

12.

**** 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:

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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

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NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN -- NSW UNIT

ACW Website: 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 Nola Dickson Tel: 9869 2559
Email: nmdickson@tpg.com.au

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AUGUST 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While the memory of 17th May now seems to be fading into the distance, I would like to express my appreciation of the many who attended my Installation. The Service went smoothly, all those participating did their task well, but what more could we expect when so much prayer had gone into the day? The ladies of the Epping PWA in the kitchen coped with problems of which I was glad I was not aware.

I am grateful to all of you, my friends in ACW, for your encouragement and prayers. I am grateful that Helen Hill OAM, although she is an extremely busy lady, has stepped into the breach and taken on the task of Secretary. Thank you, Helen.

With a new President and a new Secretary, life does give its challenges - we are both a little in the dark and ask you to bear with us as we feel our way. God is with us. What a tremendous promise that is to us! We do not have to "feel our way" without his help.

One of Max Lucado's devotional books is entitled "*When God Whispers*"

2.

Your Name.” Even if he only whispers our name we need to be listening, we need to know his voice and respond. He tells us that he calls his sheep by name and leads them - he goes ahead of them and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

We respond to our name, quickly, when it is called. At the onset of my "big day" I was busy looking at the programme to see what was coming next. I was more engrossed in that than in what our retiring President, *Jennifer Peffer*, was saying. As she said: "*Nola*" I immediately looked up. It was so nice of her to say: "Relax!" - she had been there before and knew I was unsure and a little panicky.

As I recognised Jennifer's voice, so we need to recognise Jesus' voice when he calls. There are many voices in our world today, and for the majority of them it would be a disaster to follow.

In the days ahead in ACW, may we heed God's voice, and follow him. He knows the future. He knows what we need to do for him. He says: "*Be still, and know that I am God.*" With my greetings, *Nola Dickson*

DEDICATION DAY & PRESIDENT'S INSTALLATION:

On May 17, the Presbyterian Church at Epping was filled with ACW members and friends for this very happy and blessed occasion.

The Service opened with an inspiring solo "*Only By Grace Can We Enter*" sung beautifully by *Narelle Whitson*, accompanied by *Ronda Taylor*, which set the tone for our worship and fellowship.

Retiring President *Jennifer Peffer* was recognised and honoured by Past President *Carmel Keys*, for her two years of leadership of our NSW Unit and received a lovely bouquet. Jennifer then greeted and welcomed the incoming President, *Nola Dickson*, passing on the President's Bible, the symbol of her office, and giving her a lovely floral tribute.

The Executive, including some new to that responsibility, were presented with their badges and then they, joined by all Council members, re-dedicated themselves for a further period of service. Our Theme Chorus, "*In Christ We Are One*" was sung heartily, many of us thinking of *Lucelle King*, who wrote the words and music and who was Called home to meet the Lord not long ago.

The highlight of the Service was new President Nola's address, an inspiring gospel message to spur us all on in our service and witness in the future. Two more beautiful songs by Narelle: "*Such Love*" and "*By His Grace*" were



3.

a fitting conclusion to the Service, before we adjourned for a sumptuous lunch, waited on by Nola's friends of Epping PWA, and further fellowship, encouraging us all for the next period of service in Australian Church Women NSW.

(Reported by Newsette Editor Beryl McLaughlin)



Jennifer introducing President Nola and Executive Members

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.....

STATE CONFERENCE

On MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2010

At SCOTS CHURCH, MARGARET STREET, SYDNEY

Theme: *Matthew 25:40 "Whatever you did for these...you did for Me"*

Commences with Morning Tea at 10 a.m. Cost \$10 including Lunch

Guest Speaker: RHONDA DALEY of Allowah Presbyterian Children's Hospital - *the recipient of Special Project Offertories at World Community Day Services in October 2010*

Other speakers to be confirmed

MULTICULTURAL CONCERT

On SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2010 At 2.30 p.m.

At THE SALVATION ARMY, 23 Anglo Road, CAMPSIE

Come and enjoy fellowship and beautiful music from bands, choirs and soloists and celebrate our ACW Australia affiliation with the 18 countries of Asian Church Women's Conference.

4.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

Leinamau, 2007 Scholar from *Vanuatu* sends me emails regularly - she is praising God that the Youth and Sunday School Conventions went very well..... "beyond my expectations."

Siok Cheng, 2005 Scholar from *Malaysia* - the 2nd Special Olympics State Games were held in *Sibu* where she lives. A visiting Professor from WA did a one-day Seminar, and Siok taught a session on "*Inclusive Education*." She works in the Centre by day and part-time lectures in the evening at her Methodist church. She writes "*My intention is to pass on the skills I have acquired to the next generation and to teach the value of ALL children regardless.*" She and her husband had a holiday in Taiwan in July.

Imelda Aquino, 2008 Scholar from *The Philippines* - her daughter is doing well in USA, waiting to start college. Imelda is preparing to go back to Dubai in early November, for consultation and networking and is now preparing teaching materials. She prays that God will continue to raise up men and women for outreach in the Middle East and for His provision; for open doors, divine appointments and funding for her needs.

Inese Foiakau, 2009 Scholar, working with the Fijian community in Western Sydney. I attended a 125th Church Anniversary in Parramatta, and recognized Inese at a nearby table, with her Pastor and other women from her church. We were thrilled to meet up as it didn't happen last year; she is still busy but feels more balanced in life and is continuing her studies.

Christine Ferguson, 2009 Scholar from Melbourne, sends me her newsletter. She has accommodation with two church friends and casual work with Work Health Checks, screening workers for risk factors, as well as permanent two days a week work in an Infectious Diseases Outpatient Clinic, using her skills and learning new things. She has completed the Early Church History subject and this semester is doing an Intensive subject on Evangelism - remember she is preparing for cross-cultural mission overseas.

Our current 2010 Scholars, *Ruth Marsipal* (PNG) and *Tonu Fakraufon* (Fiji) arrived in Sydney in June, to start their course in residence at the Alan Walker College of Evangelism, until December. I visited with a flower box each from ACW and had lunch with them on invitation from College staff. The WKS Trustees have sent a winter clothing allocation and "pocket money" which I will give over the time when visiting. They are most thankful for the scholarship and the funds and keep saying to thank everyone. The Trustees, the Treasurer, and National WKS

5.

Convenor *Maureen Clarke* have been very helpful as these girls settle in - both miss family at home - Ruth has a husband and two little boys, and Tonu has never been away from her grandmother before. Please feel free to write or visit at: *Alan Walker College of Evangelism, 6 Lincluden Place, Oatlands NSW 2117. Phone [02] 9630 0777.* Pray for their personal needs and comfort. They are lovely bright and friendly women, learning lots already and eager to share back home. Pray for understanding the lectures in English; their assignments - 3 sermons, never done before; their finances; for connection into a church which would help with support, visiting and outings; pray that God will be preparing those back home for new ideas to be shared. Ruth and Tonu have to fly out of Australia in September and return in day or two for tourist visa requirements, but not enough time to see family. These legalities have been difficult, particularly for Tonu, so much prayer is needed.

All the above girls send their love and thanks as always. We hope you all enjoyed the Fellowship Day Services in July, the offertories from which go to finance the Winifred Kiek Scholarship, as we continue to partner with past, present and future scholars.

Judith Cayzer. WKS Convenor

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:

Rev. Lee Moon Sook of Korea is the new Executive Secretary of ACWC for the next four years (2011- 2014). Rev. Lee was the General Secretary of Korea Church Women United (the ecumenical body of eight mainline Protestant denominations) from 2001-2009.

Retiring Secretary *Shu-Wen Chiang* acknowledges the support she had during her term as Executive Secretary since 2002. She had the full support of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and its Women's Committee, the ACWC National Body in Taiwan and her own local church, Taipei East Gate Presbyterian Church.

In May this year Shu-Wen went to Korea on behalf of ACWC to seek the support of Korean Churches: Korea Church Women United, the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea and its National Church Women's Association and the National Council of Churches in Korea for the new Secretary. These four ecumenical organisations have agreed to provide rent-free office space, utilities, use of copier and internet facilities for ACWC, and a financial contribution to Rev. Lee's living expenses, while ACWC will be responsible for her salary.

Lyn Middleton, ACWC Convener

6.

SPECIAL DAYS:

At the end of July, ACW branches around Australia celebrated Fellowship Day 2010, with the theme *Let there be Light*. This year's Service was produced by our NSW Unit. We look forward to receiving and reading reports from your branches of your Services.

Word has come from the National Executive that the Order of Service for World Community Day in October is to be arranged by the ACT Unit, under the heading *Out of Darkness into Light*.

Half of the offertories at World Community Day Services goes to meet our Australian commitment to Asian Church Women's Conference and National Executive has advised that the Special Project for the other half of these offertories is to be *Allowah Presbyterian Children's Hospital*, for acutely disabled children, at Dundas in Sydney. The application for this was made by our NSW Unit. The article following this report tells about the hospital and we will meet and hear from *Colin Llewellyn*, its CEO, at the Council Meeting on Monday, 15th August, and *Rhonda Daley*, from the staff will be the special guest speaker at our State Conference at Scots Church on 20th September.

Please consider making a future application for such support from this fund, on behalf of a Christian-based group or activity in your denomination. Such an application for World Community Day in October 2011 would need to be received by the November 8th meeting of the NSW State Executive for consideration, which, if agreeing to endorse it, would forward it to National Executive, whose responsibility it is to select the project for the following year. For further information, please contact me on 02 9873 1701.

Pamela Freeman, Special Days Convener

2010 Special Project - Allowah Presbyterian Children's Hospital

We were very happy to hear that our application for funds from the October World Community Day Special Project had been approved. This will greatly benefit *Allowah* at Dundas and our thanks are extended to the National Executive for accepting this to be a worthwhile project.

In 2003 the Presbyterian Church purchased the very old and cramped Allowah Children's Hospital in order to provide a more favourable establishment for the care of severely disabled children. The Social Service Department of the Church, under the guidance of the CEO, *Colin Llewellyn*, negotiated a new concept, with a vast amount of money being spent to turn Allowah into a very modern, spacious facility where the

7.

dedicated staff can give expert care to these children and at the same time provide support, both physical and spiritual to their families. The first stage of the rebuilding has been completed and it is hoped that when more funds are available the original debt will be paid and further amenities provided. The *Dorcas Committee* of the Presbyterian Women's Association has been responsible for much of the special equipment purchased for the hospital and with money received through "Friends of Allowah" much more can be done. The funds received from our 2010 Special Project offering will be of great assistance.

A visit to Allowah Presbyterian Children's Hospital is now a great delight. The new building is really spacious and inviting with wide airy corridors, brightly coloured walls in all rooms,, a beautiful, safe outdoor recreation area set amidst lovely gardens, and state of the art equipment installed to help the staff with the day-to-day care and wellbeing of the children who come from all over the State. Allowah does not receive any government funding, so it is through the generosity of those who are financially supportive, that a great deal of vital equipment is purchased and maintained.

The children who receive care at Allowah are, in the main, children of loving parents and live with their families. They come to Allowah for specialised treatment, given by qualified nursing staff, physiotherapists, speech therapists, dietitians and special nutritionists who provide advice on special feeding programs. The time the children spend at Allowah allows respite for the parents, especially during school holidays, when the needs of other children in the family are taken into consideration.

Allowah has the services of the Presbyterian Chaplain, Deaconess Rhonda Daley, who also attends Westmead Children's Hospital. Rhonda visits regularly and brings the message of God's love to all, no matter what background. She conducts "Prayertime" with volunteers from various churches who are happy to help. Much can be done by God's people, for God's people, and all support is greatly appreciated by the wonderful folk at Allowah Presbyterian Children's Hospital, Perry Street, Dundas NSW.

(Submitted by Bev Elliott, ACW Branch, Kincumber)

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

For the first two weeks of June, my husband and I had the wonderful privilege of being with a group of Salvation Army officers in Greece and Turkey for a special tour called "In the Footsteps of St Paul." What an amazing journey to actually walk where Paul walked, in some of the ruins of the old cities and then to visit the ruins of six of the seven churches from

8.

the book of Revelations. It brought the Scripture alive as we read it together. Each day we had a short devotional time in one of those places. My husband and I led the one on Mars Hill at Athens. We toured the Acropolis and the Parthenon and then walked down to Mars Hill where Paul spoke to the people as recorded in Acts 17. We finished our time with the song "I Serve A Risen Saviour, He's In The World Today" - what a testimony to those who were walking past!

Although it wasn't part of Paul's journey, we also visited Gallipoli, Anzac Cove and Lone Pine Sanctuary - a solemn moment, as we shared in a time of remembrance and sang the New Zealand and Australian National Anthems. At Lone Pine, we saw many monuments to the soldiers. It brought home to us how young some of these men were, as they fought for their country. We also visited some Byzantine Monasteries, set high up on the tops of the cliffs. with magnificent scenery all around.

One of our great joys was to visit officers in Thessaloniki, who are trying to start the Salvation Army in Greece. They conduct a Bible Study and groups in their home. A lot of their time is taken up supporting girls who are trapped in prostitution. This couple are so enthusiastic to share Jesus with whoever will listen.

It is hard to condense two weeks into two minutes, but we are just so grateful to God that we were able to go and have such a wonderful time of blessing. Then we had two weeks holiday visiting Naples, Sorrento, Isle of Capri, Rome, Lucerne, Switzerland, Paris and on to London. What a great month!

Now we have to get back to work. I have a number of church groups to visit in the next few months, to share the FLC story, in Sydney and on the Central Coast. It is a privilege to share this story and to see men and women who have embraced the concept and are happy to share with people from around the world in this prayer movement. May God help us each to share His love in whatever way He chooses for us to serve Him. May we be found faithful!

Lillian Hodges, FLC Convener

PASTORAL CARE:

This has been a difficult winter for some, with prevalent viruses etc. but there are some who really need our prayerful support.

Please pray for *Beryl Kirkwood, Sandra Wise, Shirley Wells, Thora Thomas* and *Glad Bent* (President in 1970s), all of whom are facing serious personal or family health problems.

Olive Edmondstone, Pastoral Care Convener

9.

SOCIAL ISSUES:

The Federal Government is planning to take over *Aged Care*. Will they provide suitable care for young disabled people?

The Relationship Register Bill will undermine marriage, and is not in the best interests of children.

Adoption of children by Same-Sex Couples is back in NSW - write or email your views to:

- * Premier Kristina Keneally MP.
- * Opposition Leader Mr Barry O'Farrell MLC
- * Attorney General Hon John Hatzistergos MP
- * Shadow Attorney General, Mr Greg Smith MP

National Marriage Day is on Friday August 13th. Our Nation's future depends on restoring a strong culture of marriage. Ask your Churches to include prayers for family and marriage on this week-end.

The Sydney Morning Herald says that viability of *Ethics Classes* is in doubt, because of an Education Departmental ruling preventing full-time teachers taking these classes, meaning that parents or other groups would have to finance them if they were to become permanent.

Parental Leave is a key step to ensure right care for babies.

Homelessness continues to increase, because of a shortage of houses and high rental costs.

The Minimum Wage must be judged on ability to keep workers and families out of poverty.

Asylum Seekers. Show compassion. They should be treated humanely, which includes keeping people in detention for the shortest possible time for health and security checks, and not keeping children in detention.

National Refugee Week recognized the plight of more than 40 million uprooted people in the world.

International Environment Month (June) has reminded us that as Christian women we should carefully consider our actions and address ourselves to the common task of preserving all life on earth, given by our Lord.

For this same reason, we elect our Government, so we have a right and responsibility to address any issues which conflict with our Christian beliefs.

God Bless.

Carmel Keys, Social Issues Convener

10.

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL:

Report on NSW Ecumenical Council Inc Annual General Meeting June 2010.

At the meeting on Saturday 12th June at St George's Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral in Redfern, *Geraldine Hawkes*, Executive Secretary of the South Australian Council of Churches, spoke on 'Nurturing Ecumenism in the 21st Century: Discerning the Way Ahead.' She told of recent efforts in South Australia to bring vitality to inter-church relations, and activities that have produced results where people see that they are part of a movement in which they participate creatively, learning and discovering from one another.

The Rev. Jonathan Inkpin is completing his appointment as General Secretary and *The Rev. Paul Swadling*, retiring General Secretary of the Uniting Church of Australia Synod, has been appointed in a part-time capacity to oversee Council activities.

Responsibility for the *House of Welcome* was transferred to the *Franciscan Friars*, who have extensive experience with the needs of refugees and asylum seekers.

Brother Ghislain from the ecumenical community in Taizé visited Sydney in July for a Taizé Retreat at Merroo Christian Centre Kurrajong, and for prayer services in the spirit of the Taizé Community, at St. Mark's Anglican Church, South Hurstville, and at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Church Hill.

In recognition of the conclusion of *The Decade to Overcome Violence*, a celebration of the important achievements will be held on 24th September from 3pm-9pm at *Santa Sabina College, Strathfield*. Speakers include the Secretary General of Pax Christi, *Claudette Werleigh*, from Haiti, and *Sister Susan Connolly*, champion of the people of East Timor. Look out for the details of this event!

Worship in the Antiochian Cathedral on this day celebrated a Century of Ecumenism, highlighting Edinburgh 1910, the Encyclical of the Ecumenical Patriarchate 1920, the creation of the World Council of Churches 1948, the Decree on Ecumenism - Second Vatican Council 1964, and the founding of the National Council of Churches in Australia 1994. Prayers of Intercession centred on the present and future journey, and those present affirmed their commitment to one another as partners in ecumenism.

(Reported by Isabel Hewitt, ACW Publicity Convener)

11.

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

At the meeting in *MARCH*, the speaker was *Colin Freestone*, who spoke of his involvement with *Indonesian Cultural Communications*. Colin first travelled to Indonesia as a student to ascertain why Australians were being given such negative information about that country and its people. He found conditions there were restricted by poverty but the people were friendly and keen to learn, to better their conditions and to become independent. At that time some Indonesians had come to Australian universities but in Indonesia many people were illiterate. With changes of government over the years, literacy has improved, but there is a long way to go to assist the many thousands who live in country areas. Transport can be a problem in rural areas but most can ride a bicycle. Colin introduced this type of transport and is conducting bicycle tours of the Indonesian countryside. He had his very sophisticated bike at the meeting and displayed its wonders to us! Members who were planning to attend PPSEWA International Conference in Bali in May were especially interested and asked Colin a number of questions.

At the AGM which concluded this meeting, a new President, *Mrs Margaret Groenewegen* was elected.

At each monthly meeting, as well as a guest speaker, we have a representative of one of the networks linked to PPSEAWA give a brief report of their work. In *APRIL*, we heard a report from the *Muslim Women's National Network of Australia*. Their organisation collaborates with a variety of Muslim Women's Organisations in Australia and 23 other countries in the South East Asia and Pacific regions, and is recognised by the government as the peak Muslim women's advocate. They are involved in formulating courses in Islamic studies at the University of Melbourne, and are working closely with the Human Rights & Anti-Discrimination Commission. They have delivered Advanced Leadership Training and Organisational Development workshops in every Australian State and the Northern Territory - a total of 123 women attended nine workshops. In cooperation with the Dept. of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs they are benefitting from the Women's Leadership Training Grants, which aim to support non-government organisations to strengthen their effectiveness and increase their capacity to contribute to public policy.

In *MAY*, the Autumn Luncheon was not held as many members would be attending the *Jean Arnot Luncheon*, which honours the contribution to our society of women in their nineties, which fell this year on our meeting day.

Edith Ridge & Sr. Joan Bird, ACW Representatives to PPSEAWA