

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW UNIT 1996/97
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AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

ACW NEWS

We aim - 'To promote co-operation and understanding between men and women in church, family and society.'

August/September 1996

President's Letter -

Greetings from the Northern Territory! What a happy time I have had in recent weeks holidaying with my Darwin based members of family, and in renewing old friendships.

The perfect Dry Season weather added to my enjoyment, also the tropical shrubs and flowers now in bloom. My favourite, the frangipani, is particularly lovely just now. However, even Paradise has a flaw or two....the presence overhead of aircraft of the United States airforce is at times quite deafening as they fly in and out of the local RAAF base! The Americans are presently here on exercises.

On Monday 24th June I met with a group of ladies (Anglican, Catholic, Salvation Army and Uniting Churches) at morning tea at the home of Elizabeth Appleby, wife of the Anglican bishop of the Northern Territory. Those present were of the opinion that, initially, an ecumenical committee to concentrate on Special Days services and the promotion of Fellowship of the Least Coin/Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trust would be preferable to setting up a NT Unit of Australian Church Women at this stage. The proposal made sound common sense, therefore I was happy to agree. A committee of six, comprising ladies from each of the four denominations present, was established under the co-Convenership of Mrs Elizabeth Appleby and Major Wilga Morris. The committee, to be known as Darwin Branch Of Australian Church Women, will liaise directly with National Executive of ACW.

I have had the pleasure of attending a number of noteworthy events. On Friday 28th June I attended the Dragonfly Season Lunch organised by the Darwin task force of the Christmas Bowl Appeal - a huge success both socially and financially. The large number of guests enjoyed a variety of Australian and Ethnic dishes in the beautiful gardens of Admiralty House.

On Monday 1st July I visited Nungalinga College, and was warmly welcomed by the Principal Rev Wali Fejo and staff. I was impressed with the facilities of the college and the dedicated staff members.

The celebrations organised in honour of the tenth anniversary of the episcopal ordination of the Most Reverend Ted Collins MSC, Bishop of the Diocese of Darwin, were most enjoyable. A capacity congregation filled St Mary's Star of the Sea Cathedral for a special Mass on Wednesday 3rd July prior to a picnic tea in the adjoining school grounds. Many travelled long distances to attend. I was delighted to renew many friendships.

Tomorrow I fly to Brisbane where I look forward to lunching with members of the Queensland Unit before going on to the National Forum of NCCA at the University of Queensland. Then it is back to chilly Canberra!

I thank God for the opportunity to spend time with my beloved son and his family, and for the achievement of my dream to establish an ACW presence in Darwin. I am deeply grateful to those already busy women who agreed so pleasantly to try for the success of Darwin branch of ACW. Please remember them in your prayers.

May God bless each of you

Yours sincerely

Janie

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Thank you to all who have sent in brochures and reports on the subject of Ageing in Australia. It has been a most helpful exercise.

The Executive Secretary of the International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, Shirin Samuel, has written with a request for articles, poems, songs, painting, embroidery, drawing, your memories of past events of FLC, pictures, cuttings of FLC articles from any magazine, pictures of a project which received FLC grant or pictures relating to FLC and translations of FLC materials to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

If you are stirred to action, please send your material to Mrs. Eva Findlay, Hon. Treasurer ICFLC, 50a Selwyn Street, Christchurch 8002 New Zealand. There will be a display of these items so do write your name and address clearly on the item you are sending to Eva.

The annual meeting for ICFLC is to be in New Zealand in September/October 1996. There's no time to lose!

God bless you,

Lynette Green

National Representative, Asian Church Women's Conference.

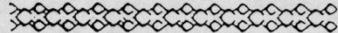


TOP END TRIVIA

Quotes from an amusing article presently 'doing the rounds' in Darwin.

YOU KNOW YOU ARE A TERRITORIAN WHEN.....

- . You've fitted a bull bar on the baby's stroller.
- . You have 15 recipes for mango Chutney.
- . You mow your lawn and find a car.
- . You consider a 3 piece suit to be a singlet, shorts and thongs.
- . The directions to your house include 'turn off the bitumen.'
- . Your hairdo has been ruined by a ceiling fan.
- . You buy your first tie after being elected to Parliament.
- . You think a temperature of 18 degrees is cold.



LIEUT COLONEL ELIZABETH WEBB OAM

National Executive and members of State/Territory Units of ACW are rejoicing at the inclusion of the name of Beth Webb in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Beth is a worthy recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia for her work in many spheres. In addition to a long career as an officer in The Salvation Army, Beth has made a tremendous contribution to a number of women's organisations. Her work for Australian Church Women is acknowledged with deep appreciation. Congratulations Beth!

- E Sullivan



UNIT NEWS:

Tasmania: From the minutes of the AGM - The death is recorded of Muriel Bryant, a Launceston Branch member and Life Member of World Day of Prayer.

Congratulations to Mrs Pat Dodd on being made a Life Member of the Unit having been a member for 20 years. She has been involved in many organisations and was named Anglican of the Year in 1995.

Mrs Marie Hewitt of Burnie also received Life membership of the Unit. She had also received an extra award in 1995 - a Tasmanian Day award. A list of Office Bearers is included in this edition.

Queensland: From Ailsa Skippen Acting Secretary. On Tuesday, 30th April 1996, we held our annual Musical Morning Tea in St Andrew's Uniting Church Hall, City.

Although a wet and dreary day outside, we had a record crowd to enjoy the sumptuous morning tea in warmth and fellowship.

We were entertained and enthralled by "The Brothers James" Male Choir with a wide range of old melodies, Irish and Scottish items and a segment of sacred songs to delight our audience. During the finale we were encouraged to participate with linked hands around the hall as we sang 'Old Lang Syne' and 'I Still call Australia Home'.

The morning was a resounding success both financially and spiritually as a lovely prayer was offered to conclude the morning's entertainment. The proceeds from the morning, which included a trading table will benefit our Travel Fund.

Editor:

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Secretary, Val Van de Wiel who is recovering from major surgery and to the President, Terry Reeve whose husband suffered a massive stroke.



ACT: A special morning tea was convened to hear Deaconess Barkat Dass from Pakistan speak of her life and work in her country. The Deaconess received some of her training in Australia as a WK Scholar in 1978. Whilst her visit was a private one initially, WK Fellowship funds were made available to allow her to visit and speak to the ACT Unit and to the NSW Unit. It was unfortunate that time didn't allow her further visits to Units.

A delightful personality, with a rich Christian spiritual experience she told of her faith in God and the wonderful way in which she has been able to serve Him in a land that has such a small percentage of Christians who are actively persecuted and discriminated against.

ACT News Cont.d

The ACT - ACW Banner was displayed at Parliament House recently in support of tighter gun laws when the petition was launched there in the presence of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

Our recently appointed Social Justice Convenor, Jean Thompson has written to the Ministerial Committee which has been set up to enquire into Violence in the Media. Jean wrote on behalf of the Unit and National Executive.

NSW: It is reported that the State Conference held in May was a great success - congratulations to all concerned.

POSTSCRIPT FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT:

What a lovely, smiling welcome I received from the President and members of the Queensland Unit and their guests from the CWL when I visited the Unit on Friday 12 July. Met by Ailsa Skippen and transported to the CWL rooms where we enjoyed morning tea and then luncheon together, I had opportunity to respond to the official welcome and then personally meet and chat to the 22 ladies present.

** My appreciation to Margaret Florence for transporting me to and from the NCCA Forum is here recorded.

Attendance at the 2nd National Forum of NCCA, held over four days was an opportunity I really appreciated.

180 participants from 12 member churches accomplished a great deal of business during that time. Listening to reports of activities, worship each day in the Chapel to inspire and enlarge our vision, and attending the Sunday Public Celebration in St John's Cathedral where the Rev Jill Tabbard was the keynote speaker, all contributed to a very worthwhile forum. Some of the business included:- Suggestions from the churches as to planning for the 2000/2001 celebrations of faith. Two Networks were established - A Social Justice Network and a Network on Women and Gender relationships.

The Forum also approved the formation of an Autonomous Indigenous Ecumenical Body.

- E Sullivan

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN TASMANIAN UNIT
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Please note: Material for next edition,
October/November to Editor by 16 September