders who attended some valuable information to help in dealing with asthmatics, as well as the usual help with program achievement work.

This year's Girls' Brigade NSW Annual Conference is to be shortened to a one-day conference on May 3rd, as NSW is looking forward to hosting the Girls' Brigade National Conference later this year, when about 150 Leaders from around Australia will gather in Sydney for a time of fellowship as well as the normal business sessions which necessarily comprise a National Conference.

The Girls' Brigade continues to work with the Boys' Brigade to support the outreach and leadership of the churches within the community and in being fully committed to serve our Lord as we follow our Motto "To Seek, Serve and Follow Christ."

Lorna Steel, Girls' Brigade Representative to ACW

DISCIPLING THE NATIONS Through PRISON FELLOWSHIP:

Crime is no respecter of persons nor culture. Prison Fellowship ministers internationally in over 100 countries and to many more people groups and in many languages.

Here in NSW they minister to people of many different languages and cultural backgrounds. They frequently have to call on churches to assist in communicating to some families because of the language barrier - God is bringing the nations to us.

Whether their ministry is visitation of inmates, working with families, running projects or ministry in courts, they are about serving God and

about discipling people. So whether involved in pre-evangelism, evangelism, nurture or follow up, they are following our Lord's command in Matthew 28:19-20 "to disciple the nations."

Two of the avenues used in their work are the *Angel Tree* program, through which gifts are given at Christmas time to many, many children of prisoners, and *Camp Breakaway*, a sponsored four-day holiday camp for children who have a parent in prison, which is a joint ministry between Prison Fellowship and Scripture Union. This year's Camp Breakaway was held recently from April 22-25.

(From Prison Fellowship NSW News)

WANTED -- LIGHTS And BLANKETS !

Australian students would consider a light to study by and a mattress to lie down on at night to be essentials, not luxuries - but at the Lay Training Centre at Berega in Tanzania, up to 60 students sleep on the ground and study at night with only three kerosene lanterns between them!

These Lay Evangelists play an absolutely vital role for the church in Tanzania. They do the week-by-week running of the churches, as the trained Pastors have oversight of up to ten churches.

The Lay Evangelists attend the Training Centre for up to three months to do biblical study. Although the fees for the three-month course are only about \$40, which covers tuition, board and lodging, students often make great personal sacrifices to attend the courses. To keep the fees as low as possible, the facilities are very basic.

Church Missionary Society missionaries *Steve* and *Kate Bradford* have requested assistance from the Archbishop of Sydney's Overseas Ministry Fund to purchase basic bedding and solar lighting for the Centre. Kate writes: "We are praying that this proposal is favourably received by AOMF supporters, as these items would substantially improve the conditions in which the students live and study." \$8000 would purchase 60 mattresses, pillows, pillowcases, mosquito box nets and 120 sheets, and would also cover the cost of providing solar lighting for the Centre.

(From AOMF Supporters News Update)

NOTE from Newsette Editor: For the interest of ACW readers, the missionary *Kate Bradford* mentioned above is the daughter of *Lorraine Davis*, of the Tasmania Unit. Some may remember Lorraine, who having served with her husband with the Uniting Church at Milimbimbi in North Australia, brought a dear Aboriginal lady, *Layapini* (who has since passed away), to our ACW National Conference at Ulverstone in Tasmania.

10.

THE BIBLE MAKES IT TO 'THE FOOTY SHOW' !!

The Channel 9 'Footy Show' might be the last place you would expect the Bible to appear, but that is what happened, with the Bible Society giving away more than 200 Bibles, thanks to Rugby League Cronulla Sharks prop, Jason Stevens.

The 'Footy Show' first invited Jason on to promote his new book '*Worth The Wait*' and he came in for some good natured ribbing about the book's message, that couples should wait until they get married before they have sex. Jason took this all in his stride and issued a challenge of his own - to invite him back on the show, to give away free Bibles!

This was a challenge they couldn't refuse, so the next week Jason turned up with a bundle of the Bible Society's Sports New Testament, '*The Prize*' and gave each of the panelists, *Peter Sterling*, *Paul 'Fatty' Vautin*, *Willie Mason* and *Paul Harrigan* their own copy.

What was their reaction? Jason said "They thought it was a good thing. They'd never seen anything like it before. They had only ever known old Bibles with old English language, so it was great for them to see the Bible in modern English and that God's Word is relevant to today's people. They were surprised how readable it was and that it contained some great testimonies from top sports people, such as *Betty Cuthbert*, *Stephen Wilson*, *Duncan Free* and *Shaun Hart*. All of them took a copy and were happy to take it home."

In another first, 'The Footy Show' also agreed to give out the Bible Society's telephone number on screen, for viewers to ring up for free copies of God's Word. More than 100 called, and each received a copy of 'The Prize' personally signed by Jason Stevens.

Jason has been a highly effective ambassador for Christ in the rough and tough world of Rugby League. He says "The Bible gives me so much in my day to day life, on and off the field. It gives me motivation, it helps me deal with fear and achieve a sense of balance in my life. How can you live life without the Bible? You can't make it up. It's written by the author of life itself, and he knows how to make life work."

Jason's own book is selling fast. He says "*Worth The Wait*" is about making good choices for relationships. "If people keep sex for marriage, it's good for their emotions and self esteem, making them feel valuable. It's also been great to hear how it's been opening up lines of communication between parents and kids."

(From The Bible Society's 'Bibles@Work' NSW News)

11.

WATER MATTERS - SAFE WATER FOR ALL:

Water Matters is an international campaign striving to see safe water and improved sanitation made available to the poor. Over one billion people lack access to safe and affordable water.

As *Dorothea McKellar* put it so simply and eloquently, Australia is a land of 'drought and flooding rains.' We must learn to live with this legacy.

Australia is a country defined by its relationship to water. The sunburnt country, the driest continent on earth. Our recent drought makes us more aware than ever of the devastating effect that a lack of water can have on the people of a country.

Our experience allows us to understand the devastation behind the global statistics that more than one billion people lack access to clean, safe drinking water, and 2.4 billion lack access to adequate sanitation. One billion people are unable to properly cook, clean, grow food, and look after their sick children. This is a drought of global proportions and it requires global solutions.

Tim Winton, popular Australian novelist (*Cloudstreet*, *The Riders*, *Dirt Music*) has written an open Letter to the Nation which reads as follows: "There's nothing more basic to human survival than fresh water. Australians know this in their bones. Water consciousness and water anxiety are the legacy of coming of age on an arid island. But how conscious are we of the global picture, the crisis beyond our shores? While we fret for our lawns and gardens, millions of our fellow humans die for lack of water or suffer unspeakably from water that's contaminated. It's not just a technical or geographical issue, but a moral issue. Let's translate our anxiety into empathy and use our success, our wealth and our expertise to give our neighbours access to this basic human right - pure, safe water."

The *Water Matters* Australian campaign is seeking to ensure that Australia is a positive partner to those countries and organisations working towards a solution, and to meet our fair share of the costs.

Be part of *Water Matters* this year, the *International Year of Fresh Water*. Join in the many events being planned all around Australia. Only a strong and unified voice will help to bring water to those without. Make a splash for the world's poor.

(From T.E.A.R. Australia Magazine 'Target')