

Australian Church Women

NATIONAL COMMITTEE
MEETING

July 1977

"Break down the Walls"



Perth W.A.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING - PERTH, Western Australia

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PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS

The following procedures will be used by the President and her Vice-Presidents during the National Committee Meeting, 26th - 29th July.

BUSINESS PROCEDURE

Apart from Reports from State Units and Federal Organisations, all business will be discussed in Policy Reference Committees as follows :-

1. Relationships with A.C.C. and State Units
2. Special Days
3. Winifred Kiek Scholarship
4. Fellowship of the Least Coin - Asian Church Women's Conference
5. Women at Work and Resources generally.
6. Finance

Findings and recommendations from these Committees will be brought to the full Assembly for determination.

DEBATING

The Chairperson will allow up to five minutes for each speaker but no member shall speak more than once on the same motion or amendment except the mover who shall have the right of reply.

REPORTS SESSIONS

At the beginning of a reports session it shall be moved that "All reports for this session will be taken as read or read and received." Speakers will speak to each report and at the end of the session the reports shall all be "received or adopted".

INFORMATION

1. Delegates and Observers are asked to bring copies of the 1975 National Committee Meeting Minutes.
Please bring your Bible. Hymn Books will be provided.

2. Arrival:

All Interstate Delegates and Observers will be met by hostesses if previously arranged.

For those motoring to Perth, all day parking is available at the Railton Hotel during their stay.

3. The Railton Hotel

- (a) The address is - Corner Pier and Murray Sts., Perth, W.A. 6000.
- (b) The phone number is - 25 2133 (STD - 092)
- (c) The Railton will provide all linen including towels.
- (d) Laundry and dry cleaning facilities are available.
- (e) Personal property - Please do not leave your valuables in your room.

4. General

The following will be placed in your folder which you will receive when you arrive - location of Post Office, Banks, etc. and name tags which we request that you wear at all times.

PARTICIPANTSLife Member

* Andrews, Head Deaconess Mary

Working Committee

Wacker, Rev. D.I.	- President
Macintyre, Mrs. Brigadier I.C.	- Vice-President
Downey, Mrs. C.	- Vice-President
Dean, Miss V.	- Secretary
Banyard, Mrs. J.	- Treasurer
Wilson, Mrs. V.	- F.I.C. Convener
Vincent, Mrs. J.	- W.K.S. Convener
Ellis, Mrs. N.	- "Women at Work"
* Holland, Mrs. J.	
Craig, Mrs. D.	
* Scurlock, Mrs. M. (Co-opted Member)	- "Special Days"
Watts, Mrs. J.	- Assistant Secretary
Warr, Mrs. Major B.	"

State UnitsDelegatesObservers

A.C.T.	Winter, Mrs. E.	Rowe, Mrs. G.
	Burnester, Mrs. R.	Magee, Mrs. E.
N.S.W.	* Baker, Mrs. Lt. Colonel E.	* Stanhope, Mrs. M.
	Woodhouse, Mrs. D.	* Mitchell, Miss D.
Northern Territory	McKenzie, Mrs. M.	
	Chapple, Miss D.	
Queensland	<i>MRS L. MEADOWS</i>	
	<i>MRS R. SELVARTNAM</i>	
S.A.	* Hall, Mrs. A.	Ross, Mrs. H.
	Weyland, Mrs. V.	
Tasmania	* Cocks, Mrs. R.	Hickman, Mrs. R.
	Hartman, Mrs. D.	Easther, Mrs. J.
Victoria	Frewin, Mrs. L.	Krutli, Mrs. A.
	Fry, Miss D.	
W.A.	* Scurlock, Mrs. M.	Wilson, Mrs. M.
	Smith-Ryan, Mrs. D.	Mortlock, Mrs. M.

Federal Organisations

Anglican	* Holland, Mrs. J.	<i>MRS A. McDONALD</i>
Churches of Christ	St. Aubyn, Mrs. J.	Ellement, Mrs. N.
Presbyterian	Miller, Mrs. M.	Fraser, Mrs. R.
Salvation Army	Goodier, Mrs. Commissioner R.	* Macintyre, Mrs. Brig. I.
Society of Friends	Roberts, Mrs. M.	
Uniting	* Dougherty, Mrs. W.	Minchin, Mrs. A.
Girls' Brigade	Underhill, Mrs. V.	Laycock, Mrs. P.
Y.W.C.A.	Richardson, Mrs. E.	Box, Mrs. M.

A.C.C. Executive

Skiller, Miss T.

Invited Federal Observers

Aust. Council of Catholic Women	Grealy, Mrs. B.
Baptist Women's Board	- Walker, Mrs. J.
Lutheran Women of Australia	Kuchel, Mrs.

Consultants

A.C.W.C.
National Rep.
W.W.D. of P.

MRS FRAN BAILEY
* Cocks, Mrs. R.
* Hall, Mrs. A.

W.A. Invited Observers

Anglican

Baptist

Catholic

Churches of Christ

Girls' Brigade

Evangelical Aboriginal
Fellowship

National Council of Women

Pan Pacific & South East
Asian Women's Assoc.

Uniting

Women's World Day of
Prayer

Salvation Army

Presbyterian
Lutheran

Invited Participants

MRS PICKRELL

MRS. NAPIER

Walker, Mrs. J.

MRS NELL REYNOLDS

McIlwraith, Mrs. B. Robinson, Mrs. B.

Dimond, Miss P.

Jacobs, Mrs. M. Nebro, Miss. R. Dann, Mrs. A.

Lockhart, Mrs. C.

McCullough, Miss I. Holland, Mrs. M.

Luscombe, Mrs. B.

Morecombe, Mrs. B. Hawke, Mrs. E.

Knop, Mrs. Captain D.

McAuliffe, Mrs. B.
Kemeny, Mrs. H.

Auvau'a, Mrs. S. (ex-Samoa)
Paul, Rev. E. Church of Sth. India
Read, Mrs. G. Secretarial
Shier, Miss J. "
Forsyth, Mrs. C. "

Incoming Working Committee

- * Dougherty, Mrs. W.
- * Andrews, Head Deaconess M.
- * Mitchell, Miss D.
- Cork, Mrs. Brigadier G.
- * Stanhope, Mrs. M.
- Curtin, Mrs. J.
- * Baker, Mrs. Colonel E.K.

THEME : "BREAK DOWN THE WALLS"A G E N D ATUESDAY - 26th JULY

- 11.00 a.m. Official Opening and Fellowship Day Service at
The Salvation Army, Perth Fortress
- 12.30 p.m. Lunch and Informal Sharing Time
- 2.15 p.m. Welcome to Delegates - at "The Railton"
- 2.30 p.m. Setting the Scene : The States we come from
- 3.30 p.m. Afternoon tea
- 4.00 p.m. Business Procedures
Minutes of 1975 N.C.M. and Business Arising
Secretary's Report
Treasurer's Report
Appointment of Policy Reference Committees
- 5.30 p.m. Adjourn
- 6.00 p.m. Evening meal
- 7.15 p.m. Introduction to Evening Session at Perth Fortress
"Look through the Walls and Find Your Neighbour"
- 7.20 p.m. Uniting Church - Music Group
- 7.45 p.m. FIND YOUR NEIGHBOUR :
Your Neighbour in Crisis : Dr. Adele Thomas
Your Neighbour who is disenchanted with the Church :
Mr. Robert Dunn
Your Aboriginal Neighbour : Mrs. Gwen Corunna
Your Youthful Neighbour : Miss Heather Jenkins
- 9.45 p.m. Closing Neighbourly Act.
- 9.50 p.m. Supper
- 10.15 p.m. Prayers at "The Railton" - V. President : C. Downey.

WEDNESDAY - 27th JULY

- 7.30 a.m. Morning Prayers - Incoming Working Committee
- 8.00 a.m. Breakfast
- 9.00 a.m. Bible Study : "Look Through the Walls to find your
neighbour" - with the help of the Old Testament
Chair Person : Norma Ellis - Study Leader : Robyn Schaeffer
- 10.00 a.m. Business Procedures
- 10.05 a.m. Policy-Reference Workshops
- 12.30 p.m. Adjourn
- 1.00 p.m. Lunch
- 2.00 p.m. Reports from Workshop Groups
Decision making and Planning
- 3.45 p.m. Afternoon tea
- 4.15 p.m. Reports, Decision making, Planning
- 5.30 p.m. Adjourn
- 6.00 p.m. Evening Meal
- 7.15 p.m. Introduction to Evening Session - at "The Railton"
"BREAK DOWN THE WALLS AND SHARE YOUR FAITH"

Contd :

A G E N D A (Contd:)WEDNESDAY - 27th JULY (Contd:)

- 7.20 p.m. Film : "Dreamtime"
 "Share Your Faith" and "Put your Faith into Action"
 - Discussion and Planning Time
- 9.30 p.m. Slides : "Kalpana Airan etc" (Deaconess M.Andrews)
- 10.00 p.m. Prayers - V.President : I.Macintyre

THURSDAY - 28th JULY

- 7.30 a.m. Morning Prayers - Incoming Working Committee
- 8.00 a.m. Breakfast
- 9.00 a.m. Bible Study - "Break Down the Walls to Share your Faith"
 with the help of the New Testament.
 Chairperson : Norma Ellis Study Leader : Elizabeth Appleby
- 10.00 a.m. News from Member Denominations
- 10.45 a.m. Morning Tea
- 11.15 a.m. News from Associated Bodies
- 12.00 noon Adjourn
- 12.15 p.m. Picnic Bus Tour
- 6.00 p.m. Evening meal
- 7.00 p.m. Art Display at Burt Memorial Hall
- 7.30 p.m. Introduction to Evening Session - at Burt Memorial Hall
 "JUMP OVER THE WALLS - RENEW THE EARTH"
 Forum Time :
 Archbishop Sambell - "Walls that divide us nationally &
 inter-nationally"
 Sandra Penrose : "JUMP OVER - But how far?"
 - A Christian Woman looks at Politics.
 Peter Newman : In tune with Planet Earth
 Keith Dowding : An alternative Australia
- 9.30 p.m. Supper time - Art Display
- 10.15/30 p.m. Prayers at "The Railton" - President : D.Wacker

FRIDAY - 29th JULY

- 7.00/7.30 p.m. Morning Prayers - OUT-of-DOORS - Members of Incoming Working Committee
- 8.00 a.m. Breakfast
- 9.00 a.m. Bible Study : "JUMP OVER THE WALLS" - with the Twentieth Century Gospel.
 Chairperson : Norma Ellis ; Study Leader : Sam McCollum
- 10.00 a.m. Reports, Decision making, Planning
- 12.30 p.m. Close of Business
- 1.00 p.m. Lunch
- 2.00 p.m. Closing Celebration
 Address by Incoming President
 The Dismissal and The Blessing
- 3.30 p.m. Afternoon Tea
- EPILOGUE : Joint meeting of Past and Present Working Committees
 THE GOING FORTH.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

-WORKING COMMITTEE REPORT - 1975-77-

It is with deep thankfulness and gratitude to God, that I present this report; conscious of the many times when but for His guidance and strengthening power, some of us would not have been able to fulfil our tasks. I personally, am very conscious of my inadequacies as a National Secretary. It is truly amazing the way God uses a very ordinary person and somehow helps to get the job done.

The one thing which loomed very large on our "thinking plan" at the beginning was that the Committee should somehow become a resource centre for providing and distributing helpful material and making sure everyone was aware of the literature etc. available to them in their many different situations. We do not seem to have progressed as far with this as we hoped to do, but perhaps it will be "carried forward".

Our Editor - Norma Ellis, deserves sincere thanks for the way she has compiled our monthly paper, so often, so much to use and only so much space; but always the choice was good.

Our F.L.C. Convenor - Vera Wilson, as always has done a very efficient job in the usual quiet fashion and helped in so many other ways.

Also our W.K.S. Convenor - Jean Vincent, chosen because she was so well qualified for the job, has taken all the frustrations and set-backs in her stride and her expertise has been much appreciated.

The one with one of the worst jobs, our Treasurer, Jean Banyard, has coped with the intricacies of our finances and managed to fit in so many other things too, she has been an invaluable member of the Committee.

The "Special Days" convenor, our State President, Marjorie Scurlock, has had an unenviable job and has always managed to smile, even when deadlines hadn't been met.

We were all suffering from severe shock when our President, Dorothy Wacker, announced her departure for Adelaide. However, we have carried on with the gracious leadership of Brigadier, Isabel Macintyre. We have all missed Dorothy's leadership and all the "drive" and "enthusiastic encouragement" she extended so freely to each of us. Although an extremely busy person, Dorothy always had time for us, when we asked for, and received, help and advice.

One of the most encouraging facets of our work, has been the establishing of "Womens' Forum" Dinners. Organised by a small committee of our Working Committee members, and backed up fully by everyone; these Dinners have opened our eyes to possibilities. One very encouraging thing has been the proportion of "young ones", they are so often in the minority at Women's Functions, but here they were at least equal in numbers with the older group. From all walks of life, generally not attached to any very structured group within the Churches, yet all of them Christians with a deep concern for and involvement in community needs.

The subject matter of our talks and discussions has been varied and designed to interest intelligent, trained people. Their response in terms of discussion etc. was really exciting and it was difficult to end the functions within the time expected. We hope that as a State Unit, we will continue to find the right people to keep this effort continuing.

We have been privileged in that we have been able to hold our monthly meetings in the Board Room at the Churches of Christ Centre and to carry out much of our typing, duplicating and collating there. Also, through Isabel Macintyre, our Acting President, we have had the valuable assistance of the Salvation Army, both personnel, and printing facilities, and in the carrying out of innumerable tasks, small and great.

Here we record our thanks to those at the Churches of Christ Centre and at Salvation Army Headquarters who have made space, time and facilities available to us.

It seems to me, time is our chief enemy in trying to be a good working committee. Money too I think. So much that could be told if only time and money permitted. By the submissions which have come to N.C.M. this time, I think it is obvious that there is a great big question mark over A.C.W. as it is today. Don't let's put it in the "too hard" basket and die because it's too difficult to find a solution to questions. When and if we do die (and we were born to do that), let it be because in most Churches, men and women have learnt to work side by side. It isn't enough that a few already have, their women should be prepared to stay alongside the more "backward" ones until they too achieve "fullness of life" in God's Church. Our two years work has been a real team effort and we have all gained much from working together.

Vera Dean
Secretary

Special Note :

During the two years of its existence the members of the Working Committee have been constantly amazed at the seemingly tireless and certainly continued efforts of the Secretary, Vera Dean, in fulfilling her many duties. We know that often the work has been accomplished under very difficult conditions, and we are grateful to Vera for the way she has handled it - with efficiency and determination to see it through; and this often at great cost to her own well-being. We bless her for her sense of humour - a factor which has transformed long meetings from what might have been drudgery, to happy experiences. Vera would be the first to indicate that she has had willing helpers in Janet Watts, Grace Read and Lesley Parker. We all recognize that, and they join with the whole committee in this expression of appreciation of Vera's spirit of dedication, her handling of seemingly impossible situations and her efficiency in carrying out a demanding and difficult task.

Members are very much aware also of the debt we owe to Isabel Macintyre. It was not at all an easy task to act as President for the six months since Dorothy's departure. But Isabel was not daunted, and she has worked cheerfully, quietly and without fuss. Our thanks to both Vera and Isabel.

Members of the Working Committee

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN : FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR
YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1977.

WINIFRED KIEK ACCOUNTS:

	<u>Memorial Bursary.</u>	<u>Fellowship Day.</u>	<u>Scholarship.</u>
Balances at 1.7.76:	\$ 454.55.	2893.26.	4578.40.
Receipts:			
<u>Donations & Offerings:</u>			
Sundry.			31.25
New South Wales.		474.26	106.26
South Australia			681.25.
Queensland.		350.00	55.00
" for bond.			100.00
Victoria	50.00.	1500.00	
Canberra		154.00.	
Northern Territory.		53.42	
Western Australia		227.00	
Tasmania		115.56	
	<u>50.00</u>	<u>2874.24</u>	<u>973.76</u>
Interest - Bonds 327.91			
Bank 656.00			983.91
	<u>504.55</u>	<u>5767.50</u>	<u>6536.07</u>
Expenses:			
Transfer to Admin.& General A/c.		145.00	
Special Bonds.	300.00		
	<u>204.55</u>	<u>5622.50</u>	<u>6536.07</u>
Transfer		(2248.26)	2248.26
		<u>3374.24</u>	<u>8784.33</u>
<u>Scholarship Payments:</u>			
Jennifer Yeo \$1000.00			
" Pamphlets 40.00			
Book bursary 50.00			
Sarrah Ah You			
Book bursary 50.00			
			1160.00
			<u>7624.33</u>
Bond - Queensland			100.00
Balances at 30.6.1977:	<u>\$204.55</u>	<u>\$3374.24</u>	<u>\$7524.33</u>

FELLOWSHIP OF LEAST COIN:

Balance at 1.7.1976:			6539.69
Receipts:			
"Circle of Prayer"		394.60.	
<u>Least Coin:</u>			
Northern Territory	153.00		
Western Australia	300.00		
Canberra A.C.T.	195.77		
Tasmania	496.86		
New South Wales	1948.68		
South Australia	900.00		
Queensland	1600.00		
Victoria	1700.00		
"Small Beginnings"	21.20		
less expenses	<u>2.70</u>		
		7294.31	
		<u>18.50</u>	<u>7707.41</u>
Expenses:			<u>14247.10</u>
Petty Cash	30.00		
Trunk Calls	11.60		
Transfer to Admin.& General A/c.		41.60	
		<u>327.00</u>	<u>368.60</u>
Transfer to F.L.C. International 1976:		6000.00	13878.50
1977:		<u>6750.00</u>	<u>12750.00</u>
Balance at 30th June, 1977:			<u>\$ 1128.50</u>

A.C.W. Financial Statement to 30.6.1977.SUMMARY OF BALANCES:

Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund.	7524.33	+	Bonds \$3100
Fellowship Day.	3374.24		
Memorial Bursary.	204.55	+	Bonds 900.
Fellowship of Least Coin.	1128.50		
World Community Day.	431.02		
N.C.M. Special Fund.	1030.48		
Overseas Conferences.	816.26		
Administration & General.	1206.88		
Reg. & Accommodation.	2373.00		
Travel Fund.	850.00		
	<u>\$18939.26</u>		4000. \$22939.26
Cash at Bank.	6797.80		
Perth Building Society.	3315.48		
Savings Investment A/c.	8825.98		
Commonwealth Bank.	<u>\$18939.26</u>		
Bonds.	4000.00		\$22939.26

Bonds Lodged with the Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia,
Cambridge Street, Wembley, W.A.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship:

Series 2C Special Bonds	:	\$600.	maturing	1.10.80.
" 2E "	:	100.	"	1. 1.83
" 2F "	:	100.	"	1. 7.83
" 3 "	:	100.	"	1.2. 84
" ASB8 "	:	100.	"	1.12.84
Treasury Bonds	:	2100.	"	15.10.93

Memorial Bursary:

Series 2C Special Bonds	:	100.	maturing	1.10.80
" 2E "	:	200.	"	1. 1.83
" 4 "	:	300.	"	1. 4.84
Treasury Bonds	:	300.	"	15.10.93

B. J. Binns
Treasurer.

After a review of the accounts, the Working Committee makes the following recommendations:

From Fellowship Day Account

To Winifred Kiek Scholarship Account	:	\$2750.
To Winifred Kiek Scholarship Account for bonds	:	100.
To Administration & General Account	:	143.
(The balance in the Account will then be	:	381.24)

From Winifred Kiek Scholarship Account

To Purchase Special Bonds.	:	100.
(\$100. Bond has already been purchased from monies donated by A.C.W. Queensland for that purpose)	:	

From Memorial Bursary Account

To Purchase Special Bonds	:	200.
(The Balance in the Account will then be :	:	4.55)

From World Community Day Account.

To Administration & General Account	:	100.00
(The balance in the Account will then be	:	331.02

From Fellowship of the Least Coin Account.

To Administration & General Account	:	365.00
(The balance in the Account will then be	:	763.50

A.C.W. Financial Statement to 30.6.1977.WORLD COMMUNITY DAY:

Balance at 1.7.76:

391.30.

Offerings:

Northern Territory:	72.45
Western Australia	70.00
Canberra A.C.T.	60.00
Tasmania	121.61
New South Wales	282.89
South Australia	85.77
Queensland	300.00
Victoria	1000.00

1992.72
2384.02

Expenses:

Transfer to Administration
& General A/c.

103.00

"Indonesia's Trans-migration Programme"

1850.00

Balance at 30.6.77:

1953.00
\$431.00

N.C.M. SPECIAL FUND:

Receipts : Sundry

1030.48

Balance at 30th June, 1977:

\$1030.48OVERSEAS CONFERENCES:

Balance at 1.7.76:

816.26.

Balance at 30.6.77:

\$816.26ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL:

Balance at 1st July, 1976:

988.59

Receipts:Transfers:

World Community Day	103.00
Fellowship of Least Coin	327.00
Fellowship Day	145.00
Donations : Sundry	
Bank Interest	

575.00

35.00

610.00

155.25

1753.84Expenses:

N.C.M./A.C.C. (V.Wilson) 20.00

A.C.W. delegates -

Queensland 44.00

Stationery 125.51

Bank Charges 4.60

Petty Cash & STD calls 282.60

Donations (Use of Rooms) 30.00

Film for N.C.M. 40.25

Balance at 30th June, 1977:

546.96

1206.88

2373.00

Registration & Accommodation receipts

\$3579.88TRAVEL FUND:Receipts:

Western Australia 400.00

South Australia 450.00

Balance at 30.6.77:

850.00

850.00

FINANCIAL REPORT -- COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

This year, contributions on Fellowship Day and for Fellowship of the Least Coin have maintained an upward trend: Fellowship Day offerings from \$2619 last year to \$2874 this year, and Fellowship of the Least Coin from \$6567. to \$7294. However, World Community Day offerings were down from \$2057 last year to \$1992. in 1977, but this is offset by there having been no expenses for Orders of Service against this account.

Winifred Kick scholarship balance is \$7524. as against \$4578. at 30th June, 1976, but payment for Sarreh Ah You's expenses has not yet been made, as despite numerous requests, no account has so far been received. It is estimated that liability in this respect will not be more than \$1500. and after transfer of \$2750 from Fellowship Day Account, there will then be \$8750 available for the Scholarship which seems more than adequate. Winifred Kick Scholarship and Administration & General Accounts have been credited with the Bank interest apportioned according to the balance in the account at 1.7.76.

Postages, are, as usual, an expense which continues to escalate, but of course have been kept as low as possible without sacrificing proper communication. Non-printing of posters and orders of service is reflected in lower printing costs. Also, we have been very generously treated in this regard by Canning Highway Uniting Church and by the Salvation Army. The bulk of our printing has been done for us by the Salvation Army and charges have been made for paper only. For this, we are most grateful. Cost of Fellowship Day Orders of Service \$30. will be met, half by A.C.W. and half by W.A. State Unit. The cost of paper for N.C.M. folders and contents is \$157.

Travel costs are a challenge, and in order to meet these and other expenses which are not covered in any other way, the Working Committee has raised a little more than \$1000. mostly by direct donation. In order to make provision for such expenses in the future, it is submitted that the Working Committee be empowered to keep fairly large sums in, say, a Building Society approved for investment of Trust funds, and that the interest gained, to the extent that it is in excess of ordinary Bank interest, be used to start a Contingency Fund. This year, \$8000. has been in a Commonwealth Bank Investment Account, but a more flexible account from which amounts may be drawn at any time without notice or loss of interest would enable the Committee to maintain an operating cheque account on a minimum of capital, allowing the bulk of the monies to be earning the high rate of interest.

The Accounts have been audited to 31st May, 1977.

JEAN BANYARD
Treasurer.

REPORT

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

IN OLGA'S WAKE

The 5th Quadrennial Assembly of the Asian Churchwomen's Conference, meeting at Bangkok in October 1974, issued a statement addressed : "To Our Fellow Christians". This document was subsequently circulated widely throughout Asia, calling attention to some of the most urgent issues by which the region is confronted. These included : Poverty and Hunger; Exploitation of Women and Girls; Injustice and inequality for Women in Church and Society; and The Leadership Crisis.

The last point, namely the grave shortage of leadership among both men and women, led to a determination to concentrate on this matter during the next four years. Decision was taken to give high priority to Leadership Training Workshops throughout the whole area covered by the Christian Conference of Asia. The aim: To sharpen the awareness of Asian women to the significance of events around them, and in which they are themselves inevitably involved : also to provide the skills needed to enable them adequately to express themselves on vital issues.

With this aim in view, the Christian Conference of Asia region was divided into four zones : (1) Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Australia and New Zealand; (2) Sri Lanka, Burma, India, Thailand and Bangladesh; (3) Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan; (4) the Indo-China countries. The Seminar for Zone 1 was held in Manila, (Philippines) from May 24th-30th 1976; Zone 2 will meet in Sri Lanka in December 1976. The date for Zone 3 has not yet been determined; and Zone 4 is held in abeyance for the time being.

The fact that the Manila Seminar was held at all was a great tribute to the dedication, courage and endurance of the Filipino Organising Committee. Typhoon 'Olga' preceded the gathering by three days. The homes and families of many of the women responsible for the organisation, as well as those of some of the participants, were affected to the extent that they were marooned in their flooded areas. Nevertheless the Seminar went on, and there was no word of complaint, or even a hint of the anguish by which so many must have been affected.

There were approximately 30 participants. The Resource Persons were the Reverend Dorothy Wacker (Western Australia) and Dr. Bill Yanagihara (Tokyo) - the only male resident.

It was an action-packed six days, held in a Jesuit Retreat House on the outskirts of Manila, high on a hill overlooking the flooded township of Angona. We were expected to work hard, and this we certainly did. Our discussions and assignments were accompanied by the howling of post-typhonic gales. For 36 hours we were without power, light, running water or sewage facilities. These were minor inconveniences; in the village below, people were without homes, possessions, food and means of livelihood.

Our program covered all aspects of leadership, in both theory and practice. Arising from the excursions, assignments, discussions and evaluations of the Seminar, a Leadership Training Kit will be prepared, and will be made available in the participating countries. There will be basic guidelines for the selection and training of potential leaders from both rural and urban communities, and this may be quite simply adapted to the particular needs of a given area.

Because of typhoon damage to roads, rendering them impassable or unsafe, much of the scheduled program had to be changed, and project excursions deferred or cancelled. On the last two days of the Seminar, however, it was possible for us to leave the Retreat House for project work in groups of different sizes, each reporting back to the main body at the close of the day.

Contd :

R E P O R T

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE (Contd:) I was much impressed by a visit to the Bureau of Women and Minors, a function of the Department of Labour and Industry. This Bureau has been functioning for sixteen years, one of its objects being to prevent the exploitation of women and girls, particularly those from rural areas. These are the unpaid workers who, rising at 4 a.m. toil ceaselessly throughout the day and far into the night. At everyone's beck and call, they are the absolutely unconsidered of the family and community, the people who just do not count. A vast number of these girls and women drift to the city where they are quickly spotted by the ever-watchful illegal recruiter. A familiar pattern and vicious circle was described for us by the Bureau's Founder-Directress.

A girl from a situation of extreme poverty in a depressed area, drops early out of school, largely because there is no money available to allow her to continue her education. At 14 years of age she finds employment in a low-paying job, but soon tries to better herself. This is the point at which she probably meets the recruiter, who paints a rosy picture of a well-paid job, good food and clothing, with the opportunity to help the folks back home. Miss 14-years from a remote village has become one of the 41,000 taxi dancers, or a bar girl, or cabaret dancer, or call girl, or massage and Sauna-bath attendant in Metro-Manila; or maybe simply a statistic in the white slave trade. We were told of a girl of 14, mother of three children, who because her body was no longer slim and supple, could neither dance nor entertain, was thrown out of her job. The options left to her were either to become some man's mistress, or a straight-out prostitute. To organise the girls and women of the "hospitality industry" into autonomous groups; to establish their rights and to make them aware of them; to let them know what they need not endure from employers and clients; to restore them to their dignity as persons, and to treat them as such. These are some of the aims of the Bureau of Women and Minors. A continuous battle is waged for the licensing of cabarets and night clubs; for adequate wages; for health and decent living conditions; also against unscrupulous employers, and, said Madame Directress, "Yes, even against society itself. These are not bad girls. The evil in those who use them as things, and exploit their desperate need to survive".

There was a visit to the Abiertas House of Friendship, a project of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of unmarried women, pregnant for the first time. Although this institution is approved by the Department of Social Services, it receives no Government funding, and is financed entirely from voluntary contributions and donations from the Community Chest Foundation of Metro-Manila. In 1974 the House of Friendship received a grant of \$2000 from the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Girls are helped to keep their babies if they wish, but most are adopted, mainly in the U.S.A.

It was an unforgettable experience, to pass from the appalling conditions of the Tondo and the squatters of the Fish Port, whose "homes" are being reclaimed beneath them, to the opulent luxury of Forbest Park and to the private housing areas of the Filipino millionaires.

Everywhere we were conscious of the presence of agents of martial law; on the roads, motor-bikes, cars, armoured vans; in the air, hovering helicopters and low-flying army planes. Where else were there minions of an authoritarian regime? Who could tell? "We have to take the risk of trusting" was a comment heard.

I did learn something about leadership in a Seminar run by fun-loving, gracious women. They and their fellow Filipinos with whom I talked did not know what else they taught me.

I learned that never had I been called upon to stand up and counted for Christ. I learned that, committed to Christ as I thought my life had been, I had never been in danger of losing it for Him. To take a moral stand; to speak out against injustice; to fight for the rights of the oppressed, hungry, unemployed and under-employed; to care about my neighbour as part of my commitment to Christ, has never involved my life or my loved ones. I do not run the risk of arrest as a subversive ;

R E P O R T

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE (Contd:) of disappearing without trace into some detention camp; of third-degree interrogations, torture, sexual abuse, and other civilised refinements of cruelty, oif I disagree with my Prime Minister, and say so. So many Christians in Asia are in situations similar to those of their first century forebears. They have counted the cost of the Faith, and have accepted its positive dangers. "It makes us strong" they said, "We need your prayers. We value them. They help to make us strong".

Looking back over the Manila experience, I can only re-echo some words of the Honourable Michael Manly, Prime Minister of Jamaica, spoken at the 5th Assembly of the World Council of Churches meeting at Nairobi at the end of 1975

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

The emphasis of the Asian Church Women's Conference has been on programmes of development, social justice and witness. Last year there were special Seminars held throughout Asia to train Christian women for roles of Leadership.

A report has already been made (In Olga's Wake) on the Zone 1 Seminar held in Manila from May 24th - 30th, 1976.

Zone 2 Seminar was held in Seoul, South Korea, in September 1976, and Zone 3 in Colombo, Sri Lanka in December 1976.

Apart from a minuted note to the effect that participants found the Seminars a worthwhile experience, I have received no report.

Suggested dates for the Sixth Assembly of the Asian Church Women's Conference are late September/early October 1978, and a possible venue, South Korea. The theme of the Assembly is to be :
CALLED TO CHANGE - COMMITTED TO SERVE.

Rachel H.Cocks
National Representative

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE FORUM HELD IN MALAYSIA

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We call upon the CCA to have continuing programs relating to the issues of women and men. Such programs should challenge the accepted concepts of stereotyped sex roles in the society and encourage the sharing of responsibilities for the mutual benefit and the enrichment of society.
2. Dowry
We challenge the member churches of CCA, particularly Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to denounce the dowry system as a social evil, and actively discourage their members from its practice.
3. Responsible Parenthood
We challenge the member churches of CCA to be involved in the issues relating to family planning and child nurture. We also call for a probe into the situation of working parents (both urban and rural) and their need for help with child care. We also see a need for the churches to provide programs to arouse the consciousness and establish the shared responsibilities of the parents in the home.
4. Single Women
Because of the stigma attached to being single, whether widowed, divorced or unmarried, we call upon the member churches to condemn the treatment of these women as second-class citizens and bring about a new awareness among church members regarding their equal value as fellow human beings.
5. Family Life
We call for greater use of Family Life programs of the churches to arouse the consciousness, and establish the shared responsibilities of the parents in the home.
6. Multinational Corporations
We, the women of Asia, are deeply concerned with the crimes being committed by multinational corporations in Asia such as those from Japan, America, Germany and others. These crimes include :
 - a) exploitation of labour, particularly women workers.
 - b) pollution which causes destruction of life, health and the environment
 - c) Exhaustion of natural resources
 - d) Marketing of poisonous consumer goods & other products.
 - e) Social dislocation
 - f) Hindering the development of domestic industries and causing perpetual dependence upon foreign countries.
 - g) Repression of labour unions.
 - h) Supporting dictatorial regimes.

Therefore, we condemn these insidious operations of multinational corporations, and resolve to demand the cessation of all these crimes against Asian people.

7. Rural Development

Regarding rural development we, the women of Asia, demand that measures be taken to reform land ownership, to lessen the gap between levels of income, to improve production, and to institute more useful education and training of rural women.

The principles of development call for programs based on local resources and the people's participation.

Contd :

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT OF A.C.W.C.
FORUM HELD IN MALAYSIA (Contd:)

RECOMMENDATIONS (Contd:)

7. Rural Development (Contd:) Help is necessary for improved farming methods to increase production and income, also improved non-formal education for all. Therefore, we resolve that the income of people must be raised above the subsistence level.

8. Foreign Aid

We express concern about the donation of foreign aid from both Government & private agencies to developing communities. Some aid requires explicit financial returns from the investment. Other aid, ostensibly with no strings attached, demands from the recipient a psychological dependence resulting in the formation of a handout mentality. We recognize that aid very often denies the restoration of human dignity because it prevents communities from developing their own resources and solving their problems. We pledge to assist communities to become aware of the more insidious nature of foreign aid.

9. Minority Rights

We call on the CCA to demonstrate actively its concern for the plight of all minority people, with the particular focus on Koreans in Japan.

10. Labour Organisation

We call on the CCA to increase its support for groups or persons who are trying to organize labour against all exploitative employers.

11. Tourism Prostitution

Because this is a worsening problem in most Asian countries, we recommend that an expose be initiated by means of publications & audio-visuals through member churches.

We call upon the CCA to recognize the international dimensions relating to prostitution - its link with tourism, multinationals, the presence of foreign military personnel, racist and sexist attitudes.

12. Human Rights

- a) We call on the CCA to set up a Human Rights desk, staffed by a woman, whose responsibility would be to collect and disseminate information about violations of human rights, & initiate appropriate action.

We protest against the continued detention of the Naxalite and other political prisoners in India by a party which rose to power on the wave of the people's struggle for democracy and human rights.

- b) In many Asian countries the practice of imprisoning political opposition has been common. We urge the Asian Women's Forum, as well as the Christian Conference of Asia, to protest about these practices to the respective governments, because the right to oppose the government in power is a basic human right.

- c) We urge the CCA to pay special attention to the atrocities committed against political prisoners - particularly women prisoners, and to protest to the offending governments.

- d) We call upon the CCA to strengthen its work in relation to the families of political detainees - their human rights and material support.

13. Newsletter

We call on the CCA to facilitate a regular newsletter through which members of the Asia Women's Forum share ideas for action about the issues discussed at the Forum.

Contd :

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT OF A.C.W.C.
FORUM HELD IN MALAYSIA (Contd:)

RECOMMENDATIONS (Contd:)

14. Education

We call on the cca to strongly urge NCC's and member churches to initiate a re-examination of the educational systems in their respective countries with respect to -

- a.. sex based curricula
- b.. sex role stereotyping in text books and children's books
- c.. discrimination against women in appointments to positions of authority in the educational system.

15. We call on the CCA to encourage churches to provide scholarships for able students who are economically deprived to pursue the education of their choice.

16. We call on the NCC's, member churches and all the media over which they have influence, to do away with the representation of women

- a.. in a subservient role
- b.. as sex objects

We call on the NCC's and member churches to encourage protest against advertisements, cartoons, TV, novels, etc., which by subtle insinuations in articles ridicule women, and to produce guidelines for the abolition of sexist language.

17. We call on the members of the Forum to raise the consciousness of women so that they themselves will ensure their voice is heard in the media by -

- a) organising women to buy advertising space and time
- b) writing or ringing editors, commercial radio stations and TV
- c) lobby-ing the press with a view to presenting women as people of dignity and worth, and to support those good programmes already in existence
- d) to assist & encourage women to pursue careers in the mass media

18. (A) We call on CCA to urge all its member churches -

- a) to adopt a policy of proportional representation for women and men in all church policy-making bodies and other bodies, and that this be written into church constitutions
- b) to affirm that all offices in the church, without exception, including the ministry of priesthood, be available to all, irrespective of sex
- c) to ensure that training for all specialised ministries, including the ministry of priesthood, be open to both women and men
- d) to affirm the right of the woman minister to marry if she chooses

(B) Many women are apprehensive about thinking theologically and yet often have their role limited by men with superior theological training. Therefore, theological training is important if women are to gain both the confidence and competence necessary for them to exercise more fully theological leadership in the church.

Contd :

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT OF A.C.W.C.
FORUM HELD IN MALAYSIA (Contd)

RECOMMENDATIONS (Contd;)

We recommend that CCA support the establishment of Asia Women's Theological Studies Groups, possibly in conjunction with work begun by ACWC. These groups would -

- organise theological study groups
- encourage contributions of women theologians in Asia
- produce and distribute the material to the NCC's and local women's groups
- organise conferences etc.

19. The Stereotyped role of women

The language we use often determines how we see ourselves in relation to God and the church.

Therefore, we urge CCA and all member churches to take immediate steps to eliminate sexist language in all its literature e.g. church liturgies, hymn books, publications, public communications. This will include ways of referring to God that do not convey the idea that God is masculine. God is neither male nor female, but transcends both.

In particular, we urge that the constitutions of all member churches be amended to use the pronoun she/he so that women and men will see that both have equal place in the structure of the church.

We urge the CCA in this Assembly to use non-sexist language in its worship sheets and section reports.

20. We urge all members of the Asia Women's Forum, and women in member churches of the CCA to become active in church bodies, especially at the national level. It is important that church women know the constitution and rules of their various church bodies, and realise where there are distinctions made between the offices which may be held by men and women.

21. Create communication network of Asian women

We recognize the necessity of collaboration of efforts of different agencies, private and public, church as well as Government councils, to disseminate information regarding issues concerning WOMEN.

22. Commitment

We, the participants of the Asia Women's Forum, commit ourselves to the re-orientation of ourselves, to strive within our family situations, our work, our local and national churches, and community involvement, to uphold the dignity of women.

R E P O R T S

S T A T E U N I T SWESTERN AUSTRALIA

Meetings are held at the Y.W.C.A. Headquarters on the second Friday of the month, and as well as representatives from Anglican, Catholic, Churches of Christ, Congregational, Methodist, Presbyterian, Salvation Army, Society of Friends and the Y.W.C.A., there are individual members. Sometimes there is a discussion after the business section, and sometimes a speaker - a recent one being Mr. Gare from the United Nations Organization. For several months we have been hearing about the origin of the churches represented in the A.C.W. and already we have learned much about the Society of Friends and the Churches of Christ. We are grateful to the representatives who have given these interesting and enlightening talks.

Two Community Day Services were held in Perth in 1975, one in the morning, and the second a week later, in the evening. This, our second venture, was no more successful than the one held the previous year, and it was decided to discontinue the evening service, and to concentrate on ways by which younger women could be attracted to A.C.W.

And so we consider that the most significant forward step of the past two years has been the inception by the Working Committee of the "Focus on Church Women" evenings. The State Unit has agreed to take over the responsibility for these gatherings and to continue to hold them three times a year.

1976 activities commenced with a "Think Tank Day" held at Wollaston College in February, with the Rev. Dorothy Wacker leading thirty-five members in discussions on the outcome of the Nairobi Conference.

Fellowship Day and Community Day services were held in country areas and in two suburbs, and the central Fellowship Day service attracted a congregation of more than 200 to Wesley Church, to take part in Elizabeth Appleby's "Confessing Christ Together" and to hear the address given by Miss Jean Skuse. Afterwards members joined with the Methodist women at lunch, and at the afternoon, Questions and Answers Session with Miss Skuse.

The Central Community Day Service was held in St. George's Anglican Cathedral, with the Rev. Dorothy Wacker giving the address on the theme of Rachel Cocks' "Encounter". Afterwards a panel of speakers, including the Secretary of Amnesty, discussed questions arising from the service.

At the end of 1976 we regretfully accepted the resignation of Mrs. Pearl Cook who had given such wonderful service to the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Mrs. Jan Watts, our new convenor, is enthusiastically continuing the work of interesting women in the Fellowship.

In March, Canon Keith Cole, principal of Nungalinga College, Darwin, spoke to a large gathering of A.C.W. Members and representatives from all churches, about the work undertaken at the college and by students in outlying areas. He expressed gratitude for the grant of \$5,000.00 received from the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

The State Unit of A.C.W. is represented on the United Nations Organization, W.A. Committee, and on the West Australian Council of Churches.

To meet our financial commitments for the forthcoming National Committee Meeting, two cake stalls were held outside Perth's Wesley Centre, and the most gratifying response from all members provided us with a profit of \$440.00. Two members shared responsibility for Mary Weme's visit to Perth in November-December 1975, and were enriched by the experience of having an A.C.W. Scholarship holder living for a short time in their homes.

Contd :

REPORT

WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Contd:)

It is this experience of meeting together, working together and sharing one another's views on what constitutes the Christian life, that makes membership of the A.C.W. of such value.

The members of the State Unit are looking forward to welcoming interstate delegates, and are offering their services to the Working Committee in whatever field they may be of use.

Marjorie Scurlock,
President - State Unit.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Our Working Committee functions in Darwin with representatives from Salvation Army, Anglican, United (Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational), Roman Catholic, Baptist and Seventh Day Adventist Churches. Although we meet in Darwin, we are deeply aware of our responsibility in representing all church women in the vast area of the Territory. Church women in the Northern Territory are a diverse group. The Church ministers to full and part-blood Aborigines - both in the towns and on their own settlements; to cattle-station people - whole communities in themselves; to itinerants, including tourists; to a cosmopolitan mixture of Asian and European residents; and to city and suburban dwellers. A high proportion of the workers in the Northern Territory are public servants.

Our greatest problems are those associated with distance. We are all hundreds of miles apart, and to visit with other centres is costly, difficult and time-consuming. Under these conditions of isolation, it is hard to develop a sense of oneness. The Catholic women in the Territory are the only denomination who bring their women together for a conference. This has been done now for two years and has proved very successful.

Cyclone Tracy was a great setback, and many women's groups did not function for eighteen months or more. Now most of them are back in action, but are understandably giving priority to their church re-building programs. It has been hard to engender enthusiasm for raising money to send a delegate to National Committee Meetings.

The World Day of Prayer Committee asked us to undertake responsibility for this service, so we now organise the three ecumenical services during the year. A bright happening last year was the formation of an A.C.W. branch in Alice Springs. As yet it is a tender plant, but we have high hopes. We were encouraged, too, by increased interest and participation in the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

The visit of Dorothy Wacker and Phyl Abbott in January, was a shot in the arm for both Darwin and Alice Springs, even though it was a bad time of the year when nearly all our A.C.W. Committee were on holidays down south. We are convinced that if such visits, particularly from the President of the National Committee, could be made bi-ennially both across the top of Australia, and down the track, A.C.W. would have much more vigorous growth in the Territory.

The special day services have gone well, and the committee has enjoyed working together - something that would not have been possible without A.C.W.

Maisie McKenzie.

CANBERRA CHURCH WOMEN

In presenting the report for 1975-1977, our thanks to God who has brought together in fellowship the women of Canberra.

Although our affiliated churches dropped from 25 in 1975-6, to 21 in 1976-7, and we are disappointed that fewer than half the churches of the area have become financial members, our contact goes beyond this group. Some churches find it difficult to send delegates to our meetings, and with so many groups in new areas finance seems to be otherwise employed.

We held Women's World Day of Prayer services in three venues each year, and these have been attended by approximately 180 women. Our speakers on all these occasions were inspiring and challenging.

The thoroughness and thoughtfulness with which our hostess churches have organised and carried through Fellowship and World Community Days has been much appreciated and attendances at these services have been 80-100. Again we were able to draw on different speakers and their messages have stimulated our thinking on wider and social issues linked to the themes of the services.

We must commend the groups who have worked to prepare such services for use in all States, and it is always a delight to know we work to a common theme for these Special Days.

Our soup and sandwich luncheons on Fellowship Days have added to our fellowship and enabled us to make additional contributions to the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund.

Morning coffees on World Community Days again gave us an opportunity to meet the women of the various churches socially.

Probably the Bible Study Seminar arranged together with Canberra Christian Women's Convention, as our contribution to International Women's Year 1975 was a highlight of our activities. We felt that these three days of study under Miss Jean Radden increased our understanding of each other and deepened our fellowship, with the Spirit of God involving us all.

We were ably led by Mrs Peg Gower in 1975-6, and last year by Mrs Judy Turnbull. Our loss (because of their husbands' transfers), will we are sure, be the gain of their new spheres of service.

The minutes of the Working Committee, and "Women at Work" have kept us in touch with Australian Church Women, and we look forward to the fellowship and inspiration of National Committee meeting 1977, which we look forward to sharing with our Canberra Church Women.

Ruth Burmester,
Hon. Secretary.

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REPORT to Australian Church Women National Committee Meetings - July 1977. (Covering period August 1975 - June 1977)

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - N.S.W. STATE UNIT

Title. On March 21st 1977 'N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council' accepted the revised constitution and change of title to "Australian Church Women - N.S.W. State Unit". The Council, functioning since 1938, gained permission to do so from the nine participating denominations who send representatives.

Office Bearers. Mrs G. Bent, with her wise guidance, continued her Presidential year until April, 1976. At the Annual Meeting Mrs Lt Col. E.K. Baker accepted office as President, and was installed at the Annual Service on 24th May, at the Citadel, Chatswood. This well attended service was followed by a luncheon. At the 1977 Annual Meeting Mrs Baker agreed to continue, as the President's term has been extended to two years. She conducted the Service of Thanksgiving

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and Dedication on 30th May at Chatswood Methodist. This was a memorable occasion, at which Major Gerben Stelstra, Exec. Sec. N.S.W. State Council of the A.C.C., was the guest speaker.

Miss D. Mitchell has served Council for the last two years very efficiently as Secretary, and was elected Treasurer! For her work over many years as Treasurer Mrs L. Perriam was honoured by being made a life member. Others who have served faithfully have relinquished their positions to be available for nomination for the incoming Working Committee. To all these conveners we expressed gratitude for their time and effort. We look forward to another successful year under Mrs Baker's enthusiastic leadership. The President and Secretary are our delegates to N.C.M. and Miss Mitchell and Mrs Stanhope the observers. Much prayer and thought has been given to the selection of the personnel nominated for the Working Committee.

Activities. The usual programme and project collections have taken place during the year, approximately 2000 ladies attending services in city and country centres. The Orders of Service were inspirational and challenging. A new branch began in 1976 at Chatswood-Willoughby, introducing the concept to ladies from 13 churches and starting friendships. State F.L.C. collections for the two years were \$1758 and \$1942. During the year Mrs Stanhope has written 120 letters and 17 centres have been visited promoting F.L.C.

Monthly meetings of Council have been well attended, speakers have informed us of interesting activities - these include Mrs J. Cooke on Christian Women's Conventions, Mrs D. McMahon on W.C.C. Assembly in Nairobi, Mrs Somerville, missionary work in Fiji, Mesdames H. Stevens and J. Udy gave an account of World Conference of Methodist Women in Dublin and the peace march in which they took part. Deaconess M. Andrews delighted us with her account of her tour of S.E. Asia. In India she visited former W.K. Scholar Kalpana Airan and also Shanti Solomon, originator of Fellowship of the Least Coin. Mrs B. Davis also visited former W.K. scholars in the Pacific.

The Council presented a submission prepared by Mrs M. McCann to the Committee of Enquiry into Religious Education in N.S.W. Government Schools, in November 1975. Representatives also attend affiliated organizations.

Congratulations were offered to Mrs Lillian Wells, President of the Congregational Union - the incoming N.S.W. Moderator of the Uniting Church in Australia - and to Dame Monica Gallagher on recognition of her work as President of Catholic Women's League.

Retreat Days. Mrs J. Curtin organized a successful Eucumenical Day of Retreat in December 1975 in the Crypt of St Mary's Cathedral - the theme "Jesus Christ Frees and Unites". 1976 was climaxed by "A Day of Renewal" at Christ Church Lavender Bay - the theme "Living the Gospel in Today's World" with Revd Canon Arrowsmith as speaker.

Appreciation. "Women at Work kept us informed - we thank the retiring Working Committee for work well done. N.S.W. State Unit pledges loyal and prayerful support for the incoming Working Committee as they undertake this important national responsibility.

Dorothy Woodhouse,
Secretary.

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REPORT FROM THE WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

MAY, 1977

A NEW LIFE STYLE - Delegates to the last National Committee Meeting challenged us with the resolution regarding Christian life styles and we determined to develop this theme at our bi-monthly meetings through speakers, audio-visuals and discussion. Reports came from Asian Church Women and from World Council of Churches "Nairobi '75" bringing before us many issues and problems confronting developing nations. A special study day was held to look in depth at the papers produced by South Australian women "Where are we going?" We chose four areas - Food, Energy, Consumerism and Community.

Discussion on this day made us feel the need for some positive action both personally and by the Council. Members were asked to consider the following suggestions for personal action. START WHERE YOU ARE - buy discriminately, conserve energy, avoid waste and pollution and make personal protests by letter or phone regarding injustices. As a Council we acted in two ways. We have made protests by letters and telegrams regarding many issues including Aboriginal Land Rights, Uranium and Overseas Aid etc. Our second action was in cooperation with World Christian Action to produce a simple greeting card proclaiming the message "Live simply so others may simply live - buy less and give more". World Christian Action arranged for the cards to be printed and we handled the distribution.

BREAK DOWN THE WALLS - For 1977 we have taken this theme to develop. The walls we are attempting to explore are walls between migrant women and the established system which appears to have exploited them, between seller and consumer, between women who sympathise with the employee and those who identify with the employer.

Over the two year period we have been involved with visitors from overseas one of the most memorable being the visit of the Medical Mission Sisters sponsored by Force Ten. Many of our members attended the Peace Rally held to show our support and sympathy with the Irish Women working for Peace in Ireland. Four Executive members had a consultation with a representative of the Women's Advisory Bureau because of controversy regarding the Christian standards of the person chosen to be Adviser to the Premier. Many matters were discussed including the need for a Directory of Women's Organisations and their function. This has been commenced by the Bureau.

Members of Executive also had a consultation with Inter-Church Trade and Industry Mission regarding how best we could explore walls between Church Women and Trade Unions we hope to pursue this matter further as the year progresses.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP - The various changes made at the last National Committee were commended by Victoria. We would like the information about the scholar to be available early in the year so that local groups can be made aware of the needs of the scholar. Photos and slides would help to stimulate interest and awareness.

SPECIAL DAYS - Fifty services were held on Fellowship Day and thirty services for World Community Day. We have decided more promotion is necessary in this area to increase interest and responsibility. Our offerings were maintained but this is not good enough in times of inflation.

Problems arising regarding the production of services

- (a) Master copies were not available early enough;
- (b) Services are too lengthy and detailed - An order of service needs to be a framework on which Local groups can build - each service is then developed according to the interests of a particular area;
- (c) In order for printing to be economically viable services should be concise and brief - planned to fit on a single page - double or triple folded.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN - Interest continues to grow in this fellowship. The audio-visual is well used in promotion. "Small Beginnings" compiled by Mrs H. Downes and printed by P.W.M.U. has proved valuable.

Our President for 1976-77, Mrs G. MacGregor, has had the opportunity of participating in a series of refresher courses at Princeton Theological Seminary on "Women in the Church" as she accompanies her husband on Study Leave in U.S.A. Miss D. Fry has led us during this period, capably and sensitively, willingly accepting this responsibility. We look forward to Miss Fry's leadership as she takes over as President in June 1977.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION:

Victoria has made a decision to change its name to
 "Australian Church Women, Victorian Unit"

We look forward in faith knowing there are problems to be solved but trusting God will show us the way to resolve these in a way which will bring deeper fellowship and greater ecumenical growth.

Olive Ackland,
Hon. Secretary.

1/5/77

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AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN (QUEENSLAND) UNIT

ANNUAL REPORT: (1976-77)

The following is a brief report of the activities of Australian Church Women (Qld) Unit for the period August 1976 - May 1977.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS: (Appointed at 1976 Annual Meeting)

President:	Mrs M. Earner	Secretary:	Mrs E. Mahoney
Treasurer:	Mrs G. Lose	Asst Sec.	Miss J. Cleary
	Archivist:	Mrs Reid	

MEMBERSHIP: Eight women's organizations are in membership with Queensland Unit of A.C.W., full membership entitlement being six representatives from an affiliation organization.

REPRESENTATION ON OTHER ORGANIZATIONS: Queensland Unit is represented on the following: Australian Council of Churches (Qld) Committee, Queensland Council of Churches, National Council of Women, Social and Moral Questions Committee, Women's World Day of Prayer Committee (Qld), Warana Committee and Christian T.V. Association.

BRANCHES AND CENTRES: Six branches of A.C.W. Queensland are now in existence in Queensland, Rockhampton, Mackay, Southport, Bundaberg, S/W Suburbs branch and Salisbury Branch - each having its own elected Executive. Seven branches now arrange to hold the "Special Days" services. Branches and centres are kept informed of A.C.W. interests and activities.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: (Convener: Mrs L. Meadows) Interest continues to grow and many enquiries for Circle of Prayer booklet have been received. We were pleased, during the year, to receive a visit from Vera Wilson (FLC Convener) and to hear her interesting address. Our Members entertained Vera at afternoon tea.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP - (Convener - Miss J. Cleary) Contact is maintained with former scholarship holders. A wedding invitation was received from Violet Sampa and our Unit sent Violet a souvenir tablecloth as a wedding gift. Terani Lima and family are now settled in Brisbane and we are awaiting an opportunity of welcoming Terani at a meeting. Unfortunately, owing to ill health this has not been possible up to date, but members have visited Terani and we hope to meet her officially in the near future when her health improves.

SPECIAL DAYS: (Convener - Mrs C. Connell)

FELLOWSHIP DAY: 1976 - St Andrew's Presbyterian Church: Speaker - Revd Denis Conomos. Very successful day.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY: 1976 - Salvation Army Temple, Speaker - Mrs Major Cairns. Attendance 70.

Appreciation is expressed to Mrs Rachael Cox for compilation of inspiring and enriching service.

Mrs Connell reported that there is a growing interest in these two days, especially in country centres, where Christian women of all races and creeds come together to worship as one. Services were held in various parts of Queensland from Weipa in the far North, Longreach (West Qld). In Weipa (first WCD Service) the congregation comprised European and Aboriginal members of the local community.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: March 4th. Albert Street Methodist Church. Executive members of this Committee being members also of A.C.W. (Queensland) Unit. Excellent attendance with A.C.W. members reading portion of service. A very stimulating occasion with a genuine desire by participants to share in the spiritual enrichment of the service. Country centres well attended also.

WARANA THANKSGIVING SERVICE: September 30th St John's Cathedral. (Mrs A. Skippen: Liaison Officer) A lunch hour service, moderate attendance. A very devotional service prepared by Mrs Fay Hunt of the Albert Street Methodist Church. The Beverly Neven Church Dancers and A.B.C. String Ensemble, together with combined Church Choirs contributed to excellent service.

MEETINGS AND SERVICES ATTENDED: The President, or her representative, attended church meetings and services of the various denominations.

In October last, members were present at a public address by Mr Malcolm Mugeridge, which function was organized by the Festival of Light Committees.

DIAL A VISITOR: Hospital and home visitation of geriatrics still in operation.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS: Representatives to other organisations and denominational representatives within the Unit have kept members informed of activities, new items and events of special interest.

LIVING STANDARDS AND CHANGING ATTITUDES IN TODAY'S SOCIETY: The President is associated with Festival of Light Committee, Society to Outlaw Pornography, Community Standards Association, all of which keep us informed on matters pertaining to current trends in social and moral issues.

TRAVEL FUND: Our travel fund has been augmented by sale of gifts imported from Hong Kong. A "Bring and Buy" table is now a feature of our monthly meetings, (proceeds going towards Travel Fund also) this replacing the Musical Morning Tea functions held formerly which were not well attended.

GENERAL: During the year a message of sympathy was sent to the Women's Peace Movement in Ireland.

Members were asked to offer personal prayers for a peaceful settlement of conditions in Africa.

CONCLUSION: The period under review has been one of spiritual and material achievement and gratitude is expressed to all members for their sincere efforts and support in our endeavours to serve the Divine Master under the aims and objects of Australian Church Women (Qld) Unit.

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AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN TASMANIA UNIT REPORT

OUR LIFE AND WORK - 1975-1977

'A Woman's Place is Everywhere' was perhaps the most popular of all the slogans of International Women's Year and it seemed during the year a christian woman's place was everywhere as we were caught up in the enthusiasm and vitality of the year's activities and grasped the many opportunities given us to listen, to learn and to communicate. Represented on the State committee for IWY by our then President Mrs Peg Lambert, we were kept well informed as she co-ordinated individual and group activities. We applied for and received a grant from IWY funds to send a Tasmanian Church woman to the Conference at Elanora Heights - our churchwomen attended national conferences around Australia; one was invited to Edinburgh to lecture on Australian poetry. We were successful in broadening the representation of women on decision making committees within church organizations and we saw positive action taken by the Tasmania Council of Churches to encourage our participation at all levels of christian service. At the close of this special year, the United Nations IWY committee Chairman with financial assistance from the State Government compiled and produced a Tasmanian report. A.C.W. activities have been well documented within and copies are readily available.

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In 1975 four Tasmanian members attended the NCM in Adelaide when Tasmania was asked to seriously and prayerfully consider forming a Working Committee in 1979. Our final decision will be taken to the NCM in Perth in July.

During this year we were delighted to have WKS. Mary Weme among us and we remember her warmth and vitality with affection. No doubt we share with other churchwomen a certain sense of loss in no longer having such easy access to the WKS but nevertheless we readily accept the necessity for deference to the needs of the scholars themselves.

Fellowship of the Least Coin continues to attract the imagination of women in Tasmania and as well as the promotional activity of our State convener Mrs Cocks, regional conveners have been appointed and are readily available to talk to women's groups.

We have been grateful to Vic. W.I.C.C. for their generosity in including our printing for Special Days with their own. It is not economically feasible for Tasmania to have 500 copies printed here and this arrangement has been greatly appreciated. Our Special Days are well received and supported by gatherings of up to 100 in larger centres and shared by quite small groups of United Church women on the West Coast of Tasmania.

ACW members have attended two State Conferences organized by Tas. Council of Churches. In 1976 some 300 christians attended the splendid 'Jesus Christ Frees and Unites' week end. An ecumenical experience we shall not forget, made so much richer by the presence of special guest Dr Kesuka Koyama.

In 1977 the State Conference 'Society, Crime and the Criminal' was attended by both professional and lay people. A more specialized conference, it was nevertheless of considerable value to those of us able to attend.

During 1976 Rachel Cocks attended a Leadership seminar in Manila and her national report 'In Olga's Wake' is being re-produced for the Annual Meetings of both ACW and TCC. The Order of Service for World Community Day 1976 prepared primarily by Mrs Cocks was developed from her Manila experience.

During 1976 we had the somewhat unusual experience of observing one of our ACW women endorsed as a candidate for State Parliament. While ACW is of course a non-party political organization it was gratifying to note that her local ACW Branch felt it could offer best wishes and moral support to a christian woman choosing this avenue of service.

We have endeavoured to involve christian women in public life, in our activities whenever possible. The Launceston Mayoress has been a guest at two Annual Meetings and Dame Marjorie Parker, a past speaker at Annual Fellowship Day, has also chaired the election of Office Bearers at Annual Meetings. Many of our ACW women are well represented on the executives of a great many community organizations.

We were proud to see a past State President, Mrs Lambert, awarded a Life Membership of the Catholic Women's League of Tasmania. To all who know her there is no doubt this is an award richly deserved by a hard working and dedicated church woman.

We say goodbye in May to our President, Mrs Atkinson, as she leaves the State and as a State Unit we pay tribute to her years of devoted service in promoting the aims of ACW Tasmania.

ACW Tasmania has worked diligently this last twelve months and more, to raise funds to send delegates to the NCM in Perth and we are very pleased to be in a position to send two representatives and equally delighted that two other women are prepared to bear the financial cost of attending as observers. We look forward to National Committee Meeting richly blessed in fellowship, in perception and participation and with clear sighted vision and understanding of the goals we need to attain as Australian Church Women.

Dawn Rhodes,
Secretary, A.C.W. Tas. Unit.

R E P O R T

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN UNIT

There is little new to report from South Australia. Closer links have been made with the Commission on Christian Education in South Australia by a delegate from the State Unit regularly attending their meetings (Mrs. Dawn Manning). We have enjoyed co-operating wherever possible with the South Australian Council of Churches; and were especially proud when the Rev. Norah Norris (Vice-President A.C.W. Working Committee 1973-5) became their president.

The Anglicans rejoiced when history was made at the central World Community Day Service in 1976 and women, for the first time, lead the worship in St. Peter's Cathedral; the same Norah Norris, newly ordained, preached, and our President Mrs. V. Weyland, conducted the service.

Finance and ever-declining numbers of women willing and able to take office, are two major problems. We obviously do not generate great enthusiasm, though the Winifred Kiek Scholarship and the Fellowship of the Least Coin have been well supported.

My personal view is that the real changes are in attitudes, in church, family and public life, with an ever-widening rift between the traditionalists and those who seek new ways. In a questionnaire distributed at the Australian General Meeting in November 1976, one of the most crucial questions was : -

"What do you see as the Australian Church Women's role? "
Please number in order of preference -

Fellowship/ Joint Worship/ Education/ Training women in
leadership/ Witness/ Service to the community/ Disseminating
information/ Other (Please state)

The preferences were :

1. Fellowship (well ahead of all others)
2. Joint Worship
3. Witness and Service to the Community. (Equally placed)
4. Education
5. Disseminating information.
6. Training women in leadership (well behind)

All the good safe paths were preferred by the majority, while the major issues of church life today, were ignored. The minority express their frustration and leave Australian Church Women.

Is Australian Church Women established to provide a good safe harbourage? Or should we be risking ourselves as Missionaries on the deangerous frontiers?

Alder Hall
President

THE MOTHERS' UNION.

The Aim of the Mothers' union is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life.

The Mothers' Union is a world-wide society and its Objects are:

To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding;

To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the church;

To maintain a world-wide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service;

To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children;

To help those whose family life has met with adversity.

The Purpose of the Mothers' Union is to be specially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and Christian family life. Membership is open to all those who have been baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity and intend to support and work for the Aim, Purpose and Objects of the society. Members are united in prayer and service to show forth the glory of God and to help forward the work of the church.

The Mothers' Union believes that in the Divine plan the family, the home, is the very foundation on which society is built, and the family is the fundamental institution based on deep seated human needs and hungers. Vast changes in our modern way of life are bringing new problems and pressures on home and family life.

To better co-ordinate our efforts the work is divided into departments:

The work of the YOUNG MEMBERS' DEPARTMENT is aimed at the young wife and mother and all those outside the life of the Church. In it we see the development of all sorts of groups, among them couples' groups, family groups, study groups - membership is completely open and most gatherings are pretty informal. Many of the members are completely out of touch with the Church, and are generally recruited by invitation and visitation.

The LITERATURE AND RESOURCE DEPARTMENT is one of the life lines of the work. Literature of all kinds relating to the work of the Mothers' Union and home and family is available... The Australian M.U. has provided some literature in the vernacular in parts of Papua New Guinea and in the same manner prayer cards for Aboriginal mothers in the Northern Territory and North West Australia. The department also handles publicity and promotional materials.

Within the PRAYER DEPARTMENT, the Intercessory Prayer Circle has a great ministry to the aged and shut in. These are visited by members in their homes, Convalescent Homes or Old People's Homes - they receive letters and prayer cards from the I.P.C. Correspondent.... The work of the M.U. is founded on prayer, and a Quiet Day or Retreat is always a part of the programme for the year.

The mission outlook is strong and solid support is given to M.U. work in developing countries through the OVERSEAS AND NORTHERN OUTREACH DEPARTMENT. Much of this support is in leadership training, conferences, salaries of Official Workers, transport for these Workers, translating literature into the vernacular and the like. Wives of Papua-New Guinea Theological students have been brought to Australia to be with their husbands, Help has been given with the building of M.U. houses to be used as meeting places and transit houses in various parts of Papua.

The DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY covers our 4th and 5th Objects. Information on matters concerning the welfare of home and family is supplied to Dioceses throughout the Commonwealth by the Commonwealth Convener. A very lively interest is taken in all women's issues... This includes watching all legislation affecting home and family, all problems not subject to legislation and all entertainment for the family.... The M.U. is affiliated with the National Council of Women, Marriage Guidance Councils, Films & T.V. etc. There is much pastoral care - hospital visiting is carried out extensively, psychiatric visiting, Tea and Sympathy services at Children's Courts, visiting in the High Rise Housing Commission Flats of Melbourne and Sydney, work among migrants, home tutoring in the English language, entertaining foreign students..... Our nets are cast wide so that we can be of help whether in individual problem or in wide issues. By means of LINKS, branches all over the world are able to correspond and foster interest and knowledge and a world wide fellowship. (The Mothers' Union was founded in England in 1876, and the headquarters of the society are in Mary Sumner House in London.)

R E P O R T

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

The Uniting Church in Australia will be inaugurated in Sydney on Wednesday, 22nd June 1977 at 2.30 p.m. It will be indeed a solemn and momentous occasion.

It is a very real privilege and an exciting task to present this report. Because of its uniqueness it must of necessity mention the past to enable the present to be better understood and the future part that women will play in Uniting Church to be envisaged.

Historical Background - General

- 1901 - A vote of the Presbyterian Assembly resolved that it would negotiate with other evangelical churches in Australia until a union between them be effected.
(In those early years the way to unity was seen as merely taking a little of the heritage and structure from each of the churches).
- 1964 Continuing negotiations between the Presbyterian, Congregational and Methodist Churches resulted in a Basis of Union being formally received by the three churches in 1964.
- 1967 Suggested amendments from each of the churches was referred to the Joint Commission on Church Union. (N.B. it should be noted that the National Courts of the three churches met triennially).
- 1970 A Basis of Union acceptable to each was presented and accepted by the courts of the three churches.
- 1972 A Vote of the People was taken. Overwhelming vote for union was recorded by Congregational and Methodist Churches. Wording of the question for Presbyterians caused some confusion and another vote was sought for them.
- 1973 A second vote of the Presbyterian Church membership was taken. The three churches favoured union.
Enabling Acts had then to be passed by the States before union could be achieved.
- 1976. June 1976 proposed date of union. Legalities not having been finalized, 22nd June 1977 new date.
- 1977 Inauguration of THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA - 2.30 p.m.
Wednesday, 22nd June 1977, Sydney.

The journey has been a long one fraught, quite naturally, with many difficulties and frustrations. We, the people, have found it a time of re-thinking the total mission of the church and the place of men and women in it. Many of us, too, have been resistant to and threatened by change. Others have wanted to run ahead, having an intoxicating vision of what the new church could be.

In the Basis of Union the church's call is "to be a fellowship of reconciliation, a body within which the diverse gifts of its members are used for building up of the whole, an instrument through which Christ may work and bear witness to himself". Although the work of the church is done by all its individual members according to their many and varied gifts, the responsibility for this work remains with the whole body. So the place of the laity is to participate fully in worship, church government, pastoral care, theological study, etc. This participation is both a privilege and a responsibility, and it is the duty of the ministry not only to allow but to encourage others in the fullest possible exercise of their gifts.

"Is There a Special Ministry for Women in the Church?"

The women of the negotiating churches said "NO". "There is no special ministry for women in the sense that there are no tasks which

REPORT

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA (Contd:) should be seen as exclusively womanly tasks. There is a special ministry for EVERY PERSON because of every person's uniqueness. (Ministry is the responsibility of the whole church and is exercised by people, depending on their personality, training and ability - not on whether they are men or women). There is a special ministry possible for women because of the special gifts and opportunities of women.

Working Together - In early 1969 a request was received from the Joint Constitution Committee that representatives of the National Executives of each of the negotiating churches come together for discussion. This they did in Melbourne on 20th August 1969.

This meeting was very important as information of respective functions and structures were shared, and two discussions took place :
1. "How best do we use the time between now and proposed union?" 2. "What is our responsibility as National Committees?" It became apparent that ventures in understanding were urgently needed and that some leaders in each denomination felt that one of the difficulties facing the Uniting Church could well be in the area of women's work. Reports of this meeting went to all States.

Between 1969 and 1972, meetings of the National Executives continued in Melbourne. These meetings were important to the total membership of women's groups. They resulted in a survey of the history, structure and function of women's organisations; received reports on various schemes of co-operation; news was gleaned of the co-operative work among women in the Joint Parishes which were rapidly increasing in numbers in each State. Members of the J.C.C. attended a meeting with the National Committees to answer queries and to give current information.

Not only was material sought from women's organisations in other Australian Churches but also from New Zealand, Canada and the United States.

Early meetings were held as a matter of convenience, in Melbourne as the National Committees were at that time in Victoria and South Australia. Subsequently, as National Committees moved, meetings were held in Brisbane and then Sydney.

A National Study Committee was set up in late 1969 and during June 1970, a study programme was undertaken by groups in all States. Questions studied: "An assessment of the changing role of women in the church and in society. Where is the change leading?" and "The place of the laity in the church. Is there a special ministry for women in the church?" This series was the first of many undertaken by women as they sought to understand each other and prepare themselves for participation in the total life and mission of the new church.

Meanwhile, at State level, their executives and co-opted members were well on the way to understanding each other's traditions, and moving out into Provisional Presbyteries and Parishes where local women were looking realistically towards their opposite numbers in towns and suburbs. State committees initiated live-in and one day conferences, joint studies, camps for fellowship and understanding, team visits to local churches or district rallies, etc. In some States the care of women in the Joint Parishes was undertaken and guidelines for combined women's groups were distributed. News received from the women in these Parishes was of wider horizons, enriching and integrating experience.

These interim State committees were all different in character and function. All sought to evaluate existing structures and their right to continue, all sought to avoid chaos and a feeling of insecurity among their women, recognising the mammoth contribution they have made to the life and mission of the church locally and overseas.

Contd:

R E P O R T

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA (Contd) National Uniting Church Women's Committee and State Uniting Women's Committees were recognised by the J.C.C. and the National Uniting Church Women's Committee was asked to advise the Council on any matters concerning women's work which the Committee thought should be stated guidelines.

Regular reports of State meetings were sought. These revealed the differing needs - Tasmanian women were curtailing activities of C.W.F. and F.M.W. to enable fuller co-operation: In South Australia the F.M.W. had phased out as a constituted body from 17.11.75: Victoria had established with official approval: "That there be an organisation known as The Uniting Church Fellowship with which men's, women's and mixed groups may affiliate at Presbytery and Parish level; and, "That a provisional steering committee of 2 members from each of the existing men's and women's organisations be appointed".

Queensland & N.S.W. continued with 6 representatives of each State organisation. N.S.W. Committee had been working in four task groups - mission, education, structures and promotion. They had contact persons for women's interests in all presbyteries. A Women's Day was held in St. Stephen's Church, Sydney, in October 1976; the 5 metropolitan presbyteries of the Uniting Church planned a conference to be held at P.L.C. Croydon. . .

World Links - Links with international denominational women's organisations and participation in international conferences have proved invaluable in sharing information and stimulating concern for women in church and community. The National Uniting Church Women's Committee has recommended to the First Assembly of the Uniting Church that affiliation fees with the World Federation of Methodist Women be met from Assembly funds. (The affiliation of the Uniting Church in Australia with the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (Congregational/Presbyterian) includes affiliation with the women's desk within the Alliance).

Continuation of Certain Groups and Organisations Following Inauguration:

The Basis of Union makes provision for auxiliaries and other such bodies to continue to function after union unless and until the needs and responsibilities they are at present fulfilling are taken up by other organisations.

It urges that at or as soon as possible after union denominational groups fulfilling similar functions to one another should be combined.

It also is recognized that work now undertaken by women's auxiliary groups could become the responsibility of groups more widely based.

Conclusion

We conclude a report which has sought to cover at least eight years of discussion, commitment and much prayer.

We are proud of and enriched by the heritage of our Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. They have brought us thus far.

And so we go forward into our new Church, not as women dragging a load of kitchen hardware, but as women - each a unique creation of God - to be full members of "a fellowship of reconciliation, a body within which the diverse gifts of its members are used for the building up of the whole, an instrument through which Christ may work and bear witness to himself."

We understand the purposes of our Uniting Church, which are : "to provide for the worship of God, to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, to promote Christian fellowship, to nurture believers in the Christian faith, to engage in mission, to assist in human development and toward the improvement of human relationships, to meet human need through charitable and other services, and to do such other things as may be required in obedience to the Holy Spirit".

We commit ourselves to the new path we treat together. "We praise Him for all that is past and trust Him for all that is to be".

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

No Federal Conference of the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia has been held for four years. This has been due to the delay in Church Union, as Federal Conferences are held when the General Assembly of Australia meets. Queensland have continued to accept the responsibility of carrying on the duties of Federal Executive until the time of Church Union, which will see the parting of the ways of many who have known each other and worked together over numerous years.

In planning for this parting of the ways, and so that women's work and roles could be studied, two separate committees have been active at Federal level. Representatives of Presbyterian women who will continue after union have been meeting in Brisbane with two members of Federal Executive and other co-opted members from the Queensland State Council. The Federal Executive delegated six members from the N.S.W. Council to meet with and act as their proxy on the Federal Women's Committee for the Uniting Church. This committee has been meeting in Sydney to plan women's work and roles in the Uniting Church.

The National Study, which Federal Executive were assigned to conduct, on the broad subject of "Quality of Life" has been completed. This was carried out by each State Council deciding on an aspect and then studying this aspect at local area and State level. The findings being collated and returned to Federal executive.

From the study, South Australia produced a booklet, "Use of Leisure" - Tasmania - "Aids to Bible Study" and the Christian Education Department of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland produced a kit "Enrichment" from material collated from the studies conducted in Queensland which is suitable as a Study resource for camps and conferences.

States have continued to send minutes and reports and these give Federal Executive an overall idea of the workings of other States. The avenues of work covered by women in all States is wide and varied. Besides Church work, social and moral questions have been discussed and legislation has been challenged when considered to be in conflict with, or not in the best interests of Christians, the church and nation. Queensland was able to obtain the extension of visiting hours at Public Hospitals as a result of the concern of Church women.

One of the fastest growing avenues in which women are serving is the Courts and decision-making bodies of the Church. Many are taking their place as Elders in the local church, thus enabling them opportunities to serve on Presbytery and Assembly. More women are accepting, not only this responsibility, but are undertaking responsible office at these levels. Some have been ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Membership is declining, and this is no doubt due to the trend of more and more women re-entering the work force. This is an area in which concerned women are undertaking exploration and study and the needs of the younger generation of mothers will, no doubt, be met in the future.

The World Alliance of Reformed Churches information has been disseminated to States through the appointed representative. The Centennial Consultation being held in St. Andrew's, Scotland, this year has been much to the fore, and the Presbyterian women of Australia have donated enough to pay the fare of a Korean woman studying in Germany to attend. The Federal Executive were asked to prepare an Order of Service for a Morning Worship Service which will be used at this consultation.

Federal P.W.A. has continued to have three representatives on the Board of Ecumenical Mission & Relations which is a very important Board of our Church. Mission information is fed back through these women and a greater interest in mission results as well as the women, through their representation, being able to have the responsibility of decision making. During the past two years, we have seen the Hand of God leading, perhaps not always in ways we would have chosen, but we are assured He will continue to guide us in our new ways ahead.

Shirley Bowen
FEDERAL SECRETARY.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - N.C.M.REPORTSAUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF METHODIST WOMEN -

The task of co-ordinating and representing the interests and concerns of the Methodist women of Australia has been a responsible one undertaken gladly by the Australian Federation of Methodist Women's Executive resident in N.S.W. It has been an eventful term of office as plans are made to merge into the Uniting Church of Australia in June, 1977 and as we seek to implement the decisions of the World Federation Assembly which was held in Dublin, in August, 1976.

A History of the Australian Federation of Methodist Women is being prepared for publication. It has been written by Mrs. D. Pederick of Victoria, a past President and Area President.

The World Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist Women held in Dublin in August, 1976 was attended by 300 women representing 62 units from 52 countries plus Ecumenical guests. The programme planned around the theme "Women in Christ's Redeeming Work" enabled the development of far-reaching goals which were perfected and adopted by the entire Assembly as a basis for the programme for the next 5 years.

Two Australians were honoured at the Assembly, namely, Miss Jean Skuse who retired from office as World Secretary and Mrs. Freer Lathan, who was presented with a plaque in appreciation for her able leadership and dedicated service as World President from 1961-66.

The W.F.M.W. Constitution was changed to enable "a group of women in a Uniting Church of which former Methodists are a part or in a Church which is affiliated with the World Methodist Council to apply for membership."

Change of Area name. The Australasian Area was changed to South Pacific Area. The Area includes New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Australia.

Area Seminar. Tonga will be the venue for the South Pacific Area Seminar which is planned for August, 1978. The theme based on 1 John 3.18 is expressed in these words "don't tell me, just show me".

At the date of Church Union it is anticipated that the areas of responsibility and concern undertaken by the Australian Federation of Methodist Women will be continued by the National Uniting Church Women's Committee of the Uniting Church of Australia. The National Uniting Church Women's Committee will continue for the interim period until the 2nd Assembly.

Margaret Ayre,
President.

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AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
FEDERAL CONFERENCE, CHURCHES OF CHRIST -

The present Executive resident in Victoria was elected to office at the 17th Federal Conference of Churches of Christ Australian Christian Women's Fellowship held in Brisbane in September, 1976.

"The Relevance of C.W.F. to the Modern Church, its "Growth and Development" was the subject studied at the Conference. Two questions on the Aims and Purposes of Christian Women's Fellowship were sent to each State early in 1976 for study purposes, and the findings were presented by that State's Representative at Conference, then followed discussion in small groups. The "Papers" and summarised comments have been edited, collated and printed in a pamphlet titled "The Changing World of Church Women."

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It was found that the Christian Women's Fellowship was still working well, was relevant, and was making a vital contribution to the work of the Church, but to be more effective - emphasis has to be placed on the need for church women to go out into the community where non-church women are; training must be given for leadership, worship, evangelism and service; programming to be person-centred not program-centred; more co-operation between men and women working together; and greater flexibility in adapting to change.

Our women continue to be involved in all aspects of the work of the church, and increasing numbers are leading in Church Worship, becoming members of Official Boards, Administrative Officers, and members of State and Federal Departments and Committees.

A strong missionary program is maintained in all States, both financially and practically, and at the Federal level all States share in the support of a woman missionary at Carnarvon, W.A. Camps play a vital role in our program. The study, worship, friendship and fellowship experienced at C.W.F. Camps is an inspiration to all who attend.

In a time when communication is so important, we appreciate the communication, information, and support we have with women around the world as members of the World Christian Women's Fellowship, and we financially support their project to relieve hunger in the Sahel area of Africa.

Our next Federal Conference is planned for January 1979 in Melbourne, and the theme is "Rejoice in the Lord."

Patricia Hilbig
Secretary

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AUSTRALIAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S BOARD -

The Australian Baptist Women's Board are grateful to God for His enabling in providing opportunities and responsibilities of activities to a vast number of people throughout Australia. The Executive Committee meets in Victoria for the three year term 1975-'78. At the Triennial meetings to be held Jan.'78 the women of Tasmania will accept office for a three year term. In joyful service Baptist women seek to assist in every way men, women and children in need in the Community, as they work in areas of distress, poverty, catering, overseas and home missions, Aboriginal, elderly peoples' and Children's homes, Theological Colleges, sending parcels and gifts, New Settlers', rehabilitation, hospital visitation, prayer support, and finance in specific needs. As women in various Auxiliaries operate in their untiring efforts, reports from the seven States indicate many fruitful and rewarding experiences. The President, Mrs. D.S. Breguet, has urged all to remember each other in prayer 9.00 a.m. daily.

Three major concerns under investigation are:-

1. The Constitution, to delete the word "Board" to "Fellowship"
2. upgrade the Christian Women's Training Course
3. establish a travel pool for Delegates

Two Days of Prayer are held each year. 1st November is the Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer, when a special programme is printed and translated into various languages. The offerings received are forwarded to the Baptist World Alliance, Women's Department. Theme for 1976: "Declare His Glory - His Wonders among all people" Psalm 96. 2nd May, Day of Prayer is observed throughout Australia. The President, Mrs. D.S. Breguet prepares the material for study and prayer. Theme for '77:- "The Normal Christian Life". States exchange greetings on this special Day. 1976 theme: "Love is the Answer",

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(Australian Baptist Women's Board -)

was prepared by the President from the pre-Congress Women's Department meetings of the Baptist World Alliance, held in Stockholm, Sweden, July '75. Following these meetings, Mrs. G. McIntosh, President of the Baptist Women's Union of the South West Pacific, accepted an invitation to visit Russia and four wonderful cities. In each City, about 1000 people gathered in churches. No service was ever shorter than two hours. Despite a language barrier, Mrs. McIntosh conveyed to the people - especially the women - love for one another bound up in mutual love for Jesus Christ.

Conferences and House Parties are held throughout the year in each State, when women from all walks of life enjoy rich fellowship, joy and spiritual blessings, hope and love, in a time of sharing and learning together.

During the months of March, June and October a Newsletter is collated for distribution in Australia, from contributions given by each State. This Newsletter provides a useful means of keeping in touch with each others' activities, and as a source of encouragement

For a twelve months term, 1975-'76 and for the first time, South Australia elected as its Baptist Union President, Mrs. Edith McKay.

The Baptist World Alliance Congress meets every five years. In 1975 the meetings were held in Stockholm, Sweden, when 200 women representatives from 85 countries dressed in their native costumes held the 1st pre-Congress meeting in the Norramalms Baptist Church. On two afternoons crowds up to 4,000 attended. These represented 22 million women of the Baptist world. Mrs. Victoria Tolbert, herself wife of a former B.W.A. President, who is now President of Liberia whose message emphasized that Christ has made us ONE, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, will long be remembered.

In August, 1976, the Baptist world came to Melbourne for meetings of the General Council of the B.W.A. - the first time in the Alliances' 71st history that its meetings had been held in Australia. The women held a special gathering in the Collins Street Baptist Church with officers and representatives of the B.W.A., Women's Department. The World President, Mrs. R.L. Mathis was guest speaker.

The second General Assembly of the Baptist Women's Union of the South West Pacific will take place in Melbourne, August, 1978, when the venue will be Whitley College.

(Mrs.) G.R.A. Newnham.
Secretary.

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CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE, AUSTRALIA

Since the A.C.W. National Committee Meeting held in Adelaide in August, 1975, the Headquarters of Catholic Women's League, Australia, has transferred from Canberra-Goulburn to Adelaide and it is from that City that members of Catholic Women's League, Australia, send greetings to A.C.W. in Perth.

We are happy to report that in the majority of States a C.W.L. member is on the Executive of the A.C.W. Unit and this makes for a still closer liaison between us. Ecumenism is supplying us with activities through many sources - the involvement of members participating in, and with, functions (drawing women of all denominations together) brings, also the realisation of mutual responsibilities and the urgency of meeting these responsibilities. Even in Darwin, where branches have found great difficulty in resuming activities after the tragic cyclone of 1974, we note their appreciation of, and strong endeavours to continue promotion of, mutual responsibilities with all Churches.

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..../(Reports Cont'd) Catholic Women's League, Australia

In Sydney, during April 1975, representatives of C.W.L., Australia, from all States and Territories, attended the first National Council of the Laity - it was good to know that members were involved in the organisation of this Council. Members also attended the "Summer School on Ecumenism" Seminar held in Melbourne in February, 1976 - reports on this Seminar pointed to the positive progress towards unity over recent years.

It was indeed heart-warming to hear of the involvement of so many C.W.L. members in inter-church services through International Women's Year and, to our knowledge, three of these services were held in Catholic Cathedrals of Capital Cities. Contrary to what some women would have us believe, the Holy Spirit was truly present in that memorable year.

You may be interested to know that, at our National Conference in 1975, we initiated our involvement in the Cause of the Canonisation of Caroline Chisholm. Our work in this area continues and, to read of how Caroline saw her apostolate in Sydney during the 1840's, must give each one of us much food for thought and action. In just one year, she found situations for 700 destitute young women of all denominations and through her twenty years of working for such women it is obvious Caroline was endeavouring to protect family life. Her portrait on the current \$5 Bill is a constant reminder of a courageous woman - it would do well for us to follow Caroline Chisholm's footsteps as regards protection of the family today.

In each State there is, at present, a Diocesan Ecumenical Commission being set up by the local Bishops so, although C.W.L. is not affiliated nationally with A.C.W., you can see that great emphasis is being placed on the importance of ecumenism. Pope Paul VI said, in November 1976, that "the search for Christian Unity was the greatest and most supernatural task of his Pontificate" and that "reciprocal misunderstanding has speedily dissipated before the rediscovery of the bonds of communion which unite us despite our divergencies."

Perhaps proof of our sincerity in our work for Ecumenism is the reciting of the "Prayer for Unity" at all C.W.L. Meetings and so we finish this report with the final words of that prayer: "May we, who have been reborn in one Baptism, all be united in one Faith, under one Shepherd."

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ANGLICAN WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA

Anglican Women of Australia is a comparatively unstructured grouping at Federal Level, but a number of dioceses have their own Anglican Women's Executive Committee. On the whole these committees have something of an "umbrella" role, collating and co-ordinating all women's groups and organisations within the diocese, as well as planning overall functions such as conferences seminars and retreats which interest many women who are not members of any specific organisation (as well as those who are).

Some parishes, as well as dioceses, have now found that an anglican women's committee seems to meet a new need for today's women many of whom cannot for various reasons, or do not want to, again for various reasons belong to any of the longer established groups, such as Mothers' Union, Guilds, Women's Auxiliary of the Australian Board of Missions, Girls' Friendly Society etc.

Where they exist, these committees both parish and diocesan, would seem to engender a bond of friendship and understanding between leaders as well as co-ordinating overall women's activities.

Ailsa Grindrod
Secretary.

R E P O R T S

THE SALVATION ARMY - Southern Territory

In 1976 the overall "Share Your Faith" emphasis throughout all Corps, presented special opportunities for the women in the Home League Movement and in response to it, house meetings were held, special calls made in homes of need, and a record recruitment of new members reflected the effectiveness of the communication made.

Attempts have been made to meet special needs in the Community, including participation in migrant reading classes, where lay people may give assistance in reading practice for women migrants particularly, those who are limited in their opportunity to improve their English. This has occurred mainly in the Italian and Greek Community with whom special multi-lingual folders have also been used to improve communication between local home league groups and the women migrants in areas where there is considerable migrant population.

In one other area at least, women officers and their helpers have become associated with local Play Group Activity, in which young mothers with pre-school children are taught to play with their children and at the same time to have the company and support of other adults. Many who live in conditions of stress caused by loneliness, fear of poverty, and a general inadequacy within themselves, have found in these groups the relief and assistance needed to help them through, and also the opportunity to receive counselling where necessary.

Over \$23,000.00 was raised during 1976, for service and helping hand projects, including educational institutes for overseas training programmes, which promote leadership training amongst women. This amount relates only to united fund-raising efforts and in addition, a great deal is done by individual groups in the sponsorship of children, and providing assistance for a multitude of overseas projects, related particularly to the welfare of women and children within The Salvation Army ministry.

Some women in our groups have recently received recognition for dedicated humanitarian work in the local districts where they give constant voluntary service. Two in Victoria and one in Western Australia received the British Empire Medal and one in South Australia, the "Citizen of the Year" award.

The on-going programme of visitation in hospitals, institutions of all kinds and to shut-ins in their homes, has continued, and in country areas morning and afternoon teas served to patients because of staff shortages, handicapped patients are driven to and from hospitals, and a child-minding service provided as well as shopping and household duties undertaken where there is special need.

Women continue to play an important role in The Salvation Army emergency Services in times of flood and fire and in their servicing of rescue teams. This has been particularly true in Tasmania, where they seem to have had more than their share of emergency situations. There was a willing response to the need for assistance in connection with the arrival of refugees from Indo China, when women played a great part in the task of meeting, comforting and clothing those arriving at the airport, and also assisting in the immediate follow-up services, and in allaying the fears of these arrivals in a strange land, where the language of caring was the only one they could understand.

A significant number of women have found their way into the fellowship of Christ and His people, through the doors opened by the outreach and ministry of the women's groups.

Major Charm Craig
Territorial Home League Secretary.

REPORT

THE SALVATION ARMY - Eastern Territory

The Women's Home League continues its wide and effective ministry to women. All Divisions have held annual Conferences and Rallies for both leaders and members of the Home League. During 1976 and 1977 the theme of the evangelical thrust has been "Share Your Faith" and this campaign has been undertaken with good success.

Divisional Home League Camps have been held, also the Territorial Camp at Collaroy each year. These camps prove to be extremely popular with the women and provide a time and place of spiritual rest and encouragement. The Territorial Home League Camp which was held in February 1977 at Collaroy had the highest attendance ever (a capacity group) of women from all Divisions in both N.S.W. and Queensland.

The worldwide 70th Anniversary of the Home League is being featured this year and this achievement inspired the camp theme - "Sparkling Seventies".

Two service Projects have been completed since our last report and these have been most successful. In 1975 the Home Leagues raised \$10,000.00 to purchase a building for the commencement of an eventide home for needy aged persons, in Portugal. This country is the scene of one of the most recent extensions of The Salvation Army's work. In 1976 the Home League members raised \$15,000 for the purchase of three houses to become quarters for Salvation Army Officers in Zambia. Christian work had spread to a number of areas and was only limited by lack of accommodation for the Zambian Officers appointed to those areas. The Salvation Army in Zambia is headed by Australian Officers, Colonel and Mrs. W. Evans, and a number of other Australians are also working in this emerging African nation.

An exciting "Smorgasbord Conference" was held in November 1976 for the Leaders of the Home League Evening Fellowships. Over 100 women enjoyed the exchange of ideas and the fellowship of other leaders and this aspect of our women's work was greatly enhanced by this event.

In May 1976 Mrs. Lt. Colonel Edna Baker was installed as the President of the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council, at a very lovely service held in the Chatswood Citadel, and with the change over of the council to the new name of Australian Church Women (N.S.W.) Mrs. Baker will serve in her capacity as President for a further one year term, during 1977.

Also in 1976, Mrs. Lt. Colonel Oliver Carpenter, with her husband Lt. Colonel George Carpenter, retired from active officership and this was marked by a special retirement service in the Sydney Congress Hall on 25th March 1976. Mrs. Carpenter has had extensive experience in work among women, being the Divisional Home League Secretary for eight years and president (1972/73) of the N.S.W. Women's Inter Church Council and Federal representative of The Salvation Army on Australian Church Women.

Brigadier Florence Whittaker who, for a number of years, has given fine service as the Territorial League of Mercy Secretary and Community Service League Secretary, received public recognition with the Queen's award of the M.B.E. during 1976, for such community service.

In January 1977, Major Peggy Stephens became the first woman officer to be appointed as the Territorial Youth Secretary for Eastern Australia Territory.

The Territorial Women's Council, under the leadership of Mrs. Commissioner L. Pindred, has conducted a number of Seminars for both married and single women officers during the past 18 months. These have proved most beneficial in terms of assessment of place & the worth of women within the ministry of the church of God, as experienced in The Salvation Army. With a background of over 120 years of "female ministry" as a principle and in practical application, Salvation Army women are finding that these studies and Seminars are timely in terms of taking stock of the lessons of the past and for insights into the possibilities of the future ministry of women.

Major Jean Venables
Assist. Territorial Home League
Secretary.

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES28th GENERAL MEETING

The 28th General Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches were held at Emmanuel College, St. Lucia, Brisbane, Queensland, from Friday, 9th, to Tuesday, 13th July 1976. These were an experience of involvement for which my gratitude and thanks is expressed to the Working Committee of Australian Church Women and to the Queensland Unit.

My impressions over all, were that many positive resolutions came from the meetings, the impact of which I sincerely hope and pray, will be felt by the churches of all participants, particularly by the congregation at the local level.

The decision to ask Dr. Athol Gill, Dean of the Whitley (Baptist) College, Melbourne, to prepare a series of Studies on the theme of "Christian Discipleship" which are to be studied on an Australian wide Inter-church basis, was certainly enthusiastically endorsed by the council. Faith and Order Commission stated that the studies should include "a recognition of our need of others if we are to enter fully into the Gospel of Christ", as well as the inclusion of clear action and mission thrust. This was a step toward positive action for future unity. Perhaps the thrilling part of these discussions was the fact when questions were asked about funding, the Rev. Harry Daniels suggested that funds could possibly come from Asia from the Christian Conference of Asia.

The Stuart Report on the Churches ministry with children was well received and positively endorsed, and certainly it is recommended to any concerned about this area of Mission.

The opening service was an experience in itself. In beautiful St. John's Anglican Cathedral, we experienced the use of drama and dance in worship. The experience of a cross made of individual boxes (with each denomination of the members of the A.C.C. printed on one side), fragmenting before us, and then hung around the perimeter of the worshippers, only to be re-built or reformed again in the form of a cross towards the end of the service, was impressive. The Rev. Harry Daniel preached the message which was clear and certainly to the point. You may see this service on Sunday, October 3rd, A.B.T.V. Channel 2 at 11.a.m. (don't judge the singing too harshly.)

The Rev. Peter Hollingworth of the Brotherhood of St. Laurence, Melbourne, called on the churches to speak out on social injustices and even to accept that conflict may even be necessary if social justice is to be achieved.

The Church and Society Commission recommended that a Special Commission be established to look at how the Australian society operates in order to examine injustices from a christian viewpoint.

The report from the Action for World Development brought before us the needs and plight of peoples of the underdeveloped nations, particularly in relation to education. The study and implementation of the 2% self-tax fund for the Ecumenical Development Fund was recommended and some churches are already implementing this Fund.

The Billy Graham Crusade in 1979 was commended to all member churches as well as giving thanks to God for the new insights into Evangelism that had been given to the churches at Lucerne, Rome and Nairobi.

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AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

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28th GENERAL MEETING

The closing service was also a Celebration which brought to our notice the strong ties of our faith in worship and where we experienced Human Movement as a medium of conveying a message. Many of us, no doubt, experienced sadness that the strong bond of fellowship which we had enjoyed during four days, was soon to be broken. It was wonderful to meet and to enjoy fellowship with Vera Wilson, particularly for myself, as I had corresponded with her often in my capacity as Federal Secretary of the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia.

This report is certainly inadequate of all that took place, but I trust will convey to you a little of the atmosphere and some of the vital issues and discussions which came before the Council.

Thank you once again for the privilege of such an experience which has certainly challenged me, personally, on many issues.

Shirley Bowen.

COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

BI-ENNIAL GENERAL MEETING, ADELAIDE 28th NOV. to 3rd Dec. 1975

Extracts of Report by Joy Smith.

Aldar Hall and I attended the Bi-ennial meeting of the A.C.C. Commission on Christian Education on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning. We were present for the important decisions regarding A.C.W.

Australian Church Women has now been included in the Constitution as having two members on the Executive and two representatives to the Council.

The C.O.C.E. doesn't want us just to have representation and leave it at that, it wants active participation and we agreed this is what we felt was needed.

The suggestion was made to the Meeting that our best way of communication and action was through the State Units, with direct representation and participation at that level. So the way is open for each State Unit to make approaches to the State Council of Christian Education. Names of office bearers are in the reports, included in the Bi-ennial report book from each State.

One suggestion was that p'raps each State Executive could be involved in an Inter-relationships laboratory. These are held annually, sometimes twice a year. The Committee felt that personal involvement in this type of thing was the best way to advertise. People who have been involved in early training are now eagerly taking the advance training. If our State Executives were prepared to do this then they would be the best ones to encourage other women in their local Churches to undertake these laboratories, which are evidently proving to be very helpful to people.

Joy Smith.

R E P O R T S

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

On 4th March 1977, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Women's World Day of Prayer in Australia.

In 1927, both Queensland and New South Wales, Presbyterian women, interested in missionary outreach, invited women of other denominations to join them in prayer. This led to the growth of the movement of the Women's World Day of Prayer into the form we have now. The planning and observance of these inter-denominational days of prayer have contributed an incalculable amount to preparing a climate of opinion where there would be joint talks, working papers, shared conferences between the denominations.

This "climate of opinion" has been evident to me wherever I have been invited (thank you for inviting me) and spoken to women in churches of many different traditions. The welcome has always been warm and loving - indeed this is the core of our shared belief : that God is Love, and we are enjoined to love Him and love our neighbour.

I bring you greetings from the Women's World Day of Prayer movement in Australia.

Alder Hall
National Liaison Officer

THE GIRLS' BRIGADE

Our returns at December 1976 show that Girls' Brigade Australia has a membership of 15,450 girls who are divided between 354 Companies and directed by 1620 Officers. As the returns for 1977 are being processed it would appear that these figures will show a slight increase as there are 5 new Companies applying for Affiliation.

Brigade Knowledge - For some years now, Girls' Brigade Officers felt the need of a syllabus to help develop a deeper understanding of the ideals of Brigade and loyalty in the members. In the last 8 months work sheets have been produced for 3 age groups which help develop an understanding of what it means to become a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Officer Training - All of the leaders in Girls' Brigade undertake at least eight hours of training before being commissioned as an Officer. Training methods are continually being updated and in N.S.W. special tapes are being prepared to help Officers in isolated areas.

Sections of this training would be beneficial for many women who are engaged in work with children. These people would always be welcome at Girls' Brigade Training Sessions.

Pioneer Leadership Training - Leadership training is an important part of the work of The Girls' Brigade and in the Pioneer Unit (14 years plus) there are special training courses available.

In 1975 The Girls' Brigade Australia received a grant from the Federal Government for a 3 year project to research and develop training kits for the five courses offered. Unfortunately, only one year's funds were received and the kits are still not developed. However, 3 courses have been developed to experimental stages. These are the Preliminary Leadership Training, Recreational Leadership and Girls' Brigade Leadership courses. The courses are run with a combination of practical work and theory, and the girls have grown in both confidence and skill. These courses are conducted at the local level and would be valuable for any girls 14- 18 years who are involved in leadership in

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R E P O R T

THE GIRLS' BRIGADE (Contd)

clubs, Sunday School or in other positions in the church. For further details of the training programme contact the State Offices of The Girls' Brigade.

Pacific Fellowship of The Girls' Brigade - Australia continues to be actively involved in the work of Brigade in the Pacific Area. In January of this year delegates attended the Pacific Fellowship Council Meetings in New Zealand. The following week a group of Pioneers representing most States attended the Fonomarae (camp for girls) on the same site. All who participated found a deep bond of fellowship with their sisters from many parts of the Pacific.

During this period another Work Party of 5 young leaders went to the New Hebrides where they helped in the work of the church and mission and encouraged their fellow officers of The Girls' Brigade.

A few months after the work party, Miss Lyn Lee, who was leader of the first work party 3 years ago, returned to the New Hebrides to complete her medical clerkship at the hospital at Nouindai. While she was there, she helped with the Girls' Brigade work and spent time with the leaders formulating a new programme for use in village churches.

The Girls' Brigade Australia continues to conduct an annual appeal to support the work of indigenous Training Officers in the Pacific region. Support has been given to Papua New Guinea through this appeal.

National Conference : 1976 was the year for the Triennial Conference of Girls' Brigade Australia. Officers from all over Australia travelled to Perth to join together with the theme "Lord We come", to rejoice, resolve, relax and return.

A great sense of unity was experienced at this Conference and we envisage that there will be exciting new expansion and developments in Brigade in the next three years.

Part of the unity was displayed by each State accepting the responsibility to convene a National Committee and so far this seems to be working well.

International Secretary - On 18th May 1977, Miss Sandra Kimber, our International Secretary based in London, commenced a visit to Australia and the Pacific. Meeting and sharing with her has revitalised Brigade Australia's interest in and concern for other members of Brigade throughout the world.

We look forward to the future with a sense of purpose and a joy in the knowledge that we are sharing in God's work.

Pat Martin,
GENERAL SECRETARY AUSTRALIA.

R E P O R T

YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

The Basic Family Unit - Our major thrust since Convention 1973, has been worked on mainly by the local associations, but Government grants obtained nationally for work in local associations have been used in each instance to strengthen the family unit by strengthening the woman in it. In addition, we believe the strong programme for Y Women in the past four years has had a significant effect on family life in the broadening of outlook of so many women with whom the movement is in touch.

Programme - Perhaps the Leisure Survey is the most important project we have ever undertaken. This piece of research, which necessitated independent funding and staffing, was exciting - detailed - and just as worthwhile as we cared to make it.

All too easily it could have been mere research - a mountain of detail left on the shelf. Instead it came alive as the Y Women of the YWCA, under the guidance and enthusiasm of the National Y Women's Co-ordinator, Mrs. Millie Howells, continued to think around the needs and problems of suburban isolation, with the help of the Leisure Survey Report. Each YWCA Association has a copy of this report and could be of particular assistance to any association working without trained personnel.

Government films were made as a result of the Leisure Survey and have provided the basis for open discussion in Y Women's meetings from points as far apart as Burwood, Sydney and Broken Hill. Talking points were extracted from them, showing the ultimate disaster which could happen as a result of home isolation particularly in a new area, and then pointing out that such problems could be avoided, and how.

Some other Programme emphases were -

The continuation of a strong and valuable Correspondence Course programme, with the addition of several new courses and the updating of others. Of particular interest are the courses "Introduction to Japan" and "Australians before the White Man", the latter giving a background of aboriginal culture.

The National Social Responsibility Committee have considered many issues, watched, reported and acted upon them as they came to their attention. - e.g.

- . Australian Bill of Rights, preparing programme kit on the subject and also keeping World YWCA informed.
- . Protests to the Dept. of Foreign Affairs and through them to the South African Embassy, on detention without trial of President and General Secretary of YWCA of South Africa.
- . Repeated expressions of our concern to the appropriate authorities for - South American refugees; the political prisoners in Indonesia the Christian prisoners in Korea and the Philippines

: With the YWCA of Western Australia, commencement of work with migrants in the Pilbara area through the YWCA Community Worker. Working with Government representatives on the conception and implementation of the Home Tutor Scheme for teaching English to migrants; Conducted an Opportunity Shop, introducing a wealth of fellowship and filling a community need that alone justifies its existence.

Internal Management - Use of "Telephone Conference Call" for consultation with National Executive members living inter-state, resulted in a substantial cost saving.

Hostel Accommodation - is still a YWCA Service throughout Australia from Darwin and Derby in the north, to Melbourne in the south - the type provided being dictated by the needs of the community

Stella Watson, NATIONAL PRESIDENT.

REPORT

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is a very intangible Fellowship from which there is very little "feed back". No figures are available regarding membership, and its platform is the belief that "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of".

The indication of support for the Fellowship of the Least Coin, in Australia, is that 1440 copies of Vol.VI "Circle of Prayer" were ordered in 1975. Unfortunately, 360 copies did not arrive at their destinations, but of those received most have now been sold. It was expected that the next Volume would be published this year but recent information from A.C.W.C. has indicated that it will be the middle of 1978 before it is available in Australia.

A\$5,000 (1975) and A\$6,000 (1976) have been forwarded to the World Council of Churches Department of Finance and Administration as our "Least Coin" contributions. Grants were made in 1975 to Nungalinga College, Darwin (\$5,000) and the Missionary Sisters of Charity, Bourke, N.S.W. (\$1,000) and in 1976 to the Aboriginal Women's Centre, Darwin (\$1,000). No submissions for grants were received this year by the Working Committee. This is no doubt a reaction to the opinion expressed by Mrs.Solomon last year that affluent countries should not submit a grant every year. Subsequently, however, Mrs.Solomon expressed her sorrow that this had been made such a big issue, and explained that her comment was not meant in any way to alter the tenet on which the Fellowship of the Least Coin was founded - that all its members, rich or poor, would share in both the giving and receiving of the "Least Coins". As always, the emphasis is on the prayer rather than the coin, and this seems to be a difficult concept for affluent Australians.

Three Fellowship of the Least Coin Bulletins (two in 1975) and one in 1976) were received and distributed to each State Convenor, and more recently the A.C.W.C. News Bulletin. These, together with the Fellowship of the Least Coin leaflet and "Small Beginnings" by Fran.Downes have been the only publicity available. State Convenors are very dependent on speaking engagements at local groups to spread the word about the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

A reference to my predecessor's report presented to the National Committee Meeting in 1975, reveals that she advised me to "relax and enjoy it", and I can assure her that although it has not always been a relaxing task, it has brought me great joy. The enriching experience of being a member of the Working Committee is something for which I will always be grateful.

Vera Wilson.

WOMEN AT WORK

During the past two years our aim has been to produce an informative news sheet with as much interest as possible for our readers. We feel that we have achieved less than we aimed at, but we pass on WOMEN AT WORK to the new Working Committee with our very good wishes for the months ahead.

Our concern has been mainly with the following:

1. Fellowship of the Least Coin news.
2. Keeping up to date with Winifred Kiek Scholarship holders both past and present, and also with plans for W.K.S.
3. News from the State Units. This, of course, can be effective only as the news items come to the Working Committee.
4. Special items from such publications as THIRD WORLD NEWS, AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL of CHURCHES - news and information, ACWC NEWS BULLETIN.

There are others, too, we have used.

5. A month by month account of the working Committee's plans and procedures.

We feel that WOMEN AT WORK could be a real forum for ideas, suggestions and comments which may be valuable, but which are never heard or expressed because the originators are unsure of their ability to express them, or doubtful of the worth of their contributions. But every contribution is valuable, and if it is not used in our news sheet, at least it will be discussed by the Working Committee. Moreover it is the editor's task to present a contribution without altering the content or spirit, but perhaps expressing it more clearly.

We thank all who have contributed to WOMEN AT WORK, with special thanks to Janet Watts who nobly stepped in and acted as editor for three months in 1976.

SPECIAL DAYS

At the National Committee Meeting held in Adelaide in 1975, the decision was made for each State to print its own Order of Service from a master copy provided by the National Special Days convenor. It was unfortunate that unavoidable delays meant the late arrival of the master copies, and I am indeed grateful for the understanding shown by State Conveners, to whom this delay must have been frustrating.

With the larger States the printing of their own service sheets has proved satisfactory, and it has enabled them to make slight alterations to the format and in some cases to substitute hymns, but for those who need only a limited supply the printing is too costly. This has led to Darwin requesting copies from Western Australia, and to Victoria supplying Tasmania and Alice

Springs with service sheets. The Winifred Kiek Scholarship leaflet continues to be produced by the Working Committee.

Concern was expressed by one State that with the adverse publicity given to Indonesia, the 1976 project was not a wise choice, but we are assured by Miss Skiller, Finance and Administration secretary of A.C.C. that the churches have carried through the Transmigration Programme and are very much involved in assisting those people to resettle. She said: "Please assure your members that their participation in the 1976 Community Day project helped many people in real need."

The 1975 Community Day service was inherited from South Australia, but the four Special Day services that have followed have been the responsibility of Western Australia.

With the Nairobi Conference providing so much interest amongst the churches, it was decided to ask a W.A. delegate, Elisabeth Appleby to prepare the Fellowship Day service, and in "Confessing Christ Together" we shared in some of the wonderful prayers offered at that conference. And so it was with the 1976 Community Day Service - here the interest centred around the Asian Church Women's Conference in the Philippines, and the result of this was Rachel Cox's lovely "Encounter", with its impressively heart-searching preamble.

Our third service, 1977 Fellowship Day, was once again prepared by one person - our National Chairman, Dorothy Wacker, now Minister in association of Adelaide's Pilgrim Church, and as we take part in this challenging opening worship, let us make sure that we do "Break down" any walls that may divide us.

Although we hand over our responsibilities to New South Wales at this meeting, the 1977 Community Day service is already available. The "Build Bridges" theme used by the Girls' Friendly Society's W.A. Unit, enables us to go forward and to plan great things for the future.

The Community Day Service stencils have been kept, and so it would be possible for delegates to take back the full number of copies required, if they so wish - provided that the order is placed on the first day of the National Committee Meeting.

May I offer to the incoming Special Days convener, my sincere wish that her term of office will be as rewarding as mine has been to me. And may we continue this wonderful Nationwide, Christian fellowship that our commitment to the A.C.W. has given us.

Marjorie Scurlock.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING - 1977
WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

1. 1976 Scholars

The first duties of the Scholarship committee were to ensure that Sarrah Ah You from Apia, West Samoa, who had already been selected by the S.A. Working Committee, was able to gain admittance to the Home Science Course at the South Pacific Commission Community Training Centre in Suva, Fiji.

"This is a ten months' course. Its content focuses on village and home living, and practical methods of improving health, foods and nutrition. The major theme of the course is Planning for Better Family Living. Participants are prepared for employment in out-of-school educational programmes for families, particularly through women's and youth organisations."

Sarrah's admission was accomplished through the personal efforts of Deaconess Pauline Campbell, who lives in Suva, on behalf of A.C.W., as applications for the 1976 course had already closed. S.P.C.C.T.C. cabled Sarrah in Apia when they decided to accept her application. She commenced her course in Suva in February, 1976.

I include these background facts because despite repeated letters we were never able to establish contact with S.P.C.C.T.C. Even several requests for the estimated costs of Sarrah's board and tuition remained unanswered. Finally in desperation, we enlisted the help of Rev. John Garrett who resides in Suva. He obtained the estimate for us, and although the administration assured him they would contact us, they never did.

When the year ended, Sarrah returned to Samoa and after three letters to S.P.C.C.T.C. asking for an account drew no response, we were forced to write to Rev. Garrett again. He was able to find out that the account would eventually be sent to us from Noumea!

In spite of the frustrations suffered at this end, it would appear from Sarrah's frequent and cheerful letters that she had found the course interesting and useful. Her time was fully occupied with theoretical and practical aspects of the course. Her field work involved working with women in the Fijian villages, and she learnt such practical things as simple carpentry, how to make an island oven called a "Uwa", how to make cement steps, and even a method for making a simple septic system. Among the theoretical subjects covered were physiology and first aid. An important emphasis in the practical work was the use of materials locally available.

Her study of English was incidental to her work, with emphasis on oral skills. Sarrah assures us she passed all her academic exams.

She is now back teaching part-time in a high school and doing church-sponsored part-time work with young people.

2. Anne Kerepia, a Papuan woman from Port Moresby was also selected as a 1976 scholar. She was awarded a four month's scholarship, which she was to have taken in Queensland. She wanted to study child Development and Child Care Administration there

Queensland state unit willingly undertook to look after her, and appointed Miss Josie Cleary to do the detailed work necessary to arrange her course. We would like here to record our sincere thanks to Josie for all the time and careful effort she put into this task.

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Winifred Kiek Scholarship Report - Cont'd

However, at the last minute, a letter came from the Y. .C.A. in New Guinea, saying that the Executive Director, of the Pt. Moresby branch had had to relinquish her post and it had been decided to appoint Anne to the vacancy. This of course, meant a change of emphasis for any future training for her. World Y.W.C.A. arranged for her to have a crash course in administration. They also wrote to A.C.W. asking if Anne could take her 4 months' scholarship in 1977 in Fiji, where she could study Y.W.C.A. work there. They felt such experience would be of great benefit for her in her new job in Pt. Moresby.

The working Committee carefully considered the situation, and finally agreed to accede to their request!

However it was uncertain whether Pt. Moresby Y.W.C.A would be able to give her the necessary leave from work, as a replacement would be difficult. It was arranged they would contact A.C.W. if they felt they were able to manage without her, but up to date they have not raised the matter again

1977 Scholars

Jennifer Yeo Suan Phoon commenced a 9 - 10 months study course with the Campus Evangelical Fellowship in Taiwan in September, 1976. The course emphasises Bible Study and practical training for student evangelism.

As Jennifer has already completed a 4 years' Bachelor or Divinity course at the Trinity Theological College in Singapore the Bible Study is being tailored to meet her specific needs.

The practical training comes from work with High School and University groups both in camps and regular meetings. The C.E.F. is the National Christian Student Movement for Taiwan students. Its aim is two-fold (a) to evangelise students (b) to encourage christian students to develop a mature faith. In February training camps are run for christians and in July and August there are evangelistic camps held.

The working Committee had hoped to bring Jennifer to Perth during July, as her theoretical course would finish in June. However, she pointed out that in July and August she would be fully occupied learning how to run camps. Furthermore, although she writes English quite well, she says she would find it difficult to address groups in English.

Before Jennifer started her course in Taiwan she was working as a preacher with the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in Singapore, but was later seconded to the Scripture Union for work among students. When she returns to Singapore she will work among chinese speaking people under the sponsorship of the Presbyterian church.

As Jennifer's course, including her fare, cost \$1,000 the Working Committee felt it would be possible to select a second scholar. Accordingly, Supaporn Kongphron, a High School teacher from Thailand was chosen. She holds a liberal arts degree from Chiang Mai University, with a major in Education. She wanted to do a course in teaching English as a second language, and some work in Educational Administration.

She accepted the offer of the scholarship, and preliminary arrangements for a suitable course were made at the W.A. Institute of Technology. However, she suddenly announced she hoped to marry in June 1977, and asked if her scholarship could be deferred till 1978. The working Committee felt she could not be denied the scholarship because of marriage plans so agreed to the deferment.

However, the Head-master of her school was very dissatisfied because she would not be studying for a higher degree, and finally withdrew his permission for her to have the necessary years' leave of absence.

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Winifred Kiek Scholarship Report - Cont'd

Furthermore, he expressed the hope she would be successful in gaining a scholarship to the U.S.A. where a Master's degree would be a possibility.

The Certificate of Competency she would have received at the end of her year's course at W.A.I.T. was apparently not considered to be of sufficient value to justify her year's leave of absence. As a result of his decision, Supaporn was reluctantly compelled to withdraw from the scholarship.

By the time these protracted negotiations had concluded so unsatisfactorily, it was too late to choose a further scholar to replace Supaporn.

Jean Vincent.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMENNATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING, PERTH 1977.WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP WORKING PAPER.

At the 1975 N.C.M. in Adelaide, new terms of reference for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship were drawn up i.e.

there shall be two classes of scholarships offered -

(1) Winifred Kiek Scholarship

The purpose of this scholarship is to offer supplementary training for a Christian woman who has already received her basic training, and 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) Winifred Kiek Visiting scholarship

The purpose of this scholarship is to benefit Australian church women by giving them inspiration, knowledge and leadership from our Christian sisters from other nations, thus promoting knowledge and support of the Winifred Kiek scholarships.

Funds shall be available triennially or at the discretion of the N.C.M. to provide fares, honoraria and accommodation costs for

- (a) a distinguished overseas Christian woman, or
- (b) a Christian woman scholar already studying in Australia

to tour Australia, speaking to church and community groups promoting an understanding of the work of the church in other nations.

A further important suggestion was made that scholarship holders of the first type should be given the choice as to which country they would wish to do their proposed course of study in. It was felt that Australian conditions and Australian solutions to problems would often have little relevance for students from developing countries.

In accordance with these terms of reference application forms for 1977 and 1978 for W.K. Scholars contained a section asking the applicant to state her preference regarding place of study.

It was interesting to note that most people from developing countries feel that a developed country is able to provide the answers to their problems, and if Australia were not the country nominated, other western countries i.e. U.K., U.S.A., Canada or West Germany were suggested.

One notable exception to this trend was the sponsoring body of the 1977 scholar, who appeared to have a very clear idea of the type of work the applicant wanted to do, and where she could get the most suitable training.

It would seem to be necessary therefore that the sponsoring bodies be asked to consider carefully ways of helping the prospective students to understand the potentialities of their own educational institutions, or those of nearby developing countries, and point out that Australian institutions are only to be considered if selected courses are unobtainable or inappropriate in their own country, or near at hand in similar cultures.

In choosing a scholarship winner, in 1976 and 1977 the scholarship committee acted within the spirit of the changes in the terms of reference, and tried to evaluate whether an Australian course could really meet the needs of the applicant, even though the student may have asked for an Australian experience.

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(Winifred Kick Scholarship Working Paper - Cont'd)

The fact that there has been no physical presence of a Winifred Kick scholar in Australia since 1975, is seen as a disadvantage by some and points up the wisdom of a Winifred Kick Visiting Scholarship to help to keep interest alive in W.K. Scholars.

Recommendations

1. That an explanatory paragraph be added to the initial application form for Winifred Kick Scholars asking sponsoring bodies to give considered guidance to applicants as to the choice of venue for their proposed course of study.
2. That the incoming Working Committee give attention to the importance of the Visiting Winifred Kick Scholarship.
3. Methods of choosing Winifred Kick Scholars
Now that N.C. Meetings are held every second year it is suggested that the method of choosing W.K. Scholars be formalized as under:-
 - (a) Winifred Kick Scholarship Committee consider all applications and select the short list.
 - (b) Short list applications be considered in detail by current Working Committee and selection made before the end of July if possible.

APPOINTMENTS

The following are the nominees for the Working Committee, 1977-1979.
Individual profiles appear below.

PRESIDENT :	Mrs R. Dougherty	(Uniting Church in Aust.)
VICE-PRESIDENTS :	Deaconess M. Andrews	(Anglican)
	Mrs J. West	(Baptist)
HON. SECRETARY :	Miss D.M. Mitchell	(Anglican)
HON. TREASURER :	Brigadier G. Cork	(Salvation Army)
COMMITTEE :	Mrs B. Davis (W.K.S.)	(Uniting Church in Aust.)
	Mrs R. Stanhope (F.L.C.)	(Churches of Christ)
	Mrs J. Curtin (Women at Work)	(Roman Catholic)
	Mrs H. Stevens (Special Days)	(Uniting Church in Aust.)
	Mrs E.K. Baker (Liaison NSW Unit)	(Salvation Army)
CO-OPTED :	Mrs M. Ralph (Asst. Secretary)	(Uniting Church in Aust.)

Co-opted Olga Badger one from Presbyterian *Uniting Church in Aust.*

MRS MARGARET RALPH

In 1964 alternate to 1st Working Committee of A.C.W. Present at second National Committee Meeting and elected as committee member to Working Committee. On N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council, held office as Secretary and Promotions Officer. For six years member Presbyterian Women's Association State Council. For last years deeply involved in planning for the Uniting Church in Australia at local, state and national levels, N.S.W. Joint Planning Committee, a member of the Joint Constitution Council Executive, and a member of the First Assembly in June 1977. A stenographer by training. Alternate on Australian Council of Churches Executive.

MRS HEATHER STEVENS

Resource and Liaison Officer for Women's Ministries with the Board of Education for the Uniting Church in Australia, N.S.W. Synod. Assistant Secretary, Federation of Methodist Women N.S.W., Executive Member Australian Federation of Methodist Women. Secretary N.S.W. Uniting Church Women's Interim Committee. Member of N.S.W. Synod Steering Committee Uniting Church Fellowship. Council member Australian Church Women N.S.W. State Unit.

MRS BETTY DAVIS

Council member Australian Church Women N.S.W. State Unit, Member of the National Council of Women, and of the Committee of the Uniting City Churches. President of Women's Auxiliary to Methodist Overseas Missions, and Vice President to N.S.W. Methodist Women's Federation, Federal Board of Mission Uniting Church, member Committee World Mission in N.S.W. on Board of Mission and Board of Communications for Uniting Church in Australia, N.S.W. From July appointment within the Uniting Church (N.S.W. Board of Mission as Secretary for Mission Support Groups. Acted as "Home Tutor" with Good Neighbour Council scheme teaching English to migrant women. Until 6 years ago served 20 years as a missionary in Fiji, the last 3 of which employed by the South Pacific Commission as an Administrative Officer Community Education Training Centre for Pacific Island leaders.

MRS GLADYS WEST

Member of the N.S.W. Council of the Baptist Women's Fellowship where served 13 years as State Secretary, then 3 years as Vice President. Currently represents N.S.W. on the Executive of the Baptist Women's Union of the South West Pacific. Member of Council of Australian Church Women N.S.W. State Unit.

MRS JOAN CURTIN

Scripture Teacher, Bible Study Leader. Past President Lane Cove Longueville Church Women, Publicity Officer for Australian Church Women for six years.

MRS WIN DOUGHERTY

Life Member, Past Secretary and President, A.C.W. (N.S.W.) Unit, Member, Board of Communication Services, Uniting Church. President, N.S.W. Auxiliary Christian Television Association. Marriage Counsellor, Justice of the Peace, Executive N.S.W. National Council of Women, local Parish and community involvement. (Past member of A.F.M.A. Executive and Vice President, N.S.W. Federation of Methodist Women.)

MISS DORIS MITCHELL

A.C.W. N.S.W. Unit Hon. Treasurer, (formerly President 1974-1977) ^{SEC 75-77} Australian Board of Missions (Anglican) Women's Auxiliary - Chairman Sydney Committee; Pan-Pacific and S.E. Asia Women's Association - National President. National Council of Women of Australia - Convenor Standing Committee on International Relations & Peace; United Nations Association, Good Neighbour Council.

MRS MARJORIE STANHOPE

Member of Churches of Christ Christian Women's Fellowship for which body I am an appointed representative on A.C.W., N.S.W. Unit and the World Day of Prayer State Committee. Have served as State President W.I.C.C., and Convenor Fellowship of the Least Coin. Represented World Day of Prayer Committee at First International Committee in Sweden. Also member of National Council of Women.

MRS LT. COLONEL EDNA BAKER

President of A.C.W. N.S.W. State Unit. Wife of the Staff Secretary, The Salvation Army Eastern Territory. Outer Circle H.L. Secretary Former Hon. Secretary N.S.W. Inter-Church Council. Member of National Council of Women of N.S.W. Has served as missionary in China, New Guinea (Pioneered the work) New Zealand.

HEAD DEACONESS MARY ANDREWS

With Church Missionary Society in China and India 1938-1951. Head Deaconess Sydney Diocese 1951 - Principal Deaconess House 1952-76. N.S.W. Inter-Church Council Executive. W.K.S. Convenor. Interim Committee 1963 - A.C.W. represented A.C.W. at International, Interdenominational Conference, Taize France 1967. 1971 rep. A.C.W. at Church Women United Wichita, USA. 1972 World Federation Deaconesses New York Conference and in Bethal, Germany in 1975. 1973 Conference Deaconesses Communities England. 1977 Conference - Versailles and Denmark. 1977 - Delegate International Council Women - Conference New Delhi.

MRS BRIGADIER GWEN CORK

Born of pioneer stock, I am the only daughter in a family of seven, my birthplace being in a small country town on the north coast of N.S.W. At the age of 22 years I entered the Salvation Army Theological College in Melbourne for training as a Salvation Army Officer. For well over 30 years my ministry included Pastoral Care Training of students for the Ministry, Book-keeping and Finance. I am now retired.

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SUBMISSIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AT N.C.M.

1. VICTORIAN UNIT - Olive Ackland (Hone.Sec.)
 - a. That a short time be given to discussion re each State's mode of operation and out-reach. E.g., representation - how achieved? constitution, communication. We feel perhaps we could work in a more efficient way.
 - b. That the question of "Consumerism" should be looked at again to see if there is any action we can take on a National or State level to stimulate Christians to seriously consider some of these alternatives to our present way of living, e.g., Gift Card, protest letters, alternatives to expensive gift giving, simpler life styles.
2. QUEENSLAND UNIT - Peg Mahoney (Hon.Sec.)
Special Days. That one only be held annually instead of two as now and that a comprehensive service be compiled to cover all projects. Reason: A considerable amount of time, effort and expense goes into duplicating and air-freighting copies of the service to all parts of our vast State to get them there in the required time.
3. SHIRLEY BOWEN, QUEENSLAND - (ex-Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia, now Uniting Church of Australia) That we explore the possibility of having a Consultation of American and New Zealand women to Australia at some time in the near future.
4. VICTORIA - letter from J. Weedon (A.C.W. rep. on C.O.C.E.) Query whether A.C.W. representation effective or necessary.
5. NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE
That the National Committee Meeting be held once every three years, instead of every two years, as at present. X
6. N.S.W. STATE UNIT - D. Woodhouse (Sec.)
 - a. That the National Committee consider using, for Fellowship Day and World Community Day, the same themes as are selected by Church Women United (U.S.A.).
 - b. That during the meeting of the National Committee, opportunity be provided for State Unit representatives to share their experiences, discuss problems and exchange ideas in regard to the work of the Units.
7. TASMANIAN UNIT
 - a. That the National body accept financial responsibility for national representatives attending N.C.M. meetings at which their attendance is considered desirable. 4
 - b. That discussion take place at N.C.M. re the aims, objectives and future of A.C.W. Where we are going, what we have achieved and what we hope to achieve. In other words - "Where to from here, A.C.W.?" X
 - c. That some discussion on the preparation of Orders of Service for Special Days as to whether or not the present arrangements are satisfactory. 246

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME: AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
2. AIMS:
 - To unite Australian Church Women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;
 - To promote cooperation of men and women in Church, family and society;
 - To help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life and mission of the Church;
 - To provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together, and
 - To encourage fellowship and service across national boundaries.
3. RELATIONSHIPS:
 - (a) Through the Australian Council of Churches, Australian Church Women shall be linked with the World Council of Churches and with the regional conferences of churches in Asia, Africa and the Pacific.
 - (b) Australian Church Women shall be a member of the Asian Church Women's Conference.
4. NATIONAL COMMITTEE:
 - (a) The National Committee shall consist of:
 - i. Representatives
 - (i) two from each unit of Australian Church Women in the Australian states and territories;
 - (ii) one from each denomination participating in the Australian Council of Churches and such other denominations as shall be invited by the National Committee to attend;
 - (iii) one from the federal organisation of any special interest group which is granted representation by the National Committee;
 - (iv) two appointed by the Australian Council of Churches' Commission on Christian Education;
 - (v) four appointed by the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches.
 - ii. the Working Committee, as set out in paragraph 5 below.
 - (b) The National Committee shall meet biennially at a time and place to be determined by the National Committee on the recommendation of the Working Committee.
 - (c) The Working Committee shall prepare an Annual Report and audited Financial Statement which shall be circulated annually to all organisations having representation on the National Committee and to the Australian Council of Churches and shall be presented to the Biennial National Committee Meeting for endorsement.
 - (d) At least half of the representatives under 4(a) i.(i) and (ii) together with half of the Working Committee shall constitute a quorum.
 - (e) Alternates may be appointed for all representatives to the National Committee.
 - (f) Observers and Consultants to be invited to National Committee meetings
 - i. Non-voting observers with privilege to speak
 - (i) two from each unit of Australian Church Women in the Australian states and territories;
 - (ii) one from each denomination participating in the Australian Council of Churches and such other denominations as shall be invited by the Working Committee to attend;

CONSTITUTION (CONT'D)

4. (f) cont'd

- (iii) one from the federal organisation of any special interest group which is granted representation by the National Committee;
- (iv) up to ten Working Committee nominees from the new state or territory location.

4. (f) Observers and Consultants (cont'd)

ii. Consultants with privilege to speak:

- (i) the Federal Liaison Officer, Women's World Day of Prayer;
- (ii) Australian members of the Planning and/or Working Committee of the Asian Church Women's Conference;
- (iii) any co-opted members of the Working Committee of Australian Church Women.

iii. Non-voting observers without privilege to speak - one from each state or territory women's organisation of each denomination or special interest group in the state or territory in which the National Committee Meeting is held.

5. WORKING COMMITTEE

(a) The Working Committee shall consist of ten members:

i. Office Bearers of Australian Church Women

- (i) a President;
- (ii) two Vice-Presidents;
- (iii) a Secretary;
- (iv) a Treasurer.

ii. Five Committee members, one of whom shall be the Convener of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Committee.

(b) These ten members of the Working Committee shall all be

- i. Resident in one state or territory;
- ii. Elected biennially by the National Committee.

(c) The Working Committee shall have power to co-opt;

- i. Up to three members for special purposes;
- ii. Any members of the Planning and/or Working Committee of the Asian Church Women's Conference resident in the same state or territory as the Working Committee of Australian Church Women.

Such co-opted members shall not be eligible to vote, but shall be eligible to attend the National Committee Meeting as Consultants with privilege to speak.

(d) The location of the Working Committee shall be determined by the National Committee and shall be changed to a different state or territory every two years, and shall not be relocated in any one state or territory until a period of four years has elapsed following the retirement of the previous Working Committee in that state or territory.

(e) The Working Committee shall be responsible to the National Committee for the implementation of the programme of Australian Church Women according to the directions of the National Committee and shall act as an Executive on behalf of the National Committee between its meetings.

(f) A Statement of Accounts shall be presented to each meeting of the Working Committee.

(g) In the event of a vacancy on the Working Committee occurring between National Committee Meetings, the Working Committee shall appoint a replacement to fill such vacancy and shall within one month notify in writing those organisations having representation on the National Committee.

6. FINANCE

(a) All monies received by the Treasurer shall be paid as determined each year by the National Committee or by postal ballot by all organisations having representation on the National Committee, on the recommendation of the Working Committee.

CONSTITUTION (CONT'D)

6. Finance (cont'd)

- (b) Signatories for all Bank accounts and investments shall be any two of the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer.
- (c) The Financial Year shall end on 30th June in each year.

7. AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION:

This Constitution may be amended by a vote of a two-thirds majority of the National Committee present and voting. Notice of Motion to amend the Constitution shall be forwarded in writing to the Secretary by any organisation having representation on the National Committee or by the Working Committee. All Constituent bodies shall be notified in writing of the proposed amendment not less than three months before the meeting of the National Committee at which the proposed amendment will be moved. Amendments shall be operative only upon ratification by the Australian Council of Churches.

8. DISSOLUTION:

In the event of the dissolution of Australian Church Women, its projects and trust funds shall be paid to the purposes designated and its administrative funds to the Australian Council of Churches.

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