

# The United Church in North Australia

A Co-operative Movement of the Australian Inland Mission (Presbyterian),  
the Methodist Overseas Missions, the Methodist Federal Inland  
Mission, and the Congregational Union.

Superintendent Minister:  
Rev. C. R. Ford, B.Sc.  
Assistant Minister:  
Rev. L. E. Shirley

JOHN FLYNN MEMORIAL CHURCH

ALICE SPRINGS, N.T.

19.6.63

GEN. SEC.	SEC.
EXEC. SEC.	
DICARWS	
PRO.	
NMCA	
FILE	

7 JUN 1963

The Convener,  
Interim Committee on Women's Work,  
Australian Council of Churches,  
Sydney.

Dear Mrs. Wyllie,

Thank you for sending me the circular concerning the establishment of Australian Church Women. It arrived here just after the monthly meeting of our Ladies' Guild, but in time for the meeting of our Evening Women's Fellowship and it was brought before the notice of members. Since then I have also been able to commend it to the members of the Guild.

As you realised, we are in a slightly different position from many congregations, and at this stage it is not very easy to see how we can widen our fellowship much further. Although the only official denominations involved in the United Church of North Australia are the three listed above, we have strong numbers within the church from Baptist and Church of Christ also. The only other churches in Alice Springs are the Roman Catholic and the Church of England, with neither of whom is it possible for us to have any official, or for that matter any unofficial, dealings.

However, we still are conscious of the great value that this move can have even for us. In some ways the arrangement which we enjoy here can tend to make us gloss over the real challenge, difficulty and rewards of Christian unity, more than where the denominational differences are daily apparent.

Therefore we are grateful that you have included us in this way and ask to be kept informed of later developments.

With all good wishes,

Margaret Ford

United Church

July 15, 1963

Mrs. C. R. Ford,  
John Flynn Memorial Church,  
ALICE SPRINGS.  
N.T.

Dear Margaret,

Thank you for your eply to our circular on Australian Church Women. We are sending you copies of aservice and study for use on Community Day in September. I hope that you will be able to use them. Enclosed also is a copy of Suggestions for a More Formal Organization of ACW. You may be interested to read of our necessarily slow progress.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs.)  
Convener.

Encl.

P. O. Box 218,

DARWIN.

6 AUG 1963

3rd August, 1963.

GEN. SEC.		SEC.
EXEC. SEC.		
DICARMS		
PRO.		
YOUNG		
PRE		

Dear Mrs. Wyllie,

Firstly, I must apologize for not writing earlier to say that your letter could not be put before the Guild until our meeting last week. The May meeting was a Birthday Party, the June one the Annual, with insufficient time during the monthly meeting to discuss a matter of such importance.

However, at our July meeting held last week, the members voiced their approval of the formation of A.C.W. and their willingness to support a local branch.

The ladies had no comments to offer apart from the aforesaid approval and willingness to co-operate.

I was most disappointed that I was not able to contact you, if only by telephone, whilst you were in Darwin this week but it was only by chance after your departure that I learned you had been here. I must get in touch with Rita (whom, by the way, I rarely see these days as she seems to be kept so busy with affairs at M.O.M.) and see if perchance you had any discussion with her about A.C.W.

Our Guild is functioning very happily and it is indeed gratifying to be working so successfully "across denominational lines".

Mr. Thomas joins with me in regretting that you should have passed through Darwin without a word of welcome from the United Church.

Our kind regards to both you and Mr. Wyllie,

Yours sincerely,

Jessica F. Thomas

United Church  
P.O.Box 104  
KATHERINE. N.T. 5780.  
16th. February, 1968

The Secretary  
Australian Church Women  
100 Flinders St.,  
MELBOURNE. VICTORIA. 3000

Dear Madame,

At the monthly meeting of the Katherine United Church Women's Fellowship it was agreed that we join the Australian Church women. We understand that there is no admittance fee.

Would you kindly send us the "Fellowship Day" order of service and the order of service for the "World Community Day".

As our branch is a very small number of members we feel that we are not able to do anything very constructive in this organisation of the Australian Church Women, however, we are interested to received the minutes etc. from your Head Office.

Yours sincerely,

*F.L. Thomson*

(Mrs.) F.L. THOMSON.

Acting Secretary.

15 Congiave St.  
Fannie Bay,  
Darwin. N.T.  
5-1-69

Dear Mrs. Duke,

This note is to let you know that I won't be able to be present at the National Committee Meeting of Australian Church Women, 3rd & 6th February, 1970.

When I said I could go I thought I would be in Melbourne at that time, but now find I have to be back in Darwin or before the 3rd.

I am returning the enrolment form as most of our Guild ladies are already away on leave.

Trusting I have not inconvenienced you, I wish you well.

I remain

Yours sincerely,  
Betty Seale

THE UNITED CHURCH

IN NORTH AUSTRALIA

A CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN  
INLAND MISSION (PRESBYTERIAN), METHODIST OVERSEAS  
MISSION, FEDERAL METHODIST INLAND MISSION AND THE  
CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF AUSTRALIA.

PARISH OF DARWIN

WITH CHURCHES AT DARWIN,  
NIGHTCLIFF AND BATCHELOR

CORRESPONDENCE TO  
BOX 218, P.O., DARWIN, N.T., 5794.

26th January, 1969

Mrs. I. Duke,  
38 Argyle Street  
EAST BENTLEIGH 3165

Dear Mrs. Duke,

I have only this week returned home after 8 weeks leave;  
today I received a ~~xxx~~ phone call from a member of our Nightcliff  
Church suggesting that Darwin Guild might like to forward a report  
to the A.C.W. National Assembly.

Unfortunately our Secretary is away on leave and she has  
all the books necessary for reference. This report is from memory  
and rather scrappy. I hope it will be useful.

Yours faithfully,

*C. Shephard*

The Manse  
United Church  
NIGHTCLIFF  
DARWIN N.T.  
29th Jan 69

Mrs G.I.Duke  
38 Argyle St,  
East Bentleigh  
VIC. 3165

Dear Mrs Duke,

The executive of the Women's Fellowship of the United Church at Nightcliff have requested Miss Frances McKechnie, Public Relations Officer of the Australian Inland Mission to be their observer at the Conference of the Aust. Council of Church Women to be held in Melbourne on 4th Feb. 69. We hope your executive will agree to this. I am sorry none of our members could be present, but perhaps we could arrange this on a future occasion, if we had earlier advice. Trusting that the Conference will be fruitful and helpful,

I am

Yours Sincerely



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

## AUSTRALIAN INLAND MISSION FRONTIER SERVICES

FOUNDED BY THE LATE REV. DR. JOHN FLYNN 1912

PATROLS HOSPITALS  
EDUCATIONAL HOSTELS  
OLD TIMERS' HOMES  
PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES  
COMMUNITY SERVICES  
FAR NORTH CHILDREN'S  
HEALTH SCHEME

PARTNER IN UNITED CHURCH IN NORTH AUSTRALIA  
AND ST. PHILIP'S COLLEGE, ALICE SPRINGS, N.T.  
HOME MISSION AND CHURCH EXTENSION

ASSEMBLY HALL  
156 COLLINS STREET  
MELBOURNE 3000

30.1.69

Dear Mrs Duke,

I am enclosing my registration. I have said that I will be a resident, even though I will miss some sessions, because I feel early morning will be the one time I will meet other delegates.

Also enclosing a letter from the authorising me to be their delegate observer.

Do I take it that our money is collected at the Conference?

Yours sincerely

Frances McKechnie



Katherine United Church Fellowship,  
P. O. BOX 41,  
KATHERINE, N.T. 5780.

The Secretary,  
Australian Church Women,  
100 Flinders Street,  
MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, 3000.

Dear Madame,

In reference to our letter dated 16th. February, 1968,  
referring to the order of Service for the " World Community Day ",  
to be held in early June.

We find that we have not received any correspondence  
on this matter. We wish to have the Order of Service, sent to  
us at your earliest convenience.

We thank you.

Yours faithfully,

*A.N. Manning*  
(Mrs.) A.N. MANNING,  
HON. SECRETARY.

UNITED CHURCH LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

"Namanula"

42 Chrisp St.

Rapid Creek.

DARWIN N.T. 5792

Mrs G.I. Duke,  
38 Argyle St.  
EAST BENTLEIGH. Vic. 3165

Dear Mrs. Duke,

The Darwin meeting for World Fellowship Day is to be held at Nightcliff this year and I would be pleased if you would send 50 copies of the Order of Service to me at the above address when they become available.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs) Lois Sharp.

Secretary.

P.S. I wonder if you would pass on my address to Mrs. Laichney so that she could send the minutes of your meetings on to me instead of Mrs. Royces. Thank you so much.  
Lois Sharp.

Darwin United Church Ladies Guild,  
Box 218,  
DARWIN, 5794

Dear Mrs. Duke,

On behalf of the Darwin United Church Ladies Guild, I have much pleasure in enclosing a cheque for £10, being our donation to the Australian Church Women for Fellowship Day. Also enclosed is a cheque for £1-50 for copies of Order of Service for Fellowship Day.

I would like to take this opportunity to order 50 copies of the Order of Service for World Community Day in October.

Thanking you;

(Mrs) Betty Searle  
Hon. Sec.

E. H. H. H. H.

C/o J. S. Eastwood  
4/9 Lansdowne St.  
Melb.

# THE UNITED CHURCH WOOMERA

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

Correspondence to the Secretary  
at the following address

A CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN  
INLAND MISSION (PRESBYTERIAN), METHODIST OVER-  
SEAS MISSION, FEDERAL METHODIST INLAND MISSION  
AND THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF AUSTRALIA

Flat 93 H Carriwen Street,  
WOOMERA, S.A., 5720.

26th. May, 1969.

The Secretary,  
Australian Church Women,  
C/o Victorian Council of Churches,  
100 Flinders Street,  
MELBOURNE, VIC., 3000.

Dear Madam,

The Ladies' Fellowship of our Church is planning to hold  
the Fellowship Day Service in July, as suggested. We are inviting the  
ladies of the Church of England and the Catholic Church to join with us.

If you are able to do so, we should appreciate receiving  
from you 50 copies of the Order of Service for this day.

Yours faithfully,

*J. Newman*

(Mrs. J. Newman)  
Secretary

W. S. Anderson  
E. K. Dittich  
6 Sydney Ave  
Forest  
2603  
A.C.F.

85 4103  
Don  
Magg Miller

## HISTORY OF THE LADIES' FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNITED CHURCH WOOMERA

.....

Written by Mrs. Macdougall, who was present at the first meeting.

It may be interesting to record the Minutes of the inaugural meeting held on 26th April, 1951, at the residence of Mrs. W. Swift.

"Those present were Moidames J. Semmens, W. MacDougall, A. Wyld, W. Swift, T. Walker and E. Davis.

Considerable discussion occurred as to the formation organisation, and aims of a Women's meeting to be held in connection with the Church. There were seven members of the congregation present and each felt a meeting should be held. Finally it was agreed to hold fortnightly "Women's Afternoons" in connection with the Church - such meetings to be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month commencing the month of June - but the first meeting commenced on 29th May, 1951, at 2.30p.m. in the Village Church. In order that these afternoons could be arranged a committee was formed and the next meeting called for Thursday, 3rd May.

### Election of Officers

- President: Mrs. J. Semmens was nominated for position of president on motion of Mrs. Walker, seconded by Mrs. Wyld. Carried.
- Vice President: Mrs. Wyld was nominated for the position of Vice President on motion of Mrs. MacDougall, seconded by Mrs. Davis. Carried.
- Secretary: Mrs. Davis was nominated for the position of Secretary on motion of Mrs. Mrs. MacDougall, seconded by Mrs. Swift. Carried.
- Treasurer: Mrs. Swift was nominated for the position of Treasurer on the motion of Mrs. Semmens, seconded Mrs. Walker. Carried.
- Committee: It was agreed that the committee be comprised of Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Harris and Mrs. MacDougall with power to add members if so desired. Carried.

This meeting was commenced with prayer and before closing with the benediction it was decided that the meeting on May 3rd be held at Mrs. Walker's residence."

This first meeting on May 3rd consisted of 5 members, but a fortnight later the attendance was 16 and a steady increase lasted for sometime. Unfortunately Woomera has a floating population and new members are constantly replacing old ones. Mrs. MacDougall is the only remaining foundation member left - after 15 years. Mrs. Semmens the much loved President for many years, is the wife of Brigadier John Semmens O.B.E. of The Salvation Army in Adelaide.

It is noted in the Minutes that the meeting on June 13th, 1951, "was cancelled owing to rain". We had no roads, no foot-paths and a very great expanse of clay-mud so could not venture out during rain.

Mrs. Roach became President in March 1953. All sorts of competitions, items, readings, basket making, addresses, etc. made the meetings very interesting. Woomera is never short of interesting people, so talks were easily arranged.

Mrs. Gray became President in February, 1954. These three first Presidents were the wives of the Red Shield Officers of The Salvation Army, and their loyal, well-trained, devoted services to the Ladies' Fellowship will never be forgotten.

March 23rd, 1955, records "wet, very muddy day" but 17 members were present.

1955 was a very important, very busy year - a Church fete had to be supported - street stalls, competitions, afternoon teas helped us give strong support. The final all out effort gave the Church near £1700. The Fellowship also arranged a trip to Arcoona to see the shearing.

Later, Badge days for Kate Cocks baby home appeal were introduced. Sewing has been done for the Home, also for Morialta Children's Home and donations of money, new socks, woollen jumpers, etc. were sent. These are still being supported.

Lyman books and curtains were mended and many hours spent working on the carpets for the Church.

1957 saw a big increase in membership. £120 was given to the Church - the new Church had been opened in 1956 - £100 towards the new organ and £20 for Church funds. World Days of Prayer have always been attended either in the Church of England or in the United - members taking part always. The Fellowship paid for the carpet in the new fellowship room.

Padre Calder, always a great helper in the "old" days", left the area about 4 years ago, Padre Henderson was with us for 2 years, and now Padre Brown is here. All the Padres are very interested in the doings of the Fellowship and we thank them for their help.

Present day activities: Besides very interesting meetings, Andamooka new A.I.M. Hospital has been our chief concern. Many members were able to go to the opening and we felt proud that ~~we had been able to help with the centenary, etc,~~

*Katherine United Church Women's Fellowship*  
**THE UNITED CHURCH IN NORTH AUSTRALIA**

A co-operative movement of the Australian Inland Mission (Presbyterian),  
the Methodist Overseas Missions, the Methodist Federal Inland  
Mission, and the Congregational Union.

Minister:  
Rev. W. G. THOMSON, B.A.  
Phone 36.  
Radio Call Sign 9XB.

UNITED CHURCH MANSE,  
FIRST STREET,  
KATHERINE, N.T. 5780

6th. June, 1969

*The Secretary*  
*Australian Church Women*  
C/- Victorian Council of Churches,  
100 Flinders St.,  
MELBOURNE. VICTORIA. 3000.

Dear Mrs. Duke,

I'm sorry I have left it so late to  
order our "Orders of Service" For the Fellowship  
Day Service, but unfortunately I've not been  
very well & have been away. However, at our  
monthly meeting last night we decided to order  
fifty (50) Orders of Service to be sent at your  
earliest convenience. At the moment we are not  
sure what Sunday in July we will hold this ser-  
vice, but as soon as my husband returns from  
Patrol tomorrow I shall ask him, but I know we  
would like the Orders of Service just as soon  
as you can send them so that those who are taking  
part as Leaders may have time to study the Service.  
I'm not sure how much these orders are, so will  
you please enclose the account for same.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Faith Thomson*

(Mrs) Faith Thomson. (Hon. Secretary)

P.O. Box 218  
DARWIN

10th June, 1969

Australian Church Women  
100 Flinders Street,  
MELBOURNE.

Dear Madam,

Would you please forward to me  
30 copies of the order of service for Fellowship  
day, <sup>1969</sup> as soon as possible, AIR FREIGHT if necessary.

I wish them to arrive for distribution on June 24  
so that the ladies can think about them beforehand.

Yours faithfully,

V. Shephard