

ACW NSW STATE UNIT INC—EXECUTIVE 2005-2006

PRESIDENT	Major Lyn Middleton	9529 6744
PAST PRESIDENT	Mrs Jean Porteous	9727 2580
PRESIDENT ELECT	Mrs Carmel Keys	9977 5156
TREASURER	Mrs Helen Richardson	9971 0278
SECRETARY	Mrs Isabel Hewitt	9642 7137
MEMBERSHIP/PASTORAL CARE	Dss Heather Badgery	9642 3254
FLC CONVENER	Mrs Janet Lang	4975 5740
WKS CONVENER	Mrs Judith Cayzer	9896 3758
SPECIAL DAYS CONVENER	Mjr Valma Pethybridge	9629 1726
NEWSETTE EDITOR	Mrs Beryl McLaughlin	9744 8609
	(w/t/f)	9262 5949
SOCIAL ISSUES CONVENER	Sister Joan Bird	9769 1211
PUBLICITY	Major Nancy McLaren	9555 2628
	(w)	9266 9880
ACWC CONVENER	Mrs Winsome Penn	9906 3963



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NSW STATE UNIT INC

ANNUAL REPORT

FLC Fiftieth Anniversary Jubilee
October 2006, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Celebrating the Legacy,
Visioning the Future,
Living the Jubilee**



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Lyn Middleton

As I near the end of my first year of presidency of Australian Church Women NSW Unit Inc. my first thoughts are of gratitude to God for his guidance and goodness to me as I have grown in my knowledge and understanding of the ministries of Australian Church Women. The words of Isaiah 41:10 very meaningfully come to mind as an expression of my testimony: *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand*. (NIV)

I believe we celebrate the conclusion of a very good year for Australian Church Women but this is only because of your support and I want to personally thank Council Members, Members of State Executive and Local Branch Members for your dedication and commitment to the work of Australian Church Women.

At our last AGM we welcomed Mrs Ramona Cowle as convener for Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC). The positions of Publicity, Special Days and Social Issues convenerships remained vacant but I am happy to report that these were soon filled. Major Nancy McLaren moved from Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) to Publicity; Mrs Janet Lang accepted FLC; Sister Joan Bird accepted Social Issues and Major Valma Pethybridge accepted Special Days. These ladies, together with the ongoing members of Executive, have been carrying out the responsibilities of their positions throughout the year and I congratulate them on the excellent manner in which they have done so. I'm sure you will enjoy reading all of their reports in the pages that follow.

We were delighted at the start of this year this year to welcome into Council and onto Executive Mrs Carmel Keys. Carmel is a representative of Catholic Women's League and comes to Council and Executive in the capacity of President-Elect.

It has been a pleasure to attend a number of functions throughout the year to which the President is invited, and where I couldn't attend I thank those members of Council who attended on my behalf. I particularly thank our Council members who represent ACW at many of these organisations. Our special thanks to Mrs Nola Dickson who has been our representative on the NSW Ecumenical Council. Nola is unable to continue in this capacity but will be remembered for her interesting reports and faithful attendance on our behalf.

We have been pleased this year to welcome Bible Society NSW Auxiliary as an Affiliated Organisation of ACW NSW State Unit Inc. and look forward to their association.

GIRLS' BRIGADE

Ruth Dickinson

Our first major event in April 2004 was a weekend when the city went to the country & the destination was Port Macquarie. Some 600 girls & leaders made this tiring journey, travelling Friday night & taking over many caravan parks then having a terrific weekend of fun & fellowship together. They visited several tourist venues in the area, culminating in a church service at a local high school.

In May at our annual conference a new commissioner was elected for a further 3 years (option of 6 yrs) to oversee the work in NSW. Her name is (Mrs.) Janet King & she lives in the Hunter region. She is learning on the job & doing a great work among the leaders & girls of our state. We have been greatly blest over many years to have had so many Godly leaders at the helm of the organization and Janet is yet another of these lovely ladies.

Two training weekends are held each year to train new leaders & also offer electives for trained leaders to learn new skills. A St. Johns First Aid Course is run each year with many leaders and older girls taking advantage of the reduced price offered to Brigade.

We have seen 3 new companies commenced during this past year which is very exciting and only one company ceased to function, mostly due to lack of leaders, not girls.

Our Pioneers (high schoolers) once again assisted at the 2 Premiers Concerts held in March & December. This is great for the girls & the senior citizens whom they assist, are always happy to have the attention of these young people.

It is great that we can offer some combined activities with our brother organization "The Boys' Brigade" with whom we have a happy working relationship. Our main combined event was a weekend camping at Gerroa, spending the Saturday at Jamberoo. This was a successful weekend and the older girls & boys look forward to this weekend held each year.

We thank our ACW friends for their continued interest in Girls' Brigade.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Shirley Wells

At the NCW Annual General Meeting Mrs Marion Smith concluded her term as President and Major Margaret Sanz (Salvation Army) was elected and welcomed into this position. Major Sanz is no stranger to NCW as she has been a member of the Executive for many years.

Amongst the highlights of the year have been the Parliament House luncheons, when we have celebrated being an Australian, honoured our 90 years+ ladies, and at the Foundation Day Luncheon presented an NCW award to eight ladies for their work in raising the Status of Women in NSW.

During the year the Executive hosted two groups of women tourists from Japan and China who wished to learn how National Council of Women is involved in the Australian community.

Our guest speakers have been interesting and challenging and have covered a wide range of topics. Advisors and Co-ordinators have kept us up to date with current happenings in areas such as Communications, Sustainable Development, Social Issues, Status of Women and General Well Being.

Mrs Helen Richardson and I have been happy to represent ACW at these meetings.

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION OF NSW

Beryl McLaughlin

WCTU is represented on ACW State Council by Mrs Dora Quarmby and Miss Shirley Tapp. Our activities are limited by shrinking numbers and ageing of members, as temperance is not a popular cause in times when moderate use of alcohol is accepted by many churches and Christians, rather than total abstinence which used to be the standard.

For our 121st Annual Convention in March 2004, the guest speaker at the President's Reception Luncheon was Bishop Tom Frame, the Anglican Bishop to the Australian Defence Force. As an adopted child in an alcohol-affected home, Tom made a lifestyle choice to abstain from alcohol. In his present role, and seeing its devastation to lives and families, he seeks to encourage service men and women to choose a drug-free lifestyle.

Our current WCTU project is to offer copies of the book *Uncorked—the Hidden Hazards of Alcohol* to high school and community libraries, hoping to influence young people to also decide for a drug-free lifestyle.

The Special Days services held throughout the State in July and October in line with the theme set by National Executive *Forward Together in Christ* have been a source of blessing and enrichment. We very much appreciate the work done by those of you who arrange these meetings.

Our Biennial Day Conference held last September and attended by 70+ ladies was a day rich in fellowship and inspiration. The three speakers, Major Geanette Seymour who brought a devotional message, Rev Colin Scott of Hope Street Urban Compassion and Mrs Jan Corbett-Jones of Kairos Prison Ministries, enlightened and spiritually uplifted all who attended.

The ACWC 'Pleasant Sunday Afternoon' in October at Punchbowl Baptist Church organized by Ramona Cowle and her committee provided a wonderful program for the enjoyment of all who attended. The participation of the Sydney Korean Uniting Church Choir, the Punchbowl Baptist Filipino Choir and the Earlwood Salvation Army Band was greatly appreciated. We regret that for personal reasons Ramona is unable to continue in this role. We sincerely thank Ramona for all she had done which has been characterised by her skillfulness and graciousness.

I could not write this report without expressing my sincere appreciation to Mrs Jean Porteous, the immediate Past President for her untiring helpfulness and counsel as I have assumed my role. Jean is a great support and I am thankful to God for her.

A special thank you must go to our Secretary, Mrs Isabel Hewitt whose competence, support, graciousness and tremendous output enables the wheels of ACW to run smoothly.

It is a real privilege for me to be your incumbent President. My prayer for you is that as through your service you bring the blessings of God to others, so you will know the richness of God's blessing upon your own life.

MEMBERSHIP/PASTORAL CARE

Heather Badgery

This year there was an average of 42 delegates present at Council meetings. Margaret Jessup (Anglican) and Elsie Cox (Church of Christ) have moved into hostel care. Pat Clough (RC), Ruth Moore (UC) and Alwyn Warren (Associate member) died during the year.

Joan (and David) Tong retired from service in the Salvation Army in January. Their work was recognised at a farewell service at Dulwich Hill Centre. Marjory Verco (National Life Member) continues to keep in touch with us although her mobility is limited. We are thankful for the many years of service these members have given, and for all Council members who continue to serve with enthusiasm.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Isabel Hewitt

The passing of the office of President from Mrs Jean Porteous to Major Lyn Middleton was marked at our service of Installation and Dedication in May 2004 at Dulwich Hill Salvation Army. The theme *Forward Together in Christ!* took up the National Executive theme, and Lyn's message challenged us all. It was a great occasion which enabled us to thank Jean for her leadership as well as to welcome Lyn into her new role as we joined in worship. We are very grateful for the hospitality given to us at Dulwich Hill.

There have been a number of new delegates to Council from denominations. We welcome them and look forward to their participation in the life of Council, and Executive too if they would like to serve as conveners. We note the contribution of those who are no longer delegates but have served ACW faithfully in the past, and some of these will be acknowledged in *Honouring Australian Church Women* which replaces the WKS Bursary Book.

We have had to adjust to new meeting rooms during the year and this has not always been easy. Although in the same building, facilities differ from one level to another, challenging those setting up the chairs and the providers of morning tea. We are hopeful that we are now past the uncertainty of where we will be from one meeting to the next. Attendance at our March 2004 Council meeting reached 52.

Our State Conference Day in September gave opportunity to hear speakers who encouraged us in our faith and in our concern for those in need. All three enlightened and challenged us, making it a very worthwhile day. Fellowship Day and World Community Day observances brought many together in local areas, and the Asian Church Women's Conference service at Punchbowl Baptist Church was also greatly appreciated by those who attended. Fuller reports of these events appear elsewhere in this Annual Report.

As NSW prepares for National Conference in October 2005 we are grateful for the work of those holding office in the National Executive, capably led by Major Nancy McLaren. The commitment of each member helps make the task easier, but their efforts are ultimately dependent on the backing of the whole NSW State Unit.

The year ahead has the potential to be a great one for Australian Church Women. Let us grasp every opportunity to maximise our work as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of FLC, 40th Winifred Kiek Scholarship, 40 years ACW National, and 20th National Conference. We pray that God will guide us in all our endeavours.

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (NSW)

Edith Ridge, ACW Representative to PPSEAWA

I am pleased to make this report on the work of PPSEAWA and thank ACW for the opportunity of representing it at such a worthy and interesting organisation. It is a friendly meeting where new members are made to feel instantly at home. I was sorry to lose such a good co-representative as Sister Marie Craddock and she has been missed by the whole organisation. I invite members of ACW to seriously consider either becoming an individual member or else representing ACW as one of our 2 reps. Meeting on the 4th Wednesday February to November, morning tea is available from 10.30 for 11.00 am start.

In accordance with its aims to strengthen the bonds of peace by promoting a better understanding and friendship among women of the Pacific and South East Asia areas, the meetings are educational and informative in many subjects. To share this experience with friends of PPSEAWA the NSW group invites visitors to two fund raising luncheons during the year—the money sent to projects which the meeting decides.

During 2004 speakers included Marie Richardson a volunteer worker in East Timor, author and motivational speaker; Maureen Flanagan who shared her life story; the Rev Helen Richmond, Inter-faith Relations Co-ordinator for the Uniting Church; Mary Cabrera, Past National President of PPSEAWA now appointed by International PPSEAWA as Ambassador for Peace; Fiona Collins who spoke about CowBank; and Dr Eileen Pittaway who reported on Beijing +10. In line with its policy to support the UN International Year project studies were done in 2004 on the Year of Rice and Anti-Slavery. In 2005 we are recognising the Year of Microcredit. The first speaker for 2005 was Kath Fear from Operation International who told of the low interest loans available to people in developing countries, and of the wonderful success of these projects.

As a result of the two luncheons held PPSEAWA NSW was able to 'buy' a cow through Cowbank and to send a donation to the Mary Mackillop Institute for East Timorese Students, a project dear to the hearts of PPSEAWA members. Other speakers will include Jennifer O'Hanlon on NATSIEC, Sarah Gault on Oxfam and Meghann Everett on Legal Work in the Pacific Islands. In March corporate members will give short reports on their organisations.

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Nola Dickson

As I step down from being your representative of ACW on the NSW Ecumenical Council, I must say that I have enjoyed attending these meetings.

Held in different churches, different districts, country sometimes, the council is served very efficiently by its members, but particularly by the Secretary, Rev Dr Ray Williamson. The present President is Bishop Kevin Manning of the Parramatta Diocese, which has supported the establishment of the House of Welcome at Villawood prayerfully and financially. The House of Welcome is flourishing, with an increase in the number of houses, and so is able to extend its help to many refugees, offering economic accommodation, counselling, and assisting them in settling more quickly and happily in a new land.

Difficulties are looked into in the rural areas where there is a lack of pastors willing to move to the hardship of country ministry. This sometimes involves a great amount of travelling and caring for more than one area or church, necessitating the need to hold more than one service in one town per Sunday. Living is not easy for people in these areas. They see community services being cut back, (e.g. medical, ambulance, banks, phone etc.), young people are moving to city areas seeking employment, and keeping the churches alive is left to the older generation.

After the riots of Redfern, following the death of T.J.Hickey, the Redfern Research Project was set up, investigating the problems to see what can be done to help calm troubled waters, hoping that this sort of behaviour could be averted. With the cooperation of the Aboriginals themselves, this work continues.

The Christmas Bowl appeal was launched this year by Ms Emele Duituturaga of the Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy, Fiji, a much travelled and interesting lady with stories of the hardship, mostly of children, in different countries, and how the money raised can help ease their poverty. News is brought of the plight of displaced people and refugees, in Villawood detention centre initially, then at Baxter. Those working for this cause urge the Government to hasten their screening program, make decisions faster, and unite families who have been separated. It is good to see the different church leaders working together to bring about a united Christianity. We know that unity is strength, and this is not seen in struggling churches that keep their doors open for the few faithful, when joining with another congregation could be their salvation. This has happened in a number of rural centres and proved to be most successful. The Council is concerned with all issues which jeopardise the smooth running of God's church, of our country and its people, and seeks to bring justice and a better way of life for those in need. May the abundant life for all flourish in this land as we seek to bring the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to those who are lost, and those who are seeking. God help us in our efforts for Him.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

Judith Cayzer, Convener

After an uncertain start, our 2004 Scholar, Deaconess Mereani Dinaekia Raque, recently completed her time with Project Respect in Melbourne. We received an excellent report, part from her supervisor, and her own detailed report. Mereani gave thanks to God and to all who assisted her in completing this course which has given her a new perspective and new skills with her work in Fiji amongst workers in the sex industry. She thought she was coming to do a course in a College, and found herself learning on the street. The report is 13 pages but I am going to condense this to highlights on one page and this will be sent out to all groups in the packages of Fellowship Day (July) orders of service. It is excellent reading.

Thank you as always to Mina Whybourne as she helps in corresponding with several past scholars. We have had some news from them and this is given in *Newsette* reports.

National WKS Convener (NSW Executive) Joan Tong is doing a great job keeping us informed. Remember her in this role, also settling into retirement mode.

WKS Trustees have just sent application forms for a 2006 Scholar from Multi-cultural Australia. Forms to be in by 31 May 2005.

Now for 2005 Scholars, we have two:

Siok Cheng Chew from Malaysia will be studying the Distance Education Advanced Certificate (Autism Study) provided by the University of Birmingham UK.

Anju Borgoary from Assam, India, will be studying for a Post Graduate Diploma in Pastoral Counselling at Ananda Counselling Centre in Karmataka, India. More details on these ladies, see February *Newsette* and the pamphlets.

We trust you will enjoy participating in the Fellowship Day Service (July) in your area and give thanks to God as we move through the 40th year of Winifred Kiek Scholarships. We continue to partner in assisting young women to increase their skills in their ministry and therefore, more effectively, share Jesus. Many thanks to our NSW groups for their continued support. The past and present Scholars always comment on their appreciation of the prayer and financial support.

For further details on any of the above, please contact me on (02) 9896 3758.

SPECIAL DAYS

Valma Pethybridge, Convener

How privileged we are to be blessed by God in so many varied ways. He has blessed us so much with very successful meetings. Fellowship Day 2004 was full of challenge and fellowship. The theme "My peace I give to you" prepared by our NSW unit helped us to reflect on the wonderful peace which is available to all God's children through the power of the Holy Spirit. The offerings from this day go to the Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

World Community Day held in October 2004 was a great success. The theme "Be one that the world may believe" John 17.21 was rich in blessing. The atmosphere of the different Churches, together with the general feeling amongst participants was that the service was meaningful and challenging. The various speakers were both inspiring and helpful. Lunch, or in some places morning tea brought with it a fitting climax to a time spent with God. The plate offering was shared between Kairos Prison Ministry and Urban Seed Women's Program in Melbourne.

Our Fellowship Day in July this year promises to be exciting. This service has been prepared by the Alice Springs Unit of ACW under the heading "Forward Together In Love and Fellowship".

World Community Day this year has two very worthwhile projects:

1. Parakaleo – Tasmania is a program of the Churches of Christ Community Care. It offers Christian based counseling and support to Tasmanians struggling with issues of suicide. The program receives no Government funding and they are in need of a photocopier.
2. Aboriginal Church – Broken Hill. (Submitted by Baptist Women of NSW) They are wanting to commence after school care for indigenous children of local schools and need money to help set it up.

My thanks to all who have assisted so willingly in various ways.

NEWSETTE

Beryl McLaughlin, Newsette Editor

In my sixteenth year as Editor, I am happy that our State magazine has continued to be well received and read with interest by nearly 200 subscribers. I would record our appreciation of those who assist with collating and mailing, Heather Badgery and Olive Beverley. Most especially, our thanks to Nola Dickson who has been *Newsette* Manager for many years, efficiently maintaining the address list on her computer, preparing address labels and envelopes. As Nola is standing down from this task, I trust someone with computer skills will come forward to undertake it.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE BRANCH 2004

Brenda Dickinson
Branch Secretary

Australian Church Women Special Days have been well supported again this year. Our Fellowship Day Service in July – Theme: "My peace I give to you" was held at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Gympie, with 92 people attending. The Speaker was Mrs. Olive Cotter, who reminded us that God's peace is very different from the peace the world offers us. We were encouraged to pass on this peace to those who are not aware of it. We were blessed by the organist's gift of music and the soloist's choice of songs.

World Community Day Service in October was held at South Cronulla Uniting Church with 80 people attending – Theme: "Be one that the world may believe". This was a wonderful Service, with good participation by all the denominations. Major Lyn Middleton's message was very well received. Once again, we were blessed by the musical talents of the organist, the pianist and the soloist.

It is pleasing and, at the same time humbling, to see all the different denominations coming together in fellowship and gladly giving their offerings to the projects that have been selected.

Throughout the year, people had been very faithful in putting aside their "least coins" for the Fellowship of the Least Coin. It is truly amazing how our small contributions can add up and make a genuine difference in someone else's life. Generous donations were also made to the Winifred Keik Scholarship and other projects.

Also in October, the Asian Church Women's Conference "Pleasant Sunday Afternoon" was held at Punchbowl Baptist Church and was attended by several members of our Branch of ACW.

Mrs Norma Dumbrell (Branch President) and Mrs Pat Sutton (Branch Representative on NSW State Council) continue to provide energy and enthusiasm in carrying out their roles.

We say "Thank you" to God for these opportunities to share in fellowship with other Christians. "Thank you" also to everyone who participates, and to the Churches who so graciously host the events and provide refreshments.

STRATHFIELD/HOMEBUSH BRANCH

Beryl McLaughlin

A small committee with representatives from six local churches meets regularly and arranges for World Day of Prayer, Fellowship Day and World Community Day, held in rotation at Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Presbyterian and Uniting Churches. At these, times of great blessing and inspiration are shared by women and men, with women from each church taking part in the services, and challenging speakers, as well as fellowship over lunch.

KINCUMBER AREA BRANCH

Bev Elliott, Secretary

At Fellowship Day we welcomed our new President, Mrs Lily Hanlon of Woy Woy Presbyterian Church following the resignation of Mrs Dorothy Woodhouse after many years of faithful service and leadership. Pastor Rob Hooper warmly welcomed us at Ettalong Baptist Church and constituted the service with prayer, highlighting the theme *My Peace I give to you*. The Baptist ladies graciously provided morning tea before the service. We had both organist and pianist together for the lovely hymns, and the solo 'Make me a channel of your peace' was sung by Bev Elliott, accompanied by Mrs Lyle Jones.

We welcomed members from nine churches in our area and also ladies from East Gosford Catholic Church. All denominations participated in the readings. The speaker was Mrs Edith Ridge who brought us greetings from State Unit, and also the National Committee. Edith reminded us that God's peace in our heart is of utmost importance in troubled times. A trading table raised \$105; all present signed signature cards showing solidarity with ACWC; and a retiring gift in appreciation was presented to Mrs Wodhouse.

For World Community Day we were hosted for the first time by the ladies of St Patrick's Catholic Church East Gosford. On invitation from them we organised the lovely service based on the theme *Be One that the world may believe*. The Parish priest, Father Ziggy from Poland, gave us a very warm and enthusiastic welcome. The speaker was Sister Francis Mansour from the NSW Ecumenical Council who spoke on the plight of offshore refugees. The attendance of 45 was a little disappointing, but very windy weather and some transport difficulties were experienced. The offering was \$162.20, and we were delighted with the amount of \$384.75 for the Fellowship of the Least Coin from a very dedicated group. Trading table amounted to \$64.45. We enjoyed great fellowship in this new outreach for our Branch. ACW is becoming better known in the area and we are receiving favourable comments. It is a pleasure to meet and greet those folk with whom we share such lovely times in worship and serving God.

SOCIAL ISSUES

Sr Joan Bird fmm, Convener

Following Cela Cooper's retirement from this convenership Sr Joan Bird volunteered to accept the position in August 2004. However due to travel and illness she has only begun to activate Social Issues concerns in 2005. Rosalyn Bemrose and Lily Hanlon have accepted to work on the Social Issues Committee.

Issues regarding the abortion debate were raised at February meetings as it is in the public arena, with questions being raised in Parliament as to the number of abortions annually and the funding from Medicare. Church groups have presented to the Government their stance with regard to respect for life, the effect on women who have had an abortion, the need for counselling prior to making such a decision, the need to provide real alternatives to women, issues of housing, welfare, economy, the need for appropriate emotional and social support. Members were encouraged to write as individuals to MPs supporting a transparent inquiry into the abortion issue.

The trafficking of women and children is another area of concern, and Force Ten (Caritas and National Council of Churches) have produced an excellent kit for Simply Sharing week (May 15-23) entitled *Not for Sale*. Petitions are also available making requests to Government with regard to anti-trafficking initiatives and supporting actions already being undertaken. Anti-trafficking forums organised by Force Ten and Child-wise will be held in Sydney in April and May.

Sr Joan attended a seminar on Integrating Justice organised by the Franciscans and the Josephite Sisters in North Sydney where the guest speakers were Sr Helen Prejean (Dead Man Walking film) and Sr Marya Grathwol OSF who is a cosmologist and spoke about the Spirit of Place and our care for creation as well as our sensitivity to the indigenous peoples. An aboriginal woman, Elsie, told her story of injustices experienced.

It is to be hoped that all ACW members will keep the Social Issues Committee alerted to issues arising where we feel called as disciples of Christ to speak out and take action according to the values we proclaim.

As Australian Church Women: What areas of concern do we wish to focus on during the coming year? Are social issues as important an area of our activities as are other activities? What actions are most feasible for our members at local level and what assistance do they need from the Social Issues Committee in order to undertake them? What are the best and most suitable ways to raise awareness of social issues amongst our members?

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Janet Lang, Convener

I am pleased to present the Fellowship of the Least Coin's Annual Report, for the first time by me. As you know, I took over the position of convener last July from our talented and very able Nancy McLaren, who now designs and prints all our ACW publicity materials.

The generosity continues as donations keep flowing in. So many prayers and so many gifts accompanying prayers from all you people who have the same vision Shanti Solomon (the founder of FLC) had all those years ago—and it continues—hope, forgiveness and new life to countless women throughout the world.

The gift of love tokens this year, March 2004-March 2005 have amounted to \$14,331.00, which includes \$6,684.00 from World Community Day.

The new Circle of Prayer book, volume 17 *To Soar Like and Eagle—Lord, Lift us in Your Spirit* has not yet appeared, however copies of volume 16 are still available if you would like one.

We are celebrating fifty years of FLC this year, and we will be incorporating this milestone in some of our activities.

If you know of a group in your church community that would benefit from an FLC grant, please let me know. If you have a project in mind ask for an application form. Applications have to be submitted to the National FLC convener by the end of April each year.

Australia has two FLC grants for 2005. They are:

- (1) *Journey to Wholeness*, a Uniting Care project at Kwinana, WA;
- (2) *Grace in Restoring Life*, a program of the Women's Space Hope Street Urban Compassion, Woolloomooloo, Sydney.

ACWC REPORT

Ramona Cowle, Convener

Pleasant Sunday Afternoon at Punchbowl Baptist Church was an occasion to remember. Earlwood Salvation Army Band contributed great music and the choir were excellent. Joan and David Tong gave us, as usual, an enjoyable number. There was a good fellowship from the 105 who attended from a mixed background.

Our prayers went to the people of Japan, who suffered after the earthquake and the victims of the storms in the Philippines, but nothing prepared us for the disaster that hit 10 Asian countries on Boxing Day. ACWC has 7 members out of those 10 tsunami victim countries. We praised our God for the good hearts of the Australian people who were quick to respond to the needs of the victims. We heard how He saved His flock from that disaster. We continue to pray for their spiritual and physical healing.

BURWOOD-CONCORD BRANCH

Bonnie Lyons, Secretary

At the Annual Meeting in February 2004 the following office bearers were elected: President—Mrs Yvonne Coorey; Vice President—Mrs Lois Balleine; Secretary—Miss Bonnie Lyons; Treasurer—Mrs Heather Whitefield.

The annual Fellowship Day Service was held on Friday 27 July at St Andrew's Anglican Church, Strathfield. Our Guest Speaker was Mrs Janet Harrison who presented an inspiring and challenging message on the theme "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you". The musical contribution by our Soloist, Mrs Julia Hobbs, added greatly to the spirit of worship and love which was evident. A happy time of fellowship was enjoyed over a light luncheon served by the St Andrew's ladies.

The World Community Day Service was held on Thursday, 28 October, at St Ambrose Catholic Church, Concord West. Our Guest Speaker on this occasion was Mrs Peg McEntee, whose message was both inspirational and thought-provoking on the theme: "That they may be one". A solo presented by Roseanne Hogan was much appreciated. Following the service the St Ambrose ladies served a delicious 'al fresco' lunch which was greatly enjoyed, along with the fellowship shared.

We are grateful to the Parish Priest at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Enfield, for allowing us to use their small meeting room for our meetings.

As we attend these ACW meetings and the Special Services we are very conscious of the wonderful spirit of co-operation and fellowship which has developed into lasting friendships.

We give thanks and praise to God who brings us together and gives us a continuing sense of belonging to His universal family.

DEE WHY BRANCH

Helen Richardson, Convener

The two meetings held in 2004 were happy occasions when members of a number of local churches were able to worship together, and there was good chatter as we gathered after the services for morning tea. The speaker at Fellowship Day was the Rev Sandra Salmon, a deacon working with St John's Anglican Church at Dee Why. At World Community Day we were pleased to welcome our National President, Major Nancy McLaren as speaker. Both these ladies gave thought provoking addresses in keeping with the themes.

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC.
CAPITAL FUNDS STATEMENT 31 DECEMBER 2004**

BALANCES

Commonwealth Bank Account 06 2146 1000 7297		2770.35
Glebe Administration Board At Call Account 100024S1	1500.00	
100024S1.1	<u>3000.00</u>	4500.00
Uniting Church Trust Association At Call Account 2201520S10		119.06
Churches of Christ At Call Account 106940		<u>10782.11</u>
		<u>18171.52</u>

FUNDS

ORGANISATION A/c		12718.19
NEWSETTE		
B/fwd 1/1/2004	1377.25	
Subscriptions	<u>655.00</u>	
	2032.25	
Less Costs	<u>677.48</u>	1354.77
TRAVEL FUND		
B/fwd 1/1/2004	714.08	
Add receipts	<u>133.80</u>	
	847.88	
Paid to ACW National	<u>300.00</u>	547.88
STOCK		
B/fwd 1/1/2004	1733.30	
Add sales	<u>42.50</u>	1775.80
STATE CONFERENCE		
B/fwd 1/1/2004	628.41	
Add Receipts	<u>1625.00</u>	
	2253.41	
Less Expenses	<u>1992.57</u>	260.84
SPECIAL FUNCTIONS		
B/fwd 1/1/2004		116.44
ACWC PARTNERS		
B/fwd 1/1/2004	-154.95	
Receipts	<u>748.70</u>	
	593.75	
Paid to ACW National	<u>500.00</u>	93.75
WORLD COMMUNITY DAY F/SHIP OF THE LEAST COIN		325.40
	<u>978.45</u>	
		<u>18171.52</u>

PUBLICITY REPORT

Nancy McLaren (Publicity Convener)

What a great year we have had in Australian Church Women 2004-5. Publicity leaflets and posters were produced as needed enabling members to advertise events in their denominations.

Our President Lyn has very capably presided over our State Executive and Council meetings where we have been both challenged and encouraged by her devotions and leadership.

What a great day of fellowship we had at our Day Conference "Word & Walk". Our first session was presented by Major Geanette Seymour "Walking in the Word" followed by two very informative sessions—Kairos Prison Ministries, one of the projects supported from offerings at WCD; and Hope Street Urban Compassion, one of two Australian projects to receive an FLC grant in 2005.

World Community Day services were held in October and I am sure you felt uplifted in your spirit joining with others and knowing that somewhere in our Nation there were others who also were sharing in this great service prepared by South Australia Unit, "Be One that the World May Believe".

Our Pleasant Sunday Afternoon held at Punchbowl Baptist Church was a good day meeting with other Christians in a multicultural environment.

We joined with others in prayer at the World Day of Prayer services throughout our world on the first Friday in March and I am sure that wherever you met you were blessed.

Plans for the biennial National Conference to be held at Collaroy, October 9th – 14th are progressing well. National Executive—this time based in NSW—would appreciate your support in prayer.

TRADING TABLE

Helen Hill

Thanks to all the kind ladies who contribute so faithfully to the trading table each month.

The sum raised over the past year is \$371.90.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC.
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR TWELVE MONTHS
ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2004

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Administration	2665.56	Administration	1708.91
Investment Interest	203.90	Newsette	677.48
Stock	42.50	Travel Fund	300.00
Newsette	655.00	Fellowship of the Least Coin	14310.78
Travel Fund	133.80	Winifred Kiek Scholarship	252.23
Fellowship of the Least Coin	13827.48	Fellowship Day	5385.42
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	252.23	World Community Day	3759.69
Fellowship Day	5031.23	Asian Church Womens Conference	500.00
World Community Day	4293.38	Special Days	24.00
Asian Church Womens Confer.	748.70	State Conference	2059.64
State Conference	1692.07		
Balance 1/1/2004	<u>2202.65</u>	Balance 31/12/2004	<u>2770.35</u>
	31748.50		31748.50

AUDITORS REPORT:

I have examined the Books, Documents and Accounts of Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc. for the year ended 31 December 2004 and find that, in my opinion, the attached Statements of Receipts and Payments and Capital Funds give a fair view of the affairs of Australian Church Women NSW Inc. as at the 31 December, 2004.

Signature:

M Lys FCPA

Date:

5/2/2005

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC.
SPECIAL FUNDS ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 2004

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Brought forward 1/1/2004		1461.75	
Received to year ended 30 November 2003		<u>13585.43</u>	
		15047.18	
Less expenses: Postage, etc.	319.16		
5% to ACW NSW	736.40		
Paid to ACW National	13991.62	<u>15047.18</u>	
Receipts to December 2004 carried forward			978.45

FELLOWSHIP DAY SERVICE

Brought forward 1/1/2004		354.19	
Receipts for year ended 30 November 2004		<u>5302.95</u>	
		5657.14	
Less expenses: Printing and postage	222.60		
5% to ACW NSW	271.72		
Paid to ACW National	5162.82	<u>5657.14</u>	

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY SERVICE

Brought forward 1/1/2004		-208.29	
Receipts to 30 November 2004		<u>4110.50</u>	
		3902.21	
Less expenses: Printing and postage	1051.75		
5% to ACW NSW	142.52		
Paid to ACW National	<u>2707.94</u>	<u>3902.21</u>	
Receipts to December 2004 carried forward			325.40

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

Receipts to 30 November 2004		265.50	
Less expenses: 5% to ACW NSW	13.27		
Paid to ACW National	<u>252.23</u>	<u>265.50</u>	