

* * INFORMATION PAGE * *

ALL A.C.W. MONIES — Affiliation Fees, Fellowship of the Least Coin, Subscriptions for Newsette or ACWC News, Offertories from Special Days, Payments or Donations are to be sent to the Treasurer:

Mrs Marie Majoor
521 Mowbray Road
LANE COVE 2066
(Tel: 428.2384)

ALL CHEQUES to be made payable to 'AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN' and NOT to any individual person.

FEES from AFFILIATED GROUPS are due 1st March each year, as follows:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Denominational Groups: | \$15.00 per annum |
| A.C.W. Local Branches: | \$10.00 per annum |
| Organisations eg YWCA, WCTU, Girls' Brigade: | \$10.00 per annum |

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS FEES due 1st June: \$10.00 per annum
(includes subscription to Newsette)

NEWSETTE is the official journal of the NSW State Unit of Australian Church Women. It is published four times a year on the 1st February, May, August and November. The Annual Subscription is \$5 (payable to Treasurer as above).

CONTRIBUTIONS to Newsette are requested from readers and should be sent to the Editor: Mrs Beryl McLaughlin
31/78 Albert Road
STRATHFIELD 2135
(Tel: 764.2625)
(in the first week of the month prior to publication)

CHANGES OF NAME OR ADDRESS of subscribers should be sent to the Newsette Secretary: Mrs Carmel Emmett
5 Owen Avenue
BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

... CHRISTIANITY begins where religion ends —
with the RESURRECTION ...



NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN — NSW UNIT

A C W seeks:

- ... to unite Australian churchwomen in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;
- ... to provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together.

PRESIDENT: Mrs Lucelle King Tel: (046) 47.2226

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

At my Induction Service in May 1994, we read passages of Scripture which emphasised my Presidential Theme: "JESUS CHRIST PRE-EMINENT." I leave this Office with the same message.

In Philippians 2:5-11, we are told that our attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ — This will keep Him 'pre-eminent.'

In Colossians 1:15-20, we are told that Jesus is Lord, that He is the Head of the Church, and that He alone ought to have first place. Let's keep Jesus Christ 'pre-eminent.'

In John 17:20-23, Christ prays for the unity of all believers — one in Christ, He being 'pre-eminent.'

This is what we should be showing to the world — our oneness, our love, our loyalty to Jesus Christ. Read these passages over again.

If God has only enabled this truth to be grasped by us all during the past two years, I believe my job as President has been worthwhile.

Let me commend my successor, Peg Blake of the Presbyterian

2.

Church. She is a lovely, gracious, godly lady, and very capable of leadership. I know she will endear herself to us and do an excellent job. Do pray for her and support her as much as you have done for me.

I have been very grateful for all your encouragements. God bless you all.

Lucelle King, President.

PROFILE of NEW STATE PRESIDENT:

Peg Blake has served on the State Council of NSW Unit of ACW for ten years and has held the positions on Executive of Promotions Convener, Minute Secretary, and Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convener, so will bring a wealth of experience to her role as State President for the forthcoming 2 years, when the current President, Lucelle King (from the Baptist Church) retires from that position on May 20th.

Peg was a foundation member of Caringbah Presbyterian Church and the then Women's Guild, and is currently President of the Day Branch of the Presbyterian Women's Association. As well as being a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, Peg is involved in other church and community programmes - Kindergarten/Primary Sunday School superintendent for 28 years and Scripture Teacher in schools; she loves music and enjoys participating in choirs.

Peg leads a team to nursing homes with Prayer On Wheels; has been responsible for preparing and printing the weekly bulletin for Sunday worship for 30 years and has completed 20 years as a volunteer reader for the Royal Blind Society's Talking Books programme. This year she is recording SPAN, the PWA Magazine, and reading it for blind and sight-impaired members of PWA.

Peg's desire is to raise awareness of Australian Church Women and encourage participation from many others from all our denominations who are not yet involved in our ecumenical activities, projects and fellowship.

As Peg's Installation Service is on the Monday following our Conference, we hope that some country members may remain in Sydney after attending the Conference, to share in this inspiring service of dedication, as well as many city members and friends.

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ACW NSW UNIT -- ANNUAL DEDICATION SERVICE

& INSTALLATION OF PRESIDENT FOR 1996-97

Monday, 20th May 1996 at 10.30 a.m.

At CHALMERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(Cnr Chalmers & Bedford Streets Surry Hills)

Light Refreshments to follow. Craft Stall

Directions:

Best come by train as no parking in area; alight Central Station, exit by Devonshire Street tunnel; cross at lights, turn right, short walk to church.

NEWLY-ELECTED STATE COUNCIL:

At the Annual Meeting of NSW State Unit on 15th April, the following Officer-bearers and Conveners were elected for the ensuing year, apart from the President and Retiring President, who are as appointed:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Secretary: | Joan Tong |
| Assistant Secretary: | Beverley Elliott |
| Minute Secretary: | Mina Whybourne |
| Treasurer: | Marie Majoor |
| W.K.S. Convener: | Beth Finlay |
| F.L.C. Convener: | Shirley Wells |
| Membership Secretary: | Beverley Elliott |
| Publicity/Promotions: | (to be announced) |
| Special Days Convener: | Edith Ridge |
| Functions Convener: | Marie McCann |
| Social Issues Convener: | Heather Reid |
| Newsette Editor: | Beryl McLaughlin |
| Newsette Distrib'n Sec: | Carmel Emmett |
| Stock Secretary: | Averil Whybird |

Delegates appointed to other organisations:

National Council of Women: Shirley Wells, Beth Finlay.
World Day of Prayer C'tee: Ruth Smith, Margaret Jessup, Olive Edmonstone, Judith Baker.
N.S.W. Ecumenical Council: Marie McCann
Children's Film & Television Council: Margaret Craig, Heather Reid, Margaret Collier.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

Nighat Gulzar (1994 Scholar) sent greetings at Christmas and Easter from Lahore, Pakistan, and although we have no up-to-date news of her working situation, we know that she is very happy with her husband, Asif, and extremely grateful for the opportunities afforded her by ACW to improve her skills in office organisation and management.

Greetings, with appreciation for our constant prayers, have also been received from 1991 Scholar, Rachel (Sobana) Kanly, who is now the Nursing Administrator at the Catherine Booth Salvation Army Hospital, Magercoil, India, and is kept very busy. Rachel still speaks with gratitude of the wonderful opportunity she had in Australia and the very helpful experiences, thanks to God and ACW. Three-year-old son Brian is a constant joy to her!

Although no further details are to hand as we go to print, we understand that two projects in Cambodia are to be supported in the current year instead of the awarding of a Scholarship. Our support will be channelled through the Cambodian Christian Women's Association, and will be for a Weaving & Tailoring Course, and for Literature & English Language classes.

We have heard that Rachel Rolland (1995 Scholar) has finally been able to take up her scholarship and commence a suitable course, although we do not know where.

We are excited at the prospect of meeting Deaconess Barkat Das (1978 Scholar) who expects to visit Sydney in June. Barkat is to attend a Nurses' Christian Fellowship International Conference in Hong Kong in first week of July, and as June/July are her holiday months, she hopes to visit Australia. An invitation has been extended to Barkat to join us at our Council Meeting on 17th June and it will be our pleasure to meet her and hear her speak about Pakistan.

Please keep our Scholars in your constant prayers.

Peg Blake (W.K.S. Convener)

NEW Y.W.C.A. REPRESENTATIVE TO NSW UNIT:

At March and April Council Meetings we have had the opportunity to meet Ruth Callaghan, who has been appointed by the Y.W.C.A. as their representative to ACW. Welcome, Ruth!

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:**40th ANNIVERSARY - COME, CELEBRATE, REJOICE AND PRAY!**

Donations of Least Coins are still being received from many groups throughout N.S.W. Our sincere thanks again for the great support that is being given by so many people. Invitations to speak at meetings are also being received, and some members of our Executive are being and will be kept busy - no one is complaining - we are all so happy to be able to talk about such a wonderful Fellowship!

Our 40th Anniversary Celebrations are being planned for October and we will let you have details well in advance and in August Newsette. It is hoped to have some Asian ladies as our special guests at that time and it will be lovely to meet them and hear their story at first hand.

Copies of the special edition of Circle Of Prayer produced to commemorate the 40th Anniversary are available from me (Phone 872.1719) for \$2.00. In this booklet is a brief history of F.L.C. and contributions re-printed from many of the 12 volumes published through the years. Available also - F.L.C. Offering Boxes, Teaspoons, and copies of the 1994 Report.

It has been suggested that one way of celebrating this 40th Anniversary would be to offer 40 coins as a thanksgiving for the way God has worked through F.L.C., the many blessings we have received, and the fellowship we have enjoyed through our partnership in F.L.C.

F.L.C. is growing and maturing; let us renew our commitment of prayer and giving, so that we can share more grants with the needy from all parts of the world. We rejoiced with grateful thanks to God when the Treasurer reported at our recent State Annual Meeting that more than \$11,000 came in in contributions from N.S.W. for F.L.C. in 1995.

Shirley Wells (F.L.C. Convener)

F.L.C. GRANT FOR ABORIGINAL PROJECT:

The LOWARDA Aboriginal Corporation in Derby W.A. has received word that their application for a grant from F.L.C. has been successful; they will receive US\$ 3000 to develop their Jewellery & Artifact business. (From ACW National News)

FIRST NATIONAL ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

One cannot adequately put into words the experience of sharing this conference with our indigenous women. It was a tremendous privilege, and left one with a sense of great responsibility - to be in solidarity with them - to stand beside them - just to be there.

We were asked to listen to their stories and not to respond with quick fix solutions on advice, explanations and justifications - just to listen.

"You gave us the Bible
and took away our land."

"You took us from our homes,
our families and our culture."

"Our young people are victimised."

"Your missionaries imposed a
patriarchal structure which
was never part of our culture."

"You have benefited from a
society that condones
oppression and exploitation."

"Until 1967 we were listed
on the register of flora and fauna
for census statistics."

"Whole groups were loaded onto
cattle trucks, taken away from
their land and dumped on reserves."

"Why haven't you involved us
in negotiation?"

You may have consulted us,
but not negotiated with us."

"Our health problems are enormous."

"You fenced our hunting grounds
and cut off our food supplies."

"Many of our people still
live without adequate shelter
and clean water."

"The Constitution of this country doesn't recognise Aboriginal people."

"WHY DIDN'T YOU EVER PROTEST THESE INJUSTICES?"

These were just a few of the cries of pain.

Professor Jacquelyn Grant from the USA led our studies each morning. She has an impressive list of qualifications, awards and honours. At present she is Professor of Systematic Theology at the International Theological Centre, and Founder and Director of "Black Women in Church and Society" - a program supporting the leadership development of black women, and the enhancement of participation by black women in church.

Her theme throughout the conference was the Empowerment of Women. She spoke of the oppressive structures to which many women are exposed.

RE-PRINTED FROM ACW NATIONAL NEWS

These are economic, political, sexual and social. She believes "Womanist Theology" can provide a new way of structuring "reality", a way to empower women for equality, participation and liberation. Black women in the USA and Australia have embraced "Womanist Theology" as distinct from "Feminist Theology". In simple terms, they say that in "Womanist Theology" we want to stand beside our men, not hate them as some connotations of the word "Feminist" imply.

Where to from here? What connection do we have in the liberation of Aboriginal women? On the Saturday afternoon, Rev. Ann Wansbrough, a member of the Uniting Church Board for Social Responsibility in NSW, led a plenary session. She was able to take all the talk, and all the emotion, and "earth it", and say now in practical terms, "where do we go from here?" She cited legislation in various Australian states which, while not racist in its terms of reference, was very racist in its application. In some situations, the treatment of our indigenous people violates the United Nations Charter of Human Rights. Our society is racist, based on class, sexist, and based on imperialism. If you are female and black, you are at a great disadvantage. She urged us to look at "reality" from the perspective of our Aboriginal sisters.

From listening to the stories of our Aboriginal women, she suggested that they are saying the following things to us:

1. They believe very strongly that Aboriginal women should control ministry to Aboriginal women.
2. The system of oppression by "White Religion" needs to be deconstructed.
3. They believe we should be more demanding of our leaders on issues.
4. They believe that we need to act for change. "Don't cry for me - organise, think, act, strategise."

The Sunday sessions were devoted to recommendations, resolutions and statements from the various workshop groups. These are to be published, along with a full conference report which will be available for purchase from bookshops in due course.

A final worship session, in which we participated in the washing of each other's feet, and the lighting of candles, closed the conference.

As Australian Church Women, I believe we have done something really worthwhile in donating \$10,000 from our funds for this conference. This is the first of what is hoped to be a continuing dialogue between indigenous and non-indigenous Christian women.

Jenny Jarvis
Winifred Kiek National Convenor.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ACW NATIONAL NEWS:

... Another F.L.C. Grant to an Australian project - the Girls' Brigade in N.S.W. are to receive US\$ 2000, to assist with the development of their leadership training programme.

... The South Australian Unit are celebrating their Diamond Jubilee in 1996 - the 60th Anniversary of the formation in 1938 of the Women's United Church Association by a group of women from 13 different denominations, which later became ACW South Australia Unit. This Unit were pleased to welcome two Lutheran ladies for the first time at their World Community Day Service in 1995.

... A World Community Day Service was held for the first time in Alice Springs in 1995, with 3 denominations represented.

... National President Evonne Sullivan attended a luncheon to meet Mrs Youn Sook Lee, President of the National Council of Women of Korea, who was visiting Canberra as a guest of the Dept of Foreign Affairs & Trade. Mrs Lee was keen to broaden her knowledge of women's groups in Australia; her particular interests included women's participation in politics, education, broadcasting, consumer and environmental issues.

... ACW women in Honours List! Congratulations to Mrs Peg McEntee (NSW) and Mrs Marjorie Scurloch (WA) who have been awarded the Medal of The Order Of Australia, and Mrs Eileen Glass (ACT) who was made a Member of The Order of Australia.

... In Bangalore, India, a National Women's Consultation in co-operation with the All-India Christian Council of Women concluded with the following "action points" - to re-read the Scriptures and interpret them in context; to write a personal 'story' expressing women's pain and suffering, and acknowledging their varied gifts; organise women's support groups; abolish traditions that cause women's de-humanisation eg "dowry"; follow-up regional seminars to raise consciousness; promote active participation in other women's activities eg Black Thursday; prayer rallies.

NEW PROMOTIONAL ITEM:

NSW Unit have for sale at \$3.50 a most useful slim 'booklet', similar to a pocket diary, containing 4 plastic sleeves for cards, passes etc, an address book and a notebook. Covers have ACW Badge on front and come in colours such as black, navy or marone. Enquire from Stock Secretary Averil Whybird (558.7865).

A Report From THE GIRLS' BRIGADE:

In 1968, Miss Jacki Kini from Papua New Guinea was a recipient of a Winifred Kiek Scholarship, which enabled her to have Girls' Brigade training in Australia. She spent three months with the 24th Sydney Company (Chatswood Church of Christ) where she was billeted with the Captain of the Company, Mrs Jean Dubois. On her return to P.M.G. Jacki made use of her training and carried out officer-training in a number of areas in her country.

"Cast your bread upon the waters" (Ecclesiasties 11:1)

Early in 1995, an item appeared in Newsette asking for people to help the refugee children in the Villawood Detention Centre by donating toys. I spoke to the State Council of Brigade and our State Commissioner placed a notice in the Girls' Brigade publication, 'Talkabout.'

The Captain from the Baptist Church at Green Point produces a Company Newsletter and put the 'Talkabout' notice in that, to fill up a small space! She nominated a date, which was a week before she was coming to Sydney for the Captains' and Chaplains' Prayer Breakfast - this would enable her to deliver any toys to Brigade headquarters.

A Grade-6 Brigader in her Company, Karen Groves, read the notice, and decided she could help; with her older and younger sisters, she shares a paper run, and decided to give her pocket money to buy toys; her younger sister also decided to share hers too. They asked their mother to take them to the local fetes, where they bought toys, many of which were 'pre-loved' and with their mother's help they rejuvenated them.

On the night before the Prayer Breakfast, Mrs Groves arrived and asked "Where shall I put them?" The Captain asked what she meant, as she had forgotten all about the notice, and nobody else had brought in toys.

Imagine her surprise and delight when she was able to take a very large pile of toys to Sydney, to add to a wonderful assortment at Headquarters.

She later had another large load to deliver, as others in the Company were encouraged by one girl's selfless and loving example.

Heather Reid (Girls' Brigade
Representative to ACW)

TWO 1996 CENTENARIES BEING CELEBRATED:

NATIONAL-COUNCIL OF WOMEN NSW:

A particularly interesting part of NCW's Centenary celebrations is the exhibition of items of history and memorabilia of the National Council which is on display in the Fountain Court of Parliament House, Sydney, through the months of April, May and June. It is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each week-day and is very well worth a visit - there will be folk on duty to show you round and explain, also information folders and other items. ACW Council members plan to go as a group following June Council meeting and anyone would be welcome to join us.

Later, on June 26, there will be a re-enactment of the first meeting of National Council held in the vestibule of Sydney Town Hall at 1.45 pm and the Centenary Conference Dinner in the evening. On June 27, NCW's Fourth Annual Seminar will be held in Parliament House Theatre.

August will bring the launch of the Centenary Postage Stamp Issue and other functions - more details in August Newsette.

In December a Thanksgiving Service is to be held in St James' Church King Street Sydney - ACW has been asked to undertake responsibility for preparing this.

ANGLICAN MOTHERS' UNION:

A most inspiring Centenary Festival Service was held in March in St Andrew's Cathedral, with an impressive procession of a large number of banners from many Sydney and country parishes. This was followed by a luncheon in the Lower Sydney Town Hall. President Lucelle King represented ACW at this celebration.

To mark the centenary in another significant and practical way, the M.U. are holding seminars across the diocese called "Resolving Conflict." The first of these is on Friday July 26 from 10 am to 1 pm in the Auditorium of St Andrew's House, Sydney Square. This will be led by Mrs Jill Cochrane of the Anglican Counselling Service, who has had extensive training in Australia and America and is a very gifted communicator.

M.U. do not plan these seminars as just an Anglican project but hope that people from across Sydney will attend. Rather than seeing conflict in a negative light, they hope these seminars will give people positive skills to deal with the variety of conflicts we all face in our day to day lives.

UPDATE ON NUNGALINYA COLLEGE, DARWIN:

ACW has given financial support to Nungalinya on several past occasions, including the World Community Day Special Project offertories in November 1991.

1995 brought a milestone in College history, with the appointment of the first Aboriginal Principal, the Rev Wali Fejo - this was a dream that had finally been fulfilled. A moving hand-over ceremony, rich in Aboriginal culture, was held to mark the change in leadership. At the same time, the Trustees recognised that additional administrative support was needed, and an Administrator, Mr Geoff Sargent was appointed.

Some of the Nungalinya courses are now TAFE-accredited, and the Nungalinya Network throughout Australia has developed and strengthened.

The two Theology programs, a Certificate and an Associate Diploma have been established for 2 years. 1995 saw a growth in numbers attending short courses both at Nungalinya and at Wontulp-Bi-Buya in Queensland, at the Institute For Mission in Sydney and at TACL (Training Aboriginal Christian Leaders in Adelaide; there is continuing progress in the development of a University level Diploma in Ministry.

Cross-Cultural Awareness: The expertise of Nungalinya is much sought after to provide training for church, government and private organisations in Aboriginal culture. These courses were re-developed in 1995 to include urban as well as traditional Aboriginal culture.

Bi-Cultural Life Studies: This Course continues to provide Aboriginal and Islander women with life skills which are important for them. The College, with government funding, carried out major research in Arnhem land re the needs of Aboriginal women, but sadly at the end of the year, funding was no forthcoming to instigate the very expensive programs that we recommended; it is heartening however to know the government itself will implement some support programs.

Literacy And Numeracy: The Bible Society and the Bush Church Aid Society support our programs in this area, for both College students and Aboriginal people living out on communities.

Textile Art: This TAFE-accredited course is unique to Nungalinya and helps develop the arts and craft skills of the students; in 1995 six students gained acceptance into courses of the Fine Arts Faculty at the Northern Territory University (From 'Friends Of Nungalinya' Newsletter)