

Did you know?

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

TREASURER: Mrs Helen Richardson
33 Lynwood Avenue, Dee WHY NSW 2099
Phone: 9971 0278

However, **please note**

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

FEES from AFFILIATED GROUPS

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

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

For further details contact Jennifer Pepper (9874 4056)

Newsette is the journal of the NSW State Unit of Australian Church Women Inc. and is published four times a year—in February, May, August and November.

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Contributions to *Newsette* are requested from readers and should be sent to the Editor:

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Newsette

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NSW STATE UNIT INC.**

ACW Website: www.acw.org.au

A C W seeks:

To unite Australian churchwomen in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;

To provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together.

Mission Statement:

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

President: Mrs Isabel Hewitt

Phone: 4969 6336 Email: doug.isabel@gmail.com

Number 135

May 2013

President's Message

The lead up to Easter was a busy time, and not without its challenges. A collection of artworks by Palestinians was displayed in a neighbouring suburb, and in conjunction with that we heard stories from the West Bank told by a member of the Iona Community in Scotland.

Jan Sutch Pickard has served twice as an Ecumenical Accompanier in Palestine/Israel, observing the interplay of Palestinians and the Israeli occupying forces as the Palestinians tried to go about their everyday lives. Her job was to be there, to be seen and identified wearing a distinctive jacket and many times her presence was enough to diminish some of the frustrations suffered by people in the village where she was stationed.

The artworks were telling. Some were crafted by young children, others by accomplished artists, but they all conveyed the pain and suffering endured daily by Palestinian people—houses demolished, olive trees uprooted, land alienated by the wall, unemployment rife. Some pictured butterflies and birds, creatures that symbolised—especially for children—the possibility of freedom of movement.

Jan also met up with Israeli women who gather each Friday, dressed in black, to protest against the treatment by their country of the people they have displaced, and continue to displace, forcing them into smaller and smaller areas which cannot sustain families who depend on farming.

Why did Jan go to Israel/Palestine? Why would a woman of similar age to us leave the comforts of her home in the Western Isles of Scotland to spend months at a time in such a confrontational situation?

As a member of the Iona Community she has committed herself to work for social justice, not just at home, but also in trouble spots throughout the world. Jan is a poet and storyteller, spiritual leader and activist who feels called to use the power of the pen to counteract the power of armaments.

Jan led a writer's workshop, encouraging all who attended to put feelings into words. A smooth stone from Iona, a sand rose from the Middle East, and Christmas decorations made from glass fragments in Palestine were used to stimulate creativity in poem and prose. Jesus' last words from the cross were then used in conjunction with the artworks to see what we could produce. My humble effort follows.

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
The camera doesn't lie. I have the photo in my hands
My family of generations, rooted in the land,
Stands shattered, a mere trifle of its former self.
Where once were nurtured children there is now a damaged shell
And I am estranged from my roots.
Why have you forsaken me?

What will the Resurrection mean for Palestinian Christians as they have celebrated Easter this year?

We can pray for justice and peace in Jerusalem, Palestine/Israel, trusting that reason will triumph in this vexing situation.

Isabel Hewitt

All I see teaches me to trust the Creator for all I do not see.

Winifred Keik Report



Easter has been early and it is only a short time since we had the opportunity to send and receive greetings with Scholars past. Many assure us of the value they place on our continued prayerful support and interest as they seek to now utilise the study and skills they gained from their Scholarships. They serve the Lord in various ways in different lands.

Our Scholars for 2013, mostly studying in their own countries, often do not have the opportunity to utilise the modern technologies and thus establish personal contact as perhaps in past years. We hope this will change as the months pass—keep praying.

Berebere Katauea is from Kiribati and has been serving as an Ordained Minister in the Kiribati Protestant Church since 2002. She has studied in Jamaica and Fiji and is now studying for a Bachelor of Divinity at the Pacific Theological College. She is 36 yrs old and grateful for support of her family during her studies. To relax she is interested in sewing and gardening.

Christina Taviti comes from Vanuatu where her father is a Pastor in the Presbyterian Church. She is 24 and a qualified Librarian and now studying for a Diploma in Theology at the Talua Ministry Training Centre. Christina hopes that her studies will enable her to deepen her faith and help in working for the expansion of God's kingdom. Her special interests are music, reading, movies, using the internet and mobile to keep in touch with friends.

Verenaisi Toga is from Fiji where she is a Deaconess in a Methodist Church. She is 40 years of age and has worked as a Religious Education teacher and chaplain in both primary and secondary schools. She is studying for a Bachelor of Divinity degree at the Davulevu Theological College and aims to be "an ambassador for Christ and live like it every day". She enjoys reading, gardening and corresponding.

Lou Momoru is from Papua New Guinea. The area she comes from is quite isolated and, we understand, lacking modern communications. Studies are scheduled at Metago Training Institute in Port Moresby.....watch for more details next issue! *Judith Cayzer.*

SPECIAL DAYS

As I write this report the Orders of Service for Fellowship Day are all completed and ready for the printer. Branch representatives should have received their packages with the Orders of Service and relevant materials for the administration and promotion of the day by early in May. If you haven't please contact me on 9529 6744.

Fellowship Day is usually held the last Friday in July. If there is a service being held near you I would encourage you to attend. The theme is *LOVE NEVER FAILS* and has been prepared by the Western Australia Unit. For a list of where services are to be held you can go to our website: www.acw.org.au closer to the date, and click on State Units—NSW—Special Events. The service has been designed to be rich in fellowship and worship. I look forward to receiving the reports of the wonderful time you have shared. God bless you!

Lyn Middleton, Special Days Convenor

SOCIAL ISSUES are not always glaringly obvious and make a quick influence on our thinking. They come upon us subtly and we slowly realise the insidiousness of their impact on us, our families and the community.

Such an item is the prevalence of betting/gambling as advertised on TV. One TV channel has advised that the broadcasting of gambling/betting during sporting events does not contravene the relevant Code of Practice. Such advertisements are being shown in news, current affairs or sporting programs.

Why not write a letter expressing concern about the impact these adverts have on children and families?

The Hon George Souris MP, Minister for Tourism, Major Events Hospitality and Racing-

The Hon. Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Fair Trading ; **The Hon Pru**

Goward MP Minister for Community Services **The Hon Graham Annesley MP**,

Minister for Sports and Recreation **COPY in your local MP**

The address is Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000



FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Lillian Hodges, the NSW FLC Convenor writes.....

I do not have very much to report at this time of the year. It is a little quiet, but I know that you are continuing to support the Movement.

There will not be a new list of grants for 2013 until 1st July. Last year the Grants were given for 18 months to the end of June 2013. I will then have more information to share with you for the next issue of Newsette. May God bless you as you pray and give.

In the current issue of "Circle of Prayer", Asinate F. Samate, the Pacific Representative to the ICFLC says "let us be makers of peace, promoters of justice and practitioners of reconciliation...." May this be our aim.

Lillian Hodges, FLC Convenor



PASTORAL REPORT

We continue to pray for the Edmondstone family as they grieve the loss of a precious wife, mother, daughter-in-law and friend.

We keep Jennifer Peffer in our thoughts and prayers as she recovers from knee surgery and deals with set-backs experienced in rehab. We look forward to having her back amongst us before too long.

Shirley Wells, Edith Ridge and her husband Barry, Beryl Kirkwood need our prayers as they struggle with health issues.

We know there are many friends who are in need of our loving prayers, but who we keep in our hearts, sending encouragement.

We trust that Easter has been a happy, holy and thoughtful time for us all, safe travel - and maybe a rest from routine?

Helen Hill, Pastoral Care.

OF INTEREST

Each year the National Council of Women NSW Inc. invites like organisations to nominate members who have made a significant contribution to their organisations and are attaining their 90th birthday during the year. These ladies will be honoured at the Jean Arnot Luncheon, held in the Parliament House dining room, Sydney, and they will be presented to the Governor.

This year we are pleased that **Mrs Peg Blake** will be so honoured. Peg was a foundation member of Caringbah Presbyterian Church, Sunday School Kindergarten Superintendent for 30 years, and held office in the Presbyterian Women's Association. She began reading and recording a monthly PWA magazine to help visually impaired members.

For 22 years Peg was a volunteer reader for the Royal Blind Society, and at Vickery Village she formed a Support Team to care for the visually impaired. She has also taught English as a second language.

A Life Member of Australian Church Women NSW Inc. she served as a Publicity Officer and later State President. She assisted in the formation of the Sutherland Branch of ACW and served as President for at least 20 years with Mina Wybourne as her Secretary, and also saw the commencement of a Prayer on Wheels team which took devotions and entertainment to nursing homes. Peg is also a strong supporter of the work for our indigenous people through Australian Indigenous Ministries.

Retired? She is a volunteer at a nearby public school, reading for 6-7 year olds.

A ThoughtMany today like to sing new worship songs in church but those who are a little older also like to sing traditional hymns, too. Unlike many modern worship songs which are sung as personal expressions of thanks and love, they contain a lot of doctrine, truths of which we need to be reminded. We can speak of the Lord our shepherd who leads us beside the still waters and restores our soul., but we are not encouraged to live an indolent life—we are called to be active in service. When next you sing., think of the words and how they can encourage you in your Christian walk.



Dates for the Diary DEDICATION DAY



Plan a great day out—journey with us to Newcastle

**Hamilton Uniting Church,
150 Beaumont Street, Hamilton
Monday 20th May at 11.30am**

Morning Tea is available at church prior to the service
Lunch to follow the service.

Men are welcome.

**Train from Central 8.15am, Strathfield 8.28am,
Epping 8.40am or Hornsby 8.52am
Arriving at Hamilton 10.53am**

**Make sure that you travel in one of the first four (4) cars —
(cars 2 & 3 if you want to be quiet) for company try the third
one.**

(there is a flat 666 metre walk from station
Transport available if requested)

**Trains depart from Hamilton at 2.43 (arriving Central 5.19pm
or**

3.30pm arriving at 6.04pm

**RSVP 13.5.2013 (for catering) doug.isabel@gmail.com or phone
Nola Dickson 9869 2559 (Sydney)
Isabel Hewitt 4969 6336 (Newcastle)**

Plans are well underway for State Conference Day

Monday, September 16 *Interesting speakers. There will be a
segment for us to learn more of the Special Project for
World Community Day in October.*

"Our Choice is Love" will be the theme for the

National Conference to be held in Perth 7-11th October.

*A wonderful opportunity to visit the west—have congenial company
and participate in a great programme.*

*NSW will become the National Executive for the following 2 years.
Registration Forms available by contacting Isabel or NSW Secretary.*