



NSW State Unit

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NSW UNIT
1938-1998**

**DIAMOND
JUBILEE**



Celebrates 60 years of Ecumenical Unity

FOREWORD

In 1988 Deaconess Mary Andrews AM wrote a history of Australian Church Women NSW Unit to commemorate 50 years since the inauguration of the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council.

Ten years on, ACW NSW Unit has celebrated its Diamond Jubilee. To mark another decade we decided to update our history. The Council is grateful to Executive Member Marie Majoor for guiding this project. An overview of the first fifty 'golden' years has been compiled. To this has been added a summary of the highlights of the following ten years, and information about the special interest groups to which we belong and those which are affiliated with ACW in NSW.

I commend this new publication to you, thanking Marie and all the other contributors for their assistance. Every story, and every memory which inspires and fosters our ecumenical activity is to be encouraged and treasured. May God bless you as you continue to work and pray for the unity which is Christ's will for the church.

Elizabeth Walker - President ACW NSW Unit, 1998.

EARLY HISTORY

1938

Women from the Presbyterian, Congregational, Churches of Christ and Methodist Churches met in St Stephen's Church, Macquarie Street, to witness to the Faith by worshipping together in prayer and as a result the Women's Inter-Church Council was formed.

1939

The outbreak of the Second World War affected the growth of the work, although the women kept coming together for prayer and worship.

1951

With the easing of the strain of the Second World War a valuable property in Burwood called "Wybalena" was purchased to be used as a hostel for girls coming from the country.

1952

In March the hostel was opened for about twenty students and business girls. Much work went into the maintenance and running of the property by loyal and dedicated people.

1953

The first Baptist representatives were welcomed to the Council.

1955

This year saw the affiliation of The Salvation Army. The NSW Women's Inter-Church Council welcomed a group of Church Women United (USA) on a goodwill visit.

1958

Anglican women were permitted by the Archbishop of Sydney to be represented officially, although Mrs B C Montgomerie had been attending independently for some time.

1962

The Australian Council of Churches was invited to send a representative to the Asian Church Women's Conference but there was no national body of church women so a committee from different denominations was formed. Mrs Edna Beales of Epping NSW attended this conference held in Thailand.

1965

As a result of the discussions held by the above committee, Australian Church Women was formed and The NSW Women's Inter-Church Council became Australian Church Women NSW State Unit. The first Winifred Kiek Scholar arrived to do a Social Work Course in New South Wales.

1966

Australian Church Women was officially represented at the Asian Church Women's Conference Assembly held

in Japan and Olga Badger, President-Elect from NSW, was elected to the Committee of Asian Church Women's Conference.

1967

Changing needs and conditions resulted in the decision to sell "Wybalena" and the proceeds were invested pending the selection of a suitable project.

1969

The Archdiocesan Commission on Ecumenism of the Roman Catholic Church sent two observers to attend Council meetings—Joan Curtin and Sister Helen Herlihy.

1971

Over \$36,000 was given to the YWCA for the "Tremayne" hostel at Kirribilli which provided similar accommodation and care as "Wybalena" had done.

1973

The women of the Roman Catholic Church were given permission to become official members of Australian Church Women.

1977

After the forming of the Uniting Church in Australia the Methodist Churches ceased to be members. They were replaced by the Uniting Church, which was a union of Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches. However, the continuing Presbyterian Church continued to send delegates.

1979

The Silver Jubilee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin was celebrated in The Philippines and was attended by five members of the NSW Unit of Australian Church Women.

"Newsette"—a quarterly news-sheet—was published for the first time.

The National Conference of ACW was held in Sydney and was attended by visitors from Church Women United USA and New Zealand.

1980

At the invitation of Church Women United of the USA, five members from NSW went to Alaska and the West Coast of USA.

1981

A group of women visited Church Women United in New Zealand.

1982

Dr Thelma Adair, President of Church Women United of USA visited NSW. In the same year a group of women from Church Women United of New Zealand also visited NSW.

1987

The Deed of Trust for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship was adopted.

1988

The Golden Jubilee of Australian Church Women NSW Unit was celebrated in St Stephen's, Macquarie Street, where it all began fifty years ago.

THE NEXT TEN YEARS**THEME SONG**

In 1991 the National Conference of Australian Church Women was held at Collaroy and for this occasion Mrs Lucelle King wrote a special theme song entitled "We Being Many are One in the Lord". We have all come to know it well and it is sung on special occasions at State level; many branches include it in their celebrations.

STATE CONFERENCES

Since 1994, the first biennial State Conference was held at the Anglican Centre, Golden Grove Newtown, followed by two at the Salvation Army Training Centre, Stanmore.

These three-day two-night conferences have provided time for praying and studying together in a friendly, unhurried way. Excellent speakers have given information on ecumenism and related topics, inspiring vision and action. A review is held of our previous Resolutions are held and future activities planned.

SOCIAL ISSUES

In November 1991, Major Joan Tong—NSW President—was asked to send three representatives to a committee being formed by The Anglican Mothers' Union in the Sydney Diocese.

This committee was to promote the Media Awareness Project Australia (M.A.P.A.) which was being launched across Australia by The Mothers' Union.

Media Awareness Programme (UK) paid the fare for Cindy Kent to visit Australia, as she was very experienced in running training sessions.

As a result, several reports were given at Council and people were encouraged to attend our first State Conference. This raised an awareness of Social Issues, and Miss Phyl McKinnery— who had now become President— suggested that Miss Heather Reid, the Girls' Brigade Representative, might report on issues from time to time. On assuming her Presidency in 1993, Mrs Lucelle King suggested that the Unit might formalise the position of Social Issues Convener, with Heather holding this position as well as Membership Convenor.

In 1995 at the National Conference in Melbourne, the role of the Social Issues Convener was discussed, and other Units were encouraged to give attention to Social Issues.

In 1996, a decision was made to separate the Membership and Social Issues Convenerships.

A report is given to Council each month, and Council Members are asked to bring forward issues and concerns. These are shared, as are reports of phone calls and letters written and received.

As a result of this interest, many seminars and conferences held by Government and Non-Government bodies have been attended.

At the National Conference in Canberra in 1997, New South Wales Unit raised the issue of the UN Convention

on Rights of the Child, and asked that a submission be made to the Senate Standing Committee. The National Conference endorsed this and the Queensland National Committee gave much energy to the preparation of this document. This issue had been raised originally by a Council member.

All Council members realise it is an on going function of every one to be aware of issues, and encourage their denominations, churches, families and friends to be aware of and alert to Social Issues.

In 1998, the Membership Conventorship—held by Deaconess Heather Badgery—was extended to include Pastoral Care, which has brought a new dimension into our fellowship and concern for one another at times of illness, bereavement or trouble.

Because of enquiries from districts asking to become branches and including denominations not affiliated with ACW in 1998 President Peg Blake, together with the executive, prepared a Statement of Faith to enable groups to know if they fitted the criteria of membership.

“We 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.”

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

The 40th Anniversary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) occasioned many special functions, and it was quite a revelation to hear from over six international

visitors how this unique, global movement continues to grow, by God's grace. Our visitors, en route, or returning from the FLC International Committee meetings in New Zealand, gave moving accounts of conditions of hardship and oppression experienced by Christian women in many parts of the world. Their time with us was really special and their visit was linked to our own Anniversary Celebrations when over 100 women gathered in the Salvation Army Function Centre to give thanks to God for His enabling and guidance over the years, and for the privilege we in Australia have had to be part of the FLC for 34 years. Mrs Julie Brackenreg and her daughter Claire from NSW Girls' Brigade and Maisie Cavanagh from Kur-in-gai partners spoke about their work and how their FLC grants had been used to help their ministries. The cutting of the Anniversary cake by Shirin Samuel concluded the program and a time of sharing at lunch was enjoyed by all.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Y.W.C.A.

The YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) is a women's movement grounded in and nourished by its roots in the Christian Faith.

It was founded in England in 1855 by two Christian women, Miss Emma Roberts, who started a prayer group to pray for women of all classes and all situations and Lady Kinnaird who founded the North London Home to house Florence Nightingale Nurses on their way to and from the battlefields. Thus the YWCA was founded by

prayer and action.

The YWCA was started in Australia in 1879 by Mrs Frederic Barker the wife of the Bishop of Sydney, so the organisation is 119 years old.

Today's 'Y' has a commitment to

- * Advocating for and assisting women and families
- * Providing leadership opportunities for young women
- * Creating opportunities for all women to reach their full potential.

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

'Abstinence from all things harmful and moderation in all things good' is the guiding thought of the W.C.T.U. which, in New South Wales, in 1998 (its 116th year) has adopted a new title – Winners Without Drugs – keeping the old name (under which they are officially incorporated) at the foot of the new letterhead. A wide variety of factual, up-to-date and informative literature is produced, and distributed free-of-charge as widely as possible.

Non-alcoholic drinks demonstrations are held, not only for women's or youth groups, but also in such venues as the foyer of Wesley Mission, and in Martin Place in the centre of Sydney's CBD. A puppet-program to encourage a drug-free lifestyle is used in schools and at youth and children's clubs and camps. WCTU networks with a number of anti-drug organisations including Drug Arm, NSW Drug Awareness Council, Ansva Insurance, Independent Order of Rechabites, Wesley Mission, and others, in such activities as the annual Alcohol Awareness Week each September. Seminars and workshops are

arranged, and social issues are monitored. Members both in the State Executive and through their local Unions (branches) seek to fulfil the motto—For God, Home and Humanity—which is the motto under which the World WCTU works around the world, in very many countries.

THE GIRLS' BRIGADE

This organization, which promotes Christian Leadership is interdenominational yet active in local churches so has much in common with ACW.

An early Winifred Keik Scholar was a Girls' Brigade leader from Papua New Guinea and FLC grants have been received by both the Asia/Pacific Committee and the Girls' Brigade NSW.

During the early 1990's Girls' Brigade was granted associate membership of ACW and Miss Heather Reid became the first representative and became a member of the NSW State Executive of ACW.

In 1996, through contacts made by Girls' Brigade at an ACW function, a new Girls' Brigade Company was formed in Glebe and ACW donated Bibles.

GROUPS WITH WHICH WE ARE AFFILIATED

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF NSW

The National Council of Women NSW aims to bring together in association voluntary bodies, societies or associations of women and of women and men:-

- ◆ To promote sympathy of thought and purpose among women of New South Wales.

- ◆ To uphold the social, civil and moral values and religious freedom of the community.
- ◆ To promote the interest and advancement of women and to secure their recognition in the community.
- ◆ To promote such conditions of life as will assure to every family and child an opportunity for full and free development, and to uphold the family as the basic unit of society.

The motto of National Council of Women NSW is -

'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you'.

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTHEAST ASIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA - PPSEAWA

The objectives of PPSEAWA are:-

- ◆ To strengthen bonds of peace by fostering a better understanding among women in the Pacific and Southeast Asia Region.
- ◆ To promote co-operation among women through the understanding of the social, economic and cultural conditions of the region and by sharing ideas and information at forums and conferences.

PPSEAWA is a non-political, non-profit organisation founded in 1928 and accredited to the United Nations through ECOSOC in Category II.

NSW COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN'S FILMS AND TELEVISION

The aims of the Council are:-

- ◆ To stimulate and maintain public interest in the provision of suitable television programs, films and videos for children.

- ◆ To build up and maintain a Video Library and organise distribution of videos, particularly to Children's Hospitals and Children's Wards of other hospitals in city and country areas. Some funding for this is received from the Sydney Area Health Service.
- ◆ To monitor media programs for children and young people, and to comment, complain or commend as appropriate.

The Council consists of representatives of Australian Church Women, National Council of Women, Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Anglican Mothers' Union and Girls' Friendly Society, and is affiliated with Young Media Australia. Individual members or representatives of other organisations with a particular interest in the welfare of children are warmly welcomed.

ACW NSW UNIT - PRESIDENTS

We have no record of the titles of these women

| | | |
|---------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1939-39 | Hannah Jennings | Presbyterian |
| 1939-40 | May Renwick, G A Roseby | Congregational |
| 1940-41 | Amy Gertrude Bowden | Methodist |
| 1941-42 | Ruby W McCallum | Churches of Christ |
| 1942-43 | Rebecca Swann | Society of Friends |
| 1943-44 | Mary Eliza Clouston | Presbyterian |
| 1944-45 | Gertrude A Roseby | Congregational |
| 1945-46 | Elsie E Deane | Methodist |
| 1946-47 | Ruby W McCallum | Churches of Christ |
| 1947-48 | Rebecca Swann | Society of Friends |
| 1948-49 | Regina Stolz | Lutheran |
| 1949-50 | Mary Millar | Presbyterian |
| 1950-52 | Annie B Deanes | Congregational |
| 1952-54 | Sylvia J Lew | Methodist |
| 1954-55 | May Greenhalgh | Churches of Christ |
| 1955-56 | Kathleen E Lowry | Society of Friends |
| 1956-57 | Kathleen B Garlick | Salvation Army |
| 1957-58 | Regina Stolz | Lutheran |
| 1958-59 | Marianne Vines | Presbyterian |
| 1959-60 | Reta E Farr | Congregational |
| 1960-61 | Effie H Baldwin | Baptist |
| 1961-62 | Edris M Manefield | Methodist |
| 1962-63 | Margory I Verco | Churches of Christ |
| 1963-64 | Brucinda Montgomerie | Anglican |
| 1964-65 | Hazel V Cross | Salvation Army |
| 1965-66 | Thelma M Adam | Presbyterian |
| 1966-67 | Olger G Badger | Congregational |
| 1967-68 | Grace Cowley | Methodist |
| 1968-69 | Joyce O Gilbert | Baptist |
| 1969-70 | Mary M Andrews | Anglican |
| 1970-71 | Marjorie A Stanhope | Churches of Christ |
| 1971-72 | Olive Carpenter | Salvation Army |
| 1972-73 | Nancy M Pfeiffer | Presbyterian |
| 1973-74 | Winifred Dougherty | Methodist |

ACW NSW UNIT - PRESIDENTS

(Continued)

| | | |
|---------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1974-75 | Doris M Mitchell | Anglican |
| 1975-76 | Gladys Bent | Churches of Christ |
| 1976-78 | Edna Baker | salvation Army |
| 1978-80 | Marie McCann | Roman Catholic |
| 1980-82 | Gladys West | Baptist |
| 1982-84 | Yvonne Davis | Presbyterian |
| 1984-86 | Edith Ridge | Uniting |
| 1986-88 | June Graham | Anglican |
| 1988-90 | Marjory Baker | Churches of Christ |
| 1990-92 | Joan Tong | Salvation Army |
| 1992-94 | Phyl Mc Kinnerey | Roman Catholic |
| 1994-96 | Lucille King | Baptist |
| 1996-98 | Peg Blake | Presbyterian |
| 1998-20 | Elizabeth Walker | Uniting |
| 2000 | Jan Harrison | Anglican |

ACW NSW UNIT - SECRETARIES

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1938-39 | Mrs E F Bond | |
| 1943-44 | Miss Rebecca Swann | Society of Friends |
| 1944-48 | Mrs W H Lock | Methodist |
| 1949-50 | Mrs M Chapman | Congregational |
| 1654-55 | Miss Gertrude Roseby | Congregational |
| 1957-59 | Mrs E D Briggs | Anglican |
| 1959-60 | Mrs Lt Col Hutchison | Salvation Army |
| 1961-62 | Mrs Lt Col Edna Baker | Salvation Army |
| 1963-65 | Mrs Lorna Lilley | Methodist |
| 1965-67 | Mrs Margaret Ralph | Presbyterian |
| 1967-70 | Mrs Win Dougherty | Methodist |
| 1970-71 | Mrs Audrey Bell | Methodist |
| 1971-75 | Mrs Dorothy Martin | Methodist |
| 1975-77 | Miss Doris Mitchell | Anglican |

ACW NSW UNIT - SECRETARIES

(Continued)

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1977-81 | Mrs Dorothy Woodhouse | Uniting |
| 1981-86 | Brig Mabel Ward | Salvation Army |
| 1986-88 | Mrs Marie McCann | Roman Catholic |
| 1989-94 | Mrs Edith Ridge | Uniting |
| 1994-96 | Maj Joan Tong | Salvation Army |
| 1996-99 | Mrs Jan Harrison | Anglican |
| 2000 | Maj Glenys Holley | Salvation Army |

TREASURERS

The minute books from 1938 to 1951—despite an extensive search made during the 1960's—are missing, as a result the list of Treasurers is incomplete.

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1952/54 | Mrs Chapman | Congregational |
| 1954/60 | Miss McDiarmid | Presbyterian |
| 1960/63 | Mrs Lorna Lilley | Methodist |
| 1963/70 | Mrs Linda Perriam | Baptist |
| 1970 | Mrs Meta Allen | Girls' Brigade |
| | Had to resign at first exec.meeting. | |
| 1970/76 | Mrs Linda Perriam | Baptist |
| 1977/83 | Miss Doris Mitchell | Anglican |
| 1983/86 | Mrs Elizabeth Walker | Uniting |
| 1986/93 | Mrs Dorothy Lumb | Anglican |
| 1993 | Mrs Marie Majoor | Roman Catholic |

ACW NSW UNIT - LIFE MEMBERS

| | | | |
|------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1953 | Miss M McDiarmid | - <i>Foundation Member</i> | |
| | Miss Rebecca Swann | - <i>Foundation Member</i> | Soc. of Friends |
| | | President 1942-43 | |
| | | Secretary 1943-44 | |
| | | President 1947-48 | |
| | Mrs R McCallum | - <i>Foundation Member</i> | Ch's of Christ |
| | | President 1941-42 | |
| | | President 1946-47 | |
| | Mrs A E Walker | - <i>Foundation Member</i> | |
| | Miss G A Roseby | - President 1939-40 | Congregational |
| | | President 1944-45 | |
| | | Secretary 1954-55 | |
| | Mrs M Millar | - President 1949-50 | Presbyterian |
| | Mrs G H Briggs | - Secretary 1957-59 | Soc of Friends |
| | Mrs A Hall | - Wybalena Committee | Baptist |
| | Mrs G Knight | - Sec. Wybalena Com | Ch's of Christ |
| | Mrs E G Pearson | - Wybalena Committee | Presbyterian |
| 1963 | Mrs W Wyper | - Sec. Wybelan Com | Congregational |
| 1967 | Mrs R Stolz | - President 1948-49 | Lutheran |
| | | President 1957-58 | |
| | Mrs B Montgomerie | - President 1963-64 | Anglican |
| 1977 | Mrs L Perriam | - Treasurer 14 years | Baptist |
| | Col H Cross | - President 1964-65 | Salvation Army |
| | Mrs W Dougherty | - Secretary 1967-70 | Methodist |
| | | President 1973-74 | |
| 1981 | Dss M Andrews AM- | President 1969-70 | Anglican |
| | Mrs M Stanhope | - President 1970-71 | Ch's of Christ |
| 1983 | Miss D Mitchell BA | - President 1974-75 | Anglican |
| | | Secretary 1975-77 | |
| | | Treasurer 1977-83 | |
| 1984 | Mrs Lt Col E Baker | - Secretary 1961-62 | Salvation Army |
| | | President 1976-78 | |
| 1987 | Mrs J Curtin | - First RC Delegate | Roman Catholic |
| 1987 | Mrs D Woodhouse | - Secretary 1977-81 | Methodist/UC |