



NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

(N.S.W. State Unit)

No 18

May, 1981

"BREAK DOWN THE BARRIERS"

Barriers in any shape or form always divide the people. In this International Year of Disabled Persons, Australians will be working to promote equality and better understanding of problems faced by our disabled citizens.

Approximately one in ten Australians has a major disability preventing their effective entry into society. We have no conception of the difficulties experienced by so many folk or the courage needed to face each day. These people do not ask for sympathy, they only wish to be regarded as ordinary people with rights needing to be recognised. They need love and friendship, and contact with the world around them, and of course they need a Saviour.

What then are the barriers I hear you ask?, the Church does not discriminate we welcome all..... Look again at your Church my friend, does it have steps which can't be negotiated? Are the isles wide enough to take a wheelchair? Do you have toilets too small for use by folk with a handicap? Are there aids for the deaf? And do you include some of the children from that Home for Handicapped close by? Perhaps unthinking, we have put out a sign 'Not Welcome'.

Jesus did not bid us go and teach and make disciples only amongst the healthy folk, on the contrary He spent much of His time with the sick and badly disadvantaged, looking upon them with great compassion. Christ can still heal the broken hearted and give new life and courage to those in need.....but how will they hear without a preacher?

As christian women in our society to day, what can we do to help. The Bible Society has responded wonderfully with Braille Bibles and Scripture Cassettes and no doubt there are many very meaningful causes to which we could apply both time and talent. It would be good also if the women of our denominations could influence the local Churches to look at their buildings this year and see whether it would be possible to overcome some of these barriers, and earn the right to hang the Wheelchair Emblem of the Disabled Persons, inviting all who will to enter.

Jesus said, "Even as you have done it to one of these my bretheren, you have done it to me." Mat. 25 : 40.

This past year, while very busy, has also been a very exciting and happy one in so many ways. My personal thanks to all Executive and Council members for their untiring efforts and willing co-operation whenever called upon. I do believe that more Christian women are finding that sweet fellowship does exist across those denominational barriers, and A.C.W. has a continuing role to play.

May the God of all wisdom guide us through the coming year.

Glad WestPresident

ANNUAL REPORT OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
N.S.W. STATE UNIT
April, 1980 – April, 1981

Election of Officers took place in April, 1980, at the Annual Meeting, followed by the Annual Service on 26th May at Northside Baptist Church, Crows Nest, which marked the end of the term for Mrs Marie McCann as President. The incoming President, Mrs Glad West, received the President's Bible and gave the address. Executive members took part and Baptist ladies of the State and Local Church assisted.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Through the Winifred Kiek Scholarship, Australian Church Women become personally involved in the life and work of some gifted and dedicated women in the Asian – Pacific region. These W.K. Scholars are an inspiration to all with whom they come in contact and they challenge A.C.W. members to widen their vision and to become more committed to praying for and giving, to supporting the cause of Christ in the developing countries.

Miss Dien Sumiyatiningsih from Indonesia has completed a Chaplaincy Training course at the Peter McCallum Institute in Melbourne. She has been given a Scholarship at Ridley College in Melbourne so that she may be able to complete her master in Theology degree. What a zealous person Dien is! Pray for her continued studies and for her witness among students and others.

What a joyous Rev. Mary Au some of us met in Sydney on her way back to Hong Kong after her studies in Wellington, N.Z.! She was delighted with the courses in Counselling etc. that she had undertaken. Mary has been appointed to take charge of the Parish of the Holy Spirit in Hong Kong, where there are many refugees from China: She is also youth officer for the Diocese, a full time task in itself. She is counting on our prayers.

On 27th February, 1981 we welcomed Miss Malini Weerasinghe to Sydney. After spending a happy weekend with Mr and Mrs Stanhope, on 1st March she moved into Deaconess House to undertake studies in Theology and Religious Education. Malini, a teacher, is keen to gain knowledge and experience, especially in the sphere of training Sunday School teachers.

The way in which members of N.S.W. A.C.W. have responded to supplying Malini with the many things she needed has been very pleasing, many thanks!

THE VISITING SCHOLARSHIP

It was a great pleasure to hear Mrs Rathie Selveratnam has been invited to visit the State Units. We are looking forward to having this gifted Asian Christian lady in N.S.W. in July. She brings a wealth of experience. She was Chairman of the first meeting of the International Women's World Day of Prayer Meeting held in Sweden in 1968.

Rathie was President of the Asian Church Women's Conference from 1966-1971. In 1980 she attended the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of F.L.C.

In September 1980 Mrs Selveratnam attended All Africa Consultation of Women Theologians, Partners in Community of Women and Men in Church and Society, which was held in Ibadan, Nigeria.

Pray for God's blessing that Mrs Selveratnam may be used to help many more Australian Christian women to catch further visions of extending the cause of Christ at home and abroad.

Máry M. Andrews.....Convenor

A.C.W. PROMOTION AND SPECIAL DAYS REPORT FOR 1980-1

As one reviews the past twelve months the work of Promotion and Special Days, the words of George MacDonald come to mind:- "Hold fast to God with one hand, and open wide the other toward your neighbour: that is religion". There has been much evidence of 'many gifts – and One Spirit'.

Many thanks go to all enthusiastic Secretaries and Presidents who have caught the vision and who have promoted unity amongst the various women's groups in different areas. Venues have been arranged and services, creches and luncheons organised to make the World Community Day for 1980 the success it was. We thank God for His enablings, and the spirit of fellowship. Here are just a few of the many delightful quotes from the reports. – "The attendance the best for years", – "Excellent Order of Service" – "Meaningful and appropriate" – " Good to have hymns which were well known" etc.

A growing interest and enthusiasm is apparent in the branches. Community Day was held for the first time in seven new areas, viz: Penrith, Leura, Seven-Hills – Toongabbie, Sutherland Shire, Lambton and North Sydney. Material has been sent to various areas in the hope that "Guide Lines" will stimulate action in some areas where there are interested Christian women who desire to widen their horizons, among these being Forster, Grenfell, Lakemba and Dee Why. At Hornsby I met a number of ladies following the World Day of Prayer and discussed the aims of A.C.W.

Following the gathering at Armidale where some ninety five ladies had gathered they not only agreed to pray together, but also to work together. At a continuous luncheon following the service, when all ladies worked, an amount of \$600.00 was raised for Austcare. How delightful, congratulations!

At Bourke, two services were held, one at 10 a.m. and another at 7.30 p.m. when a member from each participating church gave a fifty word testimony – including the United Aborigines Mission.

It is of great interest to note that two of the latest groups to be formed organised creches in order to encourage the younger mothers to attend, one such was at the Sutherland Shire gathering where 72 were in attendance, and the other at Toongabbie where 60 ladies gathered. This is good thinking and organisation.

Fellowship Day service material is about to be dispatched – the theme being "Creative for Christ" – prepared by a group in the Northern Territory.

In June we were addressed by a Franciscan Missionary of Mary, Sister Barbara Hutchinson, whose topic was "Women in the Bible", thinking of the legal and social status of women from the Old and New Testaments. This stimulated much interest and followed through the recommendation from last National Committee Meeting, "The initiating of wide discussion regarding the Bible and the role of women". Another recommendation that we "gather resources relating to current community issues" is being fulfilled by the committee that was formed in June to co-ordinate thinking on issues of social responsibility. The core group of three ladies to set this in motion is Mrs McCann, Mrs Stevens and Mrs Hulme – Moir.

Four ladies attended the Young Women's Christian Association to meet the World President of the "Y". Five ladies also attended the Annual Meeting of the Y.W.C.A. which was 100 years old in Sydney and heard plans for redevelopment—an interesting report was brought to one meeting. Another affiliated organisation, The Woman's Christian Temperance Union, reported on their 99 years of work. To conclude our series a speaker from The Girl's Brigade brought enlightening information.

Five from N.S.W., with some from other states, journeyed from Alaska to Los Angeles meeting friends who had visited Sydney the previous year for the Consultation. Church Women United held the Ecumenical Assembly from 26–29th June in which Mesdames Dougherty, Stevens, Groat, Richardson and Deaconess Andrews participated. Their reports were presented at the August meeting.

We were thrilled when our member, Mrs H. Stevens, was invited by the Australian Government to be one of the 22 Australian women to attend the Forum in Copenhagen, in relation to the United Nations Mid-decade for Women Conference. Her talk following her return was most stimulating.

It is pleasing new branches are springing into being in both city and country and are holding the Services connected with our organization and assisting its projects with the offerings namely the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund and the Fellowship of the Least Coin. The special project offering in 1980 supported the Middle East Council of Churches and the Asian Church Women's Conference.

A new emblem has been adopted for the State Unit. Reports from Branch representatives were presented in the State Unit 's paper "NEWSETTE" along with other news of interest, of affiliated organizations. One group with which we are affiliated, the Council for Children's Films and Television, is receiving enthusiastic leadership from our delegate, Mrs McCann, as their President. Representatives to the Women's World Day of Prayer help pack orders of Service and our fraternal delegate reports from the Australian Council of Churches. Several members attend the N.S.W. National Council of Women meetings.

In June a number of members attended the Ecumenical Service in St. Andrews Cathedral. The Ecumenical Reflection Day at Cranbrook School was attended by five ladies in November. Miss Mitchell brought an interesting report of the meeting she was able to attend in connection with the European Conference in Edinburgh of the Women's World Day of Prayer – a wider view of the world organization. Mrs Lean being one of the privileged ones of our group to attend the Oberammagau Passion Play gave an interesting account. Mrs Oates brought a Christmas Devotional which was appreciated.

We welcomed Winifred Kiek Scholar Dien in April, some of us met Rev. Mary Au on her way home to Hong Kong and we look forward to meeting with Maline Weerasinghe and the first appointed Winifred Kiek Visiting Scholarship Holder, Mrs Rathie Selvaratnam, when she tours Australia.

To our hard-working and enthusiastic Secretary and President, a special word of thanks for all time, money and long distance covered in an endeavour to promote and encourage by means of visual aids and promoting the value of A.C.W. without any re-imburement except for the satisfaction of doing a good job faithfully and well.

To have worked with women of similar desires and aims has been a great privilege, and in W.A. Peterson's words I quote "Success is accepting the challenge of the difficult" and again in the inspiring words of Phillip Brooks: "Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you shall be the miracle." A final prayer: "Give us faith for greater things". Amen.

Edna Baker.....Convenor

PUBLICITY REPORT April 1981

Publicity takes many forms. It includes the image which each member projects of the organisation to which she belongs. The main avenue, however, used by the A.C.W. to publicise coming events and functions is through the pages of the various denominational papers.

The installation service of the president, Mrs Glad West in May, 1980 was advertised through the Church papers and by courtesy of Station 2CH.

The service was reported and given good coverage by the Australian Baptist dated June 11th, 1980. A photographer from the Catholic Weekly attended the installation service and produced a number of interesting photos taken inside the Northside Baptist Church as well as during the luncheon period.

A significant step forward in the field of publicity has been the appointment of Mrs. Marie McCann as the first woman member to the Board of the Catholic Weekly.

The Newsette published quarterly for members and other interested women is a source of information regarding the activities of A.C.W. N.S.W., Unit, as well as advertising special events, reports and conferences which involve overseas travel.

There's still much to be done by each and every member by making known the aims of A.C.W. Our name -AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN needs to be mentioned repeatedly so that other Christians will associate it with Ecumenism at its best.

Mabel Ward.....Convenor

GENERAL INFORMATION
1981

Council Meetings 1981

June 15th	Speaker Dr. Jean Benjamin
August 17th	Council Meeting
September 21st	Reports of National Committee Meeting Hobart
November 16th	Council Meeting

Executive Meetings

June 1st, July 13th, August 10th, September 14th, November 9th.
All meetings are held in the Uniting Church Offices Meeting Rooms 1st Floor, 139 Castlereagh St. Sydney at 10.30 a.m.

Special Days 1981

July	Fellowship Day at various centres. Theme "Creative for Christ". Offering for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund.
October	World Community Day at various centres. Theme "Prayer—Partnership — Peace." Offerings for Fellowship of the Least Coin dedicated at this Service. The general offering to be for Korean Atomic Bomb Victims.

The First Winifred Kiek Visiting Scholarship holder, Mrs Rathie Selvaratnam, originally from Sri Lanka, has been appointed to tour Australia by the National Working Committee of Australian Church Women. Her itinerary on her promotion tour includes Sydney July 13—18. Her engagements being planned, to which all interested are invited, include—

July 14th	Reception 10.a.m. morning tea Uniting Church Meeting Rooms 139 Castlereagh St. Opportunity to hear this excellent speaker.
July 15th	Fellowship Day Service speaker Lambton, 10 am. Anglican Church. Promotion for the Newcastle districts.
July 17th	Fellowship Day Service speaker 10.30 a.m. All Saints Anglican Church, Victoria Road, North Parramatta, followed by luncheon and talk. Opportunity for the western area of Sydney and beyond to the mountains to meet and hear this outstanding Christian women.

The five ladies who attended the F.L.C. Silver Jubilee Celebrations in Manila, Philippines, from 26th Nov. to 3rd Dec. 1980 were Mesdames Stevens, Richardson, McCann, Stanhope and Deaconess Andrews. Mrs Stanhope was asked to have Australia's banner prepared. The interesting reports were given at the February meeting.

In March Sister Lenore Sharry was our speaker when she spoke about her work as Liaison Secretary for the Catholic Commission for Ecumenism.

Mrs Heather Stevens organized the New Zealand Ecumenical Tour in March when 39 people enjoyed hospitality, sharing in services and meetings. A return visit is hoped for in the future. Valuable friendships are made during these tours.

We noted with regret the passing of Life Member, Mrs A. Hall during September at the age of 95, also a Past President, Mrs E. Manfield early this year. It is our pleasure to have conferred Life Membership on Mrs Stanhope and Deaconess Andrews for long and distinguished service in the cause of A.C.W.

At our Annual Service to be held on 25th May the F.L.C. Silver Jubilee will be commemorated by the State Unit, followed by a luncheon. Speakers will relate to the United Nations "Year of Disabled Persons".

I express my thanks to all who have assisted during the four years I have been Secretary of this State Unit and am thankful for the privileges that this Office has afforded me during that time.

Dorothy Woodhouse.....Secretary

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Report April 1981



The colourful banner which Australian delegates took to Manila, Philippines, for the Fellowship of the Least Coin Silver Jubilee Celebrations.

Another year of the unique uniting of women throughout the world in loving prayer for each other, and the symbolic giving of "The Least Coin" extending the hand of encouragement and practical help to those in need, has come and gone.

Again, women in N.S.W. have responded warmly and spontaneously, and many new groups have been formed and have begun sharing in this worthwhile project. As Convenor in this State I have written over a hundred letters in recognition of this response.

Each month the Devotional segment in Circle of Prayer focuses our thoughts to different areas of the world as we give our offerings.

I relinquish this office with a deep sense of gratitude for the honour it has been to serve A.C.W. in this way.

Gladys BentConvenor

Owing to the illness of our Hon. Treasurer, Miss Doris Mitchell, we are unable to include the Annual Financial Statement. The Statement will be available at the June Council Meeting and circulated to groups and those who require it.

We wish Miss Mitchell a speedy recovery, she wishes to remind affiliated groups annual membership fees for the 1981-82 year are now due— denominations \$5.00 – special interest groups and local branches \$2.00. Subscription to the State Unit's paper "Newsette" is \$2.00 for quarterly issues – payable September.

In recognition of the Silver Jubilee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin our state has produced bookmarks depicting the banner the Australian delegation took to Manila, Philippines in Nov/Dec 1980, for the Jubilee Celebrations. At 20 cents each it is a memento of the occasion, and groups and branches may wish to purchase a number for their organization. Orders may be sent to the F.L.C. convenor. "Small Beginnings", the story of F.L.C. beginnings, is available together with a new information leaflet, and the new Silver Jubilee edition of "Circle of Prayer" book at 60 cents each.



*The President's Bible is handed by
Mrs. Marie McCann to Mrs. Glad West
at the Installation Service, May 1980.*

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
N.S.W. STATE UNIT

OFFICER BEARERS FOR 1980 - 81

<u>President</u>	
Mrs. G. West, 8 Stewart St. Artarmon, 2064	419 8654
<u>Past President</u>	
Mrs. M. McCann, 14 Daymar Place, Castle Cove, 2069	406 4044
<u>Hon. Secretary</u>	
Brigadier M. Ward, 10/3, 79 Robertson Road, Bass Hill. 2197	644 9472
<u>Hon Treasurer</u>	
Miss. D. Mitchell, 33/250 Jersey Road, Woollahra 2025	328 7119
<u>Membership Secretary</u>	
Miss E. Blackwell, 14 Callicoma Road, Seaforth, 2092	94 4705
<u>Convenors</u>	
<u>Fellowship of the Least Coin</u>	
Mrs. D. Woodhouse, 86 Fullers Road, Chatswood, 2067	419 6772
<u>Winifred Kiek Scholarship</u>	
Deaconess M. Andrews L/8, 250 Jersey Road, Woollahra, 2025	32 2023
<u>Promotion</u>	
Mrs M. McCann, 14 Daymar Place , CastleCove, 2069	406 4044
<u>Publicity</u>	
Mrs. M. Baker, 79 Wongala Cres. Beecroft 2119	84 3046
<u>Life Members</u>	
Deaconess M. Andrews A.M., Mrs G.H.Briggs, Mrs W. Dougherty, Mrs. J.B. Montgomerie, Mrs. E.G. Pearson, Mrs L. Perriam, Mrs. M. Stanhope Mrs.C. W.Stolz, Mrs. W, Wyper	