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**\*\* INFORMATION PAGE \*\***

ALL A.C.W. MONIES -- Affiliation Fees, Fellowship Of The Least Coin, Newsette Subscriptions, Offertories for Special Days and Donations to be sent to the TREASURER: Mrs Helen Richardson  
33 Lynwood Avenue  
DEE WHY 2099  
Tel: 9971 0278.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- ⇒ For safety reasons **DO NOT** include the word "Treasurer" when addressing envelopes.
- ⇒ **ALL CHEQUES** to be made payable to "Australian Church Women NSW Unit Inc." and **NOT** to any individual person.

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

Denominational Groups:	\$25.00 per annum
A.C.W. Local Branches:	\$15.00 per annum
Organisations:	\$15.00 per annum
The Girls' Brigade	

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES due 1st March : \$15.00 per annum  
(includes subscription to Newsette)  
For further details contact Jennifer Peffer Tel: 9876 4056

**NEWSETTE** is the journal of the NSW State Unit of Australian Church Women and is published four times a year in February, May, August and November. Annual Subscription is \$10.00.

CONTRIBUTIONS to Newsette are requested from readers and should be sent to the Editor:

Mrs Beryl McLaughlin  
2/15 Morwick Street  
STRATHFIELD 2135  
Tel: 9744.8609  
Email: newsette@aanet.com.au

Changes of Address should be sent to the Newsette Manager/Sub Editor:

Mrs Brenda Dickinson,  
3/53 Kurrajong Street  
SUTHERLAND 2232  
Tel: 9542 6507  
Email: brendad2@optusnet.com.au



# NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN -- NSW UNIT

ACW Website: [www.acwnational.org.au](http://www.acwnational.org.au)

ACW seeks:

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

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.*

PRESIDENT: Mrs Jennifer Peffer Tel: 9874 4056  
Email: [rjpeffer@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rjpeffer@optusnet.com.au)

NUMBER 123

MAY 2010

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

As a result of buying our present car I received an invitation to attend a course for "Women on Wheels". Having been a driver for a LONG time I did hesitate but decided I might learn something. What a great experience! I wished I had learnt earlier the basics of owning and generally maintaining a vehicle "in good health" and how to deal with emergencies...we were even given an emergency mobile contact number for when you are out of range with your network if there is an accident, fire etc.

When I thought about this I related it readily to being a Christian for many years and feeling one is managing very well. We are offered opportunities to spiritually grow but we hesitate...then maybe we attend a conference or hear some gifted preacher and suddenly appreciate there are basics we were not aware of! We can never stop learning - and the emergency help line of prayer is never out of instant connection.

Like owning a car, we discover the need for regular maintenance. As

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individuals we need to check the basics - the study of God's word, prayer, having fellowship and involvement in Christian service. As with a vehicle, we sometime neglect to check the water, oil, tyres and fuel. Nothing works when we try to run on an empty tank, be it a car or our spiritual lives.

With a car you need to check the tyres regularly as uneven wear can lead to problems. You may need a wheel balance and alignment. I ask myself (and urge you to do likewise) is my life balanced spiritually, mentally, physically and emotionally? Take time to stop and consider.

Annual Meetings and Election of Office Bearers always are a good time for an organisation to do a maintenance check. Consider a balance and alignment - 4 points (just like a car has 4 tyres):

- \* LOOK UP: See God's design and purpose in all things, thank Him for his provision (*Romans 1:17,18,21*)
- \* LOOK BACK: Give thanks for leading in the past and the peace of knowing Him (*John 1:16*)
- \* LOOK AROUND: Give thanks for those within the organisation and the talents and gifts they can contribute (*Colossians 3:12-17*)
- \* LOOK AHEAD: Give thanks that God does provide and guide in all situations. There will always be challenges but God's helpline is always open. (*Romans 8 has some helpful verses to consider*)

My period of office as President of ACW NSW Inc. is coming to a close. It is time for a change of make and model! I commend *Nola Dickson* to your prayers as she takes up the role, representing the Presbyterian Church. My sincere thanks to the Executive and Members of Council who have worked alongside me and given such support and fellowship. "We being many, are One in the Lord."  
*Jennifer Peffer*

#### **A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER:**

There seems to be some misunderstanding regarding the fees payable to Australian Church Women NSW Inc. by groups.

DENOMINATIONAL GROUPS pay \$25 per year - this is paid by the State body of each denomination and covers all congregations of that denomination in NSW and in some cases the ACT.

LOCAL BRANCHES are NSW ACW Branches who arrange the Special Days Services (Fellowship Day and World Community Day) and are ecumenical groups who pay \$15 per year, as do affiliated organisations (e.g Girls' Brigade) which have been accepted as having similar aims as ACW.

*(Helen Richardson, Unit Treasurer)*

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*You are invited to the*

### **ANNUAL SERVICE OF DEDICATION, RECOGNITION OF RETIRING PRESIDENT**

**and**

### **INSTALLATION OF PRESIDENT**

**for 2010 - 2012**

**MRS NOLA DICKSON**

**at**

### **EPPING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*Cnr. Bridge Road & Rawson Street, Epping*

**on**

**MONDAY, MAY 17, 2010**

**at 10.30 am**

*A light lunch will follow*

#### ***Transport Arrangements:***

Church is a short walk on western side from Epping Station. Frequent trains from City via Strathfield, Hornsby or Chatswood. Buses: Phone 131500 for services from the city. Bus Interchange is on eastern side of railway line - there is a lift and walkway access across. Street Parking is limited. There is a Coles Car Park in Rawson Street, easy walking distance, but it is restricted to only 2 hours.

#### **PASTORAL CARE:**

We have been praying for *Sister Marie Craddock* who has undergone surgery; following a complication and a period of rehabilitation we are thankful to God that she has been allowed to return to her home.

*Winsome Penn* has also been on our prayer list. Winsome suffered serious complications following what was expected to be a comparatively straight forward day surgery procedure.

Both ladies have expressed appreciation for the love and support they have received from many of our members.

*Olive Edmondstone, Pastoral Care Convener*

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**FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:**

*Information and Guidelines:*

The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is a worldwide movement of prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation. Through this movement Christian women around the world seek fellowship with one another, and when they pray, they set aside the least coin of their currency as a symbol of solidarity. These coins are collected into a central fund and then redistributed through grants for special projects, and now, as a new initiative, the *Scholarship Award*.

The Scholarship offers financial support to young Christian women for their education in the FLC's vision of peace, justice and reconciliation. Candidates are eligible for selection from countries and regions within the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

The award aims to assist students in undergraduate and postgraduate studies or training courses in areas such as community development, cultural studies, education, gender justice, health, human rights, international development, law, peace studies, social care, social justice, theology, ecumenism and other related studies. It is to help with course fees and other related expenses e.g. accommodation, travel and living allowance (meals, transport, textbooks and course material).

The bursary is available only once, up to a maximum of \$5000 (US) depending on the need and country of study. It is proposed to issue one Scholarship Award annually.

Applicants for the award must meet the following criteria:

- A. Be a Christian woman aged 18-35;
- B. Be a member of a Christian Church community;
- C. For undergraduate studies: completion of high school or secondary school education to a satisfactory level;
- For postgraduate studies: completion of Bachelor degree programme at a satisfactory level;
- D. Be enrolled/registered in a study or training programme.
- E. Be a citizen of the country in the FLC region from which applying.

In Australia, Fellowship of the Least Coin offerings are received as part of World Community Day Services in October. The amount of this offering last October, from New South Wales, forwarded to the International Committee of FLC, was \$13,850. A summary of FLC Grants awarded during 2009 follows on the next page.

*Lillian Hodges, FLC Convener*

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**FLC GRANTS AWARDED IN 2009**

**AFRICA \$30,500**

- Sierra Leone - Lokohinyabu Girl-Mothers Educational Programme
- Togo - Breeding and Selling of Pigs
- Republic of Djibouti - Second Chance Training for Girls
- Kenya - PCEA Shalom Girls Training Centre
- Kenya - Joram G. Children's Home
- Tanzania - Women Income Generating Project
- Zimbabwe - Mavambo Women and Girls Sewing Club

**ASIA \$47,000**

- Malaysia - In God's Image Journal
- Philippines - Raising the Voices of Church Women in the Cordillera
- Philippines - Pastoral Care Training for Women Ministers
- Mongolia - Magic Berries Plantation Development
- Japan - Baptist Colony Tomo Nokai Project
- Cambodia - Light for Miserable Women
- Bangladesh - Assistance and Development for Disaster Affected Families
- East Timor - East Timor Women Project
- Nepal - Women Empowerment and Leadership Training
- Mongolia - ACWC and FLC Seminar-Workshop -

**LATIN AMERICA. \$15,000**

- Managua-Nicaragua - Open Doors: Woman Integral Service
- Guatemala - Women's Ministry Program
- Bogota-Colombia - Women, the Bible and Ecumenical workshops

**MIDDLE EAST \$15,000**

- Egypt - Economic Development for Poor Families in Urban Slums
- Lebanon - Rehabilitation of Minor Delinquents at Fanar Centre
- Jordan - Youth Awareness

**PACIFIC \$10,000**

- Samoa - Leadership; Prevention of Violence against Women and Children
- Toputapu Islands - "Joy" - Niva Fo'ou and Niva

**EUROPE. \$9,000**

- Greece - Social Justice and Peace Looking for Equal Opportunities
- Lebanon - European Project of Inter-religious Learning (EPIL)

**WCC WOMEN IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY PROGRAMME \$5,000**

Women as Instruments of Peace and Reconciliation

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER INT'NATIONAL COMMITTEE \$5,000**

- To build ecumenical partnerships through Bible Study that is gender aware
- To foster women's leadership in prayer and other church activities
- To identify and analyse conditions damaging lives, especially young people
- To develop collaborative strategies to address these conditions especially as related to HIV/AIDS and the economic and social conditions that foster this epidemic.

**WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:**

The two 2010 scholars, *Ruth Marsipal* (PNG) and *Tonu Fakraufon* (Fiji) need our prayers as they move through the year, currently doing internet assignments and reading email but no replies as yet. I have also sent emails and a card to Tonu in their home countries, then from mid-year in Sydney for the rest of their course at Alan Walker College. National WKS Convenor, *Maureen Clarke* has sent, and I have one ready to send to Ruth when I have her mail address. I have assured them of our prayers.

We had an Easter card from *Nighat Gulzar* (Pakistan 1994, now USA) but no other news although she is faithful in keeping contact.

Past WKS Convenor *Mina Whybourne* had a letter from *Rachael Otto* (*nee McManus*), (1997) with some special news – see item on opposite page.

I have a recent newsletter from *Christine Ferguson* (2009) whose Graduation with High Distinction from the Bible College of Victoria was reported in February Newsette – after a wonderful time overseas she is back in Melbourne, doing casual nursing, needing permanent accommodation and doing one class at the Bible College.

*Inise Foiakau* (2009) is thankful for ACW help in equipping her for her work in the Fijian Community in Western Sydney. Is continuing her studies hoping to finish by early 2011.

*Imelda Marcos* (2008) home in the Philippines till mid-year and then hopes to return to the Arabian Peninsular for long term – she says that Yemen has “doors opening” for her.

*Leinamau* (2007) still Deputy Christian Education Director, working hard to produce resource materials for pastors, elders and “everyone” in the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu – much travel to other islands, running camps, training, visiting schools etc. The 8th National Youth Convention will be in May for around 400, and at the same time in her own village, will be the first Sunday School Convention to which 600 children and teachers will travel from over the islands – she has much responsibility - studies, food, accommodation...imagine and pray. *Leinamau* has been chosen to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lausanne Gathering in South Africa in October. She has applied for scholarship - without God's help, it will be impossible but would be great for her. Scripture Union is growing and the Pacific Meeting will be held there in December, but much to be done before then. YWAM (Youth With a Mission) has programs going too. *Leinamau* is an amazing woman, touched by ACW and the Winifred Kiek Scholarship. She thanks Christ for what He has done in our lives – changed lives that can touch others and lead them to Christ. Pray for her health and safety.

It's wonderful to hear from these women and to be able to continue to partner in prayer.

Also please remember the WKS Trustees as they receive applications from the Asian region (including India) for decisions on scholars for 2011.

*Judith Cayzer, WKS Convenor*

**A SPECIAL APPOINTMENT FOR WKS SCHOLAR:**

*From Chinchilla News, Queensland, February 4, 2010:*

**“CHAPLAIN JOINS AS STAFF**

*Miles State High School has welcomed a new school chaplain onto their staff this year.*

*After a long career as a youth worker in New South Wales, Rachael Otto will be taking up the role as the school's new chaplain.*

*She said “I believe our young people are our future – the next generation and they play an important part within our community. They need to be encouraged and supported to help them reach their full potential in life and to believe in themselves.”*

*Mrs Otto previously worked in Wauchope and Hornsby Heights in NSW as a youth worker and as the Aboriginal youth worker in central Sydney suburb of Redfern.”*



Rachael's husband Craig is a teacher at this same school, and ACW members will remember that their two children are *Ivymay*, who is nine years old, and *Jayden* who is nearly two.

ACW members who have prayed for Rachael for some thirteen years will be delighted to hear this great news and we will continue to be interested in her life and service, and we do wish her the Lord's richest blessing both in her family and in her ministry as Chaplain at Miles High School.

**ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:**

From the ACWC Executive Secretary *Shu-Wen Chiang* comes a special request. She is asking for written contributions for the next edition of the *ACWC Newsletter*, for which she has chosen "Mothers' Day" as the theme. Shu-Wen writes: "We know that most women's lifestyles are different before and after marriage, especially after having children, so let us create a special issue for our Newsletter. Please share the changes you've experienced before and after marriage and before and after having children. Some of us are single or have no child. You are welcome to share the stories about your mother, grandmothers or sisters with us."

I would like to add that for many of us the most recent experiences we may have had are those of becoming grandparents with its new joys and commitments. Perhaps you would like to write a few lines about these experiences.

The deadline for sending in these contributions is **20<sup>th</sup> May** (i.e. they need to reach Shu-Wen by then). If you could send some photos with your articles that would be perfect!

Contributions can be sent via email to: [acwc@seed.net.tw](mailto:acwc@seed.net.tw), or if you don't have email, you can post them to me at 3/14-16 Tuffy Ave. Sans Souci 2219, and I will forward them by email (including photos).

On the home front, preparations are forging ahead for our Multicultural Concert, which celebrates our fellowship with the Christian women of the 18 other countries affiliated with ACWC. It is promising to be another great event. Don't forget to be there!

ANNUAL MULTICULTURAL CONCERT

Sunday, October 31, 2010

The Salvation Army, 23 Anglo Road, Campsie

2.30 pm

Afternoon Tea to follow

*Lyn Middleton, ACWC Convener*

**APOLOGY:**

I would like to apologise for the error on back page of February Newsette, in the subscription for Newsette, which is **\$10** per year, not \$15 as printed.

*Beryl McLaughlin, Newsette Editor*

**SOCIAL ISSUES:**

*STRIVING FOR A JUST SOCIETY:* Social Inclusion means a just society that serves all. South Australia instituted a Social Inclusion Unit in 2002, which has targeted homelessness, problems of serious repeat offending by young people, mental health, and Aboriginal health and education. Most States may have similar initiatives but are not integrated into Government.

*SENATE:* Government Legislation currently before the Senate aims to reinstate the Racial Discrimination Act, which comes with a catch in the extension of welfare quarantining to non-indigenous communities. Compulsory income management has not reduced Alcohol and Drug consumption, nor increased the consumption of fresh food amongst aboriginal families in the Northern Territory.

The Federal Government plans to allow disadvantaged people to access Centrelink payments weekly instead of usual fortnightly payments.

*DIRECTORY SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE* has been launched by the Federal Government. Copies can be obtained from Aged Care Infoline or Centrelink.

*SEXUALISATION OF CHILDREN* e.g. Sexual advertising of young and not so young children, using adult clothing, stances and makeup.

*FACE BOOK:* Be alert to dangers of this to young children e.g. Violence and pornography.

*TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN* - most recent example in Haiti, also recent television program about grooming young boys for sex in Pakistan.

*ARTIFICIAL SPERM* - Scientists want to make embryos for research. All cures for disease to date have come from Adult Stem Cells. Will they want to make babies next? Who would care for them? This is not in the interests of the children.

*PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT.* We have a duty to look after the Creation God has given us. We need to do this to feed the hungry and provide safe drinking water and proper housing.

*OUR CULTURE* has been shaped by our Christian belief that it is important to care for the weak and those in need. Let us remember the word from the prophet Micah: "To do Justice, to love with kindness and walk humbly with your God."

*Carmel Keys, Social Issues Convener*

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### BIBLE TEACHING IN MYANMAR:

This was the busiest time I have ever had during the 6 years I have been doing this and we praise God that it went extremely well.

Our team, *Leonie de Groen*, *Janine Steele* and I, arrived in Yangon (Rangoon) on Saturday January 30. Distributed within our suitcases we had brought 100 solar-powered, hand-held Megavoices (90 in Burmese and 10 in Chin dialect, which had the Bible, stories of Jesus and some medical and health information on them) to give to the Archbishop to be distributed among the illiterate and blind people.

SUNDAY Jan 31: We attended church and after the service we each gave a shortened teaching session.

MONDAY Feb 1: We met with the Archbishop who was very pleased that we had come to teach the women again, and overjoyed with the gift of the Megavoices- he knew just exactly where they could be used.

TUESDAY-THURSDAY Feb 2-4: Women's Bible Training for 220 women from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm. Once again they slept on mats on the floor, squeezed in tightly. I taught 1 & 2 Samuel "*The Life of David*" also looking at *Psalms 23, 51 & 142*; Leonie taught "*Who Is Jesus*" from Mark 1-8 and Janine taught from Acts looking at how Paul founded and nurtured churches.

FRIDAY-MONDAY FEB 5-8: A long, hot 7-hour drive to another city, for 3 days teaching attended by 50 women – first session after dinner that evening and continued all day Saturday. On Sunday Janine left to return to Sydney. After the Cathedral Service ended, everyone remained and Leonie and I gave two Bible teaching sessions. After lunch we taught again until 5 pm; in the evening a very special dinner was given to thank and farewell us.

TUESDAY-FRIDAY FEB 9-12: Another journey to another area for 4 days teaching 100 women and some ministers who attended every session.

SATURDAY FEB 13: Met at the Cathedral with one of the ministers who was a student of my husband's at Trinity College, Singapore, and his wife. In the afternoon met and spoke to Clergy Wives, then a farewell dinner we gave for our hosts, the MU worker, two interpreters and driver.

SUNDAY FEB 14: Leonie and I spoke during the Service at another church in the area, then off to the airport to travel back to Sydney, after a very profitable but exhausting time, when we had taught and ministered to almost 400 women. Praise God for his wonderful sustaining.

*(Reported by Norma Dumbrell)*

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### PAN PACIFIC & S E ASIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION:

The guest speaker in February was *Dr. Reginald Zahiruddin*, who had been a student of our President, Mrs Joan Egan, when she was a missionary in Pakistan. The PPSEAWA branch had been part of a drive to provide sewing machines for village women in Pakistan where Dr. Reginald served, providing 3 of the 25 sewing machines given, and Joan was present for the hand over.

Dr. Reginald's presentation was a real faith witness as he had been kidnapped by the Taliban. The mission has 65 hospitals and some areas have no Taliban presence e.g. in the Punjab. Prior to the 9/11 attack in the USA there were no problems - 90% of the students in the mission schools are Muslim – they appreciate the good schools and hospitals, and Taliban came to his hospital for treatment. He could go the Afghanistan border and not wear a beard or Muslim dress; fighters needed him to show them how to dress wounds – the border is very porous and the people live in mud-brick houses. He had no problems with them as they respected him as a doctor – he was head of a predominantly Muslim welfare organisation and was still free to start meetings with Scripture and prayer.

After 9/11 Christians were seen as pro-USA and the Taliban want to make them Muslims. One day he went to the Afghanistan border without his usual armed guards and he and his driver were stopped and kidnapped by Taliban fighters. Initially he blamed God, but prayed that they would not be harmed. They were blindfolded and transferred from one car to another as they travelled to the mountains, where they were told they had to accept the Muslim faith or be beheaded – they said they would take him to the mosque on the next Friday to do so, but they did not come. He said he would remain firm in his faith and felt that God told him what to say – he said "Only God can let my life be taken, and show me where in the Koran you are told to terrorise to convert people."

They asked for a big ransom, saying they knew he had family in Australia and ways to get money – they needed cash to buy arms. He prayed for 2 weeks, asking God to change their heart so that they would be released and no payment made – he told God that he was tired and at the end of his tether. Then they changed the demand to 1 million, not 20 million, saying that was for their care of him. He had a dream of returning home and when it would happen and prayed the whole night before. That day they came with new clothes for him to wear, which he refused. He was captive for 25 days before being taken back – the leader said your God is great, as no one ever comes out of this ordeal alive – apparently the Taliban who had been treated at his hospital had argued for his release.

*Sr. Joan Bird, ACW Representative to PPSEAWA*