



AUSTRALIAN
CHURCH WOMEN
NSW STATE UNIT Inc

52nd ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2015

IN CHRIST WE ARE ONE

Words and music – Lucelle King
Arranged Helen Scott 1991

We, being many, are one in the Lord;

Each one is different, but we're trusting in His Word.

For we are part of God's family thru' Jesus Christ His Son.

Tho' we are many, yet in Christ we are one.

We, being many, in Christ we are one.

[This song is sung at many of the gatherings of Australian Church Women Inc.]

ACW seeks

TO unite Australian Church women in their allegiance to their
Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

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

MISSION STATEMENT:

Australian Church Women believe that there is one God –
Father, Son and Holy Spirit; one God, Three-in-one.

We believe that Scripture teaches that salvation is only through
faith in the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ,
God's only Son.

Abbreviations:

ACW	Australian Church Women
ACWC	Asian Church Women's Conference
FLC	Fellowship of the Least Coin
NCW	National Council of Women
PPSEAWA	PanPacific & South east Asia Women's Association
W K S	Winifred Kiek Scholarship

President's Report

Natalie McLeod
email: mcleod.natalie@bigpond.com

Another year has flown for the ACW NSW State Unit Inc. and we have had our normal Executive and Council meetings. Our Annual General Meeting was held in April, while in May, we met at St. John's Beecroft for the Dedication and Installation Service where I started my time as your President. It was wonderful to see so many members and friends at that service together with representatives from other women's organisations.

Fellowship Day services were held in July and I was able to attend one at Woy Woy. In October, I visited Dee Why to speak at the World Community Day service. Major Lyn Middleton has organised for all the material for these services to go to the branches.

Our Conference Day was held at Strathfield in September, with a theme of "*Communicating the Message*", where we heard about the work of Global Recordings and Logosdor. I wasn't able to attend that day and I am grateful to Nola Dickson, who welcomed everyone, to Jan Harrison [Bible Study], Elizabeth McEwen and Yvonne Coorey [catering], and to Pamela Freeman who looked after the organisation.

This year our National Executive is in NSW, and the team under the leadership of Lyn Middleton has been busy preparing for the National Conference to be held at Collaroy from 7th to 11th September this year. Please come to the Open Day on Thursday 10th September.

Our meetings have been held regularly in the Uniting Church Rooms in Pitt St. and have been happy occasions, helped by Martha Noël greeting us all and making sure we have our name tags and minutes. Lillian Hodges has kept us up to date with the Fellowship of the Least Coin and she has been able to speak to other groups during the year.

Judith Cayzer continues to keep in touch with the Winifred Kiek Scholars and each meeting brings us news of the current ones as well as many former ones. Rae Goth makes us aware of many social issues in our community and often provides us with addresses to use to contact the relevant authorities to support, complain or protest.

Jennifer Pepper continues to produce Newsette, a lovely magazine about our activities, now enhanced by coloured photos.

Brenda Dickinson has been our web-site manager this year and has been alert to ways to publicise our activities through this medium, while Helen Hill keeps a watchful eye on us all in her Pastoral Care role and is always ready to pray for those who are sick or needing encouragement. Isabel Hewitt has spent with Lyn Middleton and Pamela, countless hours sorting out archival material. Much of it is fascinating reading!

My thanks go Helen Richardson, who has organised our finances over many years. At our AGM, Helen will hand over to Lt. Pat Cory, who is ready to continue this work.

Each meeting we have had reports from the Girl's Brigade, the Bible Society, PPSEAWA, NCW, and the World Day of Prayer Committee. Members have provided delicious morning teas, stocked our Trading Table, and organised our furniture in the room.

I am grateful to our secretary, Pamela Freeman for all the organisation done in her role as secretary. Pamela organised the ACWC Concert at Epping Baptist Church in August which was enjoyed by the performers and the large audience. In October she was a delegate to the Asian Church Women's Conference [ACWC] Quadrennial Assembly. At the AGM she will finish as Secretary to become our President Elect.

I attended thanksgiving services for Shirley Wells and Beryl Kirkwood. They were members who prayed for and with us, and encouraged us in many ways. They followed Our Lord and are now with Him and we are thankful for them. Thank you for all the help and encouragement you have given me this year. I know you pray for me - I couldn't keep going without it. With love Natalie McLeod.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC.
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR TWELVE MONTHS
ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2014

RECEIPTS

Administration - Fees & General	964.05
UFS Investment	649.17
Interest	1.45
'Winifred'	45.00
ACWC Newsletters	24.00
Travel Fund	834.00
Newsette	1,290.00
State Conference	41.00
Fellowship of the Least Coin	15,122.15
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	225.00
Fellowship Day	3,428.80
World Community Day	4,521.95
Asian Church Womans Con.	1,149.40
Bank Balance 1.1.14	<u>3,563.18</u>
	31,859.15

PAYMENTS

Administration	1,687.05
Postage and Stationery	314.89
ACWC Newsletters	60.00
Newsette	476.00
Travel Fund	450.00
Fellowship of the Least Coin	14,536.10
State Conferences	150.00
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	308.75
Fellowship Day	3,288.31
World Community Day	4,300.51
Asian Church Womans Conference	750.00
Outstanding cheque presented	24.00
Bank Balance 31.12.14	<u>5,513.54</u>
	31,859.15

AUDITOR'S REPORT:

We have examined the Books, Documents and Accounts of Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc. for the year ended 31 December 2014 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 31 December 2014.

[Signature]

Signature:

F.P. H. COOPER F.P.
[Signature]

16. 3. 15

Date:

16/3/15

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC.
CAPITAL FUNDS STATEMENT 31 DECEMBER 2014

BALANCES

Commonwealth Bank
Account 06 2146 1000 7297

5,513.54

FUNDS

NEWSETTE

B/fwd 1.1.2014	2,395.35
Subscriptions	<u>1,290.00</u>
	3,685.35
Less Costs	<u>476.00</u>
	3,209.35

TRAVEL FUND

B/fwd 1.1.2014	1,612.73
Add receipts	<u>834.00</u>
	2,446.73
Pd to ACW Nat.	<u>450.00</u>
	1,996.73

STATE CONFERENCES

B/fwd 1.1.2014	639.51
Add Receipts	<u>41.00</u>
	680.51
Less Costs	<u>150.00</u>
	530.51

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S
CONFERENCE

B/fwd 1.1.2014	943.70
Add Receipts	<u>1,142.40</u>
	2,093.10
Less Costs	50.00
Paid to ACW National	<u>700.00</u>
	1,343.10

7,079.69

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC.
SPECIAL FUNDS ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 2014

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN		
Carried Forward	893.05	
Received to 30 November 2014	<u>14,404.95</u>	
	15,298.00	
Less Expenses: 'Circle of Prayer'	<u>60.00</u>	
	15,238.00	
5% to ACW NSW	761.90	
Paid to ACW National	<u>14,476.10</u>	
Received 1-31 December, 2014 and carried forward		717.20
FELLOWSHIP DAY SERVICE		
Received to 30 November 2014	3,428.80	
Less expenses: Printing and postage	<u>618.94</u>	
	2,809.86	
5% to ACW NSW	140.49	
Paid to ACW National	<u>2,669.37</u>	
WORLD COMMUNITY DAY SERVICE		
Received to 30 November 2014	4,521.95	
Less expenses: Printing and postage	<u>93.00</u>	
	4,428.95	
5% to ACW NSW	221.44	
Paid to ACW National	<u>4,207.51</u>	
WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP		
Carried Forward	100.00	
Received to 30 November 2014	<u>225.00</u>	
	325.00	
5% to ACW NSW	16.25	
Paid to ACW National	<u>308.75</u>	

REPORT from the SECRETARY

Pamela Freeman

email: freeowp@netspace.net.au

It has been my privilege to serve you through Australian Church Women as the secretary for the NSW State Unit for the past 3 years. Having been named as the person to represent The Salvation Army in the role of State President, I take up the office of President Elect in May 2015, with my installation as President for NSW Sate Unit being in May 2016. Thank you for your ongoing prayerful support.

In August 2014, groups representing countries affiliated with Asian Church Women's Conference [ACWC] took part in a ***Concert of Praise***. What a delightful God blessed occasion, hearing artists from various cultures and ages! Thank you to all who supported the day. Australia, through ACW is one of the member countries affiliated with ACWC.

At the State Conference Day in September 2014, looking at ways of '***Communicating the Gospel***' we heard about ways that the gospel is translated into other languages and made available with easily managed technological equipment as produced by ***Global Recordings***. On the other hand ***Logosdor*** focuses on portraying the gospel to children using multi media. How fascinating to see the progress of the means of communicating God's Word over the years!

Prayer requests come from ACWC Executive Office regarding some of the natural and human disasters that occur in our part of the world. These prayer requests can be forwarded to you by email. Please contact me at the email address at the top of this page.

Pamela Freeman

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN. Major Lillian Hodges
email: bruce11lian@gmail.com

It is a pleasure to present the annual report for Fellowship of the Least Coin. I would like to thank you for your continued support for the Fellowship throughout the year. Your prayers have been added to so many right around the world.

World Community Day in October 2014 was a time to consider the theme **"Building with Godly Wisdom."** We thank the women of the combined churches of Cootamundra for the preparation of the Order of Service. Of significant interest was the drawing on the cover, of many faces in the shape of a church, to indicate that the church is the people of God. The general offering was divided between **Asian Church Women's Conference**, where funds support educational scholarships for the disadvantaged and development projects globally and the 2014 Special Project which was **Travellers' Aid, Victoria, Pathways to Education**. This program provides monthly, half-yearly and annual student travel passes to young people who are experiencing financial difficulties. I hope that you were able to attend a service in your area. At the Sutherland Branch service, held at The Salvation Army, Miranda, I was able to lead the segment of the service which focused on FLC and the story of Shanti and to provide musical support for the service.

I have been privileged throughout the year to travel to various parts of Sydney, Wollongong, and the Blue Mountains to tell the FLC story as well as speaking at PPSEAWA.

NSW executive, through the National executive, submitted an application form to the International Committee, requesting a grant from the Fellowship of the Least Coin Fund. I am very happy to inform you that this application was approved. The worthy recipient is Mums' Cottage in the Newcastle area. It is a place where young mums can attend and feel accepted, valued and respected. Workshops are conducted to assist the mothers and their children, giving both mum and child the best opportunities to thrive and grow. The staff maintains a peaceful, appealing atmosphere where mothers can feel free to be themselves. The programme is doing so well that some of the activities have been moved into the Church hall next door, as they need more space to provide the services that are required. Some of the ladies who attend the State Council in Sydney have visited this Centre, to see what is happening and the wide range of services offered. Fellowship of the Least Coin offers us a prayer partnership which knows no boundaries. In this programme we are connecting not competing with women right around the world. We are all one in Christ Jesus. Continue to pray for peace, justice and reconciliation for all people, as we give our least coins.

Logo for FLC - The idea for the FLC Logo – the praying hands forming a lotus flower – came from the late Mrs Rayann Ma from Hong Kong, who was the first Chairperson of the first Assembly of ACWC. The actual design was the gift of her brother-in-law, James Ma, a commercial artist.



SPECIAL DAYS

Major Lyn Middleton
email: middletonk@bigpond.com

Throughout 2014 our ACW branches state wide have continued to meet together for worship and fellowship as they have organised and conducted our two Special days. I am always very heartened as I read the reports, by the obvious enthusiastic effort that has gone into the preparation for the days. To know that women (and some men) from across up to seven different denominations and sometimes more than 14 different churches are meeting together for prayer, worship and fellowship is a real joy and a testimony to what ACW is doing for ecumenism

The Special Days during 2014 developed the theme of the NSW National Executive which took office in October 2013, namely, **Building in Harmony**. The topic for Fellowship Day was **Building Up The Body of Christ**. This service had been prepared by the ACT Unit of ACW. Thirteen services were held throughout the state with a total attendance of 532. The topic for World Community Day was **Building With Godly Wisdom**. This service had been prepared by the NSW Cootamundra branch. This was the first time NSW State Unit has requested a branch to prepare the service. At State Council we believe that this innovation was an outstanding success. The serviced was beautifully themed and creatively designed. Nineteen services were held and there was a total attendance of 730. It is encouraging to note that there were increased attendances at both Special Days this year.

All branches have been given the opportunity to submit project applications for our Special Project supported at World Community Day and also the Fellowship of the Least Coin Project Application Forms were sent to the branches to widen the scope of the project applications.

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Sincere appreciation is expressed to the members of all branches for their diligence and faithfulness in organising each Special Day. It is my prayer that these times of ecumenical fellowship will always be a source of spiritual refreshment.

Lyn Middleton

Theme Song: National Executive from NSW.

Let's build in harmony a bridge not to divide.
Building in harmony as we are unified
The Spirit tunes our hearts as one working side by side
In Christ we build in harmony and God is glorified.

Read the story of the woman behind the

Winifred Kiek Scholarship

Winifred by Margaret Knauerhase

Order your copy from Lieut Pat Cory Cost \$15
email: patc151722optusnet.com.au

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP [WKS]

Judith Cayzer
email: tootoot@tpg.com.au

Regular updates are received from some past scholars and unexpected replies from 'email connecting' sent out by National WKS Convener, Major Nancy McLaren.

We have followed our 2 scholars in 2014: Rev. Wasano Fernando [Sri Lanka] continues her studies for a Masters Degree in Transformative Theologies of Gender. Wasano went to Birmingham [UK] in September.

Sengja [Myanmar] was completing studies for Master of Divinity, Baptist Theological Seminary in Singapore. The cost of some books was given from the Honouring Australian Church Women Fund [HACW]. Sengja is greatly appreciated by the College Community.

Past scholars listed have connected. Rachel [McManus] Otto [1997]; Imelda Aquino [2008] Inise Foiakau [2010]. Some have completed studies while others are continuing ministries, with families doing well.

Leinamau [2007] Vanuatu, had answered prayer 'miraculously' and is studying in Fiji at the Pacific Theological College for 3 years. Doreen Tie [1990], Nighat Gulzar [1994] and Mary Au [1980] still exchange Christmas cards with us in Australia.

Scholars for 2015 being in Australia, we should hear more news. Hendriyane [Yane] Anthony [NT] has a husband and 2 children and will do studies in Post-Graduate Research in Christian Ministry with results to be used as guidelines in establishing a Christian Counselling Institute. Yane continues in Chaplaincy and home church ministry. Caryn Naomi Rogers [SA] is studying for Ph.D. in Linguistics and helping with the revival of an indigenous language on Eyre Peninsular. Caryn continues to work, teaching Hebrews¹ and marking papers for Old Testament students. Encouragement cards have been sent to these scholars.

Regular reports have been given for *Newsette*. Thankfulness for your prayerful support is often expressed by the girls.

The NSW Unit supports the Honouring Australian Church women fund. Thank you in partnership as we have worked with our National Theme 'Building in Harmony'.

SOCIAL ISSUES

Rae Goth
email: rgoth@optusnet.com.au

During the last 12 months we have encouraged our members to lobby our Government and other authorities over a wide range of issues.

We have contacted Local, State and Federal politicians on topics ranging from the welfare of refugees, proposed cutbacks to CSIRO and foster children seeking permanent homes to imminent reduced budgets of legal aid centres which would drastically affect unemployed youth, child care subsidies and assistance to funding aid to victims of domestic and elderly abuse.

We attempt to back up our lobbying with facts and figures and to conclude by asking relevant questions so as to ensure (or increase the possibility of) a specific response.

Our style is one of concerned and well-informed people who have a deep interest in their community and as national and international citizens.

MEMBERSHIP

Martha Noël
email: marthanoel@hotmail.com

The attendance at the Council meeting for 2014/15 averaged 33.5. We had 5 resignations during the last year and 2 ladies left us to be with our Lord; Shirley Wells and Beryl Kirkwood.

We welcome our new representative for The Bible Society: Jo Armstrong and a new delegate for the Salvation Army Major Christine Stiles. The attendance is good.

Thank You to the Ladies for making the effort to come and participate. It is appreciated by the whole committee. Absentees who send their apologies averaged 8.3.

PASTORAL REPORT

Helen Hill
email: dahill4@bigpond.com

We have been very saddened recently to lose our dear friend and committee member Mrs Beryl Kirkwood who has gone to be with her Lord. Beryl had not enjoyed good health for some time but always was cheerful and thinking about others. Please pray for her family.

Some of our members have experienced changing situation during the year; new living arrangements; loved ones who require more care; health issues for themselves.

We ask our Lord to bless those who are sad, those who have lost loved ones. Many are facing an uncertain future, for those who are carers, for those who have family worries, may they know that Our Lord is beside them as they struggle in life and that He hears their prayers.

NEWSETTE

Jennifer Pepper
email: rjpeffer@optusnet.com.au

Issue No 142 was printed and mailed in February this year - assuming that there have been 4 copies produced each year, my maths tells me that this magazine for ACW NSW Inc could have celebrated its 35th birthday.

Thank you to all who continue to subscribe as we endeavour to share up-to-date news and articles from our Convenors which are topical, encouraging and seek to be ecumenical in content.

Articles may be submitted – maybe a recipe, a poem, a simple competition to test ‘the little grey cells’. As space permits you could find yourself in print!

We have endeavoured to publicise coming events such as *Fellowship Day* (supporting the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trust); *World Community Day* (supporting the Fellowship of the Least Coin, the Special Project (Australia) selected for the year and Asian Church Women’s Conference). Services for both of these ‘Special Days’ feature aspects of the National theme for two years...currently the theme is ‘**Building in Harmony**’.

This year NSW is hosting the ACW Inc. National Conference in September at Collaroy. Do read your latest ‘Newsette’ for details and plan to attend either for the 5 days or the Open Day.

I really appreciate the services of Elizabeth McEwen who is Proof Reader.

Jennifer R. Pepper Newsette Editor

NEWSETTE

is the journal of the NSW State Unit Inc of ACW Inc. and is published in February, May, August, and November

The Annual Subscription is \$10.00

Associate Membership of ACW NSW is available for \$15.00 per year.

For further enquiries contact the editor

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Ph (02) 9874 4056

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN’S CONFERENCE [ACWC]

Australian Church Women [ACW] is an affiliated member of ACWC, other member countries being, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Thailand.

This sisterhood of Christian women throughout the region, unites in affirming women as not being less than men, and encourages women to take leadership roles in society, family and the church. To this end, monies raised for ACWC provide scholarships for further education in ministry; support the running of workshops with fledgling churches for Bible Study and working with women; offer training and discussion about the containment of HIV/Aids; address poverty and explore ways towards a just economy for women. Younger women are in the forefront of these engagements with the church.

Prayer requests are sent from ACWC Executive office to Australia and other sister countries, especially at times of natural and human disaster and these prayer requests are forwarded by email to praying people. If you would like to be included in this mailing list, please contact me.

From 8th – 13th October 2014, the Philippines hosted the 15th Quadrennial General Assembly of ACWC, at the Carmelite Missionaries Centre, Tagatay City, with the theme – **United in Christ, We Build a Life-giving World**, where I was a delegate. Various speakers and leaders of Bible Study endorsed the fact that without justice for the people, it is unlikely that there will be a life-giving world.

What a privilege to share with Christian women from various cultures! Colourful national costumes enhanced the décor, while cultural performances were a delight.

During the Assembly, it was announced that Bangladesh will be the prayer partner with Australia for the next 4 years. Our group was able to pray with our former partners from Mongolia. How inspiring was the testimony of these younger women!

In NSW, a Concert of Praise is organized for each second year when there is not a National Conference for ACW. Last year at the end of August, such a concert was celebrated at the Epping Baptist Church. Those participating came from, Myanmar, the Philippines, China, Korea and Japan. It is hoped that persons from other countries will be included in 2016. Monies raised from the afternoon are sent to support the work and projects of ACWC.

In September 2015, Devika Ukwatte, from Sri Lanka and former Vice President of ACWC, will be attending the National Conference of ACW.

For further information, please contact Pamela Freeman Ph (02) 9873 1701 or email at freeowp@netspace.net.au

REPORTS FROM BRANCHES

Epping Branch

The Epping Branch has continued to be well supported by ladies from the churches in the local and surrounding area during the past year. Fellowship day was hosted by Epping Presbyterian Church and Community Day by Eastwood Baptist. Many of our ladies are feeling the limitations of age and mobility so hosting functions can be quite daunting. The ecumenical spirit comes to the fore and those from different denominations combine to ensure that the services are meaningful both in worship and the times of fellowship together.

The services as prepared by different states have featured aspects of the current National theme – 'Building in Harmony'. These have been well received and the speakers have given much prayerful thought in the presentation of the messages.

Giving has been generous and money has been forwarded to the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund, Fellowship of the Least Coin, Asian Church women's Conference and the Australian Special Project for 2014 – Travellers' Aid – Victoria.

This year Fellowship Day will be on '*Building in Line with God's Design*' and is to be hosted by West Epping Uniting Church. World Community day topic is '*Building for Peace and Reconciliation – you are forgiven*'.

Helen Hill has now taken responsibility as Branch President, I remain Secretary/Treasurer, and we are delighted that Dr. Val Hazelwood from Epping Uniting Church has become our branch representative on ACW State Council.

Our former President, Olive Bolliger, continues to support ACW and our branch but has relinquished her position as a Presbyterian representative to the State Council.

Jennifer R Pepper

Secretary/ Treasurer

Parramatta Branch

World Community Day in 2014, was combined with those from the Holroyd district, and was held at The Salvation Army Granville.

A short power point presentation was given to show some of the people and activities from the Quadrennial assembly of ACWC held in October 2014. Friends and members of the churches of the district support the Fellowship of the Least Coin enthusiastically. Fellowship Day is observed with the Epping Branch.

Pamela Freeman

KINCUMBER BRANCH

The support for this branch continues to grow as new folk have joined in the two services in 2014.

Fellowship day was enjoyed by 68 persons, with the wonderful message being brought to the group on the theme '*Building Up the Body of Christ*' by the State President, Mrs Natalie McLeod. This service was held at St. Luke's Anglican Church, Woy Woy and it was lovely to see Natalie warmly welcomed and embraced by many of her Anglican friends during morning tea. Special prayers were said by the Kincumber President, Rev. Miriam Cotton, for the lives lost in the disastrous air crash over the Ukraine and for the ongoing conflicts in this region and the Gaza strip. A meaningful solo "Be Still for the Presence of the Lord" was sung by Bev Elliott. An offering of \$424.80 was forwarded to the State Treasurer.

World Community Day was celebrated at the Kincumber Anglican Ministry Centre with 60 persons attending. It is always lovely to have the wonderful support of all the churches when the dedication of the offerings for the Fellowship of the Least Coin is announced. This year we were joyful to receive \$702.30 for the FLC.

Our guest speaker was Mrs. Dawn Bickford, Lay Preacher of the Umina Uniting Church. Dawn gave a wonderful talk on 'how to build' a way of living in which God takes precedence in our lives. All were delighted at the manner in which we celebrated '*Building with Godly Wisdom*', with people invited to come forward to place a white stone in the 'cross' which had been made by the local men's shed personnel at Umina Uniting Church. During the time of fellowship, morning tea was supplied by the Kincumber ladies. A total amount of \$1125.70 was banked and forwarded to the State Treasurer.

Our God is good and we pray that folk will continue to support the Kincumber branch and also take an active part in the organizing committee.

Bev Elliott

Acting Secretary Kincumber Branch

SUTHERLAND SHIRE BRANCH

FELLOWSHIP DAY JULY 25TH 2014

The Rev. Olivia Rondonuwu, Chaplain at Frank Vickery Village, made all welcome. The décor was beautifully done. Feedback from those attending indicated those attending had enjoyed the service. The Speaker, Mrs Jenny Croucher, shared personal experiences in her message, and developed the theme, "***Building Up the Body of Christ***", to encompass the present and the future. We were encouraged to come out of our 'holy huddle' and be a witness to the wider community, sharing whatever gifts we have been given, with those we meet. What a blessing we had in worship, the message and fellowship over lunch.

The service finished with prayer for all those who have been affected by the recent conflicts in various parts of the world, with a plea that peace would prevail. (Gen Offering \$275 and retiring Offering \$57).

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY October 24th, 2014.

The Salvation Army, Miranda, provided a welcoming atmosphere for this service. The speaker, Lieut. Joycelyn McIver was commended on her message on the theme: ***Building with Godly Wisdom***. Faithful friends contributed generously on the offerings. By bringing a 'stone' to place at the foot of the cross, this showed their intention to bring themselves to help build up the body of Christ. The fellowship over lunch was most enjoyable. (General Offering \$241.55 and Fellowship of the least Coin \$839.85)

Attendance at Special days is falling to approximately 50 per service. However, the spirit of wanting to come together for worship and fellowship, as well as the desire to make a contribution to the various scholarships and projects has not diminished.

We are grateful to those who have hosted these gatherings, enabling these to continue, and to all who participated.

Brenda Dickinson

Secretary Sutherland Branch

The Girls' Brigade NSW

Elizabeth Neale

Girls' Brigade has been involved in several events throughout the year. GB Companies started back after the Christmas and New Year Break. We had the first Council meeting, with workshops and a time of encouraging each other with devotions and planning for the New Year. In August and November we had other State Council meetings, where the ladies learnt to be relevant to this generation of girls and the importance of self-care in Leadership.

GB NSW attended the Kidsreach Conference, where we promoted GB and talked to people about the Mission of GB.

Throughout the year there was training for new leaders and Pioneer Leadership. In September, a weekend called *Ignite* was a time of discovery and experiencing the spiritual journey God wants the girls to take. A new company started this year in Deniliquin and was affiliated in June and a GB Company reopening in 2015. Our newsletter '*Brigade Affect*' has continued to be published for GB Churches and is a regular publication to connect with GB Churches and other organisations. GB participated in the Sydney Easter Parade [2014], where we paraded in the city to proclaim the message of Easter to the people of Sydney. This was as a great way to promote GB too.

In May, the annual state conference helped us in Equipping, Encouraging and Engaging ourselves as leaders, with workshops, a resource table and a business session.

From 3rd to 11th July 2014, the International Conference of Girls' Brigade was hosted in Perth, with 23 countries being represented. Times of worship, reflection, connecting with others, fellowship and sightseeing in Perth were the main events. The new International President of Girls' Brigade was elected. The presence of God was apparent.

In August, girls received their Queen's Awards at Government House from the outgoing Girls' Brigade NSW Patron, Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO.

As GB looks to 2015, we are excited to be celebrating 75 years of Girls' Brigade in NSW. Several events, including a party at Taronga Zoo and a special lunch at Brigade House for the ladies who laid the foundations of GB NSW, are on the calendar.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to inform you about GB in NSW.
May God bless you all in ACW NSW.

Elizabeth Neale.

New South Wales Ecumenical Council

Isabel Hewitt

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in May 2014 the New South Wales Ecumenical Council commissioned Father Shenouda Mansour as the new General Secretary. He is a Coptic priest and is the first Orthodox priest to hold such a position in Australia. The event was held at St Paul's Anglican Church, Burwood where a large congregation assembled for the occasion.

A history of the Ecumenical Movement in Australia from 1980 to 2010 is recorded in *Pilgrims of Hope* by the Revd Dr Ray Williamson, former General Secretary of the NSW Ecumenical Council. The launch of the book in the crypt of St James' Anglican Church King Street Sydney, brought together many 'ecumenical pilgrims'.

Our ACW NSW contact with the NSW Ecumenical Council has often been through Mrs Kathy Moroney. After 26 years in her administrative role Kathy has now retired from this position.

In August the Council partnered faith based organisations to hold a forum on *Achieving Peace with Justice*. Speakers included Dr John Falzon from St Vincent de Paul, Joseph Wakim OAM, an independent writer on human rights, founder of the Australian Arab Council, and Professor Marion Maddox from the Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations at Macquarie University.

In September and October two overseas visitors were hosted by the NSW Ecumenical Council. Arda Aghazarian is an Armenian Palestinian Christian media professional from the Old City of Jerusalem. She has become an advocate for justice and peace in the Holy Land, with particular emphasis on conflict resolution and women's rights.

Professor Catherine Clifford is a Canadian Catholic Theologian. Her teaching and research interests lie in the areas of ecclesiology, ecumenism, and the history of the Second Vatican Council. She visited Australia at the invitation of the Theological Reflection Commission of the NSW Ecumenical Council.

Dates for your Calendar

25th National Conference **SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT DAY**

THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

**At The Salvation Army Conference Centre
Homestead Avenue, Collaroy Beach.**

Cost for the Day:

\$60 [includes morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea]

Early Bird Registration by 15th June – price \$50

Last day for registration 15th August

Registrar: Mrs Jennifer Pepper (02) 9874 4056

email: rjpeffer@optusnet.com.au

FELLOWSHIP DAY held at end of July in local areas
supports the W K S - scholars

Theme: ***Building in Line with God's Design.***

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY

held at the end of October in local areas.

Features the ingathering of monies for FLC

Special offering for work of ACWC and Special Project [Australia]

Theme: ***Building for Peace and Reconciliation***

WEBSITE for ACW

www.acw.org.au