

About The Author:



DEACONESS MARY MARIA ANDREWS A.M. was born in 1915 in Cooma, New South Wales, the daughter of a grazier; her mother had wanted to be a missionary, and prayed that one of her children might become one. On leaving High School, because the Teachers' College was closed, also Nursing training being unavailable, both because of the Depression, Mary undertook a Bible Correspondence Course from Biola Bible Institute in Los Angeles, U.S.A.

- 1933-35 Mary trained at the Gladesville Psychiatric Hospital;
- 1935-37 studied at Sydney Missionary & Bible College;
- 1937-38 studied at Deaconess House, Sydney, graduating with Honours; served in several Sydney parishes.
- 1938-39 Missionary service with Church Missionary Society in Peiping, China; escaped from Japanese to Shanghai, Ningpo, Lin Hai in Chekiang; 1939 at Lin Hai Bible School; 1941 Japanese Invasion, conducted a school for poor children; 1944-45 taught in Senior Middle School and Bible School.
- 1945-46 Served in India, at St. Faith's Children's Home.
- 1947-51 Further service in China, at Shaohsing, Chekiang.
- 1951-82 Head Deaconess in Diocese of Sydney;
- 1952-75 Principal of Deaconess House, Sydney;
- 1958 Anglican Representative, Women's Inter-Church Council
- 1963 Member of Interim Committee of Aust. Church Women.
- 1965 Vice President, National Committee Aust. Church Women National Convenor for Winifred Kiek Scholarship.
- 1965-78 State Convenor for Winifred Kiek Scholarship.
- 1969-70 President of Aust. Church Women N.S.W. State Unit.
- 1976-to present Chaplain to Anglican Retirement Villages: (Goodwin Village, Elizabeth Lodge, St. John's Glebe)
- 1959-73 Examiner - Australian College of Theology.

During her lifetime, Mary Andrews has held numerous voluntary positions; she has contributed articles and book reviews to missionary and church magazines;

In 1980, she was made a Member of the Order Of Australia, for services to religion; in 1973, a Life Member of Australian Church Women and in 1981 a Life Member of the New South Wales Unit of Australian Church Women.

In the course of her work, Mary has toured all over the world, attending conferences as a delegate for Deaconess Institution or representing Australian Church Women. Her hobbies include gardening, walking, photography and cooking.

A History Of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. Unit



(Formerly N.S.W. Womens' Inter-Church Council)

TO COMMEMORATE THE GOLDEN JUBILEE 1938 - 1988

WRITTEN BY
Deaconess Mary Andrews A.M., L.P.I.B.A.



A "Women Celebrate '88"
Project, funded by the
Australian Bi-Centennial
Authority



16th MAY 1988: INSTALLATION of new NSW PRESIDENT.
From Left: Mrs. Marjory Baker (President 1988-90)
Mrs. June Graham (I.P.P.); Mrs. Natalie Guy (Pres.
Nat.Council of Women); Mrs. Joyce Bragg (P.P. N.C.W)



August 1987.
A.C.W. National
Conference,
ADELAIDE.

From Left:
Deaconess Andrews,
Mrs. D. Lumb
(NSW Treasurer),
Mrs. M. McCann
(NSW Secretary),
Mrs. M. Baker
(M'ship Convenor),
Mrs. J. Graham
(NSW President).

WHEN THE
BI - CENTENARY
BECOMES GOLDEN



A HISTORY OF THE
NEW SOUTH WALES UNIT OF
AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
(formerly N.S.W. Womens' Inter-Church Council)

Mary M. Andrews

by Deaconess Mary Andrews A.M., L.P.I.B.A.

TO COMMEMORATE THE
GOLDEN JUBILEE
1938 - 1988

January 1966.

A.C.W. National
Conference.

St. Hilda's College,
MELBOURNE.

Front Row:

Col. Brooks & Col.
Saunders (Melbourne),
Deaconess M. Andrews
(Nat. Vice President),
Mrs. Mary Wyllie
(Nat. President),

Some others in photo:

Mrs. B. Montgomerie
Mrs. M. Verco (V. Pres)
M/s T. Skiller (ACC)
Mrs. Dennis (Q'ld)



November 1978.

40th ANNIVERSARY

of Australian
Church Women

From Left:

Mrs. E. Manefield
(To cut cake) and
3 Past Presidents:
Miss Doris Mitchell,
Deac. Mary Andrews,
Mrs. Brig. Edna Baker.

INTRODUCTION:

IN 1988, AUSTRALIA is celebrating the Bi-Centenary of white settlement, and the New South Wales Unit of 'AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN' is rejoicing in the Golden Jubilee of the inauguration of the Women's Inter-Church Council, on 18th November, 1938.

Nearly two thousand years ago, the Lord of History prayed "that they may be one" and this has found its expression in ECUMENISM, which is at the heart of the Gospel, and not an optional extra.

FOUNDATIONS:

Women who sought to fulfil the vision of bringing women together across denominational boundaries, from Presbyterian, Congregational, Church of Christ and Methodist Churches met in St. Stephen's Church, Macquarie Street, Sydney. They stood as a visible force in the community, worshipping together and seeking to witness to the Faith by prayer, caring and sharing with others.

THE FIRST RALLY:

Held in 1938, this was chaired by Mrs. H. Jennings, a Presbyterian. The Rev. Joan Hore, an ordained minister of the Congregational Church, led the prayer of thanksgiving. The President stressed the value of co-operation in social and international problems.

To highlight these concerns, Brigadier W. Ramage, Social Secretary of the Salvation Army spoke on Social Reform. She said: "Social work is Soul work, to follow our Divine Master in our love for our neighbour." To bind up wounds, spiritual and physical, continues to be the concern of Australian Church Women today.

Miss C. Wedgwood M.A, Principal of the Women's College, University of Sydney, also spoke, on Right International Relations, saying "Let us cast out pride, greed, fear and 'snatch and grab' from our individual and international lives, and let us use the weapons of the Spirit - Faith, Hope and Love; the greatest of these is Love." - this was the challenge she put to the Rally.

STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT:

That first meeting in 1938 laid the foundation for a movement of bridge-building which has encircled the world, beginning with the individual in the local Church. A 'Church Woman' is encouraged to play her part under the guidance of God's Spirit to extend the Kingdom through such means as the Fellowship of the Least Coin and prayer.

The "President's Bible" - which is passed on by each President to her successor - carries the statement that the Objective of the Women's Inter-Church Council was "To promote friendship and co-operation between the various branches of the Christian Church, and to provide an avenue whereby they may unitedly serve the Kingdom of God."

The Second World War broke out in the year following the inauguration of the Women's Inter-Church Council, and this affected its growth and work. The members still continued to meet, for binding together of one another through prayer and worship.

Among those who joined the Women's Inter-Church Council during those years was Mrs. Regina Stolz, the wife of a Lutheran minister, who called herself a "prohibited member" because her denomination would not participate in the organisation. Mrs. Stolz became one of the leaders, and twice served as President (1948-49 & 1957-58). It was a great joy to her when in 1987 the Lutheran Church gave permission for its members to join Australian Church Women and in 1988 to have formally ratified the affiliation of their denomination.

In August 1953, the first Baptist representatives were welcomed to the Council, and in 1955, the Salvation Army was first represented.

Another enthusiastic member of the Council was Mrs. B. C. Montgomerie, an Anglican, who also had to work independently of her denomination, until in 1958, permission was given for Anglican women to be involved, the eight representatives being appointed by the Archbishop of Sydney.

In September 1969, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney's Commission on Ecumenism sent two observers to the Council; these were Mrs. Joan Curtin and Sister Helen

Herlihy. Later, Roman Catholic women were received in full membership.

In 1977, after the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches formed the Uniting Church of Australia; Mrs. Edith Ridge later became the first President from that denomination.

Each Denomination takes it in turn to appoint a President, and the Installation Rally, held in a Church or Hall of the denomination to which the in-coming President belongs, has become one of the highlights of Australian Church Women activities. The Service is followed by a Luncheon, drawing together in fellowship many members from the A.C.W. committees and groups in city, suburban and country localities.

AN EARLY ACTIVITY -- WYBALENA HOSTEL:

After the Second World War, some of the Council members saw a need for accommodation for country girls studying or working in the city. An Appeals Committee was formed and a two-storey house called 'Wybalena' was purchased in 1958, for £8,500, on a mortgage of £5,000. With great effort and enthusiasm, this mortgage was paid off by November 1968. The building accommodated twenty young women.

Because of financial difficulties and declining numbers of young women requiring accommodation, the Council sold Wybalena in 1971. Later the monies were given to Y.W.C.A. for the provision of much-needed accommodation at the Tremayne Hostel at Kirribilli. Later, Tremayne was sold and a 'Wybalena Wing' was named in the renovated Y.W.C.A. premises in the city. In 1984, a new Y.W.C.A. was erected in Wentworth Avenue, Darlinghurst, and the name Wybalena was given to the residential wing on the fourth floor.

The efforts of those who raised these funds in the early days are still bearing fruit, as young women and others are being cared for in the modern "Y".

INAUGURATION OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN:

In August 1962, the Australian Council of Churches was invited by Asian Church Women to send a representative to their second Conference.

As there was no national ecumenical body of church women, four representatives from different denominations were invited to form a committee to co-ordinate representatives from federal church bodies, if possible.

As a result of these discussions and conferences and seminars with representatives from different States and denominations, a Constitution for Australian Church Women was presented to the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches in 1965, and after a lively debate, this was adopted.

THE AIMS OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN:

- ... To *UNITE* Australian churchwomen in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ;
- ... To *PROMOTE* co-operation and understanding between men and women in Church, family and society;
- ... To *HELP* Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life and mission of the Church;
- ... To *PROVIDE* opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together;
- ... To *ENCOURAGE* fellowship and service across national boundaries.

ADMINISTRATION OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN:

The governing body of Australian Church Women is a National Committee which convenes bi-ennially and includes representatives of eight State and Territory Units, member Denominations and organisations and such 'special interest' groups as Y.W.C.A, The Girls' Brigade, and the Asian Church Women's Conference Executive.

Australian Church Women is a member body of ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, and sends representatives to its Assembly, held every four years; it is also represented on the General Committee, which functions between meetings of the Assembly.

From its inception, AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN has initiated and encouraged concern for the world-wide Church by many different avenues, particularly through its Overseas Projects.



ANNUAL SPECIAL DAYS:

Forms of Service for special Days and worship programmes are prepared by different State groups or denominations, on selected Themes, with topics and questions for group discussion.

FELLOWSHIP DAY is observed Australia-wide during the last week of JULY each year; offerings made at Fellowship Day Services support the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund.

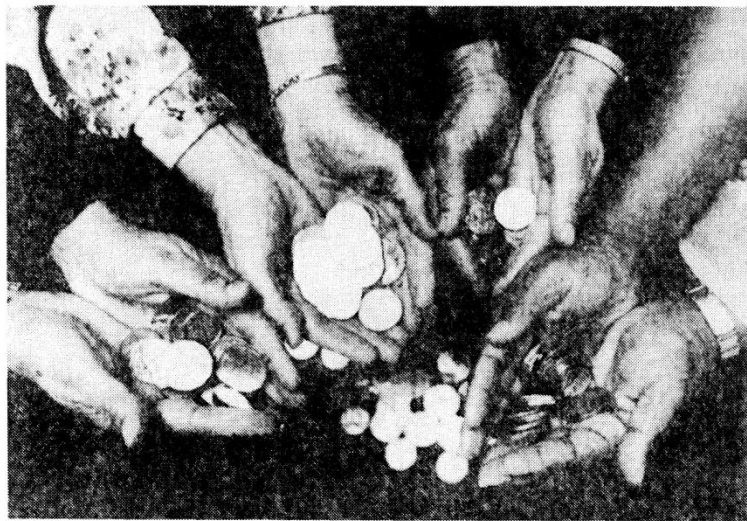
WORLD COMMUNITY DAY, the other annual 'Day' is observed during the last week in OCTOBER. Offerings at Services held on this day are used to assist overseas special projects as determined each year by the National Committee. At World Community Day Services also, offerings given through the 'Fellowship Of The Least Coin' are brought in and dedicated.

The Theme for World Community Day in 1983, in keeping with International Year For Youth was "God's Children" and the Service was prepared by a group of New South Wales women. The 1988 Service, which has also been prepared by a New South Wales group, is on the theme "Sharing Our Harvest."

Australian Church Women members are encouraged to participate in WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER services, observed throughout the world on the first Friday of MARCH. That movement celebrated its Centenary in 1987.



FORMER PRESIDENTS
SILVER JUBILEE OF FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN, MANILA 1978.
Representatives from Asian Christian Women's Conference:
From Left: Rayawn Ma, Jael Cruz, Jannuan Suriyakham, Rathie
Selvaratnam, Esther Baptista, Agnes Loyal, Gloria Santos.



1982: ALLOCATIONS from the FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN Fund

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:



This Fellowship, an ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation, began in 1956, during a goodwill mission to East Asian countries by an international team, seeking to bring together women across denominational, cultural, colour, economic and other barriers, encouraging them to participate in the offering of their prayers, and the "Least Coin" of their currency, enabling gifts of love to be provided for projects throughout the world. While with this goodwill mission in the Philippines, to Mrs. SHANTI SOLOMON from INDIA was given the vision of forming the Fellowship of the Least Coin; it was a great privilege to have this amazing Christian lady later visit N.S.W. The Fellowship of the Least Coin operates on every continent, in more than 60 countries and continues to spread throughout Australia.

THE LEAST COIN

So small a coin,
Its jingle is scarcely a sound,
Yet it rings like a celebration gong
The whole world round!

So small a coin,
Its value is nothing worth;
Yet it buys what no millionaire can buy,
The gentlest gift on earth.

So small a coin,
It cannot bear the name of sacrifice,
Yet it ransoms from indifference a love
Beyond all price.

So small a coin;
Here it lies hidden in my hand
And now it is given, suddenly we are one
From land to land.

So small a coin,
How can the God of the universe be aware?
My whispered dedication echoes on and on;
He knows I care.

So small a coin!

(By Mrs. Margaret Knauerhase)

The Interim Committee of Australian Church Women was made aware of the Fellowship of the Least Coin by some of its members who visited the United States and saw the impact this Fellowship of GIVING and PRAYING was having on their sister organisation, Church Women United, in that country. A gift of \$2,000 from the Fellowship of the Least Coin was sent to Australia for work amongst aboriginal women.

It seemed to the Committee that this was a very simple but challenging way to unite women in their Christian commitment, and so from the beginning, the Fellowship of the Least Coin became one of the projects of Australian Church Women.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER BOOKLETS. Published from time to time in connection with Fellowship of the Least Coin, these are meditations prepared by women of different countries which are used by many women in their private prayer and in public meetings. The latest of these (Volume 10), is entitled "Anybody Listening?" and presents challenging thoughts on the importance of 'listening' with love and understanding, which have been contributed by women from 24 countries, including China and the U.S.S.R.

THE WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

This Scholarship is another project of Australian Church Women which has enriched the life and witness of its members.

The Scholarship was named after the late Rev. Winifred Kiek BA BD, the first woman to be ordained a minister in the Congregational Church in Australia who was very keen on co-ordinating women's work in the Church across denominational barriers.

The Interim Committee of Australian Church Women had among its members a former missionary and another lady engaged in training missionaries. They were convinced that there was a need to provide supplementary training for Christian women from overseas countries, who had already received basic training in their chosen field of work, and who, after the benefit of the Scholarship, would return to their own countries to give leadership.

At the same time, it was hoped that the scholars would enlarge the vision and build bridges of friendship

between Australia and their home countries.

The Scholarship is available annually for an academic year, and covers fares, tuition fees, accommodation costs and out-of-pocket expenses.

The first Winifred Kiek Scholar, MISS CONNIE TAN from INDONESIA (later Mrs. Widyatama), came in 1965, to do a Social Work Course in New South Wales.

In 1973, MISS KALPANA AIRAN from Narmada Academy, Satara, INDIA, was involved in a programme at the Van Leer Foundation in the University of Sydney. On her return to India, Kalpana embarked on a project to help under-privileged women and their children to learn together at the same time. The women were also helped to make saleable articles to gain some financial independence.

In 1987, Kalpana wrote to the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convenor: "To me that one year of training in Australia meant a great opportunity to widen the horizon of knowledge, outlook, experience and action. Whatever little I have achieved in helping the under-privileged citizens of my country, a large part of it I attribute to Australian Church Women and, of course, to Him who made it available for me and uses me as an instrument." Narmada has become a model institution in India, which is visited by government officials and others concerned with helping the under-privileged and illiterate.

The 1978 Scholar was SISTER BARKAT KISHAN DASS from Holy Family Hospital in Karachi, PAKISTAN. She came to update her nursing skills and to do some theological studies. She returned to Pakistan as the Tutor Sister at the Holy Family Hospital, but she is also involved in Christian activities such as the Nurses' Christian Fellowship, Youth For Christ and Campus Crusade.

From SRI LANKA in 1981 came MALINI WEERASINGHE, to study Religious Education. In this field, she has become a leader in the Church in Sri Lanka, and also works with her husband at a Theological College.

DR. SUSHILA RAD from Madras, INDIA, was awarded the Scholarship in 1984, and undertook a course of study

and observation in the field of dealing with drug addicts, among whom she is now working in her home city.

In addition to having Winifred Kiek Scholars, Australian Church Women decided to establish a Winifred Kiek Fellowship. The purpose of this Fellowship is to benefit Australian Church Women members by giving them inspiration, knowledge and leadership from outstanding Christian women visiting, studying or residing in our country.

Funds are available triennially or at the discretion of the A.C.W. National Executive, for such Fellowships, to provide fares, honoria and accommodation costs for the recipients to tour Australia in order to speak to Church and community groups.

The first to participate as a Winifred Kiek Fellow was MRS. RATHIE SELVARATNAM, formerly from Colombo SRI LANKA. Mrs. Selvaratnam had served as Vice-Chairman, Chairman and Consultant of the Asian Church Women's Conference and was the first International President of the Women's World Day Of Prayer. She edited two issues of the Circle Of Prayer used in connection with the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Mrs. Selvaratnam's visit to N.S.W. in 1981 stirred a great interest in the Fellowship of the Least Coin and in Australian Church Women.

In 1984, MRS. EUNICE KIM from SOUTH KOREA was the second Winifred Kiek Fellow; she is the Executive Secretary of the Asian Church Women's Conference and was a member of the International World Day Of Prayer Executive. Mrs. Kim's visit was enthusiastically received by Australian Church Women and Women's World Day Of Prayer members.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S MEMORIAL BURSARY:

This was established particularly to acknowledge the contribution made by Christian women as recorded in the Memorial Book; gifts given to the Bursary Fund are invested by the trustees of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship, and interest from these investments are used to provide books for the current Scholar.

It is also envisaged that the Interest will build up towards providing a second Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

A.C.W. NATIONAL MEETINGS, CONFERENCES:

N.S.W. Unit of Australian Church Women has played an important part in the work of the National body.

The first National Meetings were held at Wesley College in Sydney in February 1965, at which a working committee was elected to carry out the affairs of the National Committee in between Conferences.

Mrs. M. Wylie was the first President; Mrs. M. Verco and Head Deaconess Mary Andrews were elected Vice-Presidents; the first Secretary of the National body was Lt. Colonel Hazel Cross, a former N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council President. Deaconess Andrews was appointed the first Convenor of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

The Second National Conference was held at St. Hilda's College, Melbourne in January 1966. The N.S.W. President and Secretary represented the N.S.W. Unit at a vital sharing experience and were encouraged in their ongoing witness and work among women.

"Communications" was the subject of the Third National Conference, held at Deaconess House, Sydney in 1967. The programme of the Conference included an Open Meeting, held to challenge Christians with the need to communicate with each other and with those outside of Christ.

At the 1968 and 1969 National Conferences which were held in Melbourne, the N.S.W. Unit was represented by its President and Secretary.

At the National Committee Meeting at St. Hilda's Melbourne, Dr. Una Porter, Immediate Past President of World Y.W.C.A., challenged the 50 delegates and observers to enter new experiences and understand the relevance of Jesus Christ in today's world by seeking ways of reconciliation.

The Seventh National Conference was held in Sydney at Deaconess House, in February 1971, after the A.C.W. Working Committee had been based in Melbourne for four years.

For the Eighth National Committee, held in Sydney at

Deaconess House (Anglican) in February 1972, the theme was "For Such A Time As This." Miss Jean Skuse, of Australian Council of Churches, gave the keynote address, reminding women of how much they were needed in all walks of life.

In 1973 the Working Committee, although based in Brisbane, decided not to hold the National Committee there, but at Deaconess House in Sydney; Mrs. W. Dougherty and Mrs. N. Pfeiffer represented N.S.W. The theme was "Able For All Things" emphasising that it is through our unity, witness and service that the light of God in the face of Jesus Christ illuminates the world. During this gathering the founders of Australian Church Women, Mrs. M. Wylie, Mrs. M. Verco, Mrs. K. Dey and Deaconess M. Andrews were made Life Members.

In 1974, Lincoln College Adelaide was the venue for the National Meetings, the theme being "The Kingdom Is Yours." On that occasion recognition was made of the fine work of Mrs. O. Badger (N.S.W.) who had represented A.C.W. at the Asian Church Women's Conference, and Rev. Winifred Kiek was made a Life Member of Australian Church Women.

In July 1977, some seventy women attended the National Conference in Perth. The theme for this gathering was "Break Down The Walls."

In 1979, following the National Conference, held at the Caritas Christian Retreat House at Wahroonga in Sydney, a Consultation, with five Church women from New Zealand and twenty-two from Church Women United (U.S.A.) was held, for which the subject was "The Family - Its Faith And Its Future." The main speaker, Dr. Thelma Adair, (President Church Women United U.S.A.) brought a warmth of loving concern which was most infectious. Mrs. M. McCann (President) and Mrs. D. Woodhouse (Secretary) of N.S.W. Unit took part in this consultation.

At the 1981 Conference, held in Hobart, the theme was "The Spirit Of The Lord Is Upon Me." N.S.W. President Mrs. G. West and Secretary Brigadier M. Ward attended.

In 1983, the National Meetings were held in Melbourne, where President Mrs. Y. Davis and Secretary Brigadier Ward represented N.S.W. The theme for this Conference was "Life As A Gift From God."

In 1985, Mrs. E. Ridge (President) and Brigadier Ward were delighted to attend the Conference in Brisbane and share in the theme "Living In God's Service."

In August 1987, Adelaide was the venue for National Conference, the theme being "When I Needed A Neighbour Were You There?" The N.S.W. delegates were Mrs. J. Graham and Mrs. M. McCann. At this Conference, the Deed Of Trust for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship was adopted. It was good to have five Church Women from New Zealand and the Executive of Asian Church Women's Conference in Adelaide, particularly to share in the Seminar on 'Tourism' which followed the Conference. The need was stressed to initiate friendship and fellowship with Aboriginal and ethnic women.

These National Conferences are times when delegates and observers engage in worship and Bible study, as well as business sessions for hearing reports of past activities and planning for the future. The sharing and fellowship with other women who are dedicated to sharing Christ in a challenging world is an enriching experience.

*God made us a family ... We need one another;
We love one another;
We forgive one another;*

*We work together ...
We play together ...
We worship together ...*

*Together we use God's Word;
Together we grow in Christ;
Together we love all people;
Together we serve our God;
Together we hope for heaven.*

These are our hopes and ideals. Help us to attain them, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

In 1955, the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council welcomed a group of United Church Women (U.S.A.), who came on a goodwill visit. They were given a Civic Welcome in Sydney Town Hall.

The first person to represent Australian Church Women

at an Asian Church Women's Conference was Mrs. Edna Beales, a Methodist from Epping N.S.W. who attended the second Quadrennial Conference in Bangkok, THAILAND in 1962.

The Third Asian Church Women's Conference was held in Tokyo, JAPAN in 1966. Mrs. Olga Badger, the President-Elect of N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council represented Australian church women and was elected to the Committee of Asian Church Women's Conference.

In 1978, Mrs. Win Dougherty represented Australian Church Women at the Conference, again held in Tokyo.

In the life of churches of Asia, these Conferences are a dynamic channel of fellowship and witness.

The first International Inter-Denominational Conference of Women was held in Taize, FRANCE, in 1963. Mrs. A. Dougan (Presbyterian) and Anglican Head Deaconess Mary Andrews represented Australian Church Women at that very challenging Conference.

The SILVER JUBILEE of the Fellowship of the Least Coin was celebrated in Manila, The Philippines, where it began, in 1979. Five members of N.S.W. Unit of Australian Church Women were among the Australians who attended. Inspiring Jubilee Souvenir books and bookmarks, with the Logo of praying hands in the shape of a lotus flower, also silver spoons and a Banner, were used to draw attention to this Jubilee. A special Thanksgiving Service was held in the Wesley Centre in Sydney.

In June 1980, at the invitation of Church Women United of the U.S.A, five members of the N.S.W. Unit of Australian Church Women joined in a "Causeway" to Alaska and the West Coast of U.S.A. A "Causeway" means finding ways of walking together in another part of the world. The culmination of the Causeway was in attending the Church Women United Assembly in the University of California in Los Angeles, which was an inspiring conference.

In 1981, at the invitation of Church Women in New Zealand, Mrs. Heather Stevens and a group from Australian Church Women visited New Zealand, in the cause of ecumenism.

In 1982, Dr. Thelma Adair, the dynamic President of Church

November 1981.

A.C.W. National
Conference,

H O B A R T.

From Left:
Malini Weerasinghe
(W.K.S. Sri Lanka)
Dien Sumiyatiningsih
(W.K.S. Indonesia)
Rathie Selvaratnam
(W.K. Fellow)



February 1982.

RECEPTION for
DR. HELEN ADAIR
of Church Women
United of U.S.A.

Held in Northside
Baptist Church,
S Y D N E Y.

(Dr. Adair talking
with Mrs. A. Walker,
foundation member
of Australian
Church Women.



Women United of U.S.A. visited New South Wales. Dr. Adair brought a warmth and understanding that helped those who met her to realise afresh the joy of unity in Christ.

In the same year, a group of New Zealand Church Women visited New South Wales, strengthening the link between our two countries.

In October 1983, Mrs. Marie McCann (Roman Catholic) attended the Asian Church Women's Conference in Bali, INDONESIA. The Rev. Dorothy McMahon was Convenor on Strategies And Resources For Peace, at this Conference.

The Asian Church Women's Conference held in BANGKOK in 1986 was attended by Mrs. June Graham, President-Elect of N.S.W. Australian Church Women Unit, and Mrs. Dorothy Harris, an aboriginal Christian. Originally it had been hoped to hold this Conference in Adelaide but insurmountable problems prevented this.

In September 1987, when the National Conference of Australian Church Women met in Adelaide, the Executive of Asian Church Women's Conference was held there at the same time, and then participated in a thought-provoking Seminar on Tourism which followed the Conference.

New South Wales Church Women have been enriched by the many links that have been forged with fellow Christians in other lands.

LOCAL COMMITTEES OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN:

The real strength of Australian Church Women is found at the local level, as members work together in district committees, preparing for Fellowship Day, for World Community Day, and in support of The Women's World Day of Prayer, the Fellowship of the Least Coin, and the Winifred Kiek Scholarship. They also carry out other ecumenical activities in their own communities.

In 1971, a Promotions Officer was appointed, to encourage the promotion of local groups. A Promotions Committee seeks through the media and in other ways to make known the work of Australian Church Women. Some

Forty local groups and committees have been formed in New South Wales, in city, suburban and country areas.

A news-sheet titled 'Newsette' was first published in 1979. This is produced four times a year, and keeps local committees in touch with the work.

During these fifty years, which this Diamond Jubilee celebrates, Christian women have come together and pooled their gifts for the building-up of the Kingdom of God. In recognition of their special contribution, some members have been honoured as 'Life Members.'

As we look back over these fifty years, we thank God for the women of vision, of venture and vitality, who have done so much to make Australian Church Women a truly thriving ecumenical movement, united in Christ.

We look forward to the future with the prayer:

*"Lord for ourselves, in living power remake us,
Self on the cross, and Christ upon the throne,
Past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone."
(Timothy Dudley Smith 1926)*

A GOLDEN JUBILEE PRAYER

*Heavenly Father we praise you for all those women who have dedicated themselves to fulfilling your Son's petition that "they may be one."
Pour into our hearts the spirit of faith, hope and love, that we may hasten the time when the kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdom of our God and of His Christ.
Meanwhile we ask for a greater sensitivity to the needs of peace and reconciliation between people in our communities, no matter what their race, cultural background, age or sex. May we see each person as one for whom Christ died, and live and walk together in acceptance and respect for each other. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our advocate and mediator, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

A.C.W. N.S.W. UNIT - PRESIDENTS

1939-39	Hannah Jennings	- Presbyterian
1939-40	May Renwick, G. A. Roseby	- Congregational
1940-41	Amy Gertrude Bowden	- Methodist
1941-42	Ruby W. McCallum	- Churches of Christ
1942-43	Rebecca Swann	- Society of Friends
1943-44	Mary Eliza Clouston	- Presbyterian
1944-45	Gertrude A. Roseby	- Congregational
1945-46	Elsie E. Deane	- Methodist
1946-47	Ruby W. McCallum	- Churches of Christ
1947-48	Rebecca Swann	- Society of Friends
1948-49	Regina Stolz	- Lutheran
1949-50	Mary Millar	- Presbyterian
1950-52	Annie B. Deanes	- Congregational
1952-54	Sylvia J. Low	- Methodist
1954-55	May Greenhalgh	- Churches of Christ
1955-56	Kathleen E. Lowry	- Society of Friends
1956-57	Kathleen B. Garlick	- Salvation Army
1957-58	Regina Stolz	- Lutheran
1958-59	Marianne Vines	- Presbyterian
1959-60	Reta E. Farr	- Congregational
1960-61	Effie H. Baldwin	- Baptist
1961-62	Edris M. Manefield	- Methodist
1962-63	Marjory I. Verco	- Churches of Christ
1963-64	Brucinda Montgomerie	- Anglican
1964-65	Hazel V. Cross	- Salvation Army
1965-66	Thelma M. Adam	- Presbyterian
1966-67	Olger Badger	- Congregational
1967-68	Grace Cowled	- Methodist
1968-69	Joyce O. Gilbert	- Baptist
1969-70	Mary M. Andrews	- Anglican
1970-71	Marjorie A. Stanhope	- Churches of Christ
1971-72	Olive Carpenter	- Salvation Army
1972-73	Nancy M. Pfeiffer	- Methodist
1973-74	Winifred Dougherty	- Methodist
1974-75	Doris M. Mitchell	- Anglican
1975-76	Gladys Bent	- Churches of Christ
1976-78	Edna Baker	- Salvation Army
1978-80	Marie McCann	- Roman Catholic
1980-82	Gladys West	- Baptist
1982-84	Yvonne Davis	- Presbyterian
1984-86	Edith Ridge	- Uniting
1986-88	June Graham	- Anglican
1988-	Marjory Baker	- Churches of Christ

A.C.W. N.S.W. UNIT - SECRETARIES

1938-39	Mrs. E. F. Bond	
1943-44	Miss R. Swann	- Soc. of Friends
1944-48	Mrs. W. H. Lock	- Methodist
1949-50	Mrs. M. Chapman	- Congregational
1954-55	Miss G. A. Roseby	- Congregational
1957-59	Mrs. E. D. Briggs	- Anglican
1959-60	Mrs. Lt. Col. Hutchison	- Salvation Army
1961-62	Mrs. Brig. E. Baker	- Salvation Army
1963-65	Mrs. Lorna Lilley	- Methodist
1965-67	Mrs. Margaret Ralph	- Presbyterian
1967-70	Mrs. Win Dougherty	- Methodist
1970-71	Mrs. Audrey Bell	- Methodist
1971-75	Mrs. Dorothy Martin	- Methodist
1975-77	Miss Doris Mitchell	- Anglican
1977-81	Mrs. Dorothy Woodhouse	- Uniting
1981-86	Brig. Mabel Ward	- Salvation Army
1986-	Mrs. Marie McCann	- Roman Catholic

A.C.W. N.S.W. UNIT - TREASURERS

No records are obtainable of names or denominations of past Treasurers, except that of Mrs. L. Perriam, who filled that office for 14 years in the 1960/70s.



The current Treasurer, MRS. DOROTHY LUMB, bringing forward the Offertory at Service for the Installation of Mrs. Marjory Baker as President, held at the Church of Christ, Chatswood, on Friday, 16th May, 1988.

A.C.W. N.S.W. UNIT - LIFE MEMBERS

1953	Miss M. McDiarmid	- Foundation Member	
	Miss Rebecca Swan	- Foundation Member	<i>Soc. of Friends</i>
		President 1942-43	
		Secretary 1943-44	
		President 1947-48	
	Mrs. R. McCallum	- Foundation Member	<i>Ch's of Christ</i>
		President 1941-42	
		President 1946-47	
	Mrs. A. E. Walker	- Foundation Member	
	Miss G. A. Roseby	- President 1939-40	<i>Congregational</i>
		President 1944-45	
		Secretary 1954-55	
	Mrs. M. Millar	- President 1949-50	<i>Presbyterian</i>
	Mrs. G. H. Briggs	- Secretary 1957-59	<i>Soc. of Friends</i>
	Mrs. A. Hall	- Wybalena Committee	<i>Baptist</i>
	Mrs. G. Knight	- Sec. Wybalena Comm.	<i>Ch's of Christ</i>
	Mrs. E. G. Pearson	- Wybalena Committee	<i>Presbyterian</i>
1963	Mrs. W. Wyper	- Sec. Wybalena Comm.	<i>Congregational</i>
1967	Mrs. R. Stolz	- President 1948-49	<i>Lutheran</i>
		President 1957-58	
	Mrs. B. Montgomerie	- President 1963-64	<i>Anglican</i>
1977	Mrs. L. Perriam	- Treasurer 14 yrs.	
	Col. H. Cross	- President 1964-65	<i>Salvation Army</i>
	Mrs. W. Dougherty	- Secretary 1967-70	<i>Methodist</i>
		President 1973-74	
1981	Dss M. Andrews AM	- President 1969-70	<i>Anglican</i>
	Mrs. M. Stanhope	- President 1970-71	<i>Ch's of Christ</i>
1983	Miss D. Mitchell BA	- President 1974-75	<i>Anglican</i>
		Secretary 1975-77	
1984	Mrs. Lt. Col. E. Baker	- Secretary 1961-62	<i>Salvation Army</i>
		President 1976-78	
1987	Mrs. J. Curtin	- First R.C. Delegate	<i>Roman Catholic</i>



December 1983: Meeting of PENRITH LOCAL COMMITTEE
at the home of Miss Frieda Whitlam.

First on left: Deaconess Mary Andrews
Centre at back: Miss Frieda Whitlam
Second from right: Catherine Min (WKS from Korea)
Last on right: Mrs. Yvonne Davis (NSW President)



April 1984.

Visit to Sydney of
Winifred Kiek Fellow
MRS. EUNICE KIM
(Secretary of Asian
Church Women's
Conference)

Group 'cruising' on
Sydney Harbour.

Front Row:
Mrs. Eunice Kim,
Deac. M. Andrews
(WKS NSW Convenor),
Mrs. Yvonne Davies
(ACW NSW President).
Others in group:
Mrs. D. Woodhouse
Mrs. M. Baker
Mrs. M. Stanhope
Miss E. Blackwell
Mrs. J. Carlisle

A.C.W. WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARS

1965	- Connie Tan (Mrs. Widyatama)	INDONESIA	Social Work
1966	- Sabita Swarup (Mrs. Kumar)	FIJI	Secretarial
1967	- Anna Basini	PAPUA	Y.W.C.A. Worker
1968/69	- Jacki Kini (Mrs. Vele)	PAPUA	G.B. Teaching
1970	- Veronica Kafa (Mrs. Loe)	SOLOMON IS.	Teaching
1971	- Violet Tampa (Mrs. Bredt)	ZAMBIA	Ministry
1972	- Terani Aisake (Mrs. Lima)	FIJI	Deaconess
1973	- Kalpana Airan	INDIA	Teaching
1974	- Rae Song	KOREA	Unable take up
1975	- Mrs. Mary Weme	KENYA	Welfare
1976	- Sarrah Ah You	SAMOA	Community Devel.
1977	- Jennifer Yeo Suan Phoon (Mrs. Loo Teek Ho)	TAIWAN	Evangelism
1978	- Tapita Das	BANGLADESH	Handicrafts
1978	- Sr. Barkat Kishan Dass	PAKISTAN	Nursing, Theology
1979	- Eita Boeva	PAPUA N.G.	Nursing, Theology
1980	- Mary Au	HONG KONG	Religious Educ.
1981	- Maifini Weerasinghe (Mrs. Devananda)	SRI LANKA	Pastoral Educ.
1982	- Salaseini Kanavakaca	FIJI	Religious Educ.
1982	- Lt. Miriam Gehare (Dec.)	NEW GUINEA	Typing
1983	- Byong Ok Min	KOREA	Christian Educ.
1984	- Dr. Sushila Rao	INDIA	Bridge Programme
1985	- Valeri Palang	PAPUA N.G.	Leadership
1986/87	- Stella Min	BURMA	Counselling
1988	- Rashmira Maharjan	NEPAL	For studies in Bangalore India

A.C.W. WINIFRED KIEK FELLOWS

1981	Mrs. Rathie Selvaratnam	SRI LANKA
1984	Mrs. Eunice Kim	SOUTH KOREA

VIDEO - CASSETTE:

The outstanding events and people in the history of NSW Australian Church Women have been recorded on a Video-Cassette. This pictorial and verbal account sets out the parts played, particularly during the past 10 years (1978-88), by many Christian women, leading up to this Golden Jubilee.

The interest and expertise of LES and DOROTHY WOODHOUSE in producing this is acknowledged and much appreciated.



September 1979

A.C.W. National Conference and U.S.A. Church Women United "Causeway" at Caritas Retreat House, Sydney.

Mrs. W. Dougherty (A.C.W. President) with Mrs. Finlay, of New York, USA.

1985: HIROSHIMA DAY.

Rathie Selvaratnam with PEACE RIBBON, when 25,000 people went to Washington USA, tying together similar segments to become a 'Ribbon Of Peace' some 17 miles long, which circled the US Defence Dept. and The Pentagon.

Other Ribbons have since been added as more people 'thread their fears into prayer.'

Ribbon Day For Peace has been observed from October 1986.

