

# Australian Council of Churches

(Affiliated with the World Council of Churches)

TELEPHONE: 61 4766  
61 5224

TELEGRAPHIC:  
"ECUMENICAL", SYDNEY



ROOM 2, 3RD FLOOR,  
511 KENT STREET  
(CNR. BATHURST STREET),  
SYDNEY

December 24, 1962

Mrs. N. Faichney,  
6 Estella Street,  
GLEN IRIS, Vic.

Dear Mrs. Faichney,

I would like to add some personal comment about what has happened since we met in Sydney on November 9. Enclosed in this letter you will find a general letter which we sent out to everyone who attended the meeting on November 9.

After the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council withdrew from the conversations, the ACC Committee appointed to investigate Women's Work has met together again, and after discussion has planned to meet on January 10 in order to prepare a proposal to present to the Annual Meeting of the ACC in February next. At the moment it is our intention to propose an organization within the Australian Council's Division of Ecumenical Promotion which we might call Australian Church Women. It would have a small national committee and would concentrate on developing inter-church work amongst women in local areas.

We are thinking of a Fellowship Day during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and a World Community Day in September or the first week in October. This would provide us with two days during the year as a focus for the initial development of inter-church women's work. We also have in mind producing one set of study material for women's groups each year and stimulating some service projects in the local areas.

I am mentioning this to you now as we are still very hopeful that although the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council has withdrawn, the Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council would work with us to co-operate in this wider ecumenical venture. We know that the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council will be contacting the Councils in each State to seek a closer liaison but we trust that you would not regard this as excluding you from working closely with us, or even being the State organization which would represent the women's ecumenical movement in your State. Although Mrs. Verco, whom you

#### Member Churches:

Church of England, Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church,  
Greek Orthodox Church, Churches of Christ, Congregational Churches,  
Salvation Army, Society of Friends, Armenian Apostolic Church and



12/10/62

WOMEN'S WORK

1. Representatives of the NSW Inter-Church Council met with the Australian Council of Churches Committee investigating Women's Work on Thursday, October 4.

The representatives of the Inter-Church Council spoke of their council's desire

- a) to develop relationships with Inter-Church Councils in other States
- b) to develop inter-church women's work in local areas within NSW.

2. The ACC Committee indicated that its concerns included these but were also broader. It believed that a national organisation of church women was required in order to serve 3 purposes:

- a) to widen the horizons of women in the local churches ecumenically (i.e. toward the whole world and the whole Christian church).
- b) to relate women's inter-church councils in the various States to each other.
- c) to relate denominational women's organisations at the federal level to each other.
- d) to relate Australian organisations with inter-church organisations overseas.

3. In the discussion which followed, a broad tentative picture of what might be begun to emerge.

- a) a national organisation, known as United Church Women of Australia with representatives from -
  - . Denominational Women's organisations
  - . Women's Inter-Church Councils
  - . The Women's World Day of Prayer Committees
  - . The Australian Council of Churches (Women's Work)
- b) As a national organisation, it would i) relate existing organisations to each other; ii) stimulate their work by cross-fertilization of ideas, programme suggestions, leadership training, etc.
- c) A major area for such stimulation would be inter-church women's work in the local area. This work would develop in many ways and from many initiatives (e.g. a Local Inter-Church Council, a State Women's Inter-Church Council). All such groups could take the name of United Church Women of Australia and be affiliated with any or all of the constituent organizations of United Church Women of Australia.



Also sent to Mrs N Faichney

## Australian Council of Churches

(Affiliated with the World Council of Churches)

TELEPHONE: 61 4766  
61 5224

TELEGRAPHIC:  
"ECUMENICAL", SYDNEY



ROOM 2, 3RD FLOOR,  
511 KENT STREET  
(CNR. BATHURST STREET),  
SYDNEY

### INTERIM COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S WORK

April 3, 1963.

Mrs. F. J. Pell,  
Secretary,  
Women's Inter-Church Council,  
18 Gordon Avenue,  
KEW. E.4. Victoria.

Dear Mrs. Pell,

The enclosed statement is sent to you for your information. The Interim Committee on Women's Work appointed by the Australian Council of Churches is convinced that there is a need to promote ecumenical interest and activity among the women of the churches especially at the local level.

During 1962 a small committee appointed by the 1962 Annual Meeting had been investigating ways of promoting ecumenical interest among women's groups. This committee was composed of women active in the women's groups of their own churches, but having also a convinced ecumenical outlook. The members of the committee were appointed from the Anglican, Congregational, Greek Orthodox, Methodist, Presbyterian Churches and the YWCA. The President and the General Secretary of the Australian Council of Churches were members of the committee. In November a conference of representatives of State Denominational women's groups in NSW, the Women's World Day of Prayer of NSW and the Victorian and NSW Women's Inter-Church Councils, was held.

We trust that you will be interested in this ecumenical venture and we hope that you will commend it to your women's groups and help wherever possible to promote the establishment of Australian Church Women.

In the first instance we would be grateful if you would bring the matter to the next meeting of your organization.

The committee realises that Australian Church Women must grow slowly and that its early development should begin in the local church situation. At this early stage the committee is most anxious to have your comments

p.t.o

#### Member Churches:

Church of England, Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church,  
Greek Orthodox Church, Churches of Christ, Congregational Churches,  
Salvation Army, Society of Friends, Armenian Apostolic Church and  
Antiochian Orthodox Church.



and questions on the general ideas behind A.C.W. and your suggestions for the next steps.

Later in the year we hope to be able to present to you more of the details of organization on the local, state and national levels.

If it would be of any help for <sup>our</sup> ~~one~~ of your members to meet with your group the Interim Committee would be happy to arrange this.

Yours sincerely,

*Mabel G. Wyllie.*

M. G. Wyllie (Mrs)  
Convener.

*Mary M. Andrews*  
Member of Committee.

PS: A copy has also been sent to the Secretary of your organization.

Encl.



The Australian Council of Churches at its Annual Meeting in February 1963 authorised the establishment of an organization to be known as Australian Church Women.

The purpose of Australian Church Women:

To unite Australian Church women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; to provide opportunities for Christian worship, fellowship and service across denominational divisions; through the Australian Church Women to incorporate Christian women into the total life and mission of the Church; and to unite them for the building of a world Christian community.

The name Australian Church Women has been chosen because it creates an image and suggests fellowship rather than yet another organization.

We realize that Christian unity is an imperative for the effective work and witness of the Church in our time. We believe that there is a desire among many women in the churches to have a deeper bond of fellowship with Christian women of all denominations at the local, national and international level.

The urgent need is for local development. It is important to help the church woman in the local area and in each denomination to realise that she is not only Anglican or Baptist, Congregationalist or Methodist, Orthodox or Presbyterian, but that she has a "oneness" with every other church woman in her own locality.

In the local area, women's organizations of the various churches would form a branch of Australian Church Women. Where there are existing women's inter-church groups it is hoped that they will become part of A.C.W.

There is no intention to divide the ecumenical interest of men and women. Australian Church Women will participate in the interests and activities of the World Council of Churches' Department on Cooperation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.

The interim committee plan in the first instance to -

- . promote a Fellowship Day and a World Community Day each year
- . provide study material for women's groups. In 1964 the study will be on the role of the laity with special reference to the cooperation of men and women in the Church
- . stimulate service projects
  - (a) at the local and national level - e.g. among migrants, aboriginals
  - (b) at the world level - e.g. providing scholarships, encouraging fraternal workers.

April 1963



REPORT FROM ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ACC.

Mrs. Wyllie reported on the decisions and debate at the Annual Meeting concerning the establishment of Australian Church Women and tabled the following resolutions of the ACC:

"That the report be received.

That the establishment of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN in accordance with the report be authorised:

The next Steps outlined in the report:

To inform all the Heads of the member churches and their federal women's organizations;

To encourage participation by existing State and local women's organizations;

To organise a panel of speakers in each State to speak about Australian Church Women at denominational and inter-church gatherings;

To arrange gatherings at which representatives to significant ecumenical conferences may report;

To share in the planning of itineraries of overseas visitors e.g. Madelaine Barot in September and Janet Lacy in November;

To decide the dates of Fellowship Day and World Community Day;

To appoint a group to prepare or select study material for use in 1964;

To devise ways of linking individual women with ACW (e.g. the Fellowship of the Least Coin).

That the committee to investigate women's work be reappointed:

Mrs B. R. Wyllie (convener)

Mrs. L. M. Williams, Mrs. F. McKay (Presbyterian)

Deaconess Andrews (Church of England)

Mrs. S. M. Barrett (Methodist)

Mrs. J. F. Dey (Congregational)

Mrs. Doratis (Greek Orthodox)

Mrs. S. McPhee (YWCA)

Revs. B. R. Wyllie, B. H. Parker, H. L. Perkins.

That this committee nominate to the Executive the National Committee of ACW."

Discussion took place as to reactions following the decisions of the ACC

1. The NSW Women's Inter-Church Council is ready to send representatives to help plan special days.
2. The Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council is unwilling to discuss a federal structure with other State WICC's until it has examined the Australian Church Women proposals.
3. Opinion is still divided in denominational organizations.
4. It was also noted that publicity has been given to the Annual Meeting decisions in a church press release and in In Unity.



NEXT STEPS: 1. It was resolved that Mrs. McKay and Mrs. Wyllie prepare a short and general statement about plans for ACW, for use in correspondence with Heads of Churches, denominational and interdenominational women's groups. (i.e. accompanying personal letters).

It was noted that the statement should encourage correspondence and interchange of ideas, should set out clearly envisaged relations with existing organizations, should emphasize what we expect to do in the local area, and should underline its role in ecumenical promotion.

2. After discussion about the relationship of the role of ACW between "ecumenical promotion" and "co-operation of men and women", it was Agreed that the first study theme should be on the laity.

It was resolved to ask Mrs. McCaughey to convene a group in Victoria with Mesdames J. Wright, J. Coates, U. Porter, F. Christian, Deaconess Ritchie, Deaconess Shepherd and a person from the GBRE, to prepare a simple study outline for use in 1964.

Noting that the study material would need to be in draft by June and printed by September, it was resolved that Mrs. Dey and Mrs. Barrett plan how long the study should be, how many chapters, the role of questions, etc.

3. After some discussion of the Annual Meeting resolutions, it was agreed that the Committee could function more effectively as an interim Committee of ACW than as a Committee to investigate women's work.

It was therefore resolved to recommend to the Executive that the present committee be appointed as an Interim Committee of ACW until a truly national committee can be appointed.

4. It was resolved to ask Mrs. McKay, Mrs. Wyllie, Mrs. Faichney and Mrs. Lilley to prepare proposals concerning the dates and nature of both the Fellowship Day and the World Community Day proposed.

5. It was resolved (a) to invite the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council to send 2 representatives to participate in further planning

(b) to invite representatives of all denominational organizations to another conference in July.

6. It was agreed that ACW should have a sub-committee to deal with matters of co-operation between men and women.



# Australian Council of Churches

(Affiliated with the World Council of Churches)

TELEPHONE: 61 4766  
61 5224

TELEGRAPHIC:  
"ECUMENICAL", SYDNEY



ROOM 2, 3RD FLOOR,  
511 KENT STREET  
(CNR. BATHURST STREET),  
SYDNEY

## INTERIM COMMITTEE of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

May 29, 1963.

The Interim Committee of Australian Church Women invites you to a conference in the Board Room, YWCA, 189 Liverpool Street, Sydney on Wednesday, July 10 from 10.30am to 2pm. The group will be the guests of the YWCA at morning tea at 10.15am.

The programme will include:

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 10.30 - 10.55am | A Service of Worship  |
| 11.00 - 12.15pm | Three short addresses on the Cooperation of Men and Women in the Church and Ecumenical adventure in the local Church. |
| 12.15 - 1.00pm  | LUNCH. Served by the YWCA 2/6d per head.  |
| 1.00 - 2.00pm   | A panel discussion on questions raised by the recent statement on Australian Church Women.                            |

Now that individuals and groups have had time to think about the place and function of Australian Church Women we hope that this Conference will provide opportunity for further discussion and planning. We are inviting the Presidents and Secretaries of women's church organizations in Sydney. If you are unable to attend, we would be glad if you would appoint an alternate. I hope that you will be able to attend.

Yours sincerely,

RSVP  
June 26

Member Churches:  
Church of England, Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church,  
Greek Orthodox Church, Churches of Christ, Congregational Churches,  
Salvation Army, Society of Friends, Armenian Apostolic Church and  
Antiochian Orthodox Church.

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs.)

Convener.



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

The Interim Committee welcomes you to this Consultation of  
women's groups.

- 10.30am      SERVICE OF WORSHIP conducted by the Rev. Lilian Livingstone.  
  
(at the conclusion of the service we will move quietly from the  
Chapel to the adjoining Board Room.)
- 11.00am      MORNING SESSION. Chairman: Mrs. Fred McKay  
Addresses:
1. Department of Cooperation of Men and Women in Church, Family  
and Society of the World Council of Churches.
    - Mrs. B. R. Wyllie
  2. Cooperation of Men and Women in the Australian Churches.
    - (a) Mrs. Maynard Davies, Congregational
    - (b) Mrs. B. H. Briggs, Society of Friends
  3. Ecumenical Adventure in the Local Church.
    - (a) Mrs. J.F. Dey
    - (b) Mrs. Harvey Perkins
- 12.15pm      LUNCH
- 1.00pm      AFTERNOON SESSION. Chairman: Mrs. S. McPhee  
Panel Discussion:
- |                      |   |                                     |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| - Mrs. B. R. Wyllie  | ) | Members of the<br>Interim Committee |
| - Mrs. S. M. Barrett | ) |                                     |
| - Deaconess Andrews  | ) |                                     |
| - Mrs. F. McKay      | ) |                                     |
- Questions and open discussion.
- 2.00pm      CLOSING DEVOTIONS. Mrs. S. McPhee

---

The Interim Committee of Australian Church  
Women expresses its sincere gratitude to  
the Y.W.C.A. for their gracious hospitality  
to us today.

---



Attendance, Shs

Attendance

Mabel G. Wyllie  
 Margaret M. McKay  
 Mabel Clifford  
 Ethel A. Bastoway  
 Madys West  
 Phyllis M. P. P. P.  
 Ruth C. Davis  
 Terence Saunders  
 Keelal Day  
 Ruby Pennie  
 Jean Alexander  
 M. J. J. K. K.  
 Jean Coleman  
 Rita Dickson  
 Maryann Elmore  
 Eva Bell  
 Aubine Lucas  
 Edna Baker  
 Blanche Mason (Y. W. C. A.)  
 Edith Moore (Y. W. C. A.)

Name Only.

Joanna Murray  
 Lohel Rae  
 Etance M. V. V.  
 B. E. Montgomerie  
 Lorna Lilley  
 Alma Campbell  
 Mary Miller  
 A. Hall  
 H. Schubert  
 P. Smith  
 A. Doratic  
 L. Purnan  
 J. J. J. J.  
 Mabel Bell  
 G. E. Thompson  
 H. D. D.  
 Ed. Bugie  
 Rose M. M.

In Phee  
 Andrews.  
 Barren.



INTERIM COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

June 14, 1963.

Telephone:  
51 2014

Mrs. Briggs,  
13 Findlay Avenue,  
ROSEVILLE.  
N.S.W.

Dear Mrs. Briggs,

I am writing to thank you for agreeing to speak at the meeting of Australian Church Women on July 10. The enclosed invitation gives the programme for the day. We hope that there will be 50-60 women present representative of all the denominations in Sydney. Please telephone me if you have any questions on the programme or your part in it.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs.)  
Convener.



# Australian Council of Churches

(Affiliated with the World Council of Churches)

## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

TELEPHONE: 61 4766  
61 5224

TELEGRAPHIC:  
"ECUMENICAL". SYDNEY



ROOM 2, 3RD FLOOR,  
511 KENT STREET  
(CNR. BATHURST STREET),  
SYDNEY

June 24, 1963.

Mrs. N. Faichney,  
6 Estella Street,  
GLEN IRIS.  
Victoria.

Dear Mrs. Faichney,

When I returned from Adelaide and Melbourne I collected an attack of flu and am only now catching up with correspondence.

I am writing to say how grateful I was to have the opportunity of meeting the executive of the Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council. I valued that time with you very much and was thankful for your frankness in criticism and for the constructive ideas which came out of our short conference. I gave a report of the conversation to the Interim Committee at the last meeting and they were glad to know of the interest and concern of the Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council.

Last Wednesday a small sub-committee met to begin to draw up suggestions for a more formal structure of the Australian Church Women. This will go to the next Interim Committee Meeting and then will go to all interested organizations for their comment and suggestions. We do not want to rush into this, but I realised from our afternoon's conversation in Melbourne that this should, be the next step. In particular, Miss Barker's emphasis at the end of the meeting that a meeting of representatives from interstate should be called in the near future underlined this. This suggestion should be in your hands by the end of the first week in July.

The NSW Women's Inter-Church Council is going ahead with plans for a service of worship and a short study on "Who is my neighbour?" for Community Day this year. It will be held here on September 27, but if the material would be useful for you in Victoria, on whatever day you choose we would be delighted if you could use it. The service is a very lovely one adapted from the USA's service for their Fellowship Day this year. The ACC will be printing it on their new elegant machine and supplies will be available at cost price. I should have stressed this when I was with you in Melbourne.

Please give my warm regards and thanks to the members of your Executive.

Yours sincerely,

Member Churches:

Church of England, Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church,  
Greek Orthodox Church, Churches of Christ, Congregational Churches,  
Salvation Army, Society of Friends, Armenian Apostolic Church and  
Antiochian Orthodox Church.

*Mabel C. Wallie*  
**Mabel C. Wallie (Mrs) Convener**

dictated but not signed  
personally.



## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Suggestions for a more formal structure of Australian Church Women.

- - - - -

### 1. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

The basic composition of the NC of ACW shall be representative of:

1. Federal denominational women's organizations (appointed by the Federal body or by whatever means appropriate to the particular church).

Church of England	4	
Methodist	2	
Presbyterian	2	
Congregational	1	
Churches of Christ	1	
Salvation Army	1	
Other churches one each		minimum 15

2. State Councils of ACW (by whatever name they are called)  
(see No.2 below)

Queensland	1	Sth Aust.	1
N.S.W.	2	West Aust.	1
Victoria	2	A.C.T.	1
Tasmania	1		

9

3. Special interest groups: as will be named in the Constitution  
e.g. Women's World Day of Prayer, YWCA

2

4. The Australian Council of Churches

4

### 2. STATE COUNCILS OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

The existing State women's inter-church groups (where their constitution provides for representatives to be appointed by the denominational women's organizations of the State) shall be invited to be the State Council of ACW.

3. STATE COUNCILS OF ACW shall have consultative status on the State Council of Churches or the Committee affiliated with the ACC.

(Consultants have the right to speak and move motions but not to vote.)

4. LOCAL GROUPS OF ACW in suburban and rural areas shall be affiliated with the State Council of ACW.

5. The LOCAL GROUP OF ACW shall become affiliated with the Local Inter-Church Council if that Council is affiliated with the State Council of the ACC.

6. Individuals may become corresponding members with the State Council of ACW if there is no local group to which they may belong.

7. When the invitation to existing State Women's Inter-Church Councils to become State Councils of ACW is extended the following points should be made:

1. That the present name of the State body may be retained but that the

organization function as the State Council of the ACW.

2. That the organization which functions as the State Council of ACW shall give priority to the promoting of and continuing assistance to local groups of ACW in suburban and rural areas.

3. That the State Council include all member churches of the Australian Council of Churches and such other churches as may desire membership. e.g. The Russian and Serbian Orthodox Churches are in the Inter-Church Aid in Australia but are not member churches of the ACC., the Baptist Federal Board of Christian Education is a member of the Australian Council of Christian Education and the Australian Christian Youth Council, but the Baptist Church is not a member of the ACC., the Baptist Unions in Victoria and Tasmania are members of the Victorian and Tasmanian Councils of Churches affiliated with the ACC., but the Australian Baptist Union is not a member of the ACC. The basis of membership shall be that which governs admission to the Australian Council of Churches:

"A fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and therefore seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

4. That the State Councils of the ACW determine their ratio of representation from their member groups.

5. That special interest groups which have membership on the National Council of ACW shall be invited to the members on the State Councils.

3/7/63

- - - - -



C O P Y

July 19, 1963.

Mrs F. J. Pell,  
18 Gordon Avenue,  
KEW. E.4 Victoria

Dear Mrs Pell,

You will remember that in May of this year the Interim Committee of Australian Church Women sent out a statement of its purpose and aims to all Federal and State denominational women's groups and the Women's Inter-Church Councils in all States where they existed. There has been considerable discussion of this project and many groups have replied expressing their interest in this movement and asking for more information regarding the basis of Australian Church Women, and concerning the next steps which they can take to become part of ACW.

At its meeting on July 3 the Interim Committee resolved to invite the existing women's ecumenical organisations which operate on a State basis to become the State Councils of Australian Church Women. There is a copy of the document "Suggestions for a more formal structure of Australian Church Women" enclosed with this letter. This document sets out the basis on which this invitation is extended.

I am writing to you now to extend the invitation to the Women's Inter-Church Council of Victoria to become the State Council of Australian Church Women for Victoria.

The Interim Committee is convinced that ACW is needed to promote ecumenical thought and action amongst the church women of AUSTRALIA and that existing women's inter-church groups are the best channels for this ecumenical promotion. This opinion has also been expressed by inter-church groups and individual women in N.S.W., Victoria and South Australia.

It is the earnest hope of the Interim Committee that your Council will accept this invitation and will become an integral part of this movement to draw together the women of the Australian churches and to link them with Christian women throughout the world.



There are still many questions to be resolved, for example:

- . the time and manner of the election of a permanent national council
- . the financial requirements of ACW
- . the location of a national headquarters of ACW
- . the nature of the relationship of ACW and the Department of Cooperation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society of the World Council of Churches.

It is felt that these issues can be faced when once this more formal structure has been established. The calling together of representatives of Women's Inter-Church Councils who are prepared to act as State Councils of Australian Church Women would be the immediate next step.

We were very pleased indeed to have Colonel Saunders with us on July 10 and we were particularly happy that after the consultation at the YWCA we were able to have a short informal conference with the General Secretary of the Australian Council of Churches, the Rev. Harvey Perkins, Mrs Lilley, the secretary of the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council and other members of the Interim Committee. I think that we were all able to see the way ahead a little more clearly after that conversation.

I am sorry indeed that the dates of Dr Barot's visit to Melbourne have had to be changed. A cable from her arrived last Friday and this necessitated a reorganization of our proposed itinerary. I am sure you will enjoy having Dr Barot with you.

With kind regards and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs)  
Convener.



# INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Minutes of Interim Committee of Australian Church Women held on Wednesday, September 4 at 10 o'clock at the ACC offices.

- OPENING: Mrs. J.F. Dey led the meeting in opening prayers.
- PRESENT: Mesdames S.M. Barrett, F. McKay (in chair), J.F. Dey, L. Lilley, the Revs. H.L. Perkins, J.R. Neal and C.H. Norton.
- APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mesdames, B.R. Wyllie, S. McPhee, L. Williams and Deaconess Andrews.
- MINUTES: Minutes of the previous meeting having been duly circulated were taken as read and confirmed.

## BUSINESS ARISING:

Constitutional Relationships: It was resolved that the suggestions for a more formal structure of Australian Church Women be circulated to all women's denominational groups, heads of churches and committees of the Women's World Day of Prayer and the Y.W.C.A. together with a covering letter and the original statement.

Visit of Dr. Madeleine Barot: The meeting had before it the suggestions of the last meeting and a tentative programme which had been made following investigation of these suggestions. It was resolved that the following be the programme to be pursued:

Wednesday	lunch	Theological students and teachers at Camden College. Rev. C.H. Norton to arrange
	afternoon evening	Australian Council of Churches Executive Approach to be made to the French Embassy by the Rev. H.L. Perkins for a reception to which community organisations are to be invited (list as per suggestions received from Mrs. Wyllie).
Thursday	morning	Meet with Miss Needham re single women migrants and their needs.
	lunch	National Council of Women. Miss Arnot has agreed to arrange a luncheon. Mrs. McKay to suggest that University women and women in private law be also invited.
	afternoon	Meet with deaconesses and women theological students at Deaconess House; Deaconess Andrews has agreed to arrange.
	tea	Rev. and Mrs. John Garrett.
	evening (8pm)	Mixed gathering probably at CENEV Auditorium to which WCCF members to be invited - Rev. C.H. Norton to arrange.
Friday	morning (11am)	Meet with Interim Committee of Australian Church Women; Presidents or representatives of denominational women's groups; YWCA and Women's World Day of Prayer committee representatives. To be held in the ACC meeting room and to include lunch.
	afternoon (1.30)	Wesley Chapel to meet with the women of the various denominations. NSW Women's Inter-Church Council to arrange.
	evening	free.

It was agreed that the services of the Public Relations Office, Mr. Vaughan Hinton be sought for the publicity work needed.

## NSW STATE COMMITTEE OF THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES:

The Rev. C.H. Norton asked if the Interim Committee would be willing for one of its members to attend the next meeting of the Committee to speak about Australian Church Women. It was agreed that Mrs. McKay attend the meeting on September 17 to speak about Australian Church Women.



CORRESPONDENCE:

(1) A letter was tabled concerning the difficulties arising in South Australia and a reply drafted was read to the meeting. It was agreed that this letter be forwarded urgently to help to clear up the apparent misunderstandings over finance which had arisen there.

(2) A letter received by Mrs. McKay from the Presbyterian women in Victoria was also tabled. Mrs. McKay sought the assistance of the committee in order that she may adequately represent the view of Australian Church Women when she meet with the committee in Melbourne on October 1.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY:

It was reported that orders had been received for the observance of World Community Day on September 27 from Mangrove Mountain (Gosford district) and Alice Springs.

Mrs. Lilley reported that she had been disappointed at the response so far from N.S.W. but that she was including publicity of the day to all Methodist ministers' wives which was being sent out in the near future. The plans were well in hand for the Sydney observance at the CENE Auditorium on September 27.

It was agreed that a circular be prepared to advertise the Sydney observance of World Community Day and the visit of Dr. Madeleine Barot for distribution wherever possible. One suggestion was at the Women's World Day of Prayer rally to be held on September 12 - Mrs. Lilley to follow up this suggestion. Mrs. Barrett requested 100 copies for her use at Kingsgrove.

STUDY MATERIAL:

It was reported that the study material had been received from the committee in Melbourne. Three different studies had been sent and they were being studied by the various members of the Interim Committee. A discussion will be held at the next Interim Committee meeting on October 2.

Mrs. Dey reported that the Congregational Women's Fellowship were anxious to use part of the study in their 1964 programme (the other sections having been already covered in their studies over the past two years). It was agreed that the Interim Committee cooperate with them. Mr. Perkins also agreed that the ACC would cooperate in the producing of the study.

CLOSING: The meeting closed with prayer led by the Rev. H.L Perkins.

CONFIRMED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE NOTE THE NEXT MEETING OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2 at 10 O'CLOCK in the A.C.C. MEETING ROOM, 511 KENT STREET, SYDNEY.



VISIT OF Mlle Madeleine Barot

Programme (as at September 4)

WEDNESDAY  
October 16

lunch	Theological students and teachers at Camden College. Rev. C.H. Norton to arrange.
afternoon	Australian Council of Churches Executive
evening	Approach to be made to the French Embassy by the Rev. H.L. Perkins for a reception to which community organisations are to be invited (list as per suggestions received from Mrs. Wyllie).

THURSDAY  
October 17

morning	Meet with Miss Needham re single women migrants and their needs.
lunch	National Council of Women. Miss Arnot has agreed to arrange a luncheon. Mrs. McKay to suggest that University women and women in private law be also invited.
afternoon	Meet with deaconesses and women theological students at Deaconess House - Deaconess Andrews has agreed to arrange.
tea	Rev. & Mrs. J. Garrett
evening (8pm)	Mixed gathering probably at CENEF Auditorium to which WCCF members to be invited - Rev.C.H. Norton to arrange.

FRIDAY  
October 18

11.00am	Meet with Interim Committee of Australian Church Women; Presidents or representatives of denominational women's groups; IWCA and Women's World Day of Prayer committee representatives; to be held in the ACC meeting room and to include lunch.
1.30pm	Wealey Chapel - to meet with the women of the various churches. NSW Women's Inter-Church Council to arrange.
Evening	Free.







Mlle Madeleine Barot  
Executive Secretary,  
Department on Cooperation of Men and Women  
in Church, Family and Society

Madeleine Barot was born in 1909 at Chateauroux, in Touraine, the geographic centre of France, and famous even among the French, as the province where the purest French is spoken. Perhaps she inherited an ecumenical outlook; her father, a professor of the classics at Versailles, came from a long line of Huguenots, while her mother was from a Lutheran family of Alsace-Lorraine.

Madeleine Barot studied history and archaeology at the University of Paris, and after taking her degree in 1935, was awarded a fellowship at the Ecole Francaise d'Archeologie at Rome. During the next three years she acted as librarian for the Ecole Francaise while working on her thesis dealing with "Huguenot Persecutions and Human Rights".

During the years 1939-40 she lived at the French Embassy at Rome, and was engaged in giving talks on French culture to Italian audiences. When France was invaded, in 1940, by Germany, Italy's ally, she returned home, wondering what the future held in store for a cultural propagandist.

While studying in Paris, Mlle Barot had lived in an international student hostel of the University of Paris, founded by Sarah Watson, of the American YWCA, and run under the auspices of the Student Christian Movement. She was elected president of the SCM, Paris, and from 1935-36 served as programme secretary of the International Student Club.

In the meantime, she had also become a student of theology, though as an avocation growing out of her interest in the Protestant history of France, rather than with any thought of using such knowledge professionally.

In 1940 she asked Pastor Marc Boegner, president of the French Reformed Church and of the Protestant Federation of France, what the Protestant and Orthodox youth of France could do to help the victims of war. One of the first efforts undertaken was in concentration camps set up by the French government and in which disgraceful conditions prevailed. Mlle Barot went to one where 25,000 people were interned and asked the young commandant of the camp how she could help him, especially with children, who were dying daily. This offer was accepted and a request made for clothing and medicines. Finally, together with the help of a French pastor, she managed to enter the camp. Similar efforts were undertaken in other such camps in various parts of France, and the churches started giving support to this effort for which young teams of volunteers were recruited who were prepared to give up everything to live in the camps alongside the refugees, with whom they shared very hard conditions of life. From this work was organised CIMADE (Comite Inter-Mouvements aupres des Evacues).

In the years since then CIMADE has become the great service organisation of French Protestantism, though its members are not all Reformed and Lutherans. It groups together the young movements of the churches concerned with the ecumenical idea, including the Orthodox. CIMADE has battled for persecuted Jews, for Spanish refugees, for Catholics, Protestants, and unbelievers in need. It has been supported by gifts of food, clothing and money from all over the world through the World Council of Churches. CIMADE teams have worked in the suburbs of the big industrial towns of Dunkirk and Marseilles.

Mlle Barot continued for some time to hold a responsibility in the directing team of CIMADE. In this capacity she received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities from Wilson College in the USA in 1954.

Madeleine Barot became a member of the executive staff of the World Council of Churches at the beginning of 1953, as Director of the Commission on the Life and Work of Women in the Church.

This Commission was set up in 1948 by the First Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Amsterdam, its first Director being Miss Sarah Chakko of India, after which for a few months it was in the charge of Mrs Kathleen Bliss. The Second Assembly held at Evanston in 1954 changed its title to "Department on the Cooperation of Men and Women in Church and Society". The Third Assembly held at New Delhi in 1961 added the word "Family", so that the name of the Department is now the Department on Cooperation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.



This development in terminology already reflects the influence of Madeleine Barot. The emphasis shifted from the concept or "status" to the concept of "service" and especially to the idea of "cooperation between men and women"; it shifted also from preoccupation with the role of women in the Church to the contribution of women together with men in the family and in society. In other words, Madeleine Barot tried to lead the interest of the churches, and especially of the women's associations, away from the narrow and sometimes aggressive concept of women's rights to a rediscovery of full cooperation between men and women in every sphere of life.

It is partly due to her that Africa is included on the ecumenical map today. Since 1954 she has travelled all over the African continent, and has carried out a general enquiry and continuous consultations concerning widely-varied problems such as polygamy, the custom of the bride-price, the status of girls and young women in the service of the Church, legislation concerning marriage and divorce, the education of women on questions concerning sex and the family. Through the organisation of meetings and conferences in different parts of Africa, especially of two pan-African Conferences for women (at Ibadan in 1958 and at Kampala in 1963) her Department has been able to exercise considerable influence on Christian life. It is therefore not surprising that the newly-constituted All-Africa Church Conference plans to make cooperation between men and women one of its main concerns.

At this point mention must be made of Madeleine Barot's work in Algeria. As a member of CIMADE (even when she was no longer one of its leaders) and as a Frenchwoman who is active in the ecumenical movement, the Algerian tragedy of 1954-62 made a very deep impression upon her. She was actively engaged in continuing CIMADE's work in Algeria, and helped to found the Committee for Christian Service in Algeria, which has been coordinating all the Christian relief projects in Algeria since the war ended.

In her capacity as Director of this Department of the World Council of Churches, she has directed her attention especially to the emancipation of Algerian women today and their preparation for life and work in society. At the same time this gave her an opportunity to investigate the problem of the position of women in Moslem countries.

A broad section of her work is concentrated upon the countries of Asia. She has travelled in Japan, Hong Kong, Formosa, Philippines, Malaya, Burma and India. She has organised consultations in Madras, in Thailand and Indonesia and has promoted the study of questions such as family planning, responsible parenthood, and practical problems facing working mothers, and the responsibility of Christian women in political life.

Her contacts with the United Nations form another aspect of her work. She devotes a lot of time to the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women, which brings her in touch with many secular women's associations, and also gives her the opportunity to form contacts with governments which may sometimes be useful to national churches, if they wish to take up contact with their own government.

With regard to the permanent problem of the ordination of women to the ministry, Madeleine Barot says that no initiative is required in this connection at the moment. Things are moving, and the only thing needed is to keep informed about the many simultaneous developments in the different confessions and countries, in order to be able to supply adequate documentary material to churches which are seeking a new approach to this question.

Madeleine Barot's Department is in permanent contact with at least 2,000 people all over the world. These are not all representatives of the member churches of the World Council of Churches, but also include many Roman Catholics. For many years she has fostered personal relations with Catholic groups, kept in close contact with the Roman Catholic Orders and with lay groups within the Roman Catholic Church which are concerned with the ordination of women. She also has many contacts with non-Christians - members of secular occupational associations in the West, or of the Association of Moslem Women in Africa, or with groups of communist or Marxist tendencies.



She says that the secular women's organisations are trying to understand the Church's attitude to their problems. They realise that it is largely due to the Christian faith that women are recognised as personalities and that they receive opportunities for education. But they also say that the attitude of the Church is extremely conservative (not to say reactionary) in regard to marriage, the family and other problems which concern women. They are asking how these two attitudes can be reconciled.

In 1955 the WCC adopted a statement outlining the task of the Department. This begins:

"The basic concern of this Department, as of the entire World Council of Churches, is the wholeness of the Church. This wholeness can be achieved only when every part of the membership of the Church is enabled to participate fully in its life. Effective participation includes working together with others who have different gifts. The special concern of this Department is the cooperation between men and women. It is inherent in our Faith that men and women are called and sent together to do God's will in the Church and in society. God created men and women and set them together under His blessing and His order. Christ came to save men and women and called them together to His discipleship. The Holy Spirit was given to men and women as members of the new community to witness together for the sake of Christ in the world.

"This emphasis on "togetherness" implies recognition of the incompleteness of man and woman when taken separately or in isolation from each other. For this reason the cooperation of men and women is not a special doctrinal issue nor yet a single feature of church life or organisation. Still less is it an emphasis on the interests or rights of a single group in the Church. It touches nearly all doctrinal and practical issues with which the Church is concerned."



For the information of Presbyterian members of the Australian Council of Churches.

#### AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Since receiving the initial information regarding the formation of Australian Church Women at the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches, the Executive and Council of the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia, Victoria Unit, have given much thought to the suggestions sent by the Interim-Committee. As there was a good deal of confusion the P.W.A. brought Mrs. McKay, a member of the Interim-Committee, to Melbourne to address a meeting of Presbyterian women and to answer questions. Following this meeting, as it appeared clear that no major change in the Interim-Committee's original plan was likely, the P.W.A. executive made the following recommendations to Council:

The P.W.A. does not really favour setting up a separate women's organisation, but because the Australian Council of Churches feels the need of some such women's organisation we feel we should support Australian Church Women.

We do not favour any organisational representation at National level, but rather, that representation should come from State Inter-Church Councils plus Australian Council of Churches representation.

We feel that at this stage State Inter-Church Councils should not be expected to change their present set-up unless they are willing.

We feel that at all levels there should be some provision made for men and women to work together.

However at the Council meeting in November strong opposition to the plan in its present form was expressed by Council members representing both organisations and congregational units, especially by representatives of the latter who had had an opportunity to discuss in their local groups the possibility of implementing the A.C.W. idea in their local situations. The Council declined to vote on the Executive's recommendation and appointed a very representative sub-committee to report to the Council at its next meeting in March.

The President of the P.W.A. of Australia was present at this meeting and shared in the discussion. It was then thought that there would be an opportunity for adequate discussion at the Federal Conference in September, 1964 for a possible request to the Australian Council of Churches to reconsider the same matter. Another state has asked the P.W.A. Federal Executive for guidance about A.C.W., but the Federal Executive has informed states that it does not feel able to give any guidance until the Conference in September.

Since then a news sheet has been circulated by the Interim-Committee indicating that a federal consultation will take place in March to determine the future development of Australian Church Women. Organisations will not be represented at this meeting although it is proposed that they shall be represented on the Australian Council of A.C.W. Presbyterian women have not yet had an opportunity to discuss the matter at their Australian level, nor will they have until September 1964 by which time apparently the whole pattern will be determined.

The fundamental matters which have caused most difficulty appear to be:-

1. Confusion about the formation of a women's organisation in view of the World Council of Churches' decision to abandon a separate women's commission.
2. Delegates of the churches to the Australian Council of Churches Annual Meeting committed the women of their churches to a women's organisation of a particular pattern without the women having any opportunity to consider the desirability of a women's organisation or the form that such an organisation might take.
3. This put the women of the churches in the position of accepting, without an opportunity to modify its pattern, an organisation planned by a small group of women in one state, or of standing out of a new ecumenical venture.



Other difficulties raised are:-

1. The danger of encouraging a strong women's organisation to develop alongside the Australian Council of Churches.
2. The inclusion of organisations, either church or "special interest", in an organisation of Church women who should be members by right of their membership in their own churches.
3. (a) Encouragement of local inter-church women's groups could compete with, or hinder, the development of inter-church councils (men and women) associated with the State Councils of Churches.  
(b) It could also cut across present work involving men and women at local congregation level.
4. It would have been better to have authorised the Interim-Committee to see what sort of organisation would be acceptable, and then to wait until all Australian women's organisations had had an opportunity to speak before a definite pattern was decided on.

The P.W.A. would probably have unanimously supported a federation of state Women's Inter-Church Councils with a federal committee elected by the state councils, each state developing its council as best suited to its own situation as is now done within the P.W.A. of Australia.

There is at present some confusion about Victorian Inter-Church Council's exact present relation to the proposed Australian Church Women.

8/1/64.



## Australian Church Women -

Three definite points put before the P. W. A. Council by its Executive:

- (a) Executive queries the setting up of a separate women's organisation; what part would it play in the whole life of the Church?
- (b) Executive is opposed to the organisational representation suggested in the proposed set up.
- (c) Representation should come from the bottom up, but care should be taken to preserve the denominational representation in some way.

Points raised in Executive & Council & among other representatives Presbyterian women.

- 1) Is this not a retrograde step in view of the W. P. C.'s deliberate decision to replace the commission on women and with one including men, & more broadly based?
- 2) There should not be representation at both state & Australian level. Australian representation should come from states. The suggested plan would be very confusing.
- 3) The organisational pattern varies so much & so many women are not in organisations that any organisational set up would be ~~be~~ unrealistic and would unduly limit the pattern of women work in the churches for the present at any rate. Gt to have someone to work out from
- 4) If the organisational set up is accepted some denominations, including the Presbyterians, would be involved in



- (How) decisions at these points - Interchurch Council, state P.W.A  
 & Federal P.W.A. and all these decisions could easily be different
- 5) Couldn't individual membership be the basis of the Association?
  - 6) Our women are already so confused about organisations, church departments, interchurch councils, World Day of prayer, Victorian Council of churches, Australian Council of Churches, World Council of churches, that to suggest something else could easily make them throw up their hands altogether.
  - 7) What does the W.C.C. think about A.C.W?
  - 8) Couldn't a committee representing all states work on the suggested structure, we all belong to the women's interchurch council and they could choose a representative
  - 9) Couldn't each state suggest a structure and then everyone discuss them.

Member Churches at 2nd level.

State Councils.



Also sent to: Mrs Colonel Saunders, Victoria; Mrs D D Thomson S Aust

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

November 11, 1963

Mrs. H.J. Lilley,  
Secretary,  
N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council,  
206 Eastern Valley Way,  
WILLOUGHBY.  
N.S.W.

Dear Mrs. Lilley,

At the meeting of the Interim Committee of Australian Church Women on Wednesday, November 6 a discussion took place on what the next steps should be in relation to the establishment of Australian Church Women, and the following resolution was passed:

- "1. That a national consultation be called by the Interim committee.
2. That the consultation be held from March 17 - 18 in Sydney.
3. That invitations be sent to the women's inter-church councils of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.
4. That the fare of one person from each state be paid by the committee (return rail fare from Melbourne and Brisbane, air fare from Adelaide), and that each state be invited to send one other at their own expense.
5. That hospitality be found in Sydney.
6. That Mrs. McKay, Mrs. Verco and Deaconess Andrews from a sub-committee to prepare a draft agenda to be submitted to the next meeting.
7. That there be three or possibly four sessions: afternoon and evening of March 17 and morning and possibly afternoon of March 18."

This is to invite the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council to this consultation with other women's inter-church councils who have accepted the invitation to cooperate with the Australian Church Women.

As you will see from the resolution of the last meeting the draft agenda will be discussed at the next meeting and will be forwarded to you later.

We think that within the last year we have travelled a great distance and we feel that that this consultation will be a means of bringing us closer together in the fellowship of the Christian Church, and helping us to establish the work we feel needs to be done in our women's groups in bringing to them a truly ecumenical experience.

The consultation is being made possible by the Australian Council of Churches who are cooperating with us in this next step and is being planned at a time when we have the counsel of the President and the General Secretary of the Council.

We trust that you will accept this invitation and we will look forward to hearing who your representatives will be.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. M. G. Wyllie,  
Chairman.



Also sent to Mrs HJ Lilley, Mrs B Thomson



## AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

(Affiliated with the World Council of Churches)

PRESIDENT  
the Rev. B. R. Wyllie  
GENERAL SECRETARY  
the Rev. Harvey L. Perkins  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
the Rev. J. R. Neal

TELEPHONE: 61 4766  
61 5224

TELEGRAPHIC:  
"ECUMENICAL," Sydney  
Third Floor,  
511 Kent Street,  
SYDNEY

### INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

December 18, 1963.

Mrs. Col. Saunders,  
40 Middleborough Road,  
BURWOOD. E.13.  
Victoria.

Dear Mrs. Col. Saunders,  
Re National Consultation

Further to our letter of invitation to the National Consultation to be held in Sydney next March, we have pleasure in passing on to you the Interim Committee's suggested agenda for the Consultation.

- (1) Narration and discussion of the steps taken to establish ACW (this will include both structure and programme).
- (2) Where do we go from here in developing ACW?
  - (a) at national level
  - (b) at state level
  - (c) at local leveland the relation between a,b, and c.  
(d) finance.
- (3) How do we develop our programme?
  - i. Fellowship Day
  - ii. Community Day
  - iii. Local Women's Inter-Church Groups
  - iv. Projects: scholarships; fraternal workers.
  - v. Cooperation of men and women in the Church.
- (4) Constitution of the Australian Church Women.

We would be very happy to receive any comments and suggestions that your committee may wish to contribute, and look forward to hearing from you concerning the name of your delegate for the Consultation so that we may arrange for hospitality.

Yours sincerely,

*Mabel G. Wyllie*  
Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs)  
Convener.



## Women's Inter-church Council of Victoria

Hon. Secretary:  
Mrs. Colonel Saunders,  
40 Middleborough Road,  
Burwood, E.13  
Telephone: 28 5702.

PRESIDENT

Mrs. O. Keen.....

Hon. Treasurer:  
Mrs. T. G. Grieve,  
9 Serpentine Street,  
Mont Albert, E.10  
Telephone: 89 4505.

7 JAN 1964 5.1.64

GEN. SEC.	SEC.
EXEC. SEC.	
MEMBERS	
PRO.	
FIN.	

Mrs. M. G. Myllie  
511 Kent Street  
Sydney

Dear Mrs. Myllie,

Thankyou for your letter of November 11th. '63. Will you please forgive my delay in replying- my correspondence is in arrears I fear.

Unfortunately our final Council meeting for the year had been held, and our year's work concluded before your letter came, but Mrs. Keen has conferred with each member of the Executive, and I am now able to reply to your queries.

"1. The Council thanks you for your invitation to 2 of our members to attend the National consultation called by the Interim Committee, to be held in Sydney on March 17-18th. We have pleasure in accepting your invitation, and the Executive have asked me to let you know that Mrs. T.H. Coates, and myself will represent the Victorian Council.

2. We shall be happy to pay the fare of one representative, and gratefully accept your offer to pay the 2nd.fare.

3. Thankyou for your kind offer of hospitality during the consultation.

With yourself, we feel we have 'travelled a long way this year' and we look forward to coming closer to each other, in fellowship and understanding during this year we have just commenced.

With kindest regards!

Yours very sincerely,

*Florence Saunders.*  
Florence Saunders,  
Hon. Sec.





## AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

(Affiliated with the World Council of Churches)

**PRESIDENT**

the Rev. B. R. Wyllie

**GENERAL SECRETARY**

the Rev. Harvey L. Perkins

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

the Rev. J. R. Neal

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

TELEPHONE: 61 4766

61 5224

TELEGRAPHIC:

"ECUMENICAL," Sydney

Third Floor,  
511 Kent Street,  
SYDNEY

January 28, 1964.

Mrs. Colonel Saunders,  
Hon. Secretary,  
Women's Inter-Church Council of Victoria,  
40 Middleborough Road,  
BURWOOD. E.13  
Victoria.

Dear Mrs. Saunders,

Thank you for your letter of January 5. I am happy indeed that your Council will prepare the study and worship service for 1964 Community Day. Here in Sydney we are convinced that the women of the churches should be thinking seriously about peace in our time. In some cases we find that it is left to groups outside the churches to encourage thought and action on this subject.

And I am glad too that you will be at the Annual meeting of the A.C.C. as an observer. This will give us an opportunity to have your advice on the consultation to be held in Sydney in March.

We are glad to know that Mrs. Lillian Wells from Adelaide is to go to the E.A.C.C. Assembly in Bangkok in February as an Australian delegate.

Have you seen a copy of our study book SAINTS ALIVE!? I think that it is a good beginning in the preparation of study material by Australian Church Women.

And one last piece of news. The Queensland Women's Inter-Church Council has now agreed to become the State unit for A.C.W. This is very gratifying.

I am looking forward to seeing you again in Melbourne next month.

With kind regards and affectionate good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

*Mabel G. Wyllie*  
Mrs. M.G. Wyllie,  
Convener

MEMBER CHURCHES:

Church of England	Greek Orthodox Church	Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Church
Armenian Apostolic Church	Congregational Church	Methodist Church
Presbyterian Church	Churches of Christ	Salvation Army
		Society of Friends





## AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

(Affiliated with the World Council of Churches)

PRESIDENT  
the Rev. B. R. Wyllie  
GENERAL SECRETARY  
the Rev. Harvey L. Perkins  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
the Rev. J. R. Neal

### INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

TELEPHONE: 61 4766  
61 5224

TELEGRAPHIC:  
"ECUMENICAL," Sydney  
Third Floor,  
511 Kent Street,  
SYDNEY

January 28, 1964.

Mrs. Colonel Saunders,  
40 Middleborough Road,  
BURWOOD.  
E.13. Victoria

Dear Mrs. Colonel Saunders,

Could you let us know by return mail (if this is possible) the date your committee has in mind for this year's FELLOWSHIP DAY. We have been thinking in terms of the first Friday in May but note that your material for previous years gives a July date. As we did for Community Day last year we will produce material undated but for publicity purposes through our press services we would like to know if you have planned a date. The material is now on hand and we will begin to produce it this week.

Yours sincerely,

*Mabel G. Wyllie*

Mrs. M.G. Wyllie,  
Convener.

#### MEMBER CHURCHES:

Church of England	Greek Orthodox Church	Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Church
Armenian Apostolic Church	Congregational Church	Methodist Church
Presbyterian Church	Churches of Christ	Salvation Army
		Society of Friends



INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

January 28, 1964.

Mrs. F. G. Dennis,  
32 Coronation Road,  
BARDON.  
Brisbane, Q'land

Dear Mrs. Dennis,

We are happy to know that the Queensland Women's Inter-Church Council has accepted our invitation to become the state council for Australian Church Women and we look forward to the fellowship we will share together.

We now write to you concerning a consultation we are planning in March.

The Consultation will be held in Sydney from March 17 - 18 and invitations have already been sent to the women's inter-church councils of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales who have also accepted the invitation to be the state council of Australian Church Women in their respective States.

The Interim Committee invites you to be represented at the consultation and is prepared to pay the return rail fare of one delegate from your council. Hospitality will be found for your delegate or delegates in Sydney.

We think that within the last year we have travelled a great distance and we feel that this consultation will be a means of bringing us closer together in the fellowship of the Christian Church, and helping us to establish the work we feel needs to be done in our women's groups in bringing to them a truly ecumenical experience.

The consultation is being made possible by the Australian Council of Churches who are cooperating with us in this next step and is being planned at a time when we have the counsel of the President and the General Secretary of the Australian Council of Churches.

The following is an outline of the proposed agenda -

- (1) Narration and discussion of the steps taken to establish Australian Church Women (this will include both structure and programme).
- (2) Where do we go from here in developing A.C.W. ?
  - (a) at national level
  - (b) at state level
  - (c) at local leveland the relation between a, b, and c.  
(d) finance.
- (3) How do we develop our programme?
  - i. Fellowship Day
  - ii. Community Day
  - iii. Local Women's Inter-Church Groups
  - iv. Projects; scholarships, fraternal workers
  - v. Cooperation of men and women in the Church.
- (4) Constitution of the Australian Church Women.

We would be very happy to receive any comments and suggestions that your committee may wish to contribute, and look forward to hearing from you as to the name/names of your delegate/s for the Consultation so that we may arrange hospitality.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. M. G. Wyllie,  
Convener.



Interim Committee  
AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

Room 2 - 3rd floor  
511 Kent Street  
SYDNEY.

January 28, 1964.

Dear Committee Member,

I am writing to remind you that at its November meeting the Interim Committee of Australian Church Women decided to change the date of meeting of the Committee from the first to the second Wednesday in each month. Wednesday, February 12 will be the day after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches in Melbourne and neither Mr. Perkins nor Miss Skiller would be available. Mrs. Dey and Mrs. Wyllie will be returning from Melbourne at that time. We have decided therefore to call a meeting of the Interim Committee for 10am on Wednesday, February 19. This will be a most important meeting for it will be an opportunity for Mrs. Dey and Mrs. Wyllie to report on the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches and also it will be necessary to make final plans for the consultation to be held on March 17 and 18. I do hope that you can be with us on that day.

Items of Interest.

1. The Queensland Women's Inter-Church Council has agreed to become the state unit for A.C.W. in Queensland. We now have South Australia, Victoria, N.S.W. and Queensland Women's Inter-Church Councils as state units for A.C.W.

2. A.C.C. Annual Meeting: the following will be attending the Annual Meeting in Melbourne - Mesdames, J.F. Dey, T.H. Coates and M.G. Wyllie. Also as observers - Mrs. Colonel Saunders and Mrs. O. Keen from the Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council and Mrs. H. Wells who will be going to the EACC Assembly at Bangkok.

3. Fellowship Day - we have now received the draft of the material for use on Fellowship Day from the N.S.W. State Secretary of the ACC - the Rev. C. H. Norton. The theme is "The Great Shepherd" which is that of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

4. "Saints Alive!" - the study booklet prepared by the Interim Committee is now ready and a copy is enclosed together with some publicity leaflets.

Yours sincerely,

Encl.

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs)  
Convener.



# Womens Inter-Church Council of Queensland

32 Coronation St.,  
Bardon,  
Queensland,  
1st. February 1964.

The Convener,  
Interim Committee,  
Australian Church Women.

Dear Mrs. Wyllie,

Thank you for the welcome extended to our Council.  
We look forward to developments of the Australian Church Women.

At our meeting held yesterday, the question of a delegate to the Consultation to be held in Sydney on 17th. and 18th. March was discussed. Unfortunately our President, Mrs Ashton, had another commitment thus preventing her from representing our Council, and it was agreed that the Secretary should attend. I therefore await further information as to time and place of meetings. I shall be glad of hospitality, and will meet my hostess at the meeting on Tuesday 17th. March.

Thank you for the copy of "Saints Alive" in which our members were interested. It was decided to order 36 copies of the study booklet, and our cheque to cover cost and postage will be forwarded as soon as the postage is known.

I forgot to mention that our President intimated that should any member be visiting Sydney at the time of the Consultation she may care to attend with our official delegate.

Christian greetings,

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs. F.G. Dennis),  
Hon. Secretary,  
Women's Inter-Church Council of Queensland.



FEDERAL DENOMINATIONAL WOMEN'S  
GROUPS

+ YWCA

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Church of Christ

Mr. Mc Lene

February 24, 1964

Women Fellowship of Christ

C/o Mrs CR VURDUE

32 Selt St

Leander

N. 3

Brisbane

Qld

The Interim Committee of Australian Church Women is planning a Consultation in Sydney on March 17th and 18th. Two representatives from the women's inter-church councils of South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales have accepted the invitation to attend. These are the councils that have agreed to be the state units of Australian Church Women.

This consultation is to be essentially informal and will have no legislative power.

The Interim Committee of Australian Church Women is conscious continually that it is not adequately representative of the women of the churches throughout Australia and this consultation is planned so that the Committee and the Australian Council of Churches can have the benefit of the thinking and comments of a wider and more representative group of women.

At our meeting on Wednesday last, following discussion at the Australian Council of Churches Annual Meeting in Melbourne, the committee resolved to write to the Presidents of the Federal Denominational Women's organisations and invite them to join the consultation in March. This was done for two reasons - to make the representation and scope of the consultation wider and to ensure that the women's groups in the member churches of the Australian Council of Churches should have the opportunity to take part in the plans for future development and general discussion. It will be understood of course



that Presidents of Federal Denominal organisations will in most cases, be unable to speak for their organisations, because the relationship to Australian Church Women has not yet been discussed by their federal bodies, but the Interim Committee would be grateful for their presence and their comments in general discussion.

The Australian Council of Churches is unable to provide travelling expenses for denominational presidents. We suggest however that if you are not able to attend in person you appoint a woman who will be at the consultation as your representative and who can forward reports to you.

I hope that you or your representative will be able to be with us in Sydney in March.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs.)  
Convener.

Enclosed: Programme outline  
List of participants



INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

February 24, 1964.

Mrs. I. Haynes  
Stow Court,  
Fullarton Road,  
FULLARTON.  
SouthAustralia

Dear Mrs. Haynes,

The Interim Committee of Australian Church Women is planning a Consultation in Sydney on March 17th and 18th. Two representatives from the women's inter-church councils of South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales have accepted the invitation to attend. These are the councils that have agreed to be the state units of Australian Church Women.

This consultation is to be essentially informal and will have no legislative power.

The Interim Committee of Australian Church Women is conscious continually that it is not adequately representative of the women of the churches throughout Australia and this consultation is planned so that the Committee and the Australian Council of Churches can have the benefit of the thinking and comments of a wider and more representative group of women.

At our meeting on Wednesday last, following discussion at the Australian Council of Churches Annual Meeting in Melbourne, the committee resolved to write to the Presidents of the Federal Denominational Women's organisations and invite them to join the consultation in March. This was done for two reasons - to make the representation and scope of the consultation wider and to ensure that the women's groups in the member churches of the Australian Council of Churches should have the opportunity to take part in the plan

for future development and general discussion. It will be understood of course that Presidents of Federal Denominational organisations will in most cases, be unable to speak for their organisations, because the relationship to Australian Church Women has not yet been discussed by their federal bodies, but the Interim Committee would be grateful for their presence and their comments in general discussion.

The Australian Council of Churches is unable to provide travelling expenses for denominational presidents. We suggest however that if you are not able to attend in person you appoint a woman who will be at the consultation as your representative and who can forward reports to you.

I hope that you or your representative will be able to be with us in Sydney in March.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs)  
Convener.

Enclosed: Programme outline  
List of participants



*Invitation to participate  
in programme*

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

February 24, 1964

Mrs. Colonel Saunders,  
40 Middleborough Road,  
BURWOOD.  
E.13 Victoria

Dear Mrs. Colonel Saunders,

You will see from the enclosed outline of business for the Consultation next month that we plan to discuss - how to establish local councils and how to promote Community Day and Fellowship Day - and we have included a report from Victoria. At our meeting last week we felt that this would be the best way of introducing the subject of Community Day and Fellowship Day and regional women's inter-church councils. We are planning to ask Mrs. Coates to speak on the Singapore Conference so we would be very glad if you could do this particular job for the Consultation.

There will be a considerable amount of business to be coped with so we feel we will have to ask each person preparing a short paper to restrict themselves to 10 minutes each. Altogether we anticipate that there will be a good deal of discussion on the subject and your paper will introduce the subject to the Consultation.

With kind regards and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs.)  
Convener.



INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

February 24, 1964.

Mrs. Commissioner Bramwell Cook,  
Salvation Army Headquarters,  
140 Elizabeth Street,  
SYDNEY.

Dear Mrs. Commissioner Cook,

The Interim Committee of Australian Church Women is planning a consultation in Sydney on March 17th and 18th. Two representatives from the women's inter-church councils of South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales have accepted the invitation to attend. These are the councils that have agreed to be the state units of Australian Church Women.

This consultation is to be essentially informal and will have no legislative power.

The Interim Committee of Australian Church Women is conscious continually that it is not adequately representative of the women of the churches throughout Australia and this consultation is planned so that the Committee and the Australian Council of Churches can have the benefit of the thinking and comments of a wider and more representative group of women.

At our meeting on Wednesday last, following discussion at the Australian Council of Churches Annual Meeting in Melbourne, the committee resolved to write to the Presidents of the Federal Denominational Women's organisations and invite them to join the consultation in March. This was done for two reasons - to make the representation and scope of the consultation wider and to ensure that the women's groups of the member churches in the Australian Council of Churches would have the opportunity to take part in the plans for future development and general discussion. It will be understood of course that Presidents of Federal Denominational organisations will in most cases,

be unable to speak for their organisations, because the relationship to Australian Church Women has not yet been discussed by their federal bodies, but the Interim Committee would be grateful for their presence and their comments in general discussion.

Mrs. Colonel Saunders as honorary secretary of the Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council will be attending the consultation and we are anxious that there be a Salvation Army representative from the Eastern Territory to share in this consultation. We trust that it will be possible for you or your representative to be with us at the Consultation.

The consultation will begin with lunch at Wesley College (within the University of Sydney) at 12.30pm. Fuller details concerning the programme will be forwarded nearer the consultation date.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs)  
Convener.

Enclosed: Programme outline  
List of participants



INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

February 24, 1964.

Mrs. C. Thompson,  
18 Derwentwater Avenue,  
SANDY BAY, Hobart.  
TASMANIA

Dear Mrs. Thompson,

The Interim Committee of Australian Church Women is planning a Consultation in Sydney on March 17 th and 18th. Two representatives have been invited from the women's inter-church councils of South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland and have accepted to attend. These are the councils that have agreed to be the state unites of Australian Church Women.

This consultation is to be essentially informal and will have no legislative power.

The Interim Committee of Australian Church Women is conscious continually that it is not adequately representative of the women of the churches throughout Australia and this consultation is planned so that the Committee and the Australian Council of Churches can have the benefit of the thinking and comments of a wider and more representative group of women.

At our meeting on Wednesday last, following discussion at the Australian Council of Churches Annual Meeting in Melbourne, the committee resolved to write to the Presidents of the Federal Denominational Women's organisations and invite them to join the consultation in March. In the absence of your president overseas we are forwarding this invitation to you. This was done for two reasons - to make the representation and scope of the consultation wider and to ensure that the women's groups in the member churches of the Australian Council of Churches should have the opportunity to take part in the plans for future development and general discussion. It will be under-

stood of course that Presidents of Federal Denominational organisations (or Secretaries) will in most cases, be unable to speak for their organisations, because the relationship to Australian Church Women has not yet been discussed by their federal bodies, but the Interim Committee would be grateful for their presence and their comments in general discussion.

The Australian Council of Churches is unable to provide travelling expenses for denominational presidents. We suggest however that if you are not able to attend in person you appoint a woman who will be at the consultation as your representative and who can forward reports to you.

I hope that you or your representative will be able to be with us in Sydney in March.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs)  
Convener.

Enclosed: Programme outline  
List of participants



INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

February 24, 1964.

Mrs. E.A. Pitman,  
8 Bolingbroke Grove,  
TOORAK GARDENS.  
South Australia

Dear Mrs. Pitman,

We are very glad that you are able to attend as a representative of your inter-church council the Consultation on Australian Church Women to be held in Sydney from March 18 - 18.

Enclosed you will find a form to be completed concerning your travel arrangements and an outline of the business to be discussed which has been suggested by the Interim Committee.

We will commence with lunch at 12.30pm on the 17th at Wesley College (within the grounds of the University of Sydney which is only a few miles from the Central Railway Station). If you are unfamiliar with Sydney and would welcome being assisted in finding your way please indicate on the enclosed form and we will arrange for you to be met.

We are looking forward to this Consultation together as we feel it will be of considerable help to us all as we seek the will of God in our work.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Mabel G. Wyllie,  
Convener.

Enclosed: Form re travel  
Outline of business  
to be discussed.

Sent also to: Mrs Joan Coates, Victoria

Mrs Colonel Saunders, Victoria

Mrs E P Playford, SA



INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

February 24, 1964

Mrs. W.F. Hambly,  
Federal President,  
Methodist Women's Federation,  
Lincoln College,  
ADELAIDE. South Australia.

Dear Mrs. Hambly,

The Interim Committee of Australian Church Women is planning a Consultation in Sydney on March 17th and 18th. Two representatives have been invited from the women's inter-church councils of South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland and have accepted to attend. These are the councils that have agreed to be the state units of Australian Church Women.

This consultation is to be essentially informal and will have no legislative power.

The Interim Committee of Australian Church Women is conscious continually that it is not adequately representative of the women of the churches throughout Australia and this consultation is planned so that the Committee and the Australian Council of Churches can have the benefit of the thinking and comments of a wider and more representative group of women.

At our meeting on Wednesday last, following discussion at the Australian Council of Churches Annual Meeting in Melbourne, the committee resolved to write to the Presidents of the Federal Denominational Women's organisations and invite them to join the consultation in March. This was done for two reasons - to make the representation and scope of the consultation wider and to ensure that the women's groups in the member churches of the Australian Council of Churches should have the opportunity to take part in the plans for future development and general discussion. It will be understood of course that Presidents of Federal Denominational

organisations will in most cases, be unable to speak for their organisation, because the relationship to Australian Church Women has not yet been discussed by their federal bodies, but the Interim Committee would be grateful for their presence and their comments in general discussion.

The Australian Council of Churches is unable to provide travelling expenses for denominational presidents. We suggest however that if you are not able to attend in person you appoint a woman who will be at the consultation as your representative and who can forward reports to you.

I hope that you or your representative will be able to be with us in Sydney in March.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. M.G. Wyllie,  
Convener.

Enclosed: Programme outline  
List of participants



INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

March 4, 1964

Mrs. Ida B. Haynes,  
47 Stow Court,  
51 Fullarton Road,  
FULLARTON  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Dear Mrs. Haynes,

Mrs. Wyllie has asked me to reply to your letter of March 2 and to say how delighted she is that you will be able to attend part of the Consultation we are planning in Sydney from March 17 to 18.

We will be touch with Mrs Dey re any arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Miss T. Skiller -  
on behalf of the Interim C'tee



INTERIM COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

March 4, 1964

Mrs. Doratis,  
42 Clelland Street,  
MASCOT.  
N.S.W.

Dear Mrs. Doratis,

We have missed you at the meetings of the Interim Committee and hope that it will be possible for you to come to the Consultation we are planning for March 17 and 18. The Consultation will be attended by members of the Women's Inter-Church Councils of South Australia, Victoria, N.S.W. and Queensland together with the Federal women's organisations representatives. The Consultation will begin with lunch at Wesley College at 12.30pm (within the University of Sydney grounds).

Enclosed please find an outline of the business to be discussed which will be of assistance to you at this stage.

I look forward to hearing from you and sincerely trust that you will be with us at the Consultation.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs.)  
Convener.



INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

March 4, 1964.

Mrs. J. Coates,  
Wesley College.  
PRAHRAN.  
Victoria.

Dear Joan,

Thelma has typed a fair copy of the Evening Prayers that you conducted in Melbourne and we are enclosing a copy for you. I think that we decided in Melbourne that you would hand on this to Mr. Karaghiuson if you desired.

The Interim Committee would very much like it if you would take closing devotions on the Wednesday at the Consultation and both Mrs Dey and I would like to suggest that you use the prayers that you used in Melbourne.

There are two other small jobs that we would like you to do at the Consultation and that is to introduce -

- 1) The Fellowship of the Least Coin in relationship to our work with the EACC
- 2) Joint Action for Mission. We would like you to report on the Singapore Situation Conference and to state the implications for joint action for mission in the local situation for us in Australia.

I know that this is asking to do the impossible when we ask you to deal with these subjects in 10 minutes each; we are asking all our speakers who are introducing topics to do so in 10 minutes so that there will be ample time for discussion. I think that some of the material that you would present would be raised in questions after your introduction.

We have not drawn up a detailed programme for the two days so that I cannot tell you just when you will be asked to speak. This will be available when you arrive.

With best wishes and love.

Yours sincerely,



INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

March 4, 1964.

Mrs. L.M. Williams,  
40 Collins Street,  
ANNANDALE.  
N.S.W.

Dear Mrs. Williams,

At its last meeting the Interim Committee of Australian Church Women began the more detailed planning for the Consultation to be held March 17 - 18. We do hope that you will be able to be with us for the two days for two reasons -

1. we want the benefit of your judgment and contribution
2. because the Presbyterian representation is smaller than we would like.

You will see from the enclosed form that Mrs. Playford and Mrs. Dennis are both Presbyterians. We are still to hear from the Secretary of the Federal Presbyterian Womens' Fellowship whether she can come or whether she wishes to have a representative at the meeting.

On Tuesday evening we will be having our sessions at Deaconess House in Carillion Avenue and at the close of the business at 9.15 we would like you to conduct evening prayers. In the tentative programme it is set down from 9.15 to 9.30. I very much hope that you will be able to do this

With kind regards and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs)  
Convener.



INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

March 4, 1964

Mrs. Brig. Baker,  
141 Heppel Street,  
BATHURST.  
N.S.W.

Dear Mrs. Brig. Baker,

As you know the Interim Committee are planning a national consultation on March 17 and 18 and we very much hope that you will be able to come. The consultation will be attended by representatives from the Women's Inter-Church Councils of South Australia, Victoria, N.S.W. and Queensland and Federal denominational women's organisations.

We will begin with lunch at 12.30pm at Wesley College (within the grounds of the University of Sydney).

From the outline of the business to be discussed set out on the enclosed you will see the type of thing we will be discussing. We do hope that it will be possible for you to come and I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs)  
Convener.



# CONGREGATIONAL WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIA

ASSOCIATED WITH THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

President:  
MRS. S. G. HAYNES  
47 STOW COURT  
51 FULLARTON ROAD  
FULLARTON, S.A.

Hon. Gen. Secretary:  
MRS. K. B. LEAVER  
64 NORTH TERRACE  
KENT TOWN  
South Australia

Hon. Associate Secretary:  
MRS. JOHN DEY  
7 CHORLEY AVENUE  
CHELTENHAM  
Via Beecroft, N.S.W.

Hon. Associate Secretary:  
(Overseas Correspondent)  
MRS. R. C. MUDGE  
7 SIMPSON AVENUE  
BURWOOD, N.S.W.

Hon. Treasurer:  
MRS. R. J. S. LANE  
68 CRAMOND STREET  
WILSTON, BRISBANE  
Queensland

- 2 MAR 1964 March 2nd 1964.

Dear Mabel, Thank you for your letter of February 2nd, with the invitation to attend the Consultation about Australian Church Women to be held in Sydney on March 17th & 18th.

As you may know, I ~~will be~~ (from Keelah Dey) I will be attending the meetings of A.M.Z.C of the C.M.S. <sup>at Peterham</sup> on March 18th & 19th, and so would be available only on March 17th.

I will be glad to accept the opportunity to share in discussion, and add to my knowledge & understanding of A.C.W. on that day, and regret that I will not be able to be present throughout the Consultation.

I plan to arrive on Saturday evening, March 14th, on the "Dunlop" from Melbourne, and will probably be at Basseton with my sister Joyce Battenham, or brother Lawson Deane. My "stopping places" are not clear as yet. I have written to Keelah about this.

But I will be glad to know the time and place of meeting which may affect this question of accommodation.

Looking forward to the meeting, & to seeing you again,

Yours sincerely,

Ida B. Haynes



INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

March 9, 1964

Mrs. A. W. Goodwin Hudson,  
3 Mildura Street,  
KILLARA.  
N.S.W.

Dear Mrs Goodwin Hudson,

The Interim Committee of Australian Church Women is planning a Consultation in Sydney on March 17th and 18th. Two representatives from the women's inter-church councils of South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales have accepted the invitation to attend. These are the councils that have agreed to be the state units of Australian Church Women.

This consultation is to be essentially informal and will have no legislative power.

The Interim Committee of Australian Church Women is conscious continually that it is not adequately representative of the women of the churches throughout Australia and this consultation is planned so that the Committee and the Australian Council of Churches can have the benefit of the thinking and comments of a wider and more representative group of women.

At our last meeting, following discussion at the Australian Council of Churches Annual Meeting in Melbourne, the committee resolved to write to the Presidents of the Federal Denominational Women's organisations and invite them to join the consultation in March. This was done for two reasons to make the representation and scope of the consultation wider and to ensure that the women's groups in the member churches of the Australian Council of Churches should have the opportunity to take part in the plans for future development and general discussion. It will be understood of course that Presidents of Federal Denominational organisations will in most cases, be unable to speak for their organisations, because the relationship to Australian Church Women has not yet been discussed by their federal bodies, but the Interim Committee would be grateful for their presence and their comments in general discussion.

We realise that as far as the Church of England is concerned this is difficult as there is not a federal women's organisation but we are glad that you will be able to attend some of the consultation sessions. Other Anglicans attended are Mrs. Montgomery (NSW Women's Inter-Church Council) and Head Deaconess Andrews.

I am enclosing some relevant documents which will help to fill in the background for you. Also details of the programme and outline of the suggested business.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs)  
Convener.

Encl.



INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

March 9, 1964

Mrs. R.S. Thompson  
6 Eaton Avenue,  
NORMANBURGH.

Mrs. F. Hanlin,  
66 Osborn Road,  
MANLY.

Dear Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Hanlin,

We are delighted to know that you will be able to attend part of the Consultation being arranged by the Interim Committee of Australian Church Women in Sydney on March 17 and 18.

The programme is as follows:

TUESDAY:

12.30	Lunch	)	
1.45	Opening Prayers (President of the ACC, Rev. B.R. Wyllie)	)	
2.00	Business Session	)	AT WESLEY COLLEGE
3.30	Afternoon Tea	)	within the
4.00	Business Session	)	University of
		)	Sydney.
6.00	Dinner	)	
7.00	Business Session	)	AT DEACONESS HOUSE
9.15	Evening Prayers	)	Carillion Avenue.
9.30	Supper	)	(very close to
		)	Wesley.)

WEDNESDAY:

9.30	Prayers and business session	)	AT THE ACC MEETING
10.45	Morning Tea	)	ROOM - 3rd floor
11.00	Business Session	)	511 Kent Street



12.30	Lunch	) AT WESLEY COLLEGE.
2.00	Business Session	
	Closing Devotions	

Enclosed please find document setting out the proposed business for the two days. At the moment we cannot tell you exactly what time each item will be discussed but we trust it will give you an idea of what the committee has in mind.

This consultation is to be essentially informal and will have no legislative power.

The Interim Committee is conscious continually that it is not adequately representative of the women of the churches throughout Australia and this Consultation is planned so that the Committee and the Australian Council of Churches can have the benefit of the thinking and comments of a wider and more representative group of women.

It will be understood, of course, that representatives of Federal denominational organisations will in most cases, be unable to speak for their organisations, because the relationship to Australian Church Women has not yet been discussed by their federal bodies, but the Interim Committee would be grateful for their presence and their comments in general discussion.

I look forward to seeing you at the Consultation.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs)  
Convener.

encl/



INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

March 11, 1964

Mrs. A. Mirzaian,  
372 Miller Street,  
CAMMERAY.  
N.S.W.

Dear Mrs. Mirzaian,

The Interim Committee of Australian Church Women is planning a Consultation in Sydney on March 17th and 18th. Two representatives from the women's inter-church councils of South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales have accepted the invitation to attend. These are the councils that have agreed to be the state units of Australian Church Women.

This consultation is to be essentially informal and will have no legislative power.

We would very much like you to be with us during the Consultation or if you are unable to come perhaps a representative from your Church's women's organisation.

I am enclosing an outline of the suggested business which will give you some indication of what the consultation will be dealing with. The programme is as follows:

TUESDAY:

12.30	Lunch	) At WESLEY COLLEGE within the grounds of the University of Sydney
1.45	Opening Prayers (President of the ACC, Rev. B.R. Wyllie)	
2.00	Business session	
3.30	Afternoon tea	
4.00	Business Session	) AT DEACONESS HOUSE Carillion Avenue & ver close to Wesley Col
6.00	Dinner	
7.00	Business Session	
9.15	Evening Prayers	
9.30	Supper	

p.t.o



WEDNESDAY:

9.30	Opening Prayers and business session	)	AT THE ACC MEETING ROOM
10.45	Morning tea	)	3rd floor, 511 Kent St.
11.00	Business Session	)	
12.30	Lunch	)	AT WESLEY COLLEGE
2.00	Business Session	)	
	Closing Devotions	)	

I look forward to hearing from you as to whether you or a representative can attend our consultation.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs)  
Convener.

encl.



INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

March 11, 1964

Mrs. N. Wardlaw,  
7 Salisbury Street,  
BALWYN.  
Victoria

Dear Mrs. Wardlaw,

At our planning meeting this morning Mrs. McPhee told us that you would be in Sydney next week. On March 17 and 18 the Interim Committee will be holding a consultation at which representatives from the Women's Inter-Church Councils of South Australia, Victoria, N.S.W. and Queensland will be present. There will also be present representatives of the Presidents of Federal Denominational women's organisations.

I am writing this letter to you to ask whether it would be possible for you to be with us for the whole or part of the consultation. If you can come we are sure that you could make a valuable contribution out of your ecumenical experience in the YWCA both in Australia and at world level.

I am enclosing a copy of the suggested programme.

I know that this is asking a great deal but you the Interim Committee would be most grateful if you could come so that we could benefit from your experience and wisdom.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs)  
Convener.

PS: I am also enclosing a copy of this letter with the programme in an envelope which we are sending to the Sydney YWCA in case that this misses you in Melbourne.



INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

CONSULTATION

Programme.

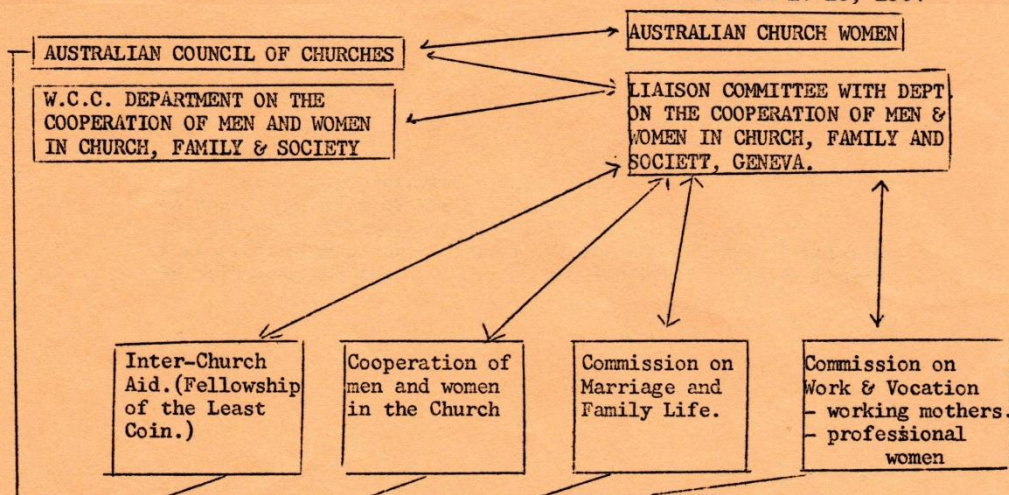
TUESDAY:

- 12.30 LUNCH at Wesley College  
1.45 Prayers in Wesley College Chapel. Rev. B.R. Wyllie, President  
of the Australian Council of Churches.  
2.00 Welcome  
Introduction of Programme and Procedure of the Consultation.  
Appointment of Drafting Committee  
STATEMENT OF STEPS LEADING UP TO THE CONSULTATION -  
Mrs. M.G. Wyllie, Convener of Interim Committee.  
RELATION OF THE A.C.C. AND THE A.C.W. - Rev. Harvey L. Perkins  
General Secretary of Australian Council of Churches.  
3.30 Afternoon Tea  
4.00 RELATION OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN TO THE DEPARTMENT ON THE  
COOPERATION OF MEN AND WOMEN IN CHURCH, FAMILY & SOCIETY OF  
THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES. - Mrs. M.G. Wyllie member of  
the W.C.C. Department, and member of the WCC Central  
Committee.  
(1) work of the Department  
(2) Australian Church Women and the policy of the Department.  
(refer chart attached)  
6.00 Dinner at Deaconess House  
7.00 REPORT FROM THE VICTORIAN WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL  
- Mrs. Colonel Saunders, Secretary.  
PRESENTATION ON THE "GRASS ROOTS" - Mrs. McPhee and panel.  
General Review and discussion on Programme and Publications  
9.15 Prayers

WEDNESDAY

- Morning session will be held at the AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES'  
MEETING ROOM - 3RD FLOOR, 511/2 KENT STREET, SYDNEY.  
9.30 Prayers  
9.45 REPORT ON THE SINGAPORE SITUATION CONFERENCE (JOINT ACTION FOR  
MISSION) - Mrs. J. Coates member of the Australian delegation.  
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN - PROJECTS.  
10.45 Morning Tea.  
11.00 General Discussion on Constitution and Finance.  
- 12.30.  
1.00 LUNCH AT WESLEY COLLEGE.  
2.00 Recommendations re Constitution and Finance to the Interim  
Committee.  
3.45 Closing Prayers. Mrs. J. Coates  
4.00 Afternoon Tea.

MARCH 17-18, 1964





INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

CONSULTATION

WYLLIE, Mrs. M. G.      Convener

BARRETT, Mrs. S.M.	Members of Interim Committee
ANDREWS, Head Deaconess M.	
DEY, Mrs. J.F.	
McPHEE, Mrs. S.	
LILLEY, Mrs. H.J.	
VERCO, Mrs. D.J.A.	

PITMAN, Mrs. E.A.	South Australia
PLAYFORD, Mrs E.S.	South Australia
DENNIS, Mrs. F.G.	Queensland
COATES, Mrs. J.	Victoria
SAUNDERS, Mrs. Colonel	Victoria
MONTGOMERY, Mrs B.	N.S.W.
CROSS, Lt-Col. H.	N.S.W.

LATHAM, Mrs. F.	Methodist
THOMPSON, Mrs. R.S.	} Presbyterian Congregational Church of England
HANLIN, Mrs. F.	
HAYNES, Mrs. I.	
GOODWIN-HUDSON, Mrs. A.W	

PERKINS, Rev. Harvey L.	Interim Committee and General Secretary
WYLLIE, Rev. B.R.	Interim Committee and President, Australian Council of Churches.

DORATIS, Mrs.	} Greek Orthodox Armenian Apostolic
GRENVILLE, Mrs. M.	
MACKERDICH, Mrs. H.	

SKILLER, Miss Thelma	Office
----------------------	--------

SYDNEY  
MARCH 17, 18, 1964



INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

OUTLINE OF BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED

CONSULTATION - March 17-18

1964

Sydney

(A) SHORT PAPERS WILL BE PRESENTED ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS.

- (1) Relation of the Australian Council of Churches with Australian Church Women.
- (2) Relation of Australian Church Women to the Department on the Cooperation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society of the World Council of Churches.
- (3) How to establish local councils and how to promote Community Day and Fellowship Day - report by the Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council.
- (4) The Fellowship of the Least Coin. Relation of Australian Church Women with regional councils of the WCC.
- (5) Ecumenical promotion within the local congregation - the "grass roots".  
(Joint action for mission)
- (6) Report on the Singapore Situation Conference.
- (7) Statement of the steps leading to the calling of the consultation.

(B) GENERAL DISCUSSION

- (a) Where do we go from here?
  - in developing at national level
    - state level
    - local level
  - relation between these three
  - finance
- (b) How to develop our programme
  - Fellowship Day
  - Community Day
  - Local groups
  - Projects - scholarships, fraternal workers
  - Cooperation of men and women
- (c) Main points for the drawing up of a Constitution.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS:

State Units:

Mrs. E.A. Pitman - South Australia (Methodist)  
Mrs. E.P. Playford South Australia (Presbyterian)  
Mrs. F.G. Dennis Queensland (Presbyterian)  
Mrs. T.H. Coates Victoria (Methodist)  
Mrs. Col. Saunders Victoria (Salvation Army)  
N.S.W. (to be nominated)  
N.S.W.

Interim Committee

Mrs. M.G. Wyllie - Convener.  
Mrs. Brig. Baker (Salvation Army)  
Deaconess Andrews (C. of E.)  
Mrs. J.F. Dey (Cong.)  
Mrs. S. McPhee (Cong.)  
Mrs. S.M. Barrett (Meth.)  
Mrs. H.J. Lilley (Meth.)  
Mrs. D.J.A. Verco (C. of C.)  
Mrs. L.M. Williams (Pres.)  
Mrs. Doratis (C.Orth)  
A.C.C: Rev. B.R. Wyllie - President  
Rev. H.L. Perkins - Gen. Sec.

See document: ACW 1964 Report of Consultation Sydney 17 March 1964



Adelaide.

2nd March, 1964.

Dear Mrs. Wylie,

We, the delegates from South Australia to the Consultation on Australian Church Women to be held in Sydney from March 17th and 18th, enclose a copy of the resolution of the Executive of the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union in South Australia which was the first written report received and formed the basis of the discussion of the Women's United Church Association Meeting on Friday last the 28th February.

Also enclosed is a list of Random Views which we feel sum up accurately the general feeling of the meeting.

We are both looking forward to meeting you and also hearing the views of the delegates from other States and the papers which are to be presented.

Yours sincerely,

*Louis C. Playford*  
*Eith A. Pitman*

---

Mrs. E. A. Pitman (Methodist)  
Mrs. E. S. Playford (Presbyterian)



The following three statements were passed at the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Executive meeting yesterday and afterwards approved by the Moderator as being in accordance with the Presbyterian view on the proposed formation of Australian Church Women

L

1. That the name of the existing organisation

The Women's United Church Association

be kept in South Australia

but

That this organisation become affiliated with

The Australian Church Women

or two reasons

- (a) South Australia was the first State to form a United Church Women's body.

- (b) The Baptist Church is represented on

The Women's United Church Association

but in this State are

not members of the Australian

Council of Churches through

whom the Australian Church Women

are being formed.

2. That the organisation known as The Australian Church Women aim only to act as an interim body, eventually ~~becoming part of the Australian Council of Churches which has a membership of both men and women and not remaining for all time purely a women's group.~~

- (a) Revision of the Constitution every five years at least.

- (b) Constant reminders that the ultimate aim is to widen the Interest in and Participation of the Australian Council of Churches, the Australian Branch of the World Council of Churches.

3. That expense be kept to a minimum.

Expense or delegates etc. be paid by the A.C. C. as

South Australia has no machinery to meet such expenses.

As far as possible ideas and decisions be reached by correspondence and through the official paper of the World Council of Churches Fellowship "In Unity."



Random Views from the meeting of the Women's United Church Association held in Adelaide on 28th February, 1964.

AFFILIATION. Does Affiliation mean membership?

If so, Liason would be preferable. The W.U.C.A. to keep its own constitution and work merely as a Liason Officer between the proposed A.C.W. and the women of South Australia.

World Day of Prayer.

The possibility of undermining the strength of the Women's World Day of Prayer by the introduction of additional days such as Community Day. A real danger of weakening a powerful channel of Unified Worship.

FINANCE.

Unanimously agreed that W.U.C.A. had no machinery to deal with finance and at this stage were unwilling to undertake any financial responsibilities.

Australian Council of Churches.

The opinion was expressed that members of Churches who belonged to the Australian Council of Churches were already themselves, because of their Church membership, members. It was felt that because of this the formation of another organisation was possibly unnecessary.

Proposed A.C.W.

A discussion on whether the proposed A.C.W. would become a Federal Body governing all Church Women's Associations or if its object was merely to act as a co-ordinating body.

Definite Feeling that A.C.W. if formed should not become an end in itself.





INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

c/o Room 2 - 3rd floor  
511 Kent Street, Sydney.

April 21, 1964.

TO: Heads of Churches - Denominational Women's  
Organizations - Women's Inter-Church Councils.

Dear Friends,

We feel that it is time for the Interim Committee of Australian Church Women, appointed by the Australian Council of Churches, to report to the Churches, the denominational women's organizations and Inter-Church Councils on the progress made in the last six months.

A Consultation was called by the Interim Committee on March 17 - 18. This met in Sydney at Wesley College and Deaconess House and was attended by representatives of Women's Inter-Church Councils from NSW, S.A., Victoria and Queensland and by representatives of Federal Denominational Women's groups. It was a successful and rewarding meeting in which papers were read on:

- . steps leading to the calling of the Consultation
- . relation of Australian Church Women and the Australian Council of Churches
- . The World Council of Churches' Department on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society and Australian Church Women.
- . the development of programmes at State and local levels
- . The East Asia Christian Conference Situation Conference held in Singapore, 1963 - Joint Action for Mission
- . The Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Following a full discussion of the issues involved the Consultation made recommendations to the Interim Committee on Constitution and Programme. In the discussions at the Consultation consideration was given to all the comments of groups and individuals received in the last twelve months. The recommendations of the Consultation have now been reviewed by the Interim Committee and have been given general approval by the Executive of the Australian Council of Churches at its meeting on April 15.

You will find these recommendations on the attached sheet. We ask that you give them your careful consideration and invite comments which we would be glad to have prior to the drawing up of a draft constitution in August 1964 to be presented to the next Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches.

Encl.

Yours sincerely,  
*Mabel G. Wyllie*  
Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs.)  
Convener.





## AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

(Affiliated with the World Council of Churches)

**PRESIDENT**

the Rev. B. R. Wyllie

**GENERAL SECRETARY**

the Rev. Harvey L. Perkins

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

the Rev. J. R. Neal

**INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN**

TELEPHONE: 61 4766  
61 5224

TELEGRAPHIC:  
"ECUMENICAL," Sydney

Third Floor,  
511 Kent Street,  
SYDNEY

April 22, 1964

Mrs. Colonel Saunders,  
40 Middleborough Road,  
BURWOOD. E.13  
Victoria

Dear Colonel Saunders,

Thank you for your letter which came only this morning. I am writing in haste so that you have a letter before your meeting on Friday.

- (1) I cannot recall that we have received a communication from the P.W. of Australia to the Interim Committee. At a very early stage I discussed Australian Church Women with the Federal President, Mrs. Christie Johnson, and subsequently she expressed interest and the desire to co-operate.
- 2) At the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches in February, the Rev. J. Peter, a Presbyterian representative, read a statement from the P.W.A. of Victoria. This statement expressed the views contained in the report, a copy of which you have forwarded to me. I gather from conversation with Deaconess Ritchie that when Mr. Peter presented this report it had not been adopted by the P.W.A. of Victoria but was a working document prepared for the next meeting. However, the Interim Committee gave careful consideration to Mr. Peter's contribution to the discussion.
- 3) It was after this document at the Annual Meeting of the ACC that the Interim Committee decided to ask the Denominational Women's Federal Organizations to send representatives to the consultation held on March 17 and 18 in Sydney. The ACC was not able to help with travel expenses and in all cases denominational groups asked women resident in Sydney to represent them. Because the Presbyterian Federal President was overseas, the invitation to send representatives was sent to the Federal Secretary, Mrs. Thompson of Sandy Bay, Hobart, Tasmania. As far as I know she did not reply to our correspondence but I imagine that it was she who arranged for Mrs. A. Dougan and Mrs. F. Hanlin to represent the P.W. of Australia.
- 4) You will recall that at the Consultation I expressly asked that representatives take the responsibility for introducing any subject or question that their Constituent bodies were expressly interested in. No Presbyterian representative suggested

**MEMBER CHURCHES:**

Church of England	Greek Orthodox Church	Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Church
Armenian Apostolic Church	Congregational Church	Methodist Church
Presbyterian Church	Churches of Christ	Salvation Army
		Society of Friends

p.t.c.



that P.W.A OF Australia had taken any strong decision concerning A.C.W. and I was careful to cover both points made by Mr. Peter in discussion at the Consultation.

5) The recommendations which have now been accepted by the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches have taken care of both requests made by Mr. Peter on behalf of the P.W.A. of Victoria -

- a) it is proposed that there will be representation on the national committee of Australian Church Women from Federal denominational women's organizations as well as representatives of women's inter-church councils.
- b) it is proposed that Australian Church Women function in relationship with the ACC's Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.

6) Under separate cover we are sending material which gives the resolutions of the ACC Executive regarding Australian Church Women. This material is being sent to all Heads of Churches, Federal and State; Federal denominational women's organizations; and women's inter-church councils. In addition I am sending copies of this letter to Mrs. Faichney, Mrs. Coates, Deaconess Ritchie and Mrs. Mcneil.

I hope that this has answered your queries.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

*Mabel G. Wyllie*

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs) *J*  
Convener.

PS: We can quite appreciate the difficulty the Victorian Unit of PWA have in making up their mind.



Mrs Colonel Saunders:

Mrs. Wyllie has suggested that I forward to you a copy of a letter which we received from the P.W.A. Victoria Unit on April 22, 1963 from the President: Mrs. A.R. Macneil.

"Dear Mrs. Wyllie,

Your letter in connection with the establishment of Australian Church Women was discussed by members of our executive at its meeting on April 15th. Great interest was shown and members welcomed the effort to increase ecumenical activity among the women of the different denominations. However, before giving a considered judgment about the relations of the P.W.A. to Australian Church Women there are several matters about which we would like further information.

1. Is it envisaged that every women's "organization" in every denomination would be members at congregational and state levels? If so, what about the much larger numbers of Church women who do not belong to organisations, and what about the great variety in types and numbers of organisations in different denominations?
2. What would be the relationship of these organisations to the Inter-Church Council which has representatives from Churches and not from organizations?
3. How will inter-church groups with both men and women members and with congregational representation fit in?
4. Won't the establishment of this Australian Church Women tend to obscure the fact that the churches on the whole do not appear to make any real effort to include women among their denomination's delegates to the ACC or to State Councils?
5. Will this not tend to encourage another groups of church women running parallel with church membership in what is a Council of Churches, instead of A.C.W. and Y.W.C.A. members being integrated into the Church membership at each level?

Comments

1. At this stage our executive is of the opinion that if it is at all possible A.C.W. should develop through Inter-Church Councils which now exist. We would prefer to see work being done to strengthen and develop these councils rather than embark on any other structure.
2. We feel that A.C.W. will not make much progress unless the already heavy programme of denominational organisational meetings at all levels can be heavily cut. Women in Victoria are already strained beyond their capacity. In general it is likely that the most helpful approach will be along the lines of encouraging group rather than individual organisational meetings in the various denominations which have several organisations, and then interdenominational meetings in place of some separate denominational ones. This will be slow and cannot be forced. Here and there it is already being attempted.
3. Great care should be taken in preparing study material so that -
  - (a) it does not encourage women to study this material without considering the relative merits in their situation of A.C.W. studies and those that are prepared within their own denomination for specific purposes; e.g. at present the study of the Church Union proposals; perhaps it could be agreed when and what type of studies are prepared.
  - (b) it does not cut across congregational Bible studies which are increasing in number or compete with them or with WCC or ACC studies;
  - (c) the studies are prepared by women most of whom are drawn from ordinary members of congregations so that the method of presentation and the wording are suitable for women, most of whom have at this stage no training in theological phraseology, and need a simple presentation. Perhaps a convener could be appointed to ask a group of congregations in an area to appoint members to work with him or her.
4. We feel that care should be taken not to over-emphasise "women" at every stage. Where possible men should be included in the discussions.

At present the women's organisations of the Victorian Presbyterian Church are engaged in working out the relationships of their various organisations to each other and what responsibilities should be undertaken by each organisation. This will in future greatly strengthen and simplify work in the Victorian Presbyterian Church, but a premature endeavour to involve separate organisations at any level could be embarrassing.

Whether a speaker could help depends on the answers to our questions.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. A.R. Macneil  
President.



*Interim Ctu*

INTERIM COMMITTEE AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

July 13, 1964.

Lt. Col. Hazel Cross,  
The Salvation Army Headquarters,  
140 Elizabeth Street,  
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

Dear Col. Cross,

At its meeting on Wednesday, July 8, the Interim Committee of Australian Church Women agreed to invite you to become a member of its committee. Since Mrs Baker moved to Bathurst we have had no delegate representing the Salvation Army. As you know the Interim Committee is a small Committee and will function only until the Constitution is adopted and the first National Committee is appointed. The Committee agreed that we would greatly benefit by your contribution during this formative stage, of Australian Church Women. We felt that since you had attended the Consultation in March you would have the necessary background and interest.

I personally hope that you will be able to join us for the next year.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Nabel G. Wyllie (Mrs.)  
Convener.





## AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

(Affiliated with the World Council of Churches)

**PRESIDENT**

the Rev. B. R. Wyllie

**GENERAL SECRETARY**

the Rev. Harvey L. Perkins

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

the Rev. J. R. Neal

TELEPHONE: 61 4766

61 5224

**TELEGRAPHIC:**

"ECUMENICAL," Sydney

Third Floor,  
511 Kent Street,  
SYDNEY

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

August 25, 1964

Mrs. Colonel Saunders,  
Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council,  
40 Middleborough Road,  
BURWOOD.  
E.13 Victoria

Dear Mrs. Saunders,

Thank you for your two letters of July 1st.

We had further discussion on the Constitution at the last meeting of the Interim Committee and have now prepared another draft. Thank you for the suggestions from the Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council.

(2) (b) ii. Our most recent draft provides for 2 representatives to be appointed by the State Women's Inter-Church Council. This request had been made by other States. I do not think that it would be possible in the Constitution of Australian Church Women to stipulate for what period a representative of a particular council could remain on the National Committee. This would be a matter for the State Council itself. Appointment of representatives to the National Committee must be made annually.

(2) (c) It is hoped that any imbalance either denominationally as from point of view of State representation can be adjusted through the selection of representatives by the Australian Council of Churches Executive.

(3) (b). World Community Day. This is a programme matter and not constitutional. The National Committee meeting annually will determine how the programme will be organised.

(4) This percentage will be determined by the National Committee each year.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

*Mabel G. Wyllie*  
Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs)

MEMBER CHURCHES:

✓ Church of England    Greek Orthodox Church    Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Church  
Armenian Apostolic Church    Congregational Church    Methodist Church  
Presbyterian Church    Churches of Christ    Salvation Army    Society of Friends





## AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

(Affiliated with the World Council of Churches)

PRESIDENT  
the Rev. B. R. Wyllie  
GENERAL SECRETARY  
the Rev. Harvey L. Perkins  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
the Rev. J. R. Neal

### INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

September 14, 1964.

TELEPHONE: 61 4766  
61 5224

TELEGRAPHIC:  
"ECUMENICAL," Sydney

Third Floor,  
511 Kent Street,  
SYDNEY

To State Units,  
Federal Women's Denominational  
Organizations  
YWCA

Dear Friends,

### Re: The Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

Further to our previous correspondence we now write to you following the meeting of the Interim Committee on September 9.

After a lengthy discussion the Interim Committee decided that it would be wise to award the first scholarship in 1965.

Many have expressed the view that this project is very much needed at this stage in the development of Australian Church Women. The idea of the scholarship was proposed in the early days of Australian Church Women and as far as we can discover has been well received by women's groups throughout Australia. It was felt that to leave the appointment of a scholarship until 1966 would be disappointing to many women's groups.

You can understand that the Interim Committee struggled with this proposal. We hesitated to hasten this project when the first meeting of the National Committee is likely to be called in February 1965. We realized that it will be the responsibility of the National Committee to award scholarship and administer the scholarship scheme, but we also thought that if the appointment was left until 1966 we might lose the interest of many women's groups.

We hope that you will agree with this and that you will promote the scholarship scheme immediately. As you will see from the following paragraph the financial responsibility of any part of Australian Church Women will not be heavy.

It is anticipated that the financial responsibility will be shared in this way:

1. Travelling outside Australia - Inter-Church Aid
2. Accommodation and training - partly provided by Universities and training institutes and by the National Committee of Australian Church Women.

p.t.o.

#### MEMBER CHURCHES:

Church of England	Greek Orthodox Church	Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Church
Armenian Apostolic Church	Congregational Church	Methodist Church
Presbyterian Church	Churches of Christ	Salvation Army
		Society of Friends



3. Travel (for training and speaking within the States) -  
by State Units of Australian Church Women.
4. Pocket Money - it is thought desirable that the scholarship holder and/or her church should contribute to these expenses.

We are now seeking your co-operation with this project during 1965. We trust that when details of the scholarship programme are announced you will be able to consider ways in which you can use the scholarship holder in your programme within your State.

We have before us the suggestion of a woman from Indonesia who could come here for further training and experience in child care. The Interim Committee has decided to follow this up with the various authorities in Indonesia. The suggestion has come from one of the social workers in the Work Team which visited Indonesia during June and from her report we feel that this person could very well fit the requirements we have in mind. But until we can receive the necessary information and assurances from Indonesia we are unable to take the project a step further.

Attached please find the outline of the scholarship scheme as agreed to at the last meeting of the Interim Committee.

Yours sincerely,

*Mabel G. Wyllie*

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs.)  
Convener.

Encl.



### WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship be called the WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP and shall be a project of Australian Church Women.

- (1) The purpose of the scholarship is to offer supplementary training for a Christian woman who has already received her basic training. The scholarship is intended for those who give leadership in church life and for those who need strengthening as Christians for their work in the world.
- (2) It is anticipated that the scholarship will be tenable for 10 months (one academic year) and that part of the year will be spent in a training school or university, part in practical work and observation in church and community institutions, and part in speaking to women's groups and church groups.
- (3) The co-operation of training schools and universities will be sought to provide for places and facilities.
- (4) Finance: the assistance of Inter-Church Aid will be sought for the provision of travelling expenses outside Australia. As a project of Australian Church Women expenses will be met by the National Committee from its share of collections (refer Constitution 9 (i)) and from special donations from groups and individuals, and from State Units where the scholarship holder trains or speaks.
- (5) Selection of candidate:
  - (a) the application must be endorsed by the church of the applicant
  - (b) she must be medically fit
  - (c) she must apply on the prescribed form
  - (d) the scholarship shall be granted by the National Committee of Australian Church Women in collaboration with the Scholarship Committee of the Australian Council of Churches.

\* \* \* \* \*

SEPTEMBER  
1964





# AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

(Affiliated with the World Council of Churches)

**PRESIDENT**

the Rev. B. R. Wyllie

**GENERAL SECRETARY**

the Rev. Harvey L. Perkins

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

the Rev. J. R. Neal

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

TELEPHONE: 61 4766

61 5224

**TELEGRAPHIC:**

"ECUMENICAL," Sydney

Third Floor,  
511 Kent Street,  
SYDNEY

October 8, 1964.

Dear Mrs. Colonel Saunders,

CALLING OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

You will know of the conversations that have been held during the past 2 years on Australian Church Women and the progress that has been made towards the acceptance of a Constitution for Australian Church Women. The Interim Committee appointed by the Executive of the Australian Council of Churches held a consultation in Sydney in March 1964 when fruitful discussions on Constitution, programme and other matters took place.

It has been the growing conviction of the Interim Committee that the next step in the formation of the National Committee of Australian Church Women should now be taken.

We want to take this next step to enable the work for 1965 to be planned by the national committee as a duly constituted body. To do this the Interim Committee has asked the Australian Council of Churches Executive to approve its proposal concerning the appointment of representatives to a National Committee. This approval makes it possible for the National Committee to be constituted and to meet before the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches in February.

One of the major decisions of that committee will be to finalize the proposed constitution of Australian Church Women so that it can be ratified at the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches (February 11 - 16). As soon as this happens Australian Church Women will be properly launched.

At the September Executive meeting of the Australian Council of Churches the following resolutions were passed:

p.t.o.

**MEMBER CHURCHES:**

Church of England	Greek Orthodox Church	Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Church
Armenian Apostolic Church	Congregational Church	Methodist Church
Presbyterian Church	Churches of Christ	Salvation Army
		Society of Friends



- (1) Resolved that Clause 4 of the draft Constitution be given general approval in order to empower the Interim Committee to ask for representatives to be appointed in accordance with it and attend the first National Committee of Australian Church Women prior to the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches in February 1965.
- (2) Further resolved that the Working Committee in 1965 be located in Sydney and that member organisations be asked to keep this in mind when appointing representatives.

The relevant part of the draft constitution referred to is:

" 4. COMMITTEES:

- (a) The National Committee shall consist of representatives who shall be appointed annually:
  - i. one representative of the Federal women's organisation of each church, appointed by whatever means is appropriate to the particular church.
  - ii. two representatives of each State women's inter-church organisation which is recognized by Australian Church Women as its State unit.
  - iii. one representative of the Federal organisation of any special interest group which is granted representation by the National Committee.
  - iv. two representatives appointed by the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.
  - v. four representatives appointed by the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches.

The National Committee shall meet least annually at a time and place, to be determined in consultation with the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society. Fifty percent of the representatives under 4(a) i. and ii. shall constitute a quorum. Alternates may be appointed for all representatives to the National Committee.

(b) A Working Committee shall be appointed by the National Committee to carry out its work between meetings. The Working Committee shall consist of 10 members of the National Committee resident in one State and shall include the office bearers. The location of the Working Committee shall be determined by the National Committee. "

To enable a Working Committee to be appointed in terms of this draft Constitution the ACC Executive confirmed the recommendation of the Interim Committee that for 1965 the Working Committee be located in Sydney.

p.t.o.



The latest draft (which is attached to this letter) will be the basis for the discussion at the national committee and also can be used for discussion in your committee. Any recommendations that you desire may be brought by your representatives to the meeting of the national committee. It would be helpful if these recommendations could be forwarded to the Australian Church Women, Sydney by December 15 so that they can be circulated to all other representatives.

It is proposed that the national committee be held from Wednesday, February 10 (11am) to Thursday, February 11 (12 noon) at Deaconess House, Carillon Avenue, Newtown, Sydney.

The General Secretary of the Australian Council of Churches has indicated that representatives to the national committee of Australian Church Women will be welcome as observers and participants in the annual meeting programme through to the Saturday evening, February 13 if they so desire. The plenary sessions of the Council's meeting begin on Monday morning, February 15.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

*Mabel G. Wyllie*

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs.)  
Convener.

Encl.



## Women's Inter-church Council of Victoria

Secretary:

MRS. F. J. PELL,  
18 Gordon Avenue,  
Kew, E.4

Tel. 86 6923

PRESIDENT:

2.11.64

Treasurer:

MRS. T. GRIEVE,  
9 Serpentine Street,  
Mont Albert

Tel. 89 4505

Mrs. B. R. Wyllie  
Sydney.

Dear Mrs. Wyllie,

Thank you for your letter of October 8th. As you are aware, our meeting was held on the 23rd., and now I am happy to convey the answer from the Council.

Your invitation for 2 ladies from the Inter-Church Council to the National Committee of Australian Church women, was received with gratitude, and the ladies have asked me to submit the following:- the Council is wondering whether Mrs. T. H. Coates will be appointed by another committee? In which case, Mrs. T. G. S. Grieve will be happy to represent the Council. However, if Mrs. Coates is not otherwise appointed, she will be happy to take her place as a Council representative.

As I have been appointed by the Salvation Army, the in-coming President, Mrs. H. Stephens, will be happy to represent us.

Our ladies will be pleased to attend the first meeting of the National Committee at Deaconess House Sydney, from February 10th. to the 11th. (noon).

We should be grateful if you would convey our thanks to the General Secretary of the Australian Council of Churches for his invitation to the Annual Meeting, and inform him that our ladies will be happy to attend as 'observers and participants' to Saturday evening February 13th.

With kindest regards!

Yours sincerely,

Mon. Sec.



## Women's Inter-church Council of Victoria

Hon. Secretary:  
Mrs. Colonel Saunders,  
40 Middleborough Road,  
Burwood, E.13  
Telephone: 28 5702.

### PRESIDENT

Mrs. H. Stephens

10.1.65

Hon. Treasurer:  
Mrs. T. G. Grieve,  
9 Serpentine Street,  
Mont Albert, E.10  
Telephone: 89 4505.

### REPORT INTERIM-COMMITTEE.

Since the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches, 1963, when the establishment of Australian Church Women was authorized 'that the Committee be re-appointed and nominate to the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches, the Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council has sought to understand, and assist in the work of the Interim-Committee. Representatives have attended each Consultation held in Sydney. Mrs. B. R. Wyllie addressed the Council when passing through Melbourne, and thus the pattern has been unfolding.

In 1963, the Women's Inter-Church Council of Victoria accepted an invitation from the Interim Committee, to become ' the unit through which Australian Church Women work within the State'.

When Dr. Barot visited Melbourne during her Australian tour, the Council invited her to address a gathering of Inter-Church women. We learned that day a great deal about the Department on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society. This Committee has now been established, and has met in Melbourne.

When Miss Janet Lacey, and the Rev. A. Brasch visited Melbourne, we were able to listen to the work of Inter-Church Aid, and learned much from their Addresses at Receptions held to greet our visitors.

We have been happy to work with the Interim-Committee toward developing and extending interest in Fellowship, and World Community Days, and are grateful to see signs of increasing interest in many Inter-Church Groups.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin has been introduced by the Interim Committee with great appeal to us, and we have joined willingly in the Circle of Prayer, and the Least Coin.

The Interim Committee has sponsored the "Winifred Kiek Scholarship", and we shall work to assist this project.

Hon. Sec.





## AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

(Affiliated with the World Council of Churches)

**PRESIDENT**

the Rev. B. R. Wyllie

**GENERAL SECRETARY**

the Rev. Harvey L. Perkins

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

the Rev. J. R. Neal

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

TELEPHONE: 61 4766

61 5224

TELEGRAPHIC:

"ECUMENICAL," Sydney

Third Floor,

511 Kent Street,

SYDNEY

April 8, 1965.

Mrs. Colonel F. Saunders,  
Women's Inter-Church Council of Victoria,  
40 Middleborough Road,  
BURWOOD. E.13.  
Victoria

Dear Colonel Saunders,

Your letter of 3rd March was placed before the Working Committee at the meeting held on March 24. We are sorry we are not able to give you a full answer, so will you regard this as an interim reply.

At our next meeting we will consider the advisability, or otherwise, of having copies of the Constitution printed in, say, folder form. Under separate cover however we are sending you some duplicated copies.

Concerning Miss Connie Tan. Miss Skiller and Mr. Vaughan Hinton are working on a publicity leaflet as matter of urgency, so we hope to let you have this information without undue delay. The Indonesian Church Team only left Sydney on April 7 and this has meant that both these people have not been able to undertake the routine jobs for a period of some weeks.

Thank you for your comments concerning my election as Secretary. It was most unexpected. I must now endeavour to be "workman that needeth not to be ashamed".

With kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

*Hazel Cross*  
Colonel Hazel Cross,  
Honorary Secretary.

**MEMBER CHURCHES:**

Church of England

Greek Orthodox Church

Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Church

Armenian Apostolic Church

Congregational Church

Methodist Church

Presbyterian Church

Churches of Christ

Salvation Army

Society of Friends



Mrs. H. Stephens

15.5.65

Lieut. Colonel H. Cross  
511 Kent Street,  
Sydney

Dear Colonel,

Thankyou for the copy of the Minutes of the Working Committee meeting, and your letter the 5th. inst.

We are very interested to read of the arrangements which are being made for Miss Connie Tan, and are happy that she expects to be in Sydney on May 20th.

re Finance

We note that the Division of Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service of the Australian Council of Churches is ready to underwrite the return fare from Indonesia, and that Australian Church Women, together with State Units, will be responsible for her study, accomodation and travel within Australia.

'So far the credit in the scholarship Fund is only £10.' It appears that £450 will need to be met by the State Units of Australian Church Women.

From our correspondence, and our conversations with you, our position in Victoria has been made quite clear. Our Offerings from Fellowship Day fluctuate, depending always on the measure of appeal the Project has for our Inter-Church Groups. This means we are never able to estimate our income from the Day. At the end of August, we hold our "Reports" day, and by then have a very fair idea of just how much we may expect to receive. As you see, we are not yet able to help with the Scholarship Fund.

From the Minutes of the Working Committee Meeting, held on Tuesday April 27th., we note that Miss Connie Tan will be in Melbourne at the end of October. We shall be very happy to have Miss Tan with us for World Community Day. Can you please tell me when Miss Tan will be coming to Victoria, and whether you have made plans for her? We shall be very happy to plan for her stay in this State, but would like to know what you desire.

With kindest regards, Yours sincerely,

Hon. Sec.





## AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

(Affiliated with the World Council of Churches)

TELEPHONE: 61 4766  
61 5224

TELEGRAPHIC:  
"ECUMENICAL," Sydney

Third Floor,  
511 Kent Street,  
SYDNEY

GENERAL SECRETARY  
the Rev. Harvey L. Perkins  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
the Rev. J. R. Neal

### AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

May 5, 1965.

#### To State Units.

Dear Mrs. Colonel Saunders,

You will remember that at the National Committee meeting held in February, the following clause was passed as part of the Constitution under finance:

"Collections taken at special days and services included in the Australian Church Women programme (after local expenses have been met) shall be divided, as determined each year by the National Committee in consultation with its State Units, between

- i. the administration of the affiliated State women's Inter-Church Council organisation
- ii. administration of the National Committee of Australian Church Women, and
- iii. national projects sponsored by the National Committee in co-operation with State Units."

As Fellowship Day is drawing near, the Working Committee has been giving some thought to the way in which we should suggest that the offerings on that day be divided.

As you know, the first holder of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship is due to arrive in Australia in May. The Division of Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service of the Australian Council of Churches is ready to underwrite the return air fare from Indonesia but Australian Church Women, together with the State Units, will be responsible for her study, accommodation and travel within Australia.

So far the credit in our Scholarship Fund is only £10. It is estimated that your scholarship-holder's fare and personal expenses will amount to approximately £450. Because of our commitment to the Scholarship we will need as much of the offering taken at Fellowship Day as is possible.

We would welcome your reaction to this suggestion for 1965.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Lt. Colonel H. Cross,  
Honorary Secretary.





# Australian Council of Churches

Associated with World Council of Churches/President: the Most Rev. F. Woods, Archbishop of Melbourne.

THIRD FLOOR, 511 KENT STREET, SYDNEY

TELEPHONE: 61 4766-61 5224

TELEGRAMS: "ECUMENICAL", SYDNEY.

## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

March 1966.

A meeting of great importance and significance to all churches in Australia is the Third Asian Women's Conference, to be held at the International Christian University in Tokio, Japan, from July 15 to 26.

Through Australian Church Women an invitation has been received for one Australian representative. The National Committee of Australian Church Women, meeting in Melbourne in January, elected Mrs D.G. Badger to represent us all.

Mrs. Badger is the president-elect of the Women's Inter-Church Council of NSW and an executive member of the Congregational Women's Fellowship.

We are confident that her attendance at this conference in Japan will be of great value to church women throughout Australia for on her return she will share experience and the conference's insights with women of all churches.

The Asian Church Women's Committee has offered to pay Mrs. Badger's travel expenses over \$A150. However, the National Committee of Australian Church Women was unanimous in its opinion that we, who live in such an affluent society, should not accept this generous offer from the Asian women, most of whom are living through difficult days. We have accepted their gracious offer of hospitality for Mrs. Badger while she is in Japan.

The return tourist fare is 806 dollars. If church women throughout Australia contribute to this it could be raised with little difficulty.

We urgently ask that you consider ways the church women in your organisation might help. Money contributed will be paid into the special travel fund established for this purpose. Contributions should be sent to me as honorary treasurer of Australian Church Women - 3rd floor, 511 Kent Street, Sydney.

In writing about the conference, the secretary of the Asian Church Women's Conference, Mrs. J. Suriyakham from Thailand, says: "These conferences have become a real venture in the life of the churches in Asia and we sincerely believe that they are a dynamic channel of fellowship and witness."

The subject of this year's meeting is "Abide in me - bear rich fruit".

We know that you will give your earnest attention to this matter and ask especially that the conference and Mrs. Badger's part in it will be the subject of your prayers.

Yours sincerely,

*Keelab P. Dey.*

Mrs. J. F. Dey, on behalf of the  
Working Committee.



## REPORT ON AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

As given at PWA Annual Meeting 1964.

Early in 1963 we first heard of a new federal women's inter-church group, an interim committee of which was set up by the Australian Council of Churches.

After discussing the proposed structure of this new group it was felt we should know more about Australian Church Women, its beginnings and its aims and a public meeting was arranged in Scots Hall on October 1st last, at which Mrs. Fred McKay - a Presbyterian representative from Sydney on the interim committee agreed to come and address the meeting. Mrs. McKay said that A.C.W. was commenced to bridge at federal level the denominational barriers existing between the churches, and to incorporate Australian Christian women in the world wide mission of the church.

After many hours of thought and discussion it was evident that P.W.A. was not really in favour of A.C.W. under its proposed structure, and Council appointed a sub-committee to submit a report. The report which stated that we were not in favour of a separate women's organisation, but rather, within the structure of the Australian Council of Churches, an organisation patterned upon the department of co-operation of men and women in church, family and society as exists in the World Council of Churches. This report has been submitted to the interim committee and the Australian Council of Churches. The latest information we have received states that the interim committee has been asked to hold proceedings until after the various women's organisations have discussed the matter at all levels. To enable P.W.A. to do this at the September conference Mrs. Christie-Johnston has formulated questions and executive has asked the sub-committee formed by the Council to deal with them.

## **Report on Australian Church Women – PWA Annual Meeting 1964**

Early in 1963 we first heard of a new federal women's inter-church group, an interim committee of which was set up by the Australian Council of Churches.

After discussing the proposed structure of this new group it was felt we should know more about Australian Church Women, its beginnings and its aims and a public meeting was arranged in Scots Hall on October 1<sup>st</sup> last, at which Mrs Fred McKay – a Presbyterian representative from Sydney on the interim committee agreed to come and address the meeting. Mrs McKay said that ACW was commenced to bridge at federal level the denominational barriers existing between the churches, and to incorporate Australian Christian women in the world wide mission of the church. (Text of address follows)

After many hours of thought and discussion it was evident that PWA was not really in favour of ACW under its proposed structure, and Council appointed a sub-committee to submit a report. The report which stated that we were not in favour of a separate women's organisation, but rather, within the structure of the Australian Council of Churches, an organisation patterned upon the department of co-operation of men and women in church, family and society as exists in the World Council of Churches. This report has been submitted to the interim committee and the Australian Council of Churches. The latest information we have received states that the interim committee has been asked to hold proceedings until after the various women's organisations have discussed the matter at all levels. To enable PWA to do this at the September conference Mrs Christie-Johnston has formulated questions and executive has asked the sub-committee to deal with them.



Talk given by Mrs F McKay (Margaret) at PWA meeting Scots Hall Melbourne October 1963

I have not come here today simply to write up on the wall Australian Church Women for ever and ever, Amen – but to try and share with you something of the adventure crossing our horizon as this new ecumenical planet swerves into our ken.

Only fair to give you something of the background in the development. ACC set up a committee to investigate women's work in the churches – by invitation early meeting grew in numbers. Consultations Mrs Faichney.

We were convinced that there was a need to work across and to bridge denominational barriers. We believe that there is a desire among many women in the churches to have a deeper bond of fellowship with Christian women of all denominations and to know the strength which comes from such unity.

Christian unity has come to be widely recognised as an imperative for the effective work and witness of the Church in our times. We have all known and benefitted from the fellowship and inspiration and 'oneness' which comes to us on Women's World Day of Prayer. But it is often quickly nullified by the stark realisation that this happens to us for but one hour of one day in one year. There is no other channel whereby we can rise from our narrow local spheres of witness and service and find ourselves a part of the world scene – partners in the fellowship of the Church in the world.

So the recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches in February of this year was that there should be set up, within the Council's Division of Ecumenical Promotion an organisation to be known as Australian Church Women. Its purpose is to unite Australian church women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: to provide opportunities for Christian worship, fellowship and service across denominational divisions; through the Australian Council of Churches to incorporate Christian women into the total life and mission of the church and to unite them for the building of a world Christian Community.

The name was chosen because it creates an image and suggests a fellowship rather than yet another organisation. We saw many openings for the influence of Australian church women, and movements such as Joint Action for Mission, Frontier of Mission, National Community Day come quickly to mind.

All this thinking and belief is not unique in concept or in Australia.

Lady Ibiam the wife of the Governor of East Nigeria who himself is a President of the World Council writing in the Reformed and Presbyterian World says:

"For over so many years in Nigeria and in the rest of Africa, the dignity of womanhood had been looked down upon by the menfolk of our country and our continent. But when women begin to organise themselves to protest against anything to which they strongly object, the men soon realise that there is force of strength and determination when the womenfolk are on the move. The advance of women today is largely due to the influence of the Church, through the effective service of missionary bodies of all denominations from America, Britain and Europe.

The evidence of change is all around us. Each day we read about and see creative ideas being put into action. These ideas are necessary for us in order to face the very increasing complexities of life



and this life does not exclude the Church. If we have the proper motivation to be creative, are willing to be stimulated by other people and are ready to try new things in faith, much progress can be made.

At the Committee on Women's work at Kitwe, Northern Rhodesia, the need to unite women of all the Churches into a deeper understanding of their oneness in Christ and of their calling to participate actively as full members of the Body of Christ, was most felt. It was therefore recommended that a Commission on Women's responsibilities in Church, Family and Society be formed as a branch of the All Africa Church Conference during the Assembly in Kampala in April 1963.

Such a Commission would be a body through which Christian women and women's organisations could work together on matters of common concern, through consultation, pooling of resources of knowledge and of personnel, and initiate projects of service and promote leadership training at all levels.

It would represent the Christian women of Africa and also co-operate with international bodies such as the Department on Co-Operation of Men and Women of the World Council of Churches. Furthermore, it would help to promote the rethinking of the Christian faith particularly in the realms of marriage, family life and the status of women.

I believe that there is a unique contribution which women can make and which has not yet been fully mobilised. In Nigeria, there is an organisation called the United Church Women which embraces all denominations. As an organisation made up of individuals, the United Church Women is unrivalled in its ability and capacity to reach into homes, industrial combines and civic groups. What is necessary and desirable is that the individual woman across the country should proclaim unceasingly that Christians have a moral obligation to speak relevantly and courageously to the great issues of our time. The United Church Women of Nigeria accepts the challenge to help solve problems of Home and Family Life, Church and Society, Youth and the aged.

There is an urgent need today for the education of African mothers. This will mean the existence of a sufficiently large number of African women potential leaders who can successfully cope with the taxing demands of this our twentieth century era. The strength of dedicated leadership from women in the Church in all parts of the world is unrealised. Nigeria still needs missionaries of the right type who understand the Africans and believe and respect their human rights and dignity, and that they are children of God our Father." *Eudora O. Ibiam*

*(Refer to United Church Women of America order of service for Community Day)*

Stress use of name in full – this is an initial happy world – if proud of it, name it. We as Presbyterians are culprits too – only denomination which uses initials for its women's organisations.

However as Presbyterian women there are certain facts which confront us. If the Uniting Church of Australia comes – and I for one sincerely pray it will – we are all automatically in a new ecumenical fellowship. I think it is quite wrong for any of us to be satisfied and complacent about our present compartmented type of Christian witness and service. God has been good to bless all the denominations in our own separate and sometimes arrogantly held divisions. But we lose so much by standing apart. Don't we need a bridge to closer co-operation with our Anglican women? Don't we need to embrace in our fellowship the women of the Orthodox churches too? Don't you think we need these other people of the Church and Family of God far more than they need us?

So far as its working structure is concerned, however, Australian Church Women cannot yet be taken as an accomplished fact. The word Interim has full significance and the documents which have been circulated are suggestions only for the formal structure. The Interim Committee and the Australian Council of Churches are not unaware of some weaknesses in



the suggested format. But we have tried to plan with the future in mind. For discussion to take place it was felt there must be something constructive to discuss.

Let me now make statements which might help some of your concern:

The Australian Council of Churches is as you know a Council whose members are churches and whose representatives are chosen by their denominational Federal Courts. But the ACC directs its activities and its impact out to the field through the State Councils within its own framework and to these State Councils the churches at state level make appointments.

Australian Church Women is part of the Division of Ecumenical Promotion in the Australian Council of Churches. It is not separate in the sense of standing alone and unrelated. It has its own identity because women's organisations in the churches have their own identity.

Australian Church Women seeks to work through them in the same way as the Australian Christian Youth Council seeks to work through youth groups. The work of ACW therefore is to be seen not as something apart but as belonging to a larger whole. A local branch of ACW will be an integral part of a local inter church council where such exists and it will act as a spearhead for ecumenical action where it does not yet exist. On the matter of study material the same principle applies. Material produced by ACW will be part of the whole range of ecumenical literature made available by the ACC and will be produced in the light of what is available and what is not.

The movement for ACW does not separate women from men any more than already happens in the churches. In fact it will seek to relate men and women by taking the initiative to develop work in Australia on the cooperation of men and women in church, family and society. (Madeleine BAROT)

There is a very challenging story which came out of the first East Asian Christian Conference held four years ago in Kuala Lumpur at which Australian delegates were present. Unity and Mission were the keynotes of that conference and on the first morning when all delegates gathered for Holy Communion this new and strange thing happened. Six Asian women in their national dress carried in the elements in the procession of clergy and handed them to the Bishop at the Holy Table. The service was conducted according to the usage of the Church of South India, Episcopal and free church members all partaking together.

The point I stop to emphasise is this. These Asian Christians showed this revolutionary example to the world of women by asking to be the bearers of the elements into the church. That is all they did. They carried with quiet reverence the wine and the bread and then they took their place in the congregation. They had prepared the elements with the love and care which are part of woman and they laid them on the Lord's Table as seemed most beatifically the part that woman was by very nature and by very hand able to do.

Am I right in saying that these Asian Christians are showing the way to the older churches. To me that very act, shattering the ecclesiastical form of the centuries where women took just that significant part in the service of Holy Communion is the perfect symbol of the togetherness of women with men in the life of the church. Strange irony is it not that out of Asia where woman traditionally has always been a chattel this revolutionary thing should come. My plain and simple question is 'How can a woman be a worker together in the Kingdom of God unless she has the opportunity of exercising side by side with men the very capacities which make her a woman?'

Maybe the day is not so far distant when ACW can seek out and provide these opportunities.



May I say at this point how grateful we are, as an Interim Committee, that the Victorian Inter Church Council has accepted the invitation to become the State Unit here. As such their suggestions and reactions about future organisational structures will be valuable when we come to the point at a national level where we discuss the proposals already submitted to you all.

But any National Council which would be set up could not have on it only representation from State Women's Inter Church Councils. As the Australian Council members are Churches, likewise Australian Church Women must have in its membership the women's organisations of the Church. The development of State WICCs is too uneven to be able to rely on it. All State Inter Church ladies are at present differently constituted. They do not even all bear the same name and Tasmania, as yet, has none at all.

Promotional work requires membership of both Church and Inter Church organisations because promotion means penetrating denominational programmes as well as developing inter church programmes.

Hence we must have Church representation and this must be from Federal bodies in the same way as are appointments to the Australian Council of Churches.

Denominational women's organisations at state level will make appointments to state women's inter church councils in much the same way as church courts – assemblies, conferences, synods, etc. – make appointments to state councils within the ACC.

My final word I say in utter charity and humility – and born out of an ecumenical conviction.

We all need to see ourselves not as what we are in the service of our Lord and of His Church but as what through God's spirit and by His will we can become. Are we being as courageous, as vital, as effective as we might be. Are we really in earnest about our desire to lose our souls in order to find them, to lose our identity in something bigger than ourselves? If this is not so then we are compelled with the same compulsion as Simon of Cyrene was compelled to bear the Cross, to rethink our way through we have just got to let ourselves be challenged, be disturbed into action, be involved in the rising tide of unity, ecumenicity and mission.

Let us all be quite sure that we never close up a channel whereby God's spirit can work through us to make something finer and more effective for all the activity, capacity and service which we as women can give to Christ and His Church.

We must use every endeavour to educate for the future, to give to the younger women and to the isolated woman a new awareness and vision of the magnitude of the Church's task and mission. Are we ready to be committed, in all the totality of our personalities, and with all our diversified talents, to this challenge of God's spirit in our midst? Do we cherish more dearly our membership in the world wide church of the Risen Lord?

If we fail, or go not forward, we do shame not only to ourselves, but to our common calling in Christ Jesus and to the whole meaning of Calvary where let us not forget there were present women whose hearts throbbed with a sense of togetherness with the Crucified One and whose blinding tears were later turned to joy.