

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW UNIT 1997/98 - OFFICE BEARERS & CONVENERS

PRESIDENT	Mrs Peg Blake 22 Parkview St MIRANDA 2228	Tel: (02) 9524 9397
PAST PRESIDENT	Mrs Lucelle King 19 Stenhouse Dve MOUNT ANNAN 2567	Tel: (046) 472 226
SECRETARY	Mrs Janet Harrison 5/7 Gilmore St WEST WOLLONGONG 2500	Tel: (042) 276 919
ASSIST/SEC.	Major Joan Tong 8 Metella Cr BELFIELD 2191	Tel: (02) 9718 8640 (02) 92669 593 W. Fax: (02) 92645 835 W.
MINUTE SECRETARY	Mrs Mina Whybourne 1/20 Jacaranda Ave CARINGBAH 2229	Tel: (02) 9525 4339
TREASURER	Mrs Marie Majoor 521 Mowbray Rd LANE COVE 2066	Tel: (02) 9428 2384
MEMBERSHIP	Dss Heather Badgery 5 Amaroo Ave STRATHFIELD 2135	Tel: (02) 9642 3254
NEWSLETTE EDITOR	Mrs Beryl McLaughlin 2/15 Morwick St STRATHFIELD 2135	Tel: (02) 9744 8609
WKS CONVENER	Mrs Beth Finlay 11/55A Railway Pde LAKEMBA 2195	Tel: (02) 9750 3224
PLC CONVENER	Miss Shirley Wells Hayfield Village 125/3 Homelands Ave CARLINGFORD 2118	Tel: (02) 9872 1719
SPECIAL DAYS CONVENER	Mrs Edith Ridge 54 New Line Rd WEST PENNANT HILLS 2125	Tel: (02) 9875 1200
PUBLICITY CONVENER	Sr. Colleen O'Sullivan 7 Alexandria Ave CROYDON 2132	Tel: (02) 9745 3444
FUNCTIONS CONVENER	Mrs Margaret Collier 7 Botanic Rd MOSMAN 2088	Tel: (02) 9969 6369
SOCIAL ISSUES CONVENER	Miss Heather Reid 33 Melville Ave STRATHFIELD 2135	Tel: (02) 9746 5656



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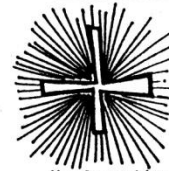
MAY 1997



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
NSW STATE UNIT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - APRIL 1997



As my first year as your President draws to a close, I praise and thank God our Heavenly Father for His many blessings and His enabling power, for it has not been in my own strength that I have attended to my duties. While it has been a most enjoyable year for me, it has also been one of real challenge. I have known great peace as I felt Christ ever with me.

My Installation at Chalmers Presbyterian Church, Sydney, on 20 May 1996, was a truly joyous occasion at which my family and old friends (and many new ones!) were present. I was most conscious of the prayer support on that day as I have been in the ensuing months. How blessed we are to have the loving support and prayers of our friends. Our Lord placed great emphasis, didn't He, on the value of friends (John 14:12), and we are very aware of His presence at our meetings of Executive and Council where real fellowship and loving understanding prevails.

Although held in the week prior to my Installation, the second Biennial State Conference of our NSW Unit, gave a real impetus to the work I was undertaking. With the theme, "God gives Life, Love and Unity", the Conference was a time of rich spiritual and happy fellowship between the women of the affiliated denominations. Conference Convener, Marie McCann, did a wonderful job of organisation and leadership. The Guest Speakers were all informative and challenging and it was altogether a most stimulating and thought-provoking Conference, with worthwhile recommendations formulated.

At our June meeting it was our delight to welcome Deaconess Barkat Dass who had been the 1978 Winifred Kiek Scholar. Barkat had had a remarkable career occupying many positions in Pakistan in her Christian service. Our dear friend and member, Deaconess Mary Andrews, thanking Barkat on our behalf, spoke enthusiastically about this "woman of vision, venture and vitality". Little did we think that before a few months had passed our Lord would have called both of these dear friends to be forever with Him. We just praise God for the wonderful influence that their witness for Him made on us all. It was indeed a privilege to have been part of the large congregation in St Andrew's Cathedral on 23 October 1996, attending the Thanksgiving Service for Mary's life. This saintly lady was an inspiration to us all and will be sadly missed in the ranks of ACW which she loved and for which, as a foundation member, she worked so consistently and well.

The 40th Anniversary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin occasioned many special functions and it was quite a revelation to hear from our six international

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visitors how this unique, global movement continues to grow, by God's grace. Our visitors, en route (or returning from) the ICFLC meeting in New Zealand, gave moving accounts of conditions of hardship, deprivation, cruelty and injustice experienced by Christians in many parts of the world. We were left in no doubt of the need for constant prayer for those deprived of the necessities of life, those whose rights are denied and those who are being exploited. "COME, CELEBRATE, REJOICE AND PRAY!" was a most meaningful theme for the 40th Anniversary of this wonderful movement which now brings together women of 81 countries in a longing for peace. Our thanks to Shirley Wells for her faithful attention to the demands of the 40th Celebration of FLC. It involved much visitation to branches which Shirley accepted so willingly.

The 1997 Winifred Kiek Scholars are RACHEL MCMANUS, the first Aboriginal recipient. Rachel has undertaken a Youth Ministry Course with the Anglican Youth Department at Sydney University and is involved in part-time work at Crossroads Christian Centre in Redfern; and JOANNE HARRIES of the Salvation Army in Tasmania, who is completing her Bachelor of Theology studies by correspondence. Do, please, keep all of our scholars in your prayers. In their correspondence with us they are constantly asking for prayer support. Rachel was warmly welcomed when she visited a recent Council meeting where she gave an interesting outline of her background and the work in which she is involved.

St John's Anglican Church, Campsie, was the venue for the 1996 ACWC Annual Service. A most inspiring time of worship focused on the 40th Anniversary of FLC, with prayers, hymns and readings being given in Korean and Chinese as well as English. We now look forward very much to the 1997 Service which will be held in the Lakemba Uniting Church on 17 November. Do try to attend and bring your friends. I would take this opportunity to congratulate Joan Tong on the excellent report of her visit to Korea and Japan last year, as a member of ACWC Executive. Joan gave us a splendid insight into the concerns of Christian women in those countries.

It was indeed a year with cause for celebration! Not only was the Mothers' Union 100 years old, but the National Council of Women also celebrated their centenary year, and it was my pleasure to attend all functions to which I was invited, on your behalf. The first meeting of NCW in 1896 was re-enacted in the Town Hall vestibule. It was a most interesting presentation, at the close of which CAW was presented with a plaque as an affiliated member of NCW. Other functions included the Lord Mayor's Reception, the launch of special stamps to mark the occasion, the Centenary Year Foundation Day Luncheon and the End-of-Year celebration. The culmination of this busy and interesting year was the wonderful Thanksgiving Service held in St James Church, Sydney, and for which ACW Executive members had prepared the prayers and chosen hymns and Scripture readings. It was my privilege to take part in the Service. We were very happy indeed to welcome Fiona Collins to a Council meeting and to hear this most charming and talented young lady tell us something of her studies. Fiona was the very appreciative recipient of our Grant (together with Microsoft) in the NCW Centenary Awards.

I have found it both informative and instructive to visit denominations other than my own and have been delighted at the interest shown in the aims and activities of ACW. The CWL Biennial State Conference was very interesting, giving much food for thought, as was the Broken Bay Diocese presentation of Madam Ky Lum Ang, the most senior of Cambodia's seven women parliamentarians, who sought our prayers as she gave a moving talk on the sad situation in her

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country. I was asked to speak at Concord Baptist and Campbelltown Baptist for World Community Day; Swansea Baptist Women's Fellowship and Riverwood Presbyterian (PWA); Ryde Presbyterian Church Service of Dedication for PWA; Dulwich Hill Salvation Army (WCD); St Philip's Anglican Church, Caringbah (WDP); and at the WCTU Convention. I have attended, as your President, St Stephen's Uniting Church Women's Fellowship; St Giles Presbyterian, Hurstville, Luncheon; PWMU Rally, Penshurst; Celebration and Thanksgiving for 50 years Ministry as Deaconess - Mary Andrews; St Mary's Cathedral Flower Festival; PPSEWA Luncheon; NCW's "Celebrating Being an Australian"; Anglican Home Mission Society's Annual Communion Service in St Philip's, Church Hill; Mothers' Union Festival Service in St Andrew's Cathedral and NCW's Jean Arnott Memorial Luncheon.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of the Executive, particularly to our most efficient and tireless Secretary, Joan Tong, whose cheery manner and loving support at all times encouraged me greatly. Sadly Joan has to relinquish the position because of a new posting with the Salvation Army, but we are glad to know that she will be happy to assist whenever possible. Thanks, too, to our exceptional Treasurer, Marie Majoor, who patiently and accurately keeps our finances in perfect order. To every one of our Executive members we can all say, "Well done and thank you!"

May our Heavenly Father bless us all in our endeavour to witness for Him and may we always remember that we can walk with confidence and security when we walk with Jesus.

PEG BLAKE, PRESIDENT

SECRETARY'S REPORT



It is very gratifying to look back on a year of activity and be able to say, "What a great year this has been!"

1996 was an unusually busy year, the activities having been highlighted by the President in her report, and I believe that the effect of the year has been to encourage us all, to challenge us to continue the program offered through ACW, and the inspiration of the special activities engendered in the main by the Fellowship of the Least Coin 40th Anniversary in New Zealand, which gave us the opportunity to enjoy visitors from overseas on two occasions, has given us a new and exciting vision of our own place both in Australia and as part of the Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) program - worldwide, and more specifically our affiliation through the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) with our christian sisters and brothers in Asia.

It is my very pleasant duty on behalf of us all to pay tribute to the leadership of President Peg Blake. We often remark how wonderful it is that every president brings to the office her own special gifts and abilities and makes her own special mark on the life of our council. Many past presidents are council members today and they continue to be a great source of inspiration to us all. President Peg brings to this office natural grace and dignity, conducts all meetings and services with enthusiasm and great expertise, offers devotional material with wisdom and spiritual fervour, and at all times is one with us all. Her friendship and interest in our lives is warm and sincere and to Peg we say, "God bless", and we all pray that her second year of office will be more exciting than the first!

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The work of the secretary cannot be accomplished without the support of the whole council, executive and council members, and my thanks are warmly offered for the co-operation, encouragement and helpfulness of everyone. When I became secretary, it was with the proviso that a minute secretary would also be appointed for I knew my limitations in this area, and it was providential that for the first year Peg Blake, and then Mina Whybourne accepted the responsibility and has been my right hand person throughout these past two years. A special word of thanks is due to Mina for her work, for her assistance given quietly but effectively, and for her wonderful special spiritual gifts of courtesy, kindness and love.

I am sorry that I cannot continue as secretary of the unit for I have loved working with and for you all, however, all is not lost, for I am able to continue to be a council member representing the Salvation Army and in this capacity have agreed to be an assistant secretary. I will do all I can to continue to support ACW NSW unit with all my heart, and to do all I can in a practical way to ensure the continued smooth and efficient running of this council.

I would like to pay tribute especially too, to all other executive members. (I wish you could all be on the executive!) The meetings are so full of enthusiasm, the business is dealt with very professionally, and every convener is fully committed to her task. In such good hands I believe that the best is yet to be!

JOAN TONG, SECRETARY

SPECIAL DAYS



1996 was another good year for our Special Days.

Fellowship Day in July was held in 35 centres where 1,368 people used the service written by the Victorian Unit on the theme "Dwelling in the Shelter of the Most High". I personally enjoyed writing an address for this service. The offering for Winifred Kiek Scholarship amounted to \$4,640.05 in NSW. The recipients of the Scholarship in 1996 were the people taking part in the Cambodian Christian Women's Association.

World Community Day in October gave us another opportunity to worship together in 40 centres. Attendance was 1,671. The theme taken by the writers in South Australia was "Our Unchanging God". What a subject of hope and faith for our speakers! The offering, as usual was divided between Asian Church Women's Conference and a special project. The Special Project in 1996 was for the Rehabilitation and Legal Aid Centre for Rural Women in the Raiwind Diocese of Pakistan. The total amount of the offering in NSW was \$5,093.60. At the World Community Day service, offerings for the Fellowship of the Least Coin are dedicated. The amount received in NSW in 1996 is in the FLC Convener's report in this Report.

During 1996 we were sad at the closure of two Branches - Lane Cove Longueville and Turramurra-Wahroonga. Sadly we learned early in 1997 of the closure of the Upper Blue Mountains Branch. All these Branches have closed, not because the people were disinterested in ACW and our Special Days, but because no one could be found in these areas to take on the responsibility of organising the



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services. It is a matter of great sorrow and concern to us at State Council that these three good Branches have had to close for this reason. In my report last year, when I spoke of the expected closure of two Branches, I thanked the people who had been faithful over so many years there.

This year I would like to pay tribute to the people of the Upper Blue Mountains who have been willing to take office over the 16 years that the Branch has operated, in particular, Mrs Helen Stutchbury, who, for all those years has been either Secretary or President of the Branch. Thank you, Helen, for all you have done for the Branch and for all the bitterly cold Mountains mornings you have endured to come down to Sydney for our meetings.

A small group will continue to arrange the World Day of Prayer services in the Upper Blue Mountains area. We still hope and pray that people in these three areas will rise to the challenge of working for ACW.

Good News! Our Life Member, Dorothy Woodhouse, who with her husband (and our friend) Les has retired to Kincumber on the Central Coast, was not there very long, before she was in the business of ACW organising for us a service in October. There was a small response for World Community Day, which Dorothy hopes will be bigger for the Fellowship Day service this year. Congratulations and Thank You, Dorothy.

1997 SERVICES - Fellowship Day service was written by Queensland Unit on the theme "Jesus Christ, the Way Ahead".

World Community Day service was written by the new Branch at Alice Springs. We were delighted to learn during 1996 of the formation of two Branches in the Northern Territory, at Darwin and at Alice Springs. The theme for WC Day is "One People, Embracing and Encircled by God's Love".

Again this year, I would like to thank the members of my committee for their help on Packing Days, the Staff of the UCA Secretariat office and my husband and helper, Barry.

EDITH RIDGE, CONVENER

SPECIAL FUNCTIONS

Our celebration of 40 years of FLC was the focus for our two ecumenical functions. We held two luncheons, one at Scots Church and the other at the Salvation Army Headquarters. Our dates were to suit our overseas visitors. We were honoured to hear from Shirin Samuel, executive secretary of FLC, also Woranut Pantupong, president of ACWC, Rita Wong vice-president, and executive secretary ACWC Iluminada Domingo. We also heard from Mary Cline-Detrick, executive secretary of Church Women United USA and Dorothea Dilschneider from the World Council of Churches.

What blessings FLC gave us on these occasions when we became so much more enlightened and aware of the problems in the wider world and of the efforts of our sisters for justice for women.

MARIE McCANN, CONVENER

SUPPORTING CHRIST'S MISSION



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NEWSSETTE



Having completed eight years as Editor, it is difficult to find anything very different to report, except to say that I enjoy putting our little State Unit journal together and am happy to continue doing so. It is gratifying to receive commendations from time to time, that ACW members really do think it is serving a purpose and that the issues are informative as well as interesting. Part of this is thanks to those Conveners who provide their Reports promptly each time; to these I seek to add accounts of the broader activities of ACW across Australia and in its affiliation with Asian Church Women's Conference, and when space permits, items of general interest and concern. I would like to express my thanks to Marie Major and Carmel Emmet who look after the computer records, print the labels and assist me with the collating, folding and mailing of each issue.

BERYL McLAUGHLIN

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN (FLC)



At the beginning of 1996 we took up the challenge to celebrate, rejoice and pray, and what a wonderful year we have had! God has used this anniversary year to encourage fellowship, and to share the FLC story and miracle with many many people throughout NSW. We are especially thankful for the opportunity of speaking at church groups and conferences in the city, suburbs and country districts and I would like to thank all who have travelled and given their time to 'spread the word' - it has been a team effort, the network has grown and our prayers for peace, justice and reconciliation have become more meaningful.

One of the highlights of the year was the visit to Sydney of three executive members of the International Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC), on their way home from their conference in New Zealand. It was wonderful to meet these ladies - Shirin Samuel from Pakistan (Executive Secretary of FLC), Dorothea Dilschneider from Germany (World Council of Churches and European Christian Women's Forum), and Mary Cline-Detrick from USA (President of ICFLC and executive secretary of Church Women United, USA). Their time with us was really special and we enjoyed showing them the sights of Sydney and sharing meals together. Their visit was linked to our own Anniversary Celebrations when just over 100 women gathered in the Salvation Army Function Centre to give thanks to God for His enabling and guidance over the years, and for the privilege we in Australia have had to be part of the Fellowship for 34 years. It was truly a time of rejoicing, and as each of our visitors spoke we were blessed and challenged. Mrs Julie Brackenreg and her daughter Claire from NSW Girls Brigade and Maisie Cavanagh from Kurin-Gai Partners spoke about their work and how their FLC grants had been used to help their ministries. The cutting of the anniversary cake by Shirin concluded the program and a time of sharing at lunch was enjoyed by all.

World Community Day with its theme 'Our Unchanging God' was extremely well supported in NSW and an amount of \$14,401.93 has been given in 'least coins' this year. I would like to thank all who took part in those Community Day Services - our speakers, leaders and all who met for worship and fellowship.

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Our National Convener Major Eileen Holley has continued to keep us up to date with FLC happenings and we were pleased she was able to represent Australia at the New Zealand meetings, and to take with her our illustrated greeting for display at the conference and celebrations.

Some copies of Circle of Prayer Volume 13 are still available, and teaspoons, brooches, prayer cards and lists of the 1996 grants can be obtained on request. As we commence a new year - let us go out in peace - peace that only God can give. Let us pray the prayer written by Shanti Solomon, (the founder of FLC) for the 40th anniversary: "May God's steadfast love, the foundation of our faith, continue to bless the FLC movement for justice, peace and reconciliation".

SHIRLEY WELLS, CONVENER

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP



As there was no individual scholar in 1996, the support from WKS being given to Women's Projects in Cambodia, the year was rather a quiet one in this corner of ACW. Correspondence has been maintained with past scholars and letters have been received from some of the more recent recipients.

Two scholarships were awarded this year to two Australians, Lieutenant Joanne Harries of Tasmania who is doing Theological studies and Miss Rachel McManus who is working amongst aborigines in the Redfern area - with Crossroads, an Anglican ministry, and who is completing theological studies.

We look forward to hearing more about these two scholars during the year. Please pray for them in the work they are doing.

BETH FINLAY, CONVENER

MEMBERSHIP

During the past year, average attendance at council meetings has increased to 50. Members have been involved in the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of FLC.

Executive members of ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE (ACWC) en route to the New Zealand conference met members at an informal luncheon at Scots Church. Three leaders of FLC (from Germany, Pakistan and USA) visited Sydney on their way home from the NZ conference. They attended a luncheon at the Salvation Army Headquarters.

Both of these functions enabled workers to share their work and personal experiences. The annual service of ACWC held at St Johns Anglican church Campsie was well attended. The service of worship, praise and prayer again focused on FLC.

This year has brought a challenge from sisters who endure much hardship and suffering. Their message makes us aware of the many privileges we enjoy and of the need to support those who work without such benefits.

HEATHER BADGERY, CONVENER



WELCOME
NEW
MEMBERS

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SOCIAL ISSUES

The past year has again been a busy one with many social issues, old and new claiming our attention. Once again we wrote of our concerns regarding the Burmese women, to the new minister for foreign affairs and received a comprehensive overview. Our congratulations were conveyed to Mr Carr and Mr Howard on the stand they had taken on the banning of guns. Several Council members were concerned over the pictures in "Dolly" magazine, and we wrote congratulating Dr Marlene Goldsmith on her stand against the portrayal of teenage girls in this way.

Again I say a warm thank you to all council members for their support in writing and contacting their local members, media outlets, and publications on many and varied issues.

HEATHER REID, CONVENER**THE GIRLS' BRIGADE**

Again Brigade rejoiced in being awarded a Fellowship of the Least Coin grant to Asia Pacific training trips. This means work can be done in many Asia Pacific countries both in 1996 and 1997.

Through our affiliation with the National Council of Women, I suggested Brigade could apply for the Norma Topp Trophy for the Centenary Youth Award. This they did, and the Pioneers and Young Leaders of the 32nd. Old Toongabbie Company were successful for their work in commencing the company at Glebe - this as a direct result of contact with the State Commissioner and our guest speaker at the installation of our President in 1996.

Once again it has been my privilege to represent Girls' Brigade on the Council of Australian Church Women and I thank them for this.

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

WCTU perseveres with its work of promoting and encouraging a drug-free lifestyle in spite of ageing membership and the difficulty of interesting younger women into active membership and participation - a problem which is affecting so many organisations in present times.

Attractive, factual, up-to-date literature is produced and distributed in considerable quantities, on subjects such as Marijuana and other drugs, Euthanasia, Gambling, Smoking, Foetal Alcohol Syndrome, as well as the effects of abuse of alcohol. These are placed in doctors' waiting rooms, some community centres, hospital-based support groups and in some high schools, also used in conjunction with alcohol-free drinks demonstrations and tastings, at country shows and regional festivals, as well as to women's and youth groups.

At the State Convention in March the guest speaker was ACW President Peg Blake. In May the NSW WCTU will be hosting the National Convention at the Salvation Army Conference Centre at Collaroy, at which keynote speakers will be Hon Dr Marlene Goldsmith MLC, who is well-known for her efforts for women and families, and Dr Percy Harrold, who is Director of the Adventist Health Department.

BERYL McLAUGHLIN, WCTU STATE SECRETARY

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AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN (N.S.W. STATE UNIT)
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1996

Balance b/forward		5323.77
Organisation A/c		
Affiliation Fees	442.00	
Associate Members Fees	140.00	582.00
Donations		20.00
Installation Service - Offering	810.25	
Comm.on craft	20.00	
	830.25	
Less expenses	80.00	750.25
Interest - CBA	178.35	
Glebe Board	437.60	
	615.95	
Less tsfd to ACWC Partners	34.50	581.45
Sale of surplus photos		12.00
Lunch Offering (Airport tax)	107.00	
Less Paid	91.20	
	15.80	
	93.00	108.80
Monies refunded		
5% handling of Offertories -		
FLC/WKS/F'ship Day/WCD		1170.89
Promotional Items - Sales	1456.50	
Less purchases	1091.80	364.70
Newsette - Subscriptions	905.00	
Less costs production & postage	512.33	392.67
State Conference - Registrations	2430.00	
Comm.on sale craft	72.30	
Sale tapes/papers	120.50	
	2622.80	
Less expenses	2572.24	50.56
Special Events Days	1020.00	
Less expenses	1035.10	DR15.10
Overseas Travel Fund	139.20	
Less paid to Nat.Exec	150.00	DR10.80
A.C.W.C. Partners - Donations	73.00	
A.C.W.C. Service	267.00	
Tsfd from Bank Interest	34.50	
	374.50	
Less paid to Nat.Exec	500.00	DR125.50
A.C.W.C. Bulletins Subscriptions	199.00	
Less paid to Nat.Exec	225.00	DR26.00
Flower Festival - Donations	156.55	
Less expenses	150.00	
	6.55	
Money returned unspent	7.50	14.05
Donations - 1,000,000 Women		13.00
Special Funds		
Fellowship Least Coin	14696.80	
Interest from Call A/c	120.00	
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	153.10	
Fellowship Day Service	4640.05	
World Community Day Service	5012.45	24622.40
Fellowship of Least Coin -		
Tsfd back from Call A/c		1500.00
J Tong - Nat.Ccl W'mn -Lunch 1996		35.00
Nat.Ccl W'mn - Refund L King (Guest)		35.00
ACW Nat.Exec. - Chq stopped		50.00
		30125.37
		35449.14

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Contra Items			35449.14
ACW Nat.Exec.-Refund WEC Conference	120.00		
H Reid -Mothers Union Centenary Lunch	25.00		
Nat.Ccl W'mn - Luncheon	35.00		
" " - Aust Day Lunch-Variou Exc	105.00		
Barkat Dass - Love Offering	145.00		
Offering for Shirin Samuel	50.55		
World Day of Prayer	179.85		
Love offering to replace stolen monies from B Finlay/L King/H Reid	301.00	961.40	961.40
			36410.54
Deduct Payments			
Printing & Stationery	498.85		
Postage	237.90		
Publicity	10.20		
Promotions	79.08		
Photos for records	83.30		
Sundry Expenses	57.25		
Expenses for overseas vistors	660.00		
Government Charges	62.14		
Subscriptions & Functions			
NSW Childrens Film & TV - Ann Sub	5.00		
Nat.Ccl W'mn	40.00		
" " - Centenary Dinner	45.00		
" " - Luncheon	35.00		
" " - Jean Arnot Lunch	40.00		
" " - Seminar	36.00		
" " - End of year function	5.00		
" " - Aust Day Lunch	35.00		
Mothers Union - Centenary Lunch	25.00		
YWCA - AGM & lunch	15.00		
PPSEAWA - Lunch	14.00	295.00	
Donations			
E Holley (Nat.Exec)- Towards NZ FLC Conf	100.00		
Glebe Girl's Brigade - Bibles	100.00		
ACW Darwin - Towards starting Unit	100.00	300.00	
Special Funds			
Fellowship of Least Coin	13606.03		
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	145.45		
Fellowship Day Service	4123.05		
World Community Day Service	4372.76		
	22247.29		
Add 5% entitlement & expenses	2030.64	24277.93	
F'ship of Least Coin-Tsfr from Call A/c		1500.00	
Re-issue of stopped cheque		50.00	
Flowers for J Tong - Death of mother		50.00	
Gift Voucher - L King - Past President		50.00	
FLC Presentation for NZ FLC Conference		19.90	
Videos - AICS Conference		55.00	
Contra Payments			
W.E.C. Conference	120.00		
Mothers Union Centenary Luncheon	25.00		
Nat.Ccl W'mn - Luncheon	35.00		
" " - Australia Day Lunch	105.00		
Barkat Dass - Love Offering	145.00		
Offering for Shirin Samuel	50.55		
World Day of Prayer	179.85		
Love offering to replace stolen monies from B Finlay/L King/H Reid	301.00	961.40	29247.95
C/BALANCE- C URRENT A/c 31/12/1996			\$ 7162.59

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SPECIAL FUNDS ACCOUNTS

Fellowship of the Least Coin			847.97
E/fwd 1.1.96			13508.81
Receipts for year ended 30.11.1996			14356.78
Less payments - Expenses Postage & Stationery	69.05		
National Executive ACW	13606.03		
5% entitlement ACW NSW	716.10	14391.18	
		34.40	Dr.
Receipts for December		1307.99	
		1273.59	C/fwd
Fellowship Day Service			
Receipts for year ended 30.11.1996			4640.05
Less payments - Printing/postage	300.00		
National Executive ACW	4123.05		
5% entitlement ACW NSW	217.00	4640.05	
		NIL	
World Community Day Service			
E/fwd 1.1.96			98.00
Receipts for year ending 30.11.1996			4995.60
			5093.60
Less payments - Printing/Postage	490.70		
National Executive ACW	4372.76		
5% Entitlement ACW NSW	230.14	5093.60	
		NIL	
Receipts for December		16.85	C/fwd
Winifred Kiek Scholarship			
B/fwd 1.1.96			27.30
Receipts for year ending 30.11.1996			153.10
			180.40
Less payments - National Executive ACW	145.45		
5% Entitlement ACW NSW	7.65	153.10	
		27.30	C/fwd



CAPITAL FUNDS STATEMENT 31st DECEMBER, 1996

Balances	Funds		
Commonwealth Bank	Organisation A/c		10448.72
Current A/c	"Newsette"	7162.59	
	B/fwd 1.1.96		638.84
Glebe Administration	Subscriptions	6000.00	<u>905.00</u>
Board			1543.84
	Less costs		<u>512.33</u>
Un.Church Trust Assoc.		1643.05	1031.51
Interest Received	Overseas Travel	66.95	
	B/fwd 1.1.96		161.88
	Add Receipts		<u>139.20</u>
			301.08
	Less payment-		<u>150.00</u>
	Stock		151.08
	B/fwd 1.1.96		695.04
	Sales		<u>1456.50</u>
			2151.54
	Less Costs		<u>1091.80</u>
	Flower Festival		1059.74
	B/fwd 1.1.96		25.60
	Donations		<u>164.05</u>
			189.65
	Less costs		<u>150.00</u>
	State Conference		39.65
	B/fwd 1.1.96		262.75
	Receipts		<u>2622.80</u>
			2885.55
	Less costs		<u>2507.24</u>
	ACWC Partners		378.31
	B/fwd 1.1.96		125.50
	Receipts		340.00
	Tsfd.from Bank		
	Interest		<u>34.50</u>
			500.00
	Pd-Nat.Exec.ACW		<u>500.00</u>
	Special Functions		NIL
	B/fwd 1.1.96		526.94
	Receipts		<u>1020.00</u>
			1546.94
	Less costs		<u>1035.10</u>
	ACWC Bulletins		511.84
	B/fwd 1.1.96	Dr.40.00	
	Subscriptions		<u>199.00</u>
			159.00
	Less Pd.		<u>225.00</u>
	F'ship L.Coin		Dr.66.00
	W.K.S.		1273.59
	W'ld Com.Day		27.30
			16.85
			<u>\$14872.59</u>
		\$14872.59	

Budget
News

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



The meeting held in May 1996 admitted the Roman Catholic Diocese of Maitland/Newcastle to membership status, followed by an excellent keynote address given by Revd. Keith Rowe of the Uniting Church - on identifying the next steps on the road to unity. There was also a presentation by the leaders of six churches, followed by questions and general discussion, which was an ecumenical session of great worth.

The AGM in November was held at Morpeth. Reports were given from committees, e.g. Social Issues, Community Housing, the Taize Pilgrimage of Trust, and Refugee Resettlement. Together with the NCCA a liturgical welcome and dinner was held for His Holiness Karekin 1, Catholics of All Armenians.

The President Archbishop Gibran expressed his wishes for closer fellowship by taking one another as we are and letting God work the miracle.

MARIE MCCANN, OBSERVER for ACW

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN (NCW)



This last year has been a busy year for NCW because of celebrating its Centenary. Special celebrations were held which were well attended, the highlight being the re-enactment of the first meeting held at Sydney Town Hall. The year ended with a Thanksgiving Service at St James Anglican Church, King St Sydney for which Australian Church Women prepared the service.

Monthly council meetings produced a variety of interesting speakers with the November meeting being a youth award night, awards being given for outstanding achievements.

BETH FINLAY & SHIRLEY WELLS, REPRESENTATIVES

ECUMENICAL DECADE OF CHURCHES IN SOLIDARITY WITH WOMEN

Since its inception in 1988, I have been a member of the NSW Decade Committee as a representative from ACW. Now, as we come near to the end of the Decade and take stock of the achievements during these years, in this Committee in particular, we have cause to be both depressed and happy. Depressed, because the creative potential of the Decade was largely ignored by the churches of Australia. Happy, when we consider the friendships made in our NSW committee and when we look at the things we have achieved.

This report will highlight activities in the 1996 period and foreshadow events planned for 1997.

* We have benefited from times of prayer, meditation and sharing. At our meetings, we value the time we spend in sharing good and bad news. We share worship resources and talk about books we are reading that bring us encouragement and spiritual renewal.

* Our support has gone to the Aboriginal people, since our attendance at the First Aboriginal Women's Conference in December 1995. We have

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provided support in several ways to the Aboriginal Housing Coalition in its struggle in Redfern.

- * A Spirituality Workshop with Sr Miriam Therese Winter was held.
- * Concern for Uprooted People has been shown through support of the Somali Refugee Women's Sewing Group at Auburn.
- * The Committee prepared the Opening Prayer for the NSW Ecumenical Council Annual Meeting.
- * A Workshop on Alternatives to Violence was held.
- * For the Year of the Eradication of Poverty, our Committee members attended a meeting to learn about the Grameen Bank.
- * There is a continued interest in the Taize Pilgrimage.
- * The Committee gives support to the projects of the NSW Ecumenical Council and the National Council of Churches in Australia, by helping to promote activities like the Christmas Bowl Appeal and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Activities planned for 1997 are:

- * A Spiritual Refreshment Day for Committee members during May - a Day Away at Wentworth Falls.
- * A Reflection Day in October for all interested people. It is hoped that this day will be lead by Brother Ghislain of Taize.

We are thinking of ways in which we can celebrate the achievements of the Decade next year. At any cost, we would like to stay together as a group, diverse and small as we are! We value being together and give thanks to God that we have had the opportunity of serving in this way.

EDITH RIDGE

BRANCH REPORTS

BURWOOD-CONCORD

At the Annual Meeting in February the following office bearers were appointed:

President: Mrs Yvonne Coorey, St Andrew's Anglican Church, Strathfield
Secretary: Miss Bonnie Lyons, Concord Uniting Church
Treasurer: Mrs Hilda Miller, St Luke's Anglican Church, Concord
Vice President: Major Yvonne Slade, Burwood Salvation Army
Vice President: Mrs Elsie Pullar, North Croydon Uniting Church

The first of our Annual Services was held on Friday, 26th July, when we met at Malvern Hill Uniting Church for the Fellowship Day Service. The Guest Speaker was to have been Major Joan Tong, Secretary of the NSW Unit of ACW, however due to a death in her family she was unable to be present. Our Branch President, Mrs Yvonne Coorey, gave an excellent address at very short notice, and this was very meaningful and much appreciated. The soloist was Mrs Coral Miller and Miss



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Connie Secomb played the organ. The theme of the service was "Dwelling in the Shelter of the Most High" and this had been prepared by the Victorian Unit of ACW. A happy time of fellowship was enjoyed over a light luncheon and we thank the ladies of Malvern Hill Fellowship for their hospitality.

The second Service was held on Thursday, 24th October, at Concord Baptist Church when the theme was "Our Changeless God". This World Community Day Service was written by a subcommittee of the South Australian Unit of ACW. Our Guest Speaker was Mrs Peg Blake, President of the NSW Unit of ACW who focused our thoughts on the absolute reliability of our God in the past, the present and the future, whatever it may bring, and His constant love available to everyone. Our soloist was Mrs Jill Jennings who was accompanied by Mrs Sharon Weismantel, and once again Miss Connie Secomb played the organ. Following the Service the Concord Baptist ladies served a light luncheon which was greatly enjoyed, along with the fellowship shared, and we thank the ladies for their welcome.

We are grateful to Burwood Uniting Church for allowing us to use their Fellowship Hall for our three business meeting during the year.

As we attend these ACW branch meetings we are conscious of a deepening sense of friendship, fellowship and mutual respect and we rejoice that we are growing closer with each year that passes. We hope that these friendships will continue into the future and we praise God that He has brought us together breaking down barriers which may have existed in the past, giving us a new sense of belonging to God's universal family.

BONNIE LYONS, SECRETARY

CITY OF SYDNEY

Our Fellowship Day Service for 1996 was held on Wednesday, 24th July at Wesley Mission.

Our speaker was to have been Major Joan Tong but owing to a bereavement Joan could not be with us so the Secretary filled in as speaker and our sympathy to Joan was expressed. Our Treasurer, Beth Finlay was able to undertake another of Joan's engagements.

The attendance was unfortunately small but represented seven of the City Churches. The ladies from Christian Climbers at Wesley Mission provided us with a lovely morning tea following the Service.

Difficulty is being experienced in City Branch because of the increasing age of members of congregations who are free to come to Services during the week. These ladies are as fully committed in their own churches as is possible for them.

Owing to the absence of our Treasurer in New Zealand and the involvement of the President and Secretary in other movements we did not hold a World Community Day Service in the City.

VI MINTY, SECRETARY



EVEN THE SON OF MAN DID NOT
COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE

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CHATSWOOD/WILLOUGHBY

The annual meeting was held in February this year at Salvation Army premises. The events for the year were planned and venues organised for the World Day of Prayer and other Special Days.

The installation of the state president was attended by some of our members. The Fellowship Day was well attended, the guest speaker being Beth Finlay. The World Community Day was equally well attended, the guest speaker being Mrs Joy Jarman. World Day of Prayer was held at Churches of Christ, the guest speaker being Marie McCann.

Our Willoughby Women Praying Together continues to meet on a regular basis, each denomination taking a turn to host the morning.

At the end of the year we were able to donate \$150.00 to Community Aid and \$80.00 to the North Shore Recreation Centre. Both groups were very grateful for the donations, the money being raised at our trading tables.

MORA CLIFF, SECRETARY

KILLARA/ROSEVILLE/LINDFIELD

Our branch is well represented by the ten churches involved in these services. Representatives faithfully attend our planning meetings and arrange for readers for the forthcoming service.

Our president is now Rev. Dr Hilda Abba, and in her beautiful robe and with her knowledge, we are led and inspired. Janet Bryant is our Hon. Treasurer and is also devoted. Our services are rotated ecumenically and the speaker, soloist and organist are all arranged by the relevant church. We have a lovely time afterwards, the fellowship and friendships are truly blessed

MOLLIE CRAIG, HON. SECRETARY

PARRAMATTA

From June 1996 to February 1997 this branch has held 3 meetings - on these occasions we have met to plan our strategy for conducting the 3 annual ecumenical services, namely Fellowship Day, World Community Day and lastly World Day of Prayer. Attendance for WDP was 95, WCD 94, and FD 60.

The theme for Fellowship Day being 'Dwelling in the Shelter of the Most High'. We did enjoy listening to Mrs Edith Ridge (guest speaker on this occasion), for her ability to separate those 3 words, 'dwelling', 'shelter', and 'most high', and speak on each one separately.

World Community Day was held in St John's Cathedral, Parramatta, and 94 persons attended, to the delight of our hostess Mrs Beverley Kemp. Organist on this occasion was Mr David Osborne and the soloist was Mrs Pamela Monk.

World Day of Prayer annual service was held in the Uniting Church Macquarie St Parramatta on 7.3.97 when again the number was 95 persons attending. This service was one with a difference this year, having been prepared by the women of Korea. Our hostess on this occasion was Mrs Lorette Jackson who was able to

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make contact with some of the local community of Korea folks. Two Korean vocalists contributed to the enthusiasm of the morning's program, whilst Mr Don Haddon played the piano, vocalists were Rev. K Duk and Mr Sue, guest speaker was Mrs Hyong Haylee. Again we ACW members were delighted by the number of persons attending.

1996/ 97 so far has been a very satisfactory year.

AVIS STRETTON

SEVEN HILLS/TOONGABBIE

Although our numbers have not been large, those who participated were most enthusiastic and we thank them for their faithfulness. The number of participating churches has dropped to 8 with only 6 churches available for meetings. This puts a slight strain on those churches having to be available almost annually..

At our AGM, our president Doris Haberfield asked to be relieved of the position after serving in this capacity for the past 11 years. Mrs Olive Beverley was elected in her place and we pray she will be blessed as she serves in this capacity. We assure her of our support. We record our thanks for the leadership of Doris, which was exceptional, all meetings and services very well planned. We feel blessed to have had the privilege of working with her.

Fellowship Day was held on the 19th July at St Anthonys Catholic Church with 50 people present. Mrs Marie Majoor was our speaker. All who attended were impressed with the taking of the mustard seed during the service. Community day was held at Grantham Heights Uniting on 18th October. Mrs Edith Ridge was our speaker on that occasion, impressing on us that amid all the changes in life "our God never changes."

Our planning meetings are still being held at St Peters Anglican - Seven Hills, and we thank them for continuing to make their hall available to us. On 5th December, following our AGM we held our christmas gathering. Members from each church represented, supplied items which proved to be most entertaining. Christmas gifts were donated to the Smith Family at this meeting. We give thanks to God for the opportunity to serve in this area of the church's work, and look forward to continuing in 1997.

SYLVIA J PETTIT, SECRETARY

THE ENTRANCE

During 1996 participation by the Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Presbyterian, Salvation Army and Uniting churches ensured that World Day of Prayer and Fellowship Day Service and World Community Day Service were well attended and successful.

The World Day of Prayer Service was held in The Entrance Salvation Army Citadel and was capably led by Lt Sue Pollock, who also gave a most inspiring address.

Fellowship Day and World Community Day Services were held in St Christopher's Church at Bateau Bay, in their new church. Both services were well attended with over 60 in the congregation and both speakers were excellent.



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We thank all those who contribute their talents to make a success of each service and for all who work and give of their time to prepare and supply food and drinks for all who attend. We enjoy the fellowship at the morning tea which precede each service. Our branch members are encouraged to attend the wider activities of Australian Church Women and some have attended the Spiritual Enrichment days and ecumenical luncheons.

An amount of \$203.35 was collected for the Winifred Keik collection and \$822.90 for the Fellowship of the Least Coin. We were thrilled by the generosity of our members. A further \$60 has been forwarded to the Treasurer as a Love Offering.

MARGARET ELLIS, PRESIDENT

STRATHFIELD/HOMEBUSH REPORT

Our ladies continue to work together in love as members of one family - God's family. Fellowship Day was held in the Strathfield Homebush Baptist Church. Beth Finlay stepped in at short notice to be our speaker and Shirley Wells refreshed our memories on the work of FLC.

World Community Day was held in St David's Presbyterian Church where our speaker was Deaconess Mrs Vera Ryan who is the Presbyterian Chaplain at the Westmead Children's Hospital.

Again this year we held 2 World Day of Prayer services. The day one was at Strathfield Unity Church with Mrs Betty Davis as speaker and the evening one at Homebush Uniting Church with Rev Mrs Jung Min Sun Woo as speaker. Mrs Davis is the recently retired vice-president of the World Methodist Council and Mrs Woo is chaplain at the Uniting Church Village at Lane Cove.

All our speakers during the year encouraged us to continue serving God wherever we are/ If we are faithful He will perform the miracle of growth. Our participating churches always make us very welcome and where their ladies' groups are small all ladies join in to help them.

We have been pleased to welcome some men at our services.

WINNIE HALL, SECRETARY

SUTHERLAND SHIRE

The year 1996 was a source of blessing to all involved in ACW activities in the Sutherland Shire. Members from the Anglican, Baptist, Churches of Christ, Congregational, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army and Uniting Churches participated in both Services and we had representatives from the Lutheran and Egyptian Coptic Churches attending.

Fellowship Day was held at St John's Anglican Church, Sutherland when Captain Carmen Curry of the Salvation Army, Miranda gave a very positive and thought-provoking address - "Dwelling in the Shelter of the Most High". Her exposition of Psalm 91 was excellent and she illustrated with a practical story. The attendance was 75, somewhat less than usual, because of the inclement weather and the funeral service of a very well-known person in the area. All enjoyed fellowship over luncheon.



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World Community Day was held at the Presbyterian Church, Cronulla when Mrs Janet Harrison, Mothers' Union representative of Council, was the speaker, the subject "Our Unchanging God". Janet gave us a very challenging address reminding us of the security and comfort we have in our loving God. Again we enjoyed fellowship over lunch and it was wonderful to see ladies greet each other as old friends from opposite ends of the Shire. Attendance was 90.

Our Branch covers a large area - Heathcote through Cronulla including Jannali, Como and Sylvania - we would like to increase attendances but often the dates conflict with other Church activities. We continue to send invitations to 55 Churches. We have a planning committee which meets prior to the special days, with an average attendance of 12, all denominations being included. Special invitations are printed for the Services and distributed by a very willing group of one gentleman, Brian Franklin (whose late wife, Kath was our enthusiastic first secretary) and several ladies.

Our branch members are encouraged to attend the wider activities of ACW and have attended spiritual enrichment and ecumenical luncheons, including the special "40 Years of FLC" luncheon. Representatives of our Branch are also involved in other ecumenical areas, such as Prayer on Wheels, choral work and special inter-denominational functions.

We are very blessed to have the State President, Peg Blake as our Branch President - she is a source of great encouragement to us.

MINA WHYBOURNE

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

PRESIDENT ELECT

We are delighted to receive the appointment by the Uniting Church of Rev. Elizabeth Walker to take the president's chair in 1998/99.

May God bless, guide and prepare Rev. Elizabeth.

Contd. from back page:

**CHURCHES OF CHRIST
REPRESENTATIVE**

Miss Elsie Cox
9/282 Dunmore St
PENDLE HILL

2145

Tel: (02) 9688 2329

**NEWSETTE
MANAGER**

Mrs Carmel Emmett
5 Owen Ave
BAULKHAM HILLS

2153

