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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	
Bible Society NSW	

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES due 1st March : \$10.00 per annum (includes subscription to Newsette)

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 \$5.00.

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

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NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN -- NSW UNIT

A C W 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 Carmel Keys Tel: 9977 5156

NUMBER 115

MAY 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that I am writing my last message as president. It has been a wonderful two years which I have enjoyed immensely.

I thank you sincerely for your friendship, love and support and the many prayers were and are always appreciated as we work together in the Lord's service. We are the human face of our Lord Jesus in this increasingly secular world and it is our responsibility to uphold the Christian values of Australian Church Women.

I have appreciated your many invitations to attend your functions and services. A great way to get to know you better, outside our regular meetings. Thank you.

On a recent Wednesday evening I had the great privilege of attending the historic ecumenical service at Christ Church Anglican Cathedral in Newcastle. 2500 people gathered to witness the signing of the covenant

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between the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle and the Catholic Dioceses of Maitland-Newcastle and Broken Bay- a first for Australia. This formal declaration of the pledges to serve God together came after much prayer and consideration. An absolutely joyous occasion.

As you know the Catholic community of Australia is gearing up excitedly for WYD08 - 100 days to go. I am very heartened at the response and interest from ACW members and their churches. Remember you are invited to participate. We are all part of the Christian community and what an opportunity we have to share in spreading the word of Jesus to the whole of Australia.

Coming so soon after the great and joyous Easter ceremonies when we celebrated the most fundamental events of Christian meaning. Easter removes our personal guilt and gives us the strength to cope with things beyond our control. It gives the promise of life after death as Jesus said to the thief from the cross "today you will be with me in paradise" - what a beautiful message for us.

I welcome our president-elect, *Mrs Jennifer Peffer*, from the Baptist Church. I believe we can look forward to her term of office with great expectation. Welcome also to those who have been willing to nominate for Executive.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of sharing our faith and love of God. May ACW continue to carry the flame of Jesus' heart and bring a peace that is redeeming and transforming. As St Augustine said "Let us move on to what lies ahead."

God bless you.

Carmel Keys

ANNUAL SERVICE OF DEDICATION
and
INSTALLATION OF PRESIDENT
for 2008-2010
MRS JENNIFER PEFFER
at
EASTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
First Avenue (near corner West Parade) Eastwood
on
MONDAY, MAY 19, 2008
at 11 am

A light lunch will follow – gold coin donation.

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WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

Our 2007 Scholar, *Leinamu*, who was with us last year at the ACWC Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Concert and is now back in Vanuatu, still sends a short email now and then to keep in touch...."Busy, but enjoying the work...." She also sent Easter greetings and love to all.

Nighat Gulzar, (1994 Scholar) from Pakistan, now in Philadelphia USA, also sent Easter greetings but never sends news. National WKS Convener *Constance Aronsen* has written to ask her specifically for some news.

Our 2008 Scholar, *Imelda Aquinos* from The Philippines has replied to emails from Constance and myself. She is busy with the studies, appreciates our prayers and has pre-enrolled for the June-September Semester. She has received her copy of the book "Winifred". Imelda felt God's calling on her life to the work in Dubai, but didn't know how she could finance the completion of her studies. Receiving our Scholarship, she feels, is God saying she is in the right place. She sends her love and thanks to ACW ladies.

Copies of the Fellowship Day Service for July will be received and sent out to the Branches soon.

Please contact me on 9896.3758 if you would like a copy of the Scholarship Application. You may think of a young woman, 25-40 years old who could use financial assistance for Christian studies or Seminars – applications for 2009 need to reach the WKS Trustees in South Australia by May 31. The scholarship is awarded to 3 areas in rotation: 2009 Multicultural Australia; 2010 for the Pacific Island nations; 2011 to member countries of Asian Church Women's Conference, one of which is Burma/Myanmar.

Judith Cayzer, WKS Convener

From ACW NATIONAL NEWS, the following from another Scholar, *Doreen Tan (now Tie)*, 1990 Scholar from Sarawak, Malaysia in December "My whole family is fine. The school (for disabled children) is closed for the holidays. We had a really good year and saw progress made. Two of our most praiseworthy efforts by the teachers include training a child to walk independently and another child to sit independently. The parents were ecstatic as they had already almost given up hope. Mid-year we had a group of Australians – speech therapist, occupational and physiotherapist here as volunteers for 2 weeks doing training and assessment and we learnt a lot from them. I hope one day you would come and visit us as our success is also your success as ACW provided training to me."

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FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

Janet Lang, our FLC Convener, is currently in the Shetland Islands, with her husband *Tony*, doing an Interim Ministry. Their daughter has set up a blog, which has interesting reading, named "*Two Kangaroos Loose in Shetland*" revlang.livejournal.com

Email address: tony_lang_2002@yahoo.com

Postal address: The Flat Hilsgarth, Baltasound, Unst. Shetland ZE2 9XL UK

Janet has asked us to send her some FLC material as the Guild there collects small coins and the smallest coin in Scotland is the penny. Their ministry covers 7 churches over 3 islands. The weather is very cold, snow showers and fierce northerly winds...."nothing between here and the Arctic Circle except ocean...." Janet would value our prayers, as she prays for us. *(Reported by Janet Cayzer from email contact with Janet)*

FLC National Convener, *Jan*, writes: "Don't spend your 5c - let the shop give you change and tell them the 5c is very precious and has a job to do. Who knows, you may get someone else saving their least coins!"

A SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST:

Olive Edmonstone, our Pastoral Care Convener, very much appreciates the prayer support for her own family, since her son Ian's wife Marlene was diagnosed with leukaemia and is receiving treatment – they have 3 children aged 12, 10 and 7. May we continue to surround them with our prayers.

SPECIAL DAYS:

The Order of Service for Fellowship Day to be held in July, 2008 is to hand. In keeping with the theme for 2008/2009 **Faith in the Future**, the day has been arranged under the heading *Growing in Faith*. It has been prepared by the ACT Unit. The focus for this day is the faith exhibited by Winifred Kiek, and the prayers are specifically for the recipients of the scholarship given each year in her name, for the further education and training of women, throughout our region.

The NSW State Unit was delighted to endorse an application from *Liz Mullinar*, of Mayumarri near Cessnock, for the Special Project grant for 2009. The application is for funds to enable the program to be professionally presented for use in educating volunteers, and eventually to put the program on the internet, in particular the program offered at Eva House, where young women from abusive backgrounds are assisted through the process of healing. The website for this program may be

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viewed at www.mayumarri.com.au. We await word about whether this application has been successful.

Each ACW Branch is encouraged to seek out projects within the local community that may be able to apply for such funding. The basic criteria is that the project be (1) based in Australia, (2) have a Christian perspective, and (3) NOT be receiving Government funding. Such applications need to be returned to me by the end of November 2008, to be forwarded to the National Executive for consideration for funding for the year 2010.

Money for such a Special Project, comes from half of the general offering taken at the World Community Day Services in October each year; the other half goes towards our commitment to Asian Church Women's Conference.

Please contact me at freeowp@netspace.net.au or phone 9873.1701 for forms or further information.

Pamela Freeman, Special Days Convener

PUBLICITY REPORT

Three months have already gone past for this year and we are well into our ACW activities for 2008. Great things happening in 2008.

Keep **May 19 2008** before you and plan to be at **Eastwood Baptist Church, First Avenue Eastwood at 11am** for the Annual Service of Dedication and Installation of President for 2008-2010 *Mrs Jennifer Peffer*. You can read her profile in the February 2008 Newsette.

September 15 2008 will mark our 70th year of Australian Church Women here in NSW. We are planning to celebrate this with a special day at Scots Church, so keep this date in mind and plan to be there.

Since my last report November 2007 Newsette, in my work role for The Salvation Army Child Sponsorship Department I have had the opportunity to visit South Africa and Tanzania and I would like to thank all those who prayed for my safety. It was a very rewarding and challenging time and gave me a wonderful insight into the work being done in those two countries to help the needy children being supported by The Salvation Army.

God bless you richly.

Nancy McLaren Publicity Convener

Look up our NSW page on ACW Website -- www.acwnational.org.au

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:

Mrs Beryl Kirkwood ...

Receiving Certificate of Appreciation from President Carmel Keys for service as Convener for the ACWC Conference, especially for organising the Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Concerts

Advance Notice! The **ACWC Sunday Afternoon Concert** for 2008....

Sunday, 21st September at 2.30 pm at **The Salvation Army**, 34-38 Smith Street, Parramatta, to be followed with fellowship at Afternoon Tea. Put it in your diary now!

South Korea is currently Australia's ACWC prayer partner country. The following is part of a prayer, written as a common Easter prayer for the Churches of South and North Korea in March 2008, which we can join with them in praying:

"O Lord of Peace! We live under the shadow of threats by foreign power; our tears sighs, wrath and quarrels all prevail under this shadow. Those without belief and hope say that our nation's unity is beyond our accomplishing and beyond our waiting. Christians of both North and South, however, believe in the unity of our 70 million people. We believe we can find reconciliation and peace through mutual exchange and cooperation....O Lord, Help us, churches of North and South, sisters and brothers of North and South, to achieve resurrection itself with one accord....Help us to build a kingdom of peace, serving our neighbours, to open a new day of reunification standing firmly as light to the world."

This is part of a much longer prayer, which I could give to anyone who would like a copy.

Lyn Middleton ACWC Convener

MYANMAR BIBLE TEACHING CONFERENCE:

Our team of 4 women and one 17-year old daughter arrived safely in Yangon (previously Rangoon) at 8 pm on December 31 2007 – very happy to be there after some anxiety because of the uprising in August/September and having had to change our schedule and flights. But our wonderful God took care of everything for us, before, during and after the conference.

The 4-day Bible teaching went extremely well. Each day began at 8.30 am, concluding about 4 pm, with an hour break for lunch. Each day we gave 6 different Bible teaching sessions, with prayer with many women at the end which took us up to 5 pm. They are so eager for teaching and took copious notes. 130 women, from all over Myanmar, were in residence (sleeping on the floor on mats) and 20 more from Yangon itself who came daily. We taught them songs, which we had translated into Myanmar, but then discovered they really wanted to sing in English! We had lots of fun and happy times.

Our translators were excellent and our hosts at the church were once again delightful, godly and super-efficient servants of God. The Mothers' Union worker also very capable, full of fun, who sang and played guitar. After the Conference she invited us to her home for a special breakfast on the Karen national day – she and her husband (and many others) are Karen.

On the Sunday we had dinner at the home of Simon and Deborah – he is Principal of the Anglican Theological College and was a student of my husband Bill's at Trinity College Singapore. Each of the team was asked to speak to the clergy wives gathered there. The next day we visited the Theological College and were asked to give our testimonies to encourage the students preparing for ministry. I was also able to spend profitable time with some now teaching at various Bible Colleges in Myanmar who were students at Trinity College Singapore when we were there.

One afternoon there was a visit to an orphanage way out in a village, also a visit to a village in the Irrawaddy Delta region, which helped us understand the poverty and how the women to whom we had ministered work and live and how hard their lives are compared to ours. They have so few resources in their own language to help them study the Bible and I am trying to do something to remedy this not only for the women but all people in that country.

Once again I would like to thank you for your support and particularly for your **prayers** – we knew that everything was working out so well because of your prayers.

Norma Dumbrell

SOCIAL ISSUES:

As Australian Church Women inspired by the Gospel imperative we are challenged to be alert to the many ways and situations where women in our society today are suffering. These situations challenge us to be aware of the causes of their suffering and the means which can be taken to free them from such suffering.

Women in our society today can be found in situations where they are being deprived of their human dignity, struggling to balance life's demands as mothers and bread winners, raising children as a single parent, experiencing abuse and domestic violence, caring for an adult or younger child with severe disabilities while they themselves are experiencing the limitations of their own ageing.

Valuable information about these situations and the means being taken by various Government organisations is available in the Newsletter of the Office for Women and also in the Stakeholder Papers of the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearing House.

Women are juggling work and family and these pressures can impact on their health, emotional well-being, financial security and work or career opportunities. Family friendly workplaces can provide flexibility in a variety of ways e.g. paid maternity leave. Australia is one of only two OECD countries that does not offer paid maternity leave. What action can we take to support working women in this need? Are we aware of other flexible work options which would relieve working women of harmful stress? What are viable options for child care?

Violence against women and children and also people with disabilities is sadly still prevalent in our society and a cause of harm in so many aspects of their lives. Homelessness is one consequence as the victims are forced to flee their homes to find safety whilst the perpetrator is really the one who should leave. Many organisations are studying how to prevent this violence and how to respond to it. Refuges are often run by Church organisations to provide a safe place for these women and children.

How do we respond to women in these situations? Are we sufficiently well informed about what we could speak out about to the relevant authorities because of our concern for social issues? What relief are we supporting or initiating as Australian Church Women concerned for the well-being of our sisters in society today who are suffering in many different ways?

Sister Joan Bird fmm, Social Issues Convener

★ A thought ---- *God always answers kneemail* ★

PAN PACIFIC & S E ASIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION:

At the first meeting for 2008 in February, *Margaret Groenwegen*, a PPSEAWA member, was the speaker.

Margaret spoke of being involved with children at risk and violence against women from an early age. When 19 her first appointment as a teacher was at a migrant hostel, where she was introduced to a group of 57 children and told "they are all yours." Rather daunting but she found that a class could consist of 30, 40 or 57 children on any one day as families moved frequently and dealing with the mothers, many of whom were insecure and did not wish to lose sight of their children for even a short time, was not an easy task. However with time and understanding she was able to obtain help from NAPCAN and DOCS.

As time went on, Margaret married and raised her own family but remained dedicated to education. In 2004 the Australian-Korean Welfare Association initiated a "Happy Hours" project/program for children from 3 to 4 years, which aimed to prepare children from culturally and linguistically diverse families for an easier transition into formal school life. The class is held every Tuesday from 9.30 am to 12 noon; this year around 20 children are participating and they have a waiting list. It is not a playgroup but a happy and interesting environment in which children experience extensive vocabulary, popular English cultural nursery rhymes, songs, fairy stories and common general knowledge about Australian flora and fauna and so on, presented through a variety of activities. Children are encouraged to express themselves orally. Margaret feels that the best outcome so far has been when the children begin to spontaneously converse with each other and with her in English.

The March meeting was the Annual General Meeting and the speaker was *Robyn Gaspari* on "Conflict Resolution."

Edith Ridge, ACW Representative to PPSEAWA

SMILE AWHILE

Several women were talking together.

One said, "Our congregation is sometimes down to 30 or 40 on a Sunday night."

Another said, "That's nothing – sometimes our group is down to 6 or 7. A young widow added her bit, "It's so bad in our church on Sunday night that when the minister says, "dearly beloved", it makes me think he's proposing!"

(From ACW National News)

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WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERENCE UNION:

WCTU began in NSW in 1882, so for 126 years has been following its motto "For God, Home And Humanity" in the cause of temperance and for the well-being of women and families. In the early years it was very active in the suffrage movement to obtain the right to vote for women. It was responsible for establishing the first baby health centres and had hostels for country girls coming to the city to work, and its history records many other worthwhile achievements.

However, times change, and while WCTU is still active nationally and in the other States, and in many countries around the world, here in NSW we have come to the point, because of much reduced numbers and the aging of members and officers, of winding up as an organisation and establishing a Foundation, so that our resources, which are considerable because of the efforts of so many women in past years, may continue to be used on into the future.

President Carmel and a number of ACW members attended a Luncheon at Parliament House, Sydney on April 7 which marked the closure of WCTU in NSW and launched the Foundation, and we have been encouraged by the interest and good wishes of many people – some giving their support by becoming members of the Foundation (for a one-off payment of \$10).

So, this is our last Report as an affiliated organisation of Australian Church Women NSW Unit. One happy outcome is that *Jean Drysdale*, who was our representative to ACW Council, has been appointed by the Churches of Christ as one of their delegates, so she can continue in the fellowship and friendship which we all so much appreciate.

Beryl McLaughlin, WCTU State Secretary (Emeritus!)

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE --- In IRAQ:

Iraq has rarely been out of the headlines in recent years - a country torn by war and unrest, and with its future uncertain and insecure. However Iraqis are not alone - in the midst of the conflict, Bible Society has been distributing bulk deliveries of Arabic New Testaments, to offer them hope and security not only for today but for eternity. New Testaments are being given free of charge to high schools, colleges and university students right through Iraq. Bible Society has paid for 68,000 of these Scriptures at an overall cost of \$100,000. Bible Society is also handing out food and Bibles to families in Baghdad's poor and deprived areas, and hundreds came to receive these packages. *(From Bible Society's Bibles@work)*

Also from Iraq – Anglican Mothers' Union world-wide is rejoicing to hear

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of the establishment of a branch in Baghdad, the first ever in that country, with several hundred women attending the first meeting.

CARING FOR BODY AND SOUL In TANZANIA:

Helen Hoskins has been a Church Missionary Society missionary for more than 20 years, her main current task being responsible for all the Girls' Brigade Companies in Tanzania. She writes as follows:

"One baby in 700 is born with a cleft palate. In Australia they are operated on, but in Tanzania many children and young adults live with this disfigurement and the problems it brings. I enjoy all my ministries with children – religious education, Sunday school, Girls' Brigade – but when I find children suffering with cleft palates, I look for ways to help them.

In 2001 I met 9-year old *Mugosi* and was able to take her for surgery to a government hospital at Mwanza. The day we took her home there was great rejoicing, but also sadness, as her mother had given birth to another daughter with a cleft palate. I made plans to take this little one, *Bhoke*, to Mwanza, but her father refused to let her go - he felt it was a judgment on them for fixing *Mugosi*, that they shouldn't interfere, and if they did the cows might stop calving. As the years went by, I often thought of *Bhoke* and my heart wept for her.

In 2007 I was in that village again and met *Adventina*, a girl with a serious double cleft palate. As I made plans for her to have surgery, the pastor told me he had three other cleft palate children in his parish – *Verediana*, aged 2, *Elisha* 7, and *Bhoke*, now 6. On the Sunday before the surgery I met 19-year-old *Margaret*, and added her to my list. On Thursday evening the cleft palate children arrived in my town, Bunda, ready for an early start on Friday. And what a joy to see *Bhoke* with them!

Next morning we could see Jesus going before us to Mwanza and it was one of the smoothest hospital visits I have had. Our little family was quite a witness in the hospital, always encouraging one another, praising Jesus and praying together.

The following week they were discharged and as we drove home I have never had so much happiness in my car. Back in their villages they were received with great joy, and the pastor said that it was also an amazing witness, as people saw the Church caring for both physical and spiritual needs.

A few weeks later *Bhoke* was baptised, taking the name *Esta*. Her baptism was so special to me - to know that she has been transformed inside and out, spiritually and physically, is very exciting. *(From CMS Today)*