

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

WOMEN AT WORK



SEEKS:

- 1) To unite Australian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ;
- 2) To help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life & mission of the Church.

As we enjoy our Christmas with family and friends, let us not forget those less fortunate than ourselves - not only overseas but in this beautiful land God gave us to share. Let us try to visit just one lonely person or one poorer family between now and December 25th, 1980.



A very Happy and Holy
Christmas, from all of us
on the Working Committee.

NEWS FROM THE TASMANIAN UNIT

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY AT BURNIE Report from Mrs. J. Easter

It has not been the custom for Burnie to hold World Community Day and as a special FLC celebration, nineteen ladies travelled by bus from Launceston. Our driver was Vice President Mrs. Shirley Brooks, a lady of many talents!

The venue was the Salvation Army Citadel, and the date Monday 20th October, 1980. Mrs. Mary Weldon opened the morning session (Burnie President) with a welcome to all present, (approximately 40). She introduced Mrs. Capt. Lynette Green (State President) who conducted "Understanding ACW, its structure, aims and projects".

Remembering the Resolution passed at National Committee Meeting under "Promotion and Programme", the gathering divided into three groups:

- 1) Bible Study, led by Mrs. B. Edwards. Very worthwhile discussion.
- 2) Role of Women in the Decision Making Structures of the Church, led by Mrs. J. Easter.
- 3) Gathering of Resources, led by Mrs. Capt. Green.

Some of the Ideas:

- a) Members roll call - each reply with a verse of Scripture
- b) Spontaneous prayers, or verse from Bible
- c) Speakers - community activity, e.g. Life Link, Community Information Centre
 - world scene, e.g. work of Mother Theresa, various missionary societies
- d) Discussion
- e) Invitations to friends to share
- f) Caring for Others Fellowship

After sharing lunch together we attended World Community Day. Ladies from various Burnie Churches participated, and Mrs. Capt. Green preached on seven types of hope, including hope as an anchor, hope as a helmet and hope eternal.

It was a very "Special Day" - one we will remember, the first celebration of World Community Day at Burnie. It was a time of wonderful fellowship, renewing of old friendships and making new ones, worthwhile discussion, encouragement of interest shown in ACW, and most of all, the warmth of Christian love.

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NEW BEGINNINGS ... Report from Mrs. S. Brooks

"New Beginnings" was the theme when about 34 women from all over Tasmania attended a Home League Camp at Turners Beach.

Our leaders for the week were Mrs. Major Smart, Divisional Home League Secretary, and Mrs. Capt. Armstrong, Assistant Divisional Home League Secretary. ACW TAS State President Mrs. Capt. Green was also present.

Our Special Guest Mrs. Commissionaire Linnett, Territorial Home League President joined in all activities, which included demonstrations of hand crafts by Mrs. Lesley White of Hobart. Other activities were musical and speech items from the Corps represented at camp, colour slides of the Salvation Army Centenary Congress in Adelaide, and small Bible Study groups with a wonderful time of sharing together.

Mrs. Linnett spoke about the Congress and of the early days of the Army, especially its pioneer women. On open day she spoke on New Beginnings to over 100 women. As we broke camp, the new and old friends and the fellowship we had together will be taken with us as we begin the next hundred years of Christian Service.

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THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN DECISION MAKING STRUCTURES OF CHURCHES

Summary of Group Discussion at World Community Day at Burnie

The role of women varied from church to church and area to area. There is no discrimination against women in some churches, they take their part on Parish Councils etc. Women may not want to be active in this area for many reasons. It was felt that in some churches, because of tradition, women are still on the fringe. In some churches because of lack of men to fill positions, women are taking a more active part, particularly in country areas. It was felt that women have a great deal to offer in decision making and pastoral care where they can show great compassion in times of crisis.

We must encourage children to participate fully, especially through the adolescent years. This can be carried out through the Sunday Schools and Youth Groups. Initiate training programmes for women, within the church, so that they don't have to look to outside organizations.

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR...

There was a very happy atmosphere at our November Working Committee meeting. As you would have read in the last W at W, the 1981 Winifred Kiek Scholar has been chosen and we would like to say "thank you" to Marion for all her hard work.

We also bade farewell to Rachel and Marie on the eve of their departure for Manila for the Celebrations of the Silver Jubilee of FLC.

Once again in these few weeks preceeding the Feast of the birth of our Lord and Saviour, we are asked to think and contemplate on its great meaning.

"Peace on earth, good will towards men"

In this modern world with its rumours of wars, earthquakes, famines etc. which are before us all the time through the media, it is hard to understand the Peace Jesus came to give.

We have, over the years, commercialised Christmas, dressed it up in tinsel, plastic and coloured balls. The simple green tree that Dad and the children went to the bush to cut and drag home, is replaced with an expensive silver affair! The little hand-made presents are replaced with washing machines, TVs, stereos and "goodness knows what" for the children! But one really needs to remember Christmas as it was in the stable nearly 2000 years ago.

So let us enjoy our family feast with just a little thought for those who haven't even the necessities of life in the Third World and then we will come just a little closer to the "Peace which passes all understanding".

Christian Love is beautifully symbolized in our Christmas Bowl emblem and verse for this year. We will have further opportunity to practise this Love in the coming year - The International Year of the Disabled.

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There will be no Women at Work in January, but keep your news coming for February.