

Did you know?

All A.C.W. Monies—Affiliation Fees, Fellowship of the Least Coin, Newsette Subscriptions, Offertories for Special Days and Donations to be sent to the

TREASURER: Mrs Helen Richardson
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Phone: 9971 0278

However, **please note**

- For safety reasons **DO NOT** include the word “Treasurer” when addressing envelopes.
- **ALL CHEQUES** to be made payable to “Australian Church Women NSW Unit Inc.” and NOT to any individual person.

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Denominational Groups: \$25 per annum
A.C.W. Local Branches: \$15 per annum
Organisations: \$15.00 per annum

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES \$15 per annum
(this includes subscription to Newsette)

For further details contact Jennifer Peffer (9874 4056)

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Newsette

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NSW STATE UNIT INC.

ACW Website: www.acw.org.au

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

President: Mrs Nola Dickson Phone 9869 2559

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President's Message

Since the last 'Newsette' I have been in Tasmania looking at the ancestry of my father's family. Such a lot I never knew about his siblings, his parents, his life. He was a quiet man who didn't reveal much about himself. I found it very exciting, but at the same time, emotional. I would like him to be here to answer a lot of questions.

We have also returned from Adelaide after the business of the National Conference. At evening sessions it was very interesting to hear of work being done with disabled young people who have been verbally humiliated through their growing years, to bring them to the point of being happy with themselves, show their ability and give them the chance to be an accepted part of life. Aboriginal youth also, being helped to lift themselves to a place of esteem and be able to hold on to their own culture while at the same time adjusting to the ways of our civilization..

The past is done and cannot be undone. The present is still here and we are asked to do all we can for our Lord, helping and loving one another.

The future days hold the preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ. One hears and sees the need for retail businesses to get our minds ready to think about Christmas far too early. In Tasmania we drove behind a bus with an advertisement for 'the silly season.' How very sad that the immense fact of a virgin giving birth to the Son of God could be looked upon as the silly season. How much more can we mortals do to grieve Him who came to earth in love to save us from death.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas. May 2012 be filled with all that the Lord desires for you.

Nola Dickson

NOTICE BOARD

Australian Church Women Inc. has a new website. We can now be found at

www.acw.org.au

Please type the new address into your search engine (including the www's) and save it to your favourites or your desktop. Thank you. The events links will be coming soon. (Brenda Dickinson, NSW State Unit Website Manager)



Stop Press....ACWC

News just received that Australia's prayer partner for the next four years is Mongolia.. Lyn Middleton will keep us informed concerning specific prayer requests they might have as they come to hand.

Helen Richardson, our State Treasurer and Life Member, celebrated a special "0" birthday this year and recently received a special certificate for completing her 20th City to Surfand in a commendable time too!

Congratulations also to **Carmel Keys** (Social Issues Convenor) who was awarded Life Membership of Catholic Women's League recently at The Broken Bay Diocesan Biennial Conference in acknowledgement of her involvement not only with CWL but for commitment in Parish, Community and ACW working with them in an ecumenical way.

Did you notice the buff coloured Survey & Renewal Sheet in the front of this issue? WE are anxious to update our records . Please complete this form and return with your renewal as soon as possible or hand it in at the next meeting.



FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Thank you for your continued support of Fellowship of the Least Coin.

I hope that you were able to attend a World Community Day service somewhere near you. As each congregation considered the theme of "Reflecting the light of Christ", I pray that you may indeed be able to put this into practice in your daily living, among friends, family and those you come in contact with. As you brought your coins for the offering, may that have been a meaningful time, as these were dedicated to the Lord Jesus for the work of FLC in many lands. I had the privilege of speaking at the service at Caringbah Baptist Church, on Friday 28th October.

As promised, I now have the new edition of the Circle of Prayer devotional booklets. These cost \$3.00 each. Please make contact with me if you would like to receive a copy for yourself or members of your church groups. This book has two devotions from Australian women, one from Tasmania and one from South Australia.

May you each have a lovely Christmas season as you celebrate the birth of Jesus. Make it a joyous occasion, whether you are with family and friends or just by yourself. God bless you.

Lillian Hodges (Major)

STATE CONVENER
FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY an early report just in....

For Parramatta this was held at St Monica's Catholic Church, North Parramatta. Fr Fernando reminded those present that in the time of Jesus such lights (candles) would have been an everyday essential. It was suggested that in our day we need to be everyday lights, not just a decoration. The congregation was challenged to be lights turned on, that would make a difference in this world.

Mrs Padma Ebenezer, formerly an executive member of ACWC spoke briefly how being involved with the organisation had empowered and developed her confidence. Mention was made of some of the people who had been aided by programmes from ACWC.

New people attended and enquired about when such gatherings may be held again.

Pamela Freeman, SPECIAL DAYS CONVENER



*Asian Church Women's Conference
Multicultural Concert of Praise*

The annual service for Asian Church Women's Conference was celebrated by the NSW State Unit Inc of ACWC on Sunday 11th September, again taking the form of a multicultural concert of praise. The concert was held at Eastwood Baptist Church before an overflow congregation of 220 + people. We thank the Eastwood Baptist Church for their hospitality and support on the day and in the weeks leading up to the concert.

This year's concert was notable for its variety. The audience was treated to a feast of items that ranged from a very young flautist, Master Brian Kim, who thrilled us with his rendition of *Fantasie No 2 in A minor by Telemann*, to Chinese cultural dancers with a dance interpretation of *The Lord is My Shepherd*. A Korean Salvation Army brass band provided musical items before, after and during the concert as well as accompanying the congregational singing and performed with a high degree of excellence. Two choirs participated in the concert, the Sydney Chinese Association for Sacred Music and the Fijian Choir from the Uniting Church Parramatta. The contributions from both choirs were musically delightful and spiritually inspiring. Twelve lovely smiling young women from The Salvation Army Wollongong captivated the congregation with their skilful timbrel displays. Two vocal soloists, Mary Ree and Lisa Kim moved everyone present with their beautiful voices raised in soulful praise to their Lord. It was especially interesting during the concert to hear the two Cantonese vocalists say how they had met at a previous ACWC Concert of Praise.

During the concert an offering was received for the work of ACWC. The concert ended with the whole congregation joining in singing the paean of praise *Majesty*. The magnificent accompaniment to the hymn by the Eastwood Baptist Church organist brought the concert to a brilliant conclusion and its highest note as every voice was raised in joyful praise – ***Unto Jesus be all glory, honour and praise!***



Cantonese Traditional Songs accompanied by the Erhu



Flautist – Brian Kim



The Salvation Army Korean Corps Band



Fijian Choir—Parramatta Uniting Church



Sydney Chinese Association For Sacred Music: Chinese Cultural Dance - *The Lord is My Shepherd*

Lyn Middleton, ACWC Convenor

Report of National Conference 2011—Adelaide

From President Elect—Isabel Hewitt

National Conference Adelaide was held at Immanuel College, Novar Gardens. Accommodation was comfortable, meals excellent, and the college gardens displayed some beautiful flowers, especially roses, and lovely trees.

Renewing friendships and making new friends has to be a highlight of such gatherings, and this conference was no exception. *Turning Darkness into Light* was the theme of the South Australian National Executive, providing the focus for the Ecumenical Service and devotions. My recollection of Father Anthony Kain who was the speaker at the Ecumenical Service is that darkness is not necessarily a negative thing, but rather something that can be useful if used wisely. We don't need to dispel all darkness, but we must not let it overcome us. Some of the devotions led by State Units explored this concept in a helpful way.

In a short thanksgiving service, members of Australian Church Women who died in the last two years were remembered. Acknowledgment was made of those who have been accorded recognition in church and community, and thanks given for all.

Bible studies were based on Colossians. The Rev. Joan Riley, an Anglican priest in Adelaide, gave us a good grounding in the community at Colossae before delving into the text. She then looked at the current situation of refugees and related their plight to the situation in Colossae at the time Paul wrote. Her personal encounter with refugees has made her think hard about the current situation, and some personal stories from Conference participants pricked our consciences too.

Business sessions were rather tense at times. By bringing in 'experts' to talk about incorporation and insurance, National Executive helped many in attendance to understand how these issues affect us. We must meet the legal requirements of our day, and the ACW Constitution is a case in point. More work is needed to refine this document.

Reports were received from National Conveners, State and Territory Units, National Denominational bodies, and World Day of Prayer.

Some of the stresses of finding and supporting Winifred Kiek scholars were given an airing, mainly because when National Conference is in Adelaide all the Trustees are able to attend. It is certainly instructive reading.

The new General Secretary of Asian Church Women's Conference, the Rev. Lee Moon Sook spoke at the conference. Since taking office the Asian region has been faced with crisis situations in a number of countries. From Australia Moon Sook was continuing to Lebanon where she will attend a meeting of the International Committee of Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Hearing of *Tutti* one evening was truly enlightening. This organisation works with and for young people who have disabilities and whose ambition is to find employment in the performing and visual arts. Up to forty are undergoing full time professional training to equip them for a career, while others are members of programs to enable them to perform in a range of concert and theatre events through a socially inclusive choral program. Two young women performed for us.

At Rostrevor College, a Christian Brothers boys' school, an Indigenous Sports Academy operates for students from Year 7 and at present has 43 students. The stated aim is to give a good all round education so that the boys will have the courage to walk in two cultures. Academic and practical subjects which prepare for business, commerce, art, engineering, building, conservation and land management are offered. A course appropriate to girls is under way at Loreto in Adelaide.

Four members of Conference, Donna Bryan (Vic, ACWC), Angela Devlin (ACT), Fran Moss (Qld) and Marion McCall (SA), formed a panel, and in a good humoured way gave an insight into their lives. Marion McCall is a real high-flyer and has her pilot's licence. It was informative and good fun. Continuing the fun theme, we shared our general ignorance at a trivia night. A bus trip took us to the Colonel Light statue for a view over Adelaide city before visiting Hahndorf. At the formal dinner a group of three – Mum and two daughters – sang for us.

We welcomed the incoming National Executive from Western Australia, whose theme is "Our Choice is Love" and wish them well, offering our support for the next two years, after which time we will be called to follow on.

SOCIAL ISSUES

*"We would ask you for guidance and wisdom
As we strive towards justice and peace,
For repentance, forgiveness and freedom
That oppression and bondage might cease"*

Winsome Bennett

We continue to ask why is Government still trying to return to Malaysian Asylum Policy when the High Court ruled it illegal. On-shore processing should be a means of addressing the needs without punishment. It is the smuggler who should be punished. Except for our indigenous people we are all migrants or children of migrants

There is a need to overhaul the Justice system. Every state is different for prison and corrective services and indigenous people are more numerous than others.

Health reforms are being encouraged to allow aged to stay in their homes. This is now complicated by some Councils trying to force elderly out of their homes to acquire them for families because of housing shortages.

Trafficking of Women. Did you see Four Corners and following Reports on the Sex Trade in Australia? Yes, it is happening here.

Now that Parliament has returned be aware of any matters that require our input as Christian Women—e.g. Same Sex Marriage and the Anti-Gambling Bill; Anti Death Penalty Proposals to encourage all countries to adopt this stance unanimously.

Why did Parliament go ahead with Carbon Tax? Survey Reports 17% YES, 63% NO 20% UNDECIDED Surely no Mandate Why put on a tax and then offer refunds to those who have to pay?
Christmas Blessings to all

Carmel Keys
CONVENOR



WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

Thank You for Winifred Kiek Scholarship support through our Fellowship Day Services last July. Most encouraging.

Brief updates of our 2011 Scholars:

Sisaret returned to her home **in Cambodia** on special leave for her ministry work and during that time it became apparent that she had extreme homesickness and so the WKS Trustees released her from the Scholarship. She was very embarrassed, however had already completed the first two courses at Alan Walker College and we had attended her Graduation. God will continue to use her in ministry.

Arpona in Assam, India. Beryl Kirkwood had an email advising that Arpona had completed her Bachelor of Divinity and is continuing studies for a Bachelor of Education. She was married in April.

These two young women have appreciated our support and prayers.
Past Scholars:

Tonu in Fiji (2010) Requests prayer for herself and the wider family. They face challenges in employment, finance, food etc.

Leinamau in Vanuatu (2007) has been re-elected for another 3 years in her position with Christian Education at the Church's General Assembly. She is praying for direction, the workload and huge challenges as she is continually on the move around the islands.

Christy Ferguson (2009) on mission overseas sends regular newsletters. She has found rental accommodation and adjusts to a very different lifestyle—even buying water weekly from a truck! Values prayer for health and opportunities to meet with neighbours.

Judith Cayzer
CONVENOR



KEEPING IN TOUCH

Please continue to pray for **Shirley Wells** who has had to move to Yallambi Court for higher care.

Beryl Kirkwood is thankful to God that her recent surgery was successful although her menu is now more difficult.

Jennifer Peffer values our prayers as she copes with health issues and the death of her sister in NZ

We were saddened to learn that **Mrs. Ethel Wladysuik**, who represented the Churches of Christ on the Council for some time, had been called Home.

Since the last issue of *Newsette* several of our members & associate members have had to face serious health problems personally and with family members.

We know of the arrival of new grandchildren for some of our members and thank God that mothers and babies are doing well.

A reminder.

'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble!'

Ps. 46:1

Olive Edmondstone
PASTORAL CARE CONVENOR



Ruth Dickensen is the Girls' Brigade Representative to Australian Church Women.....a lady who is most supportive of ACW and updates us regularly with snippets of information about Girls' Brigade.



The most exciting recent news is that they have new uniforms....so we are delighted to include photographs then you can easily recognise them at various functions and churches.



Ruth is also a great cook and shares with us some recipes that you may care to make and take to Christmas functions...happy baking!



CARAMEL WALNUT SLICE

125G Melted Margarine
1 cup SR Flour

BASE:
Stir flour, sugar and coconut together with the melted margarine.
Press into a greased slice tin lined with baking paper
Bake in mod oven (180) for 10-15 minutes until golden.
Cool slightly.

TOPPING:
1 cup brown sugar
180gm. Butter
180gm. Walnuts (crush slightly with palm of hand)
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 tablespoons honey
1/4 teas. Salt

Put into saucepan and stir until the butter melts.
Simmer for 10 minutes, stirring often.
Add walnuts and vanilla. Put onto slice and bake until it looks firm (10-15 minutes).
Cut slice while still warm (NOT HOT) into small pieces (it is very



DREAM BARS

4 oz Melted Margarine 1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup coconut 1 cup S.R. flour

Mix all together (add extra flour until mixture is firm)
Press into slice tin lined in Glad Bake also grease pan.
Cook 15 minutes on Medium heat (180)



FILLING:

2 eggs 1 cup coconut
Vanilla essence (1/2 teaspoon) 1 1/2 cups brown sugar

Mix all together then add 1/2 cup Walnut pieces (lightly crush with hand before adding. Put on top of slice and cook until brown (approx. 20 minutes)
Turn oven to 150 if cooking too quickly.
Dust with icing sugar while hot

COCONUT SLICE (Using the same Base from the above recipe)

Cover the base with any kind of jam
Mix together 2 eggs, 1 cup coconut, 1 cup sugar, vanilla and spread over the base and cook for 20 mins (180)



God bless you at Christmas and each new day, with the assurance of his love and forgiveness.

Dates for your 2012 Diary

- 1st Executive—February
- 1st Council Meeting—February
- Friday, March 2 Support your local World Day of Prayer Service
- Monday, April 16 ACW—Annual General Meeting
- Monday, May 21 ACW NSW Presidential Installation—Isabel Hewitt Carrington Avenue Uniting Church, Strathfield
- JulyACW Fellowship Day Services
- October ACW World Community Day Services



Missing something? Watch this space for details of our for our Multicultural Concert of Praise 2012