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HON. TREASURER

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746 5656

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Mrs Linda Perriam  
Mrs Dorothy Woodhouse

Mrs Win Dougherty  
Miss Doris Mitchell  
Mrs Joan Curtin



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

NSW STATE UNIT OF ACW

NO. 30

MAY 1993

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1992/93

During this year I have really experienced that wonderful fellowship that exists in Australian Church Women - that sharing of faith which is a special joy!

We are now reaching out to many more women, and with constant prayer and trust in the Lord, I'm sure we will keep the numbers growing.

We began the Spiritual Enrichment days in Joan's term of office and since then have had three more wonderful days - at Polding House, the Mountains, and Woy Woy. We thank particularly those who organised the days - Peg Blake, Jeanne Sutherland, Helen Stutchbury and Elaine Secombe. And of course the speakers and all the members who attended. In May I will be speaking at Port Macquarrie and South West Rocks - so we really are moving out.

Since my installation we have welcomed two scholars - Ana, and now Malai - and it is a delight to be associated with and be able to assist these ladies. We are indebted to Mina for her loving care of the girls - so much so that they don't want to leave her. Thank you Mina!

As President I have had many invitations and it is a great privilege to attend these meetings and partake in service with other denominations. I was unable to attend the Salvation Army Rally to hear General Eva Burrows but was delighted to find she was also the speaker at the Governor's Prayer Breakfast - so I met her and heard

her excellent address after all. It is encouraging when visiting other denominations to find that we are all working against the same social issues, and for the development of people.

In February I attended the Asia-Pacific Conference of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations in New Zealand, and I became very aware of the gratitude of women of other countries of help such as our Winifred Kiek Scholarship. The women at the conference were all agreed that personal development assistance is the most valuable. Help with village projects such as wells, cow and pig banks etc, do help the village but they do not lead to personal development. The work is still menial. So be very supportive and proud of the scholarship.

Likewise, let us support and uphold the Fellowship of the Least Coin, and Asian Church Women's Conference partnership. These are excellent ways of walking in solidarity with our Asian sisters. What a difference it would make if every member became a 'PARTNER' with Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC). An annual offering of \$1.00 is all that is asked, please consider!

My first year has been a time of joy and growth and as I look forward to the coming year, I thank each of you for your love and acceptance, especially the executive who have guided and supported me. What would I do without any one of them! Each has a special gift which they share generously.

When I became President, I adopted the theme - "COME!" - such a wonderful word - so now again I say "COME!" to our Special Days, our Spiritual Enrichment days, join with us and add many more patches to the great tapestry of faith which we hope to spread all over our state!

Our love and prayers are with Dorothy Lumb during a time of serious illness, and offer our very sincere thanks for her years of meticulous stewardship of our finances. Many, many thanks Dorothy! And to Peg Blake awaiting surgery, and Shirley Wells who is recuperating following surgery, we also ask God's blessing.

Peace be with you! Phyl McKinnirey, President, 18.4.93

SECRETARY'S REPORT, APRIL 1993

The year began with the Installation of a new President. Saint Patrick's Cathedral at Parramatta was crowded for this wonderful service. Bishop Bede Heather made us feel most welcome as he introduced us to the Cathedral and spoke of his personal experience of ecumenism. In her address to us, President Phyl McKinnirey gave us an insight into the kind of leader she would be for Australian Church Women during her term of office. Here is a lady who loves our Lord and serves His church with all her being. A testimony to the regard in which Phyl is held in her community was the attendance of civic leaders at the service and the words they spoke at the luncheon following. The women of the Diocesan Catholic Women's League and Parramatta Branch of ACW hosted the luncheon, and in spite of the great crowd no one went away hungry.

During this year there have been many highlights, but the main emphasis has been on Spiritual Enrichment Days and in promoting and publicising Australian Church Women (ACW). The Spiritual Enrichment Day held at Polding House in the city in September, was a day of rich feasting on God's word, and the sharing of spiritual experiences, brought to us by our invited speakers. We were comfortably crowded in the CWL rooms where again we were made to feel very much at home. The success of this day has sparked interest from women in areas out of Sydney to ask us to bring such days to their areas. A team of executive members took part in a day of sharing with the Upper Blue Mountains Branch early in 1993 and we expect good follow-up from this day. The Spiritual Enrichment Day held at Woy Woy was attended by people from as far away as Maitland, Caves Beach, Katoomba and a carriage full of council members who enjoyed the day prepared by the Woy Woy and Council teams as we meditated on the theme "LIVING WATER", so appropriate to the area surrounded by the waters of the Hawkesbury River.

Good publicity has resulted from a lot of hard work. We took advantage of the gathering "Living Under the Southern Cross", a follow-on from the World Council of

Churches Assembly in 1991, to have a display there of the projects of ACW and much of our promotional material was distributed over the week of the assembly. On display for the first time was the poster designed and produced for ACW by Lucelle King, whose other talent in music was remembered at the commencement of council meetings as we sang together her song written for the national conference of 1991. Promotion and Publicity convenors Peg Blake and Jeanne Sutherland are congratulated on the production of a set of wonderful INFORMATION KITS, the result of many hours' thinking, planning and working together. These kits are available on request and are already producing results.

Attendances at council meetings have remained good, in spite of the spate of illnesses we seem to have suffered as a group. Our devotional life has been beautifully cared for by a variety of council members over this year and we appreciate this. The speakers at council meetings have reflected the diverse interests of ACW. In November we were privileged to hear Bob and Leanna Haynes tell us about their life and work at Nungalinga College, Northern Territory. Our interest in this college was through the World Community Day offering a few years ago. Winifred Kiek Scholarship is central to our work, and it was exciting to hear Deaconess Shirley Harris tell us about former scholar, Barkat Dass of Pakistan. We rejoiced as we saw photos of Barkat at her ordination as a Deaconess and were interested to learn her family story and the challenge of the work she has been appointed to do. In keeping with the United Nations Year of Indigenous People, we were happy to invite Maisie Cavanagh of Kuri-Ngai Partners to address us in March. We were privileged indeed to sit at the feet of this lady, and happily endorsed the recommendation of the executive that on behalf of Kuri-Ngai Partners we would apply for a Fellowship of the Least Coin grant for this work.

Ecumenically we have been active again this year. Members have attended functions organised by all the denominations and we were proud to participate again in the Flower Festival at St Andrew's Cathedral. Two highlights of the ecumenical year were the attendance at the opening

service of the State Conference of Catholic Women's League, where we were back again at Parramatta. This conference was the second one to which we were invited to send an official representative and Jeanne Sutherland took full advantage of this opportunity to tell people about ACW. Members enjoyed the ecumenical service and dinner, now an annual event eagerly looked forward to at St Scholastica's School, Glebe. Marie McCann was our official delegate at "LIVING UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS" and has briefly reported on her wonderful week. We look forward to hearing more as she shares with us at the Annual Dedication Service.

Our representatives to other organisations have again faithfully attended for us and have enriched us with the knowledge gained by their associations with such groups as National Council of Women, Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association, Ecumenical Council (NSW), World Day of Prayer committee and NSW Council for Children's Films and Television. Delegates who have come to us from Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), and The Girl's Brigade, as well as the representatives from the Branches of ACW and the Denominational Representatives have all contributed to the healthy life of our Council. Thank you and God bless you all.

All the officers and convenors have had a busy year. NEWSETTE editor Beryl McLaughlin continues to delight us with the quality of this production with its interesting and informative articles, not all of them supplied by our members. It's a big job, well done. Thank you Beryl and Marie Majoor for bringing it to us. Fellowship and World Community Day services have been faithfully held during the year in forty centres. We thank convenor Peg Blake, working under great difficulties this year as she battles a painful condition, for her work in getting the services to us. Thank you also to her team for all their work.

Interest and support for FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN (FLC) continues to grow under the direction of Shirley Wells, who with Joan Tong assisting her and working with ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE (ACWC) news has brought

the idea of FLC into the forefront of people's thinking and giving.

Mina Whybourne and her team have lovingly looked after the WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP (WKS) ladies that we have been privileged to have with us. Ana from Tonga enjoyed her time here in NSW and like other scholars has continued to write to Mina on her return home. We have especially been pleased to have news of two recent scholars this year, Doreen Tie and Rachel Sobana. Now with the 1993 scholar living and studying in Sydney, we look forward to making another friend in Malai from Thailand.

MEMBERSHIP secretary Marie Majoor has made new delegates welcome as they have attended their first meetings and has again performed miracles as she has updated the membership list and kept tabs on people absent from meetings.

Past Presidents soon learn that theirs is not a passive job, and Joan Tong has found herself this year filling in at many points. I was grateful for her offer to be Acting Secretary while I was out-of-action, and I thank her for the wonderful job she did then. As well as her position as the ACWC representative, Joan has taken the initiative in finding ways of raising money for the unit. New supplies of souvenir items, badges and pens are to be available soon and for this we say thank you to Joan.

Marjory Baker has been a member of the unit's executive for a number of years and has served with distinction all the varied positions she has filled, not least by any means of these being her term as State President. For all her loving concern for us and for all those years, THANK YOU MARJORY! We all love you, for what you are and for what you have done.

NSW unit has been blessed since 1986 with an outstanding TREASURER in Dorothy Lumb. To this mammoth task Dorothy has brought her not inconsiderable skill with book-keeping, coupled with her very real concern for the financial health of ACW. Each month her meticulous balance sheets have been presented and every year the auditor has congratulated her on the excellence of her work. We appreciate the many hours of work that Dorothy has freely given

each week of the years of her time as Treasurer to our unit. Her gracious demeanour and courteous attention to people have endeared her to us all. And her scrupulous attention to detail have given the members of executive nights of easy sleep, knowing that our finances have been in the very best of hands. We are all sorry that it has been ill-health that has made Dorothy reluctantly decide not to stand for re-election as treasurer and we all pray that soon she will be completely well again.

Thank you Dorothy for seven years of outstanding service to our Lord, through Australian Church Women.

As we come to the end of another year, we look forward to a new year. Welcome to LUCELLE KING as she joins the executive as PRESIDENT-ELECT.

Thank you Phyl for a wonderful year of leadership. It has been a pleasure to work with you and we are looking forward to great things in the coming year.

In presenting this Annual Report, I thank God for all His leading and the knowledge of His presence in all my doings and goings. And I say thank you on behalf of the executive for all the support and love given to us by you, our members and friends.

John Newton's words commend themselves to me and I leave them with you.

"May the grace of Christ our Saviour, and the Father's boundless love,  
with the Holy Spirit's favour, rest upon us from above.  
Thus may we abide in union with each other and the Lord,  
and possess in sweet communion joys which earth cannot afford."

Edith Ridge, Secretary.



FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

As we conclude and reflect on the year that has passed, may I say 'Thank You' to all who have supported and shared

in FLC in so many ways. It has indeed been a team effort and I am especially grateful to Mrs Major Joan Tong for carrying on the work during my two prolonged absences. During the year visits to country and city churches have been made: FLC has been promoted and the network has grown with more and more churches joining the Fellowship.

Volume 12 of 'CIRCLE OF PRAYER' became available early in the year and has been widely distributed. 'EMPOWERING ONE ANOTHER IN SOLIDARITY' is the THEME and the devotional thoughts and prayers are challenging and encouraging. Copies of 'Circle of Prayer' are available on request at a cost of \$2.00 or \$2.50 posted.

World Community Day was again something really special, when so many people gathered together for worship and fellowship. I'm sure all who brought their Least Coin offerings for dedication found it a very moving service.

'GLOBAL SHARING' is the theme of the QUADRENNIAL REPORT of the International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin which was published recently and made available to us. It covers years 1988-1991 and gives encouraging facts and figures about the Fellowship. Through it we were encouraged to learn that an amount of over \$US1,000,000 was received world wide from the offerings of our least coins over the four-year period. Extracts of this report have been taken giving details of the grants and copies available from me on request.

Mrs Monika Mannan (Chairperson of ICFLC) has written, 'God is constantly giving. His giving is the power that keeps the universe in existence. His watch, care and love for each of us have been unceasing. We cannot behold Him and become like Him unless we too become involved in giving to others as we receive from Him.' As we commence a new year let us thank God for His goodness to us and for the privilege of praying for and belonging to this unique movement.

FLC calls for commitment to go further - proclaiming the love of God and spreading His message of Peace, Justice and Reconciliation.

Shirley Wells, FLC Convenor

### WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

The purpose of this scholarship is to provide supplementary training for a Christian woman from the Asian, Indian or Pacific areas.

Our 1992 scholar, Ana Manu Taumoepeau came from Nukualofa, Tonga Islands where she worked in the offices of the Free Wesleyan Church. She studied computer techniques in Launceston, Tasmania and also did some lay preaching in the Uniting Church in Launceston. She was a very talented lass, and at the many meetings she attended was able to speak about her life in Tonga, and loved singing hymns in Tongan, which always delighted those present. She was able to attend Fellowship Day meetings during her time in Sydney, at the City of Sydney and Seven Hills/Toongabbie branches. Ana visited all states, speaking at various meetings and returned to Tonga in August. She has written several times expressing gratitude for her time in Australia and the experience gained.

During the year we heard from Doreen Tie (1990 scholar) from Kuching that the TOY LIBRARY at the Handicapped Children's School was opened in September by the Canadian High Commissioner to Malaysia. Donations had been received from the Canada Fund and the State Government which had been a wonderful encouragement. Portion of the proceeds of World Community Day 1992 are to be given to the school to buy suitable toys for the children and our Mrs Sadie Simmons, who is familiar with the project, is giving advice as to suitable toys to be purchased.

Rachel Sobana (1991 scholar) was married during the year and congratulatory greetings and gifts were sent to her - she was continuing her position as Assistant Director of Nursing at the Catherine Booth Hospital, Nagercoil, South India. (1993 news to hand is that Rachel is pregnant.)

Malini Weeraksinghe (Mrs Devananda, 1981 scholar), has sent news that two of her children's books are being printed (as the result of the special collection made at World Community Day 1991) and she is hoping to send us copies soon. She and her husband are well.

We continue to hear news of Sr. Barkat Kishan Das (1978 scholar) who has now replaced Deaconess Shirley Harris from CMS (who has retired to Australia). Deaconess Harris was able to give us first hand news of Barkat and that she is well and enjoying her responsibility.

Our 1993 scholar, MALAI MAHAMANEERAT of ST LOUIS HOSPITAL, BANGKOK, will arrive early in April in Sydney, and after a two months course in English studies will be involved in a Bereavement Counselling Course at St Vincents Hospital, Darlinghurst. There will be many opportunities for meeting her and making her feel welcome in Sydney.

Will you continue to remember these and all our scholars in your prayers that our Lord will protect and guide them.

My grateful thanks are extended to the WKS committee for their support and advice during the year, especially Joan Tong, Lucelle King and Deaconess Andrews - and for the encouraging and loving support of our President Phyl, Secretary Edith, and all members of our executive. Being the WKS convenor is a very rewarding and stimulating experience and I thank God for the privilege of being involved with our scholars.

Mina Whybourne, WKS Convenor

#### NEWSETTE

Producing NEWSETTE, our ACW State news magazine continues to be a worthwhile task and the four issues of the past 12 months have been well-received and commended. The number of subscribers has shown a steady increase as more folk, particularly local branch and country members, find it brings them up-to-date news of ACW activities and concerns, as well as material of wider community and ecumenical interest.

The contribution of Marie Majoor as Subscription Secretary is invaluable in keeping records, address lists etc. and wrapping and posting our each issue and I do thank her for her efficiency in this fellowship in our part of the whole work of ACW. If you are not and would like

to be a subscriber, send your name and address and \$4.00 to our new subscription secretary:  
Mrs Carmel Emmett, 5 Owen Ave, BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

#### PROMOTION

Our SPECIAL DAYS have been observed and pleasing reports received from the 38 branches holding World Community Day and 35 holding Fellowship Day. Each theme and the manner in which the Orders of Service were presented brought very favourable response. You will be interested to know that our NSW unit has been asked to write the World Community Day Service for October 1994. The theme is to be "We are Called to Peace".

It has been an exciting but very busy year for Promotion and Publicity as we worked to present ACW's first STRATEGIC FORWARD PLANNING programme. We have already seen the first fruits of our efforts in the planning and presentation of a Spiritual Enrichment day at Woy Woy in March, with the theme; "Living Water". The result of this most successful and uplifting day is that a Central Coast branch is expected to be formed in the very near future. Praise the Lord!

We are ever conscious of the fact that God's hand is guiding us as we plan to establish further ACW branches throughout the country districts. At council meetings, when shown specially prepared maps, indicating our strengths and weaknesses, members have been amazed at the large areas within our state where ACW is yet unknown, and we pray that God will continue to guide us in our endeavours.

We congratulate our Leura branch on its efforts to extend the work of ACW to other mountain towns as its members planned the outstandingly successful visit to the Upper Blue Mountains in February. A visit to Lithgow is planned later in the year, at which our friends in the Leura and Bathurst branches have offered to help with promotion.

It is again necessary to stress the need for the PROMPT and PRECISE return of order forms prior to special days. It is only as we receive correct details as to VENUE,

DATE AND TIME of services that we can inform the media accurately and in plenty of time. Please help us to help you to make your services as widely known as possible by returning your order form as soon as you've decided on all the details we require for publication. Packing days must be held at least two months prior to each special day and unfortunately, it is often the case that we still don't know the requirements of some branches when we meet to pack the orders of service for you. We depend on the contact person in every branch understanding the importance of ordering as soon as possible.

We are particularly grateful for the help and encouragement through this busy year of our President Phyl, and Past President Joan. Their constant support has helped us considerably.

'To God be the glory, great things He has done.'

Peg Blake, Promotions Convenor

#### PUBLICITY

It has indeed been my busiest year since becoming Publicity Convenor. After several years of thinking about it, the time was right to launch our STRATEGIC FORWARD PLANNING proposal, to take ACW well into the 21st century. The proposal was accepted with enthusiasm and became the STRATEGIC FORWARD PLAN. This has taken a great deal of time of both publicity and promotion but has been well worth the effort.

MEDIA AWARENESS PROJECT AUSTRALIA ... we were asked by the Mother's Union to support them in this project and we did so with enthusiasm. Unfortunately, in NSW, MAPA has not progressed as well as other states. Much of this is due to the constant negativity of ~~we~~ Christian women, even in our own church magazines. 27 attended a training day and more than 120 a seminar in February, but alas most of those who attended have NOT followed through on what MAPA is all about. ACW members who attended have followed through and have had several MAPA seminars in local areas. ACW is still represented on the committee

for MAPA and we look forward to better things in 1993.

PROMOTION... this year we received many invitations to promote ACW and this has involved many council as well as executive members. Visits were made to Goulburn, Wentworthville, Woy Woy, Leura, Belmore, Parramatta as well as the City. Some highlights were: the Catholic Women's League Conference at Parramatta, and Living under the Southern Cross at East Richmond; these two venues being of more than three days duration. New brochures have been printed with more to come, new posters, lots of publicity in local newspapers and radio stations. State wide coverage for FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN, via the radio as well as community and church press outlets, has resulted in an upsurge of interest and donations that have passed all records.

Margaret Jessup has travelled to many places with teams taking wonderful photographs. Many thanks Margaret.

Jeanne Sutherland, Publicity Convenor

#### NSW COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN'S FILMS AND TELEVISION

Videos are being supplied to approximately 18 children's wards in various hospitals, and the staff are appreciative and co-operative.

Information is being circulated for general vigilance for the protection of children in television programmes.

The general public are asked to make complaints about a television programme to the channel and the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal (any interested may obtain addresses and telephone numbers), also it is suggested that one should COMMEND as well as COMPLAIN.

The Presbyterian Women's Association have compiled suggestions to consider: i.e. Television can and does form a valuable part of our learning about the world and increases our understanding. The good can be out-weighted by the bad. Just as our young people learn in graphic detail how to bully and how to coerce others and get their own way by violent means, so too, as a community, by providing more good situations, can use the power of positive reinforcement.

Control of the content is the answer to stem the current undermining of social harmony.

Mollie Craig, Delegate

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

It is a pleasure to represent ACW on the state executive of National Council of Women (NCW), NSW, which acts as an umbrella for a number of women's organisations. Mrs Joan Elliston was elected as president in September 1992 and is leading us into lifting the image of NCW. The aim of lifting the image is to allow everyone to know NCW represents ALL women.

The executive have planned NCW week to held in NSW first week in June and annually after that. This means calling upon all members to promote NCW on a local level and there is great enthusiasm for this.

Council meetings held monthly have provided a forum for speakers from many areas, ranging from National Parks and Wildlife to the IVP program. Members continue to lobby members of Parliament about important women's issues. A seminar on violence within the community is planned for August 1993 and another group are well into organising the centenary of NCW in 1996.

Shirley Wells also represents ACW on the state council of NCW and we both urge you to pray for NCW as it seeks to bring together all women with diversified interests.

Jeanne Sutherland, Shirley Wells, Delegates

YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION (SYDNEY)

The YWCA (Sydney) welcomed a new president in 1992. Vivienne Ashcroft was elected and replaced Gwen Jones, who is maintaining her interest in ACW. The 'Y' has developed many new programs in 1992 especially for the unemployed youth, both in the city and the suburbs. These programs have proved to be beneficial to those taking part in many ways, not the least being, that most of these young people obtain employment when the program is completed.

Volunteers are of course the backbone of the 'Y', enabling more finance to be available for programs. During 1992 accommodation levels within the 'Y' were lower than usual meaning that budgets had to be revised. However, under the careful management of the Residence Manager, levels are improving and conferences and seminars are filling the building.

Jeanne Sutherland, Representative

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The council members of ACW enjoy working and serving with the World Day of Prayer (WDP) NSW branch. This year's service "God's people: Instruments of Healing", held on Friday March 5, 1993 was held in cities and towns all over the state, thus linking hands in prayer with other cities and towns the world over.

The service was prepared by the people of Guatemala. Life has been very hard in that country, and their thoughts and prayers thus presented offered a real challenge to us all. The aim of WDP (NSW) is to foster the observance of this day throughout the land and to seek to fulfill together our calling to the glory of God and to show His love for all the world.

PACKING DAYS 1993 - OCTOBER 18,19. Please contact any of the ACW delegates for further details.

Brigadier Ruth Smith, Olive Edmondstone, Connie Groat,  
Val Clements, Margaret Jessup Delegates

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

You may remember that the NSW Ecumenical Council plans to expand into a national, rather than a state body, and to find a new name for such a body. The name of that body is to be:

CHURCHES ACTING TOGETHER (CAT)

This may be regarded as a "cat scan"! It is thought that the body will be legally constituted and other churches invited to join by 1994.

I must confess that I was absent from the half-yearly and yearly meetings this year, though I have the minutes of the half-yearly meeting, and the program for the yearly meeting. If you do not like the term 'cat scan', how about 'minutes with the minutes'! I was absent in Adelaide at a retired officer's conference at the time of the half-yearly meeting and as the yearly meeting was held in Canberra, I was unable to find transport though I explored three different avenues.

This was a live-in event for those able to stay, an important occasion because the Roman Catholic diocese of Wagga Wagga was welcomed as a member. On the Sunday members were encouraged to attend the church of their choice, hopefully promoting interest in the council. (The Lutheran churches are also showing interest.)

The president is still Patricia Firkin of the Society of Friends and Dr. Ray Williamson is still the executive secretary.

As we have already had a visit from Mrs Jenny Johnston this year, we are aware of the council's interest in the re-settling of refugees. The NSW Ecumenical Council Field Workers with Refugees are now seeking local churches and ecumenical groups who might be prepared to be the friends and neighbours of new arrivals. The government currently has allowed refugees from Somalia to enter Australia, but now they are here, who will welcome them and help them to make a new start to their lives which have been so shattered. They have an income from the government, but after all the traumas they have suffered, they desperately need assistance to 'find their way' in a very different environment.

Phone Narelle Yeo or Jenny Johnston on 299 2215 (NSW Ecumenical Council) if you are interested.

Mrs Colonel Flo Peterson, Delegate

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

WCTU, represented on ACW NSW unit by Mrs Lil Morris and Mrs Ann Young,, was the FIRST world-wide organisation

for women and for more than a century has been in the vanguard of community concern, particularly for women and families, under its motto "For God, Home and Humanity". In New York, the World WCTU is part of a group asked to give advice on many matters in the United Nations, chosen as one of only 14 non-government organisations out of 1200 to be on the United Nations Executive Committee in its Dept. of Public Information. In New Zealand, in this year, 1993, the centenary of women receiving the vote is being celebrated, that country being the first to achieve it, it 1893, largely through the efforts of the WCTU of that day.

WCTU 'branches' called Unions, are active in all Australian cities and many country areas. At its Sydney headquarters a valuable counselling service is operated for women alcoholics, and an excellent school's program, using puppets is taken into many schools, often on the recommendation of local police officers who recognise its value. Although best known for its encouragement of an "alcohol-free lifestyle" WCTU is also active against gambling, pornography, violence and other evils in our society. Quantities of well-presented literature are produced and distributed and "non-al" drinks demonstrations provide an avenue for showing that entertainment can be tasteful and enjoyable without alcoholic drinks.

At the WCTU's recent President's Reception, ACW was represented by Miss Phyl McKinnirey, NSW State President, and a number of other ACW members attended as representatives of other churches or organisations.

Beryl McLaughlin, WCTU State Secretary

GIRLS' BRIGADE IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Girls' Brigade is a world-wide inter-denominational organisation for girls and young women. This year - 1993 - is the centenary year, for it was in Ireland in 1893 that the Girls' Brigade began.

Heather Reid represents Girls' Brigade at the ACW NSW council, and through her efforts, information regarding FLC and WKS have been made available to them.

Heather also commences service on the executive as the membership secretary.

The 'affiliates' to ACW, viz: YWCA, WCTU, and GIRLS' BRIGADE are very important to the total ecumenical nature of our organisation.

#### BRANCH REPORTS

##### BURWOOD-CONCORD

Tribute must be given to Mrs Dorothy Lumb, through whose efforts this branch has been active for a number of years. Owing to Dorothy's illness a report of the activities is not available, but we are aware that new office bearers have been appointed and offer them support as the work of this branch continues.

##### CHATSWOOD-WILLOUGHBY

Our president over this year has been Mrs Bev Lynn of the Salvation Army, and since our annual meeting in March, Mrs Jeannine Alves is now in office, it being the Church of Christ's term for 2 years. Mrs Frances Gray continues as treasurer.

We assisted with the World Day of Prayer at the Presbyterian Church Chatswood and 82 were present, including 5 men, an increase in numbers, and \$285.15 offering was forwarded. Mrs Britton was the speaker, and the Mayoress attended.

The light refreshments and time of fellowship following our services are appreciated. Major Mrs Olive Lucas was the speaker at Fellowship Day at Chatswood Central Uniting Church, who also supplied questions for thought which were handed out. World Community day at the Church of Christ had Mrs Edith Ridge as an able speaker. The offerings were \$112.65 and \$90.30.

Mrs Major Glenys Holley accepted to be our branch representative to state unit meetings and she and the secretary attended the installation of the president at Parramatta. The secretary attended the ecumenical spiritual refreshment

day in the city, and at Woy Woy in March.

The secretary attended the AGM of Community Aid at the Dugherty Centre by invitation, as we donated \$200.00 from our street stall. We also donated \$100.00 to Helpmates. As the street stalls are becoming a burden it has been decided to hold a "Bring and Buy Trading Table" at our services, and the first one was successful. We can raise money for local charities over our cup of tea in this way.

We donated \$20.00 from our funds as well as our voluntary offerings of \$1.00 a year for 'Partners' with Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC). FLC offering was \$296.38.

Dorothy Woodhouse, Secretary

##### KILLARA/LINDFIELD/ROSEVILLE

We have enjoyed a very rewarding and co-operative year with all the denominations in our branch. The representatives have faithfully attended all our planning meetings and organised the pre-planning for the service within their own church.

Our World Day of Prayer service was held at St Andrew's Anglican Church, Roseville and was attended by 180 people, and the offering was \$503.00. Our World Fellowship Day Service was held at St Luke's Presbyterian Church and attended by 70 people and the offering was \$255.00. Our World Community Day Service was held at the Uniting Church Lindfield and attended by 110 people, the offering for the Least Coin being \$388.00 and the offering was \$160.00. The speakers chosen by the participating church were all excellent and developed the relevant theme encouraging and informing everyone.

Mollie Craig

##### DEE WHY

Regular meetings are not held but Fellowship Day and World Community Day Services have been held each year for over ten years. Women from St John's Anglican, St Kevin's Catholic, Salvation Army, Baptist and Uniting

Churches in Dee Why regularly attend. We also have representatives from St John's Catholic and Church of Christ Naraweena, St Andrew's Presbyterian Beacon Hill, and St Kieran's Catholic Manly Vale. As ours is the only ACW activity held east of Chatswood we would like to include other churches in the northern beaches area. We hope to extend our representation to include other nearby suburbs.

Helen Richardson

#### LANE COVE/LONGUEVILLE

Our president, Dorothy Moulton led us with warmth and competence during the year '92. The seven meetings held through the year were conducted in harmony and true fellowship and one accord - the desire to serve our Lord. We all benefit spiritually through the loving friendship we feel when we come together to share our common faith and strive to nourish the ecumenical philosophy to thrive and flourish. How glorious the aim of the Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) - peace and reconciliation.

Our seven meetings were attended by an average of 10 people. We continue to have difficulty in attracting new members to serve on the committee. We have a predominately aged faithful who have served well for many years.

Attendances at the three services for the year were down in numbers overall, and our collections reflected this fact and the recession which has naturally effected the capacity to give. However, gladly the FLC had a small increase.

World Day of Prayer was held at Chatswood South Uniting Church. Our guest speaker was Rev. Noreen Towers, the great worker for homeless men in the eastern suburbs. She spoke with vigour and conviction on "Living wisely with creation", addressing the problem both locally and globally leaving the congregation with much to ponder.

Fellowship Day was held at Finlayson Uniting Church. We were very proud to have as our guest speaker our NSW President Phyl McKinnirey. The sincerity and humility of her presentation on the theme "Christ - our example"

moved everyone as she reminded us that we should see Christ in everyone we meet - even the most lowly of creatures, and that we must pray daily.

World Community Day was held at St Columba's Uniting Church. Sadly it will be the last time we can gather to worship at St. Columba's, as it is to be demolished. The service commenced with the singing of Lucelle King's wonderful song "We being many - are one in the Lord". (We supplied the congregation with a copy of the words so that they could all join in). This engendered a great feeling of togetherness - the spirit of ecumenism. The guest speaker was our NSW Secretary Edith Ridge, and she delighted all present with her explanation of the "Fellowship of the Least Coin" (FLC) and inspired all with her moving address on "Forgive - as we forgive". She admonished us to live the Lord's Prayer, for only in forgiveness do we find peace.

May 18th, 1992 saw the end of the term of office as president of our much loved Joan Tong who had brought such joy and gladness into ACW. We celebrated the inauguration of Phyl McKinnirey as president. Four of our members were present and how proud we felt to be present to join with her hundreds of loyal friends to wish her well.

The spiritual enrichment day arranged by president Phyl and her committee last July was attended by Janet Flower and Lois Maze. What an inspiring, thought provoking morning it was!! Thank you!!

Our branch continued to support the Bible Society through donation. The state unit branch meetings were attended by Lois Maze throughout the year so that our branch was able to keep informed in NSW events.

Our Christmas luncheon took place on Dec. 7th after the December meeting. How lovely it was to have that extra time together to broaden and strengthen the friendship that we had enjoyed through our year of meetings and services.

May our branch grow in the love and service of God during 1993. May we grow together in compassion and tolerance,

and always be mindful of the absolute need for prayer in our daily lives.

Lois Maze, Secretary

#### PARRAMATTA

The Parramatta branch has met on four occasions over the last twelve months with an average attendance of ten people.

We have had good representation from the Roman Catholic, Uniting Church and Salvation Army church groups within the community. Unfortunately we have found it difficult to involve other churches but approaches have been made by our secretary and we are continuing to encourage other churches to be part of our fellowship.

One of our ACW Life Members, Edna Baker, lost her husband, and it is with sadness, together with poor health, Edna has not been able to be present at our ACW meetings for some time.

Fellowship Day was held in Leigh Memorial Uniting Church, Parramatta on 17th July 1992 and was a great day of fellowship commencing with mornign tea in the church hall.

World Community Day was held at St John's Anglican church Parramatta on 23rd. October 1993. Mrs Lucelle King from ACW State Unit was our speaker and soloist on this occasion. This gathering was preceded by morning morning tea in St John's Church hall and great fellowship experienced.

The Parramatta branch enjoyed Christmas lunch together at St John's Anglican Church and planned our venues for Fellowship Day and World Community Day 1993.

It has been a great year of fellowship among the church women of the Parramatta branch. We continually are trying to involve more people to attend our meetings throughout the year but are thankful to God for the contact we have been able to make with others and the great bond of fellowship that unites us in Christ.

Laurette Jackson (Convenor), Avis Stretton, Secretary

#### STRATHFIELD/HOMEBUSH

This branch has eleven churches actively affiliated - 3 Anglican, Baptist, 2 Catholic, Latvian Lutheran, Presbyterian, Salvation Army, and 2 Uniting Churches, as well as attendance at Special Days of several other groups e.g. Chinese, Korea, Russian. Our gatherings for World Day of Prayer, Fellowship Day and World Community Day demonstrate a true and growing unity in Christ as we worship and learn together and share fellowship over lunch or afternoon tea; our congregation, in recent years, always include a number of menfolk.

Apart from these services, the branch, consisting of one or two representatives from each of the above churches, meets four times a year - an Annual Meeting/Election, and three planning meetings to arrange the three special days. In 1993, our World Day of Prayer was held for the first time in the Latvian Lutheran Church; Fellowship Day was at Strathfield Uniting Church and World Community Day at Enfield Salvation Army.

Beryl McLaughlin, Branch representative

#### SUTHERLAND SHIRE

1992 was a year of great blessing and wonderful fellowship for our branch. We were delighted to have members from the Anglican, Baptist, Churches of Christ, Congregational, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army and Uniting Church enthusiastically participate in both services, with attendances in the vicinity of 140 - 150. We enjoyed singing 'In Christ we are one' at the beginning of each service.

Fellowship Day was held in the Salvation Army Citadel at Miranda. Mrs Dorothy Hulme-Moir, our speaker, gave a very challenging address 'Christ our example'. We were most grateful to the Salvation Army ladies for their wonderful hospitality.

World Community Day was held at St. Aloysius Church, Cronulla when we were warmly welcomed by the Parish Priest. Mrs Marie McCann gave a very thought-provoking address on 'Forgive as we forgive' and a delightful Philippino

choir sang during the service. Fellowship was enjoyed during lunch which was provided most bountifully by the Cronulla ladies.

We were very pleased to welcome our 1992 scholar Ana Taumoepau to an informal meeting of about 25 members when Ana spoke of her life in Tonga, of her experience as a Lay reader in the Methodist Church and sang hymns in Tongan. We were all charmed by her personality and glowing Christian witness.

Mina Whybourne, Secretary

#### CITY OF SYDNEY

1992 proved to be one of blessing to many in the City branch. A business meeting held on July 8th was attended by representatives from seven of our member churches and groups and planning for Fellowship Day was undertaken. This service was held on 22nd July at the rooms of the Catholic Women's League and some 90 ladies ~~were~~ present including members of state council and executive. Brigadier Ruth Smith presented an excellent message while Margaret Hall and Val Kennedy delighted us with their music. An added bonus was the attendance of Ana the 1992 Winifred Kiek scholar who gave a short message and sang for us. Fellowship was enjoyed over lunch.

We were very pleased to be able to hold World Community Day at St James' King Street as it is some time since St James' ladies have been able to take part in ACW activities. 34 ladies attended the service at which Margaret Hall was the soloist. Immediately following the service we moved to the crypt where the company was divided into five groups to consider the questions for discussion provided in the order of service. Each group reported its findings on the question of forgiveness and these were recorded and are being sent out to our member churches. We were fortunate in having with us those who could speak of the breaking down of barriers of race and culture and other faiths as well as between denominations.

To sum up the group agreed that unforgiveness leaves

bitterness in one's heart and only the grace of God can enable and allow us to forgive. We should throw away bitterness and keep the lines of communication open whether denominational or cultural.

Vi Minty, President

#### TURRAMURRA/WAHROONGA

There are twelve churches and one meeting hall, comprising eight denominations in our group and we hold World Day of Prayer and Fellowship Day services. We meet to plan the two services, and for our annual meeting where the new president and secretary/treasurer are appointed for the coming year. The president is chosen by the incoming host church of the World Day of Prayer, and the secretary/treasurer by the incoming host church of Fellowship Day.

This year at our annual meeting we were especially pleased to welcome two representatives from the Society of Friends, among the sixteen representatives there - and only one apology.

As each representative spoke of the different ways the women of her church worked and met in fellowship, it became clear that the same loving interest and care for their fellow parishoners was a very important part of their church life. Some of the common ways of sharing are:

BIBLE STUDIES - with special group meetings for young mothers, including marriage guidance courses;  
DRIVERS - to hospital, church, appointments etc;  
HOSPITAL VISITS - regular visits to mothers with her babies and the sick and lonely;  
HOME VISITS - to those who can't leave the home, and sick and elderly. One group undertook to help one young mother with triplets. Others help where there are mentally disabled, and others visit the courts and give tea and sympathy, and a listening ear to the helpers. One has a special group of women who mind the children while a mother is visiting a father in prison.

This year one group organised a 7.00 a.m. Saturday breakfast with speaker, for over 100 women as an encouragement

to new women in the district.

Another church has a 'Grandmothers group', where each grandmother has some children whom she gets to know well, greeting them each by name and remembering his or her birthday and special times. We were all reminded that the children of today, nurtured lovingly and well, will grow up to be the strength of our churches and so in turn pass on to their children the knowledge of the Bible and the teachings of Jesus, and encourage them to attend Sunday school and church services. Sunday school numbers seem to be falling off, so many clubs like 'Kids Klub' are being organised, with Bible stories and scripture teachings in the form of craft work. During school holidays this is a time much appreciated by the parents, and our women play a very important and major role in this. As one member said "we do care".

Margaret Jessup

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

NEW STOCK - ACW SOUVENIRS, PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

PENS (PARTNERS - ACW & ACWC)	\$1.00
TEA SPOONS, SUGAR SPOONS, CAKE FORKS	\$4.00
LEATHER KEY FOBS	\$6.00
LAPEL PINS (NEW LARGER SIZE)	\$3.00
TEA TOWELS	\$5.00

These delightful items all bear the ACW LOGO and make great gifts for speakers, friends, family, neighbours as well as being a wonderful way to promote ACW.

ON SALE NOW!!!

ALL MONIES ARE PAYABLE TO

TO

THE TREASURER

MRS MARIE MAJOUR  
521 MOWBRAY RD  
LANE COVE 2066

ALL MONIES

Would you please ensure that your records are altered to the new treasurer's address.

We would be most grateful if all monies, including

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

are sent to the above address.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 28TH FEBRUARY 1993

<u>BALANCES -</u>		<u>FUNDS -</u>	
B/FWD	\$11,631.62	B/FWD	\$11,130.01
		<u>"NEWSETTE"</u>	
		Subscriptions &	
		Donations	868.50
		<u>Less Costs -</u>	<u>682.60</u>
			185.90
		Balance 1/3/92	<u>53.89</u> 239.79
		<u>OVERSEAS TRAVEL</u>	
		Receipts	217.40
		<u>Less Payment</u>	<u>150.00</u>
			67.40
		Balance 1/3/92	<u>73.53</u> 140.93
		<u>STOCK</u>	
		Purchases	240.70
		<u>Less Sales</u>	<u>320.50</u>
			79.80 Dr.
		Balance 1/3/92	<u>104.34</u> 24.54
		<u>HISTORY BOOKS</u>	
		<u>Less Sales</u>	44.00Dr.
		Balance 1/3/92	<u>252.25</u> 208.25
		<u>SOUVENIRS</u>	
		Sales	194.00
		<u>Less Cost</u>	<u>367.20</u>
			173.20Dr.
		BALANCE 1/3/92	<u>61.30</u> 111.90Dr.
	<u>\$11,631.62</u> ✓		<u>\$11,631.62</u>

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NSW UNIT

FINANCIAL REPORT

1992 - 1993

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the books of account and records of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN (N.S.W. State Unit) for the year ended 28th February, 1993. In my opinion the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 28th February, 1993 show a true and correct view of the result for that year, and of the state of affairs as at 28th February, 1993.

Phyl McKinnirey      1/1/93  
 Auditor

