



## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN "women at work"

No. 4.  
From Eileen Dingle -

**WORKING COMMITTEE** - An amazing amount of work was conducted at the monthly meeting on June 28 which started at 10.30 a.m. and finished at 3.p.m. Mrs. Dennis presided and it was due to her guidance and the detailed preparation that so much was accomplished. A Memorial Minute had been prepared and was read while members stood in tribute to the late Mrs. Ashton, immediate past president of A.C.W. MISS VIOLET SAMPA was present and gave an interesting account of her visits to Sydney (2) and Canberra (1). She was most appreciative of the opportunities she had had of sightseeing and meeting the women. At Canberra she showed slides of her homeland at a meeting arranged by Church of England ladies and she particularly enjoyed the playing of the band and the singing at a Salvation Army Fellowship meeting. She was fascinated by what she saw on the sheep property to which she was taken. Canberra ladies gave her money to buy slides of interest of the Capital City to take back to Zambia - a thoughtful gesture, indeed!

The Sydneysiders gave her a warm welcome and showed her many of the beauty spots. Nightly she visited and spoke at local women's meetings and in the day time was taken to various training colleges to observe procedures. At the Church of Christ College she met the students. The Congregational ladies showed their keen interest in Violet by giving her an electric blanket. On her second visit Violet spoke at the Annual Rally and was given \$10 to purchase books. Her trip to the Jenolan Caves was one of the highlights of her visit. Immediately on her return to Queensland she attended a Student Seminar at Alexandra Headlands and revelled in the warmth of the sunshine as well as benefiting from the fellowship and study.

**WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP** - Mrs. Pope reported that the Committee had sent out application forms to countries of Asia, the Pacific Islands and to Africa. A full report from the Joint Faculty of Theological Studies on Violet's progress will be tabled at the July meeting. The Queensland W.I.C.C. has arrangements well in hand for Violet's August vacation which she will spend in Townsville, Mackay and Rockhampton. She is to attend Fellowship Day services at Ipswich and Southport. It was also reported that preliminary arrangement had been made for Violet to visit Tasmania from November 11th to 18th and Victoria from 18th to 26th.

**A.C.W. 1972 CALENDAR-DIARIES** - It has been decided to have 6,000 of these printed for distribution to those State Units and groups who indicated willingness to promote interest in the Winifred Kiek Scholarship by this means. The Diaries will sell at 12 cents each which will mean a donation of 4 cents on each one to the W. K. Scholarship Funds. The printer has promised early delivery of the order and immediate despatch interstate will ensure every opportunity to "sell early".

**UNITED CHURCH AREAS** - Mrs. Muschamp reported having written to all centres on her list and having received replies from Alice Springs and Lae. Mrs. Jackson (who is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. F. Forrest of Brisbane) of Lae expressed appreciation of the link through Mrs. Muschamp with A.C.W. and of "Women at Work". She had been especially interested to read of Mr. Franz Tumiwa as he had stayed overnight at their home when he visited New Guinea, en route to Australia. They have many international visitors and commented "we just stay put and the world comes to us". Other recent visitors were David Parker, Youth Secretary for A.C.C. and

Graham Jackson who was on tour from Geneva to gain information on projects which were seeking aid from W.C.C.

She says that Lae is a rapidly expanding town with a business centre and many homes comparable to those found in a large provincial town in Australia. There is an Institute of Technology, a large secondary Technical College, several high schools and a large hospital which has an excellent School of Nursing.

There are two United Church congregations in Lae. The older established one was formerly the Papua Eklesia (Congregational) which has a predominantly Papuan membership, and the other, of which her husband is the minister, comprises 60% indigenous people (mainly students, clerical workers, teachers and Administration staff) and 40% expatriates. All the congregation understand English and most speak it well.

The Lae Christian Women's Fellowship is an active interdenominational women's group with a Lutheran lady as president, a member of the United Church as Secretary; the Baptist Church is represented and the Salvation Army women attend sometimes. The average attendance is 45. Mrs. McKenzie of Alice Springs also expressed appreciation of Mrs. Muschamp being their link with A.C.W. After attending a Working Committee meeting in Melbourne last year, Mrs. McKenzie has been trying to carry out the suggestion made that she should get an Inter-Church women's group going in the Alice and to encourage Darwin to do the same. In the Alice a meeting of Salvation Army, Anglican, Roman Catholic, Y.W.C.A. and United Church representatives decided to arrange services for Fellowship and World Community Days this year, which they felt would prepare them for forming a W.I.C.C. She asked if an extra copy of "Women at Work" could be sent and commented, "It's great to think we have contact - even though we are a thousand miles from anyone".

**FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN** - The cheque from Geneva was received to be divided between the Lutheran Theological College at Lae and the United Church Theological College at Kerevat, near Rabaul. As I am to visit Rabaul this month, it was decided to entrust the cheque for the Raronga College to me to make a personal presentation to the principal. Mrs. Haigh reported having brought a further supply of "Circle of Prayer" when returning from Melbourne recently and anyone wishing to have copies should write to her at 63 Seventh Avenue, Kedron, Queensland 4031.

**INTERSTATE NEWS** - It was good to receive a copy of the Order of Service for the Annual Rally in N.S.W. The hymns chosen were particularly joyful and challenging - "Praise my soul the King of Heaven", "Be glad in the Lord and Rejoice" and "Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim". We read in the Tasmanian Annual Report that Mrs. Freeman had represented the W.I.C.C. on the Tasmania Council of Churches. It is with regret that they report that Mrs. Freeman will be returning to Victoria at the end of the year. They are still feeling the loss of Mrs. Shuey whose husband was transferred to Victoria in January. The report of the Conference for leaders in Denominational women's groups held at Parkin-Wesley College in Adelaide made interesting reading. - The Methodist and Congregational women are much involved with the Presbyterians in working towards union. The Salvation Army ladies told of social services which include emergency house-keeping, hospital visiting, care of the aged and unmarried mothers and children. The Church of England women are also active in hospital visitation. The Churches of Christ ladies told of many instances of community service being given in local areas by women of all denominations. The Baptists reported that there is much personal involvement in inter-church groups and that there is a growing awareness of the need to be more involved. The Roman Catholics reported that the past three years had seen a great growth in ecumenical activities. An interesting aspect of inter-church friendship they highlighted was of denominations 'caring' for one another at the local level by baby-sitting and catering for one another on denominational occasions. The Society of Friends encourage inter-church study groups in private homes. During the concluding Plenary session it was suggested -

A. W.I.C.C. contact Meals on Wheels to learn from their policy re following up lonely

- people with visiting and to ask whether there is any way in which we might be involved.
- B. That the value of inter-church groups in districts be stressed pointing the value that the two existing groups find in doing things together.
- C. That local government be encouraged to employ social workers. That we ask 'what relationship there is between the local government and the District Bush Nurses' Society at the local council level and ascertain whether a similar relationship might be formed for the social worker.
- D. That we ask the government what the situation is regarding a clean linen service.
- E. That we contact Tom the Cheap asking particulars of their caring for children after school in Western Australia and ask are they contemplating a similar scheme in South Aus.
- F. Home and Hospital visiting was discussed and the problem of lack of transport and no 'phone amongst the contacts was raised. It was suggested that retired men might be encouraged to assist with driving.

A.C.W. PENS & NOTELETS - State Units seem to be really working at the sale of these, but the treasurer expressed some concern that money for them was not coming in as promptly as might be expected in view of the fact that a review of the funds must be made in September. It may be that some, unaware of the forthcoming review, are holding money which should be forwarded to A.C.W.'s treasurer, Mrs. D. Eldershaw (31 Burrell St., Clayfield, Bne. 4011) without delay.

"DON'T JUST STAND THERE" is the title of a small book (16 pages) which will be of particular interest to women's groups. National Committee members met the author, MISS JEAN SKUSE, at the meeting in Sydney in February last. As one of a study team, she visited Peru, Chile and Argentina in 1969, to study "Issues of Poverty in World Development". She is now Secretary for World Christian Action with the N.S.W. Council of the A.C.C. Her book was written at the request of the World Federation of Methodist Women for background material for their Assembly in Denver, U.S.A. in August 1971, and is an attempt to share some of the concerns which became hers as a result of the past two years. A comparable book would cost at least 50 cents - this one costs only 25 cents.

JUST A THOUGHT! Mrs. Dennis read the following poem at the meeting of the Working Committee. I'd like to share it with you -

SLOW ME DOWN, LORD.

Slow me down, Lord!	to pat a stray dog;
Ease the pounding of my heart	to watch a spider build a web;
By the quieting of my mind.	to smile at a child;
Steady my hurried pace	to read a few lines from a good book.
With a vision of the eternal reach of time.	Remind me each day
Give me	That the race is not always to the swift;
Amidst the confusion of my day,	That there is more to life than increasing its
The calmness of the everlasting hills.	speed.
Break the tensions of my nerves	Let me look upward
With the soothing music of the singing	Into the branches of the towering oak
streams	And know that it grew slowly and well,
That live in my memory.	Slow me down, Lord,
Help me to know	And inspire me to send my roots deep
The magical restoring power of sleep.	Into the soil of life's enduring values
Teach me the art	That I may grow towards the stars
Of taking minute vacations of slowing down	of my greater destiny.
to look at a flower:	
to chat with an old friend or make	
a new one;	

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