



*AUSTRALIAN
CHURCH WOMEN
NSW STATE UNIT INC*

*47TH ANNUAL REPORT
APRIL 2010*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jennifer Peffer

I have browsed through the Annual Reports of recent years and I find it difficult not to repeat the sentiments of previous Presidents as they approached the end of their term of office. As President you begin not knowing what to expect in the coming two years. You quickly realise that to survive you must be dependent on God to give you understanding, patience, divine wisdom and a sense of His presence and guidance at all times in order to last the distance. There are the social occasions to enjoy, there is the rich fellowship which comes from working alongside like minded women of different denominations who are united in their core values, but there are the times of making difficult decisions and balancing ACW planning and preparation with family and local church responsibilities.



I give thanks to God for his enabling and for the provision of a very capable Secretary, an Executive which worked together in harmony and enthusiasm and for prayer support from not only those in office but from the Council members as a whole. Major Nancy McLaren, our Publicity Officer, has moved with her husband to Armidale – we miss not only her skills but also her ‘words of wisdom’.

Highlights of the past year.....Spiritual Enrichment Day when we learnt much from not only the Micah challenge speaker but also from what the various denominations were doing among the disadvantaged of our own city.

Fellowship and Community Days have again been celebrated and touched the lives of many women. The services conducted by branches in various locations across the state provided opportunities for worship and fellowship.

National Conference in Canberra was not without its challenges in its business sessions. The times of devotion, uplifting messages and sharing meals together compensated and now we join across the nation to “Turn Darkness into Light” in the coming 2 years with South Australia as the new Executive.

Personally I have enjoyed the occasions when I was asked to speak at functions and meet ladies involved in local branches, also the opportunities to hear some very gifted communicators at Anglican, Uniting, Presbyterian and PPSEAWA events.

I felt it a particular honour to speak, on behalf of Australian Church Women NSW Inc. at the Thanksgiving Service for Mrs Lucelle King in November. Lucelle was a Life Member and a former State President. She had made a considerable contribution to ACW and her family acknowledged how much her involvement had meant in her Christian walk.

The mundane, but necessary, “business” matters achieved this year – gaining Stamp Duty Exemption, now having Public Liability Insurance cover, adopting updated Associate Membership form and plans of promotion, and finally organising for new badges with updated logo.

I commend the Incoming President and Executive to your prayers as we strive to move forward together seeking to unite Christian women across denominational barriers in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Isabel Hewitt

We have continued to hold Executive and Council meetings six times a year. Attendances at Council during the last twelve months have averaged 43, with 9 apologies.

The annual Service of Dedication was again held at Eastwood Baptist Church. It was a well attended and happy occasion, with Colonel Jan Condon from The Salvation Army as the guest speaker.

St James' Church Hall was the venue for Spiritual Enrichment Day in July. We heard of the UTS Anti Slavery Project and of the Micah Challenge as we thought about the words of Micah: "Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly . . ." Denominational groups within ACW NSW gave informative segments on the way their particular church responds in practical ways to the words of Micah.

National Conference in Canberra, hosted by the ACT Unit, gave the opportunity to once again meet for worship and discussion with ACW members from all around Australia. Rather than submitting motions, NSW proposed questions relating to the conduct of Special Days, venues for future National Conferences, and the need for comprehensive public liability insurance at national level. It was felt that suggesting questions for discussion made the topics open to more conference participants, as everyone attending could take part in the conversation.

Fellowship Day and World Community Day Services were held in several places around the State, and some responses can be found in the Special Days and Branch reports. The Asian Church Women's Conference Multicultural Concert of Praise again brought together people for a celebration of the diversity we have in Australian church life. Lyn Middleton's ACWC report gives further details of this rewarding event.

To Executive members I give my thanks for their continuing commitment and hard work. Jennifer Peffer has fulfilled her presidency very capably, and we look forward to her continuing wisdom as Past President. We welcome Nola Dickson as our incoming President and wish her well for her years in office.

This is my final report as Secretary as I have not sought re-election to this position. Ecclesiastes says 'for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven . . .'. It has been my privilege to serve as the secretary for Australian Church Women NSW State Unit for a decade, and I believe it is now time for someone else to bring their gifts to this task. For my failures and omissions I ask your forgiveness, and if I have been able to help you, I thank you for the opportunity.

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC.
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR TWELVE MONTHS
ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2009**

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Administration	1,665.35	Administration	4,861.38
Interest	157.06	ACWC Newsletters	96.00
ACWC Newsletters	72.00	Newsette	687.71
Travel Fund	542.45	Travel Fund	450.00
Newsette	950.45	Fellowship of the Least Coin	13,965.75
Fellowship of the Least Coin	14,557.73	Winifred Kiek Scholarship	418.00
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	435.00	Fellowship Day	3,512.35
Fellowship Day	3,677.40	World Community Day	4,039.54
World Community Day	4,916.75	Asian Church Womans Conference	726.22
Asian Church Womans Confer.	732.80		
Balance 1.1.09	<u>2,990.67</u>	Balance 31.12.09	<u>1,940.71</u>
	30,697.66		30,697.66

AUDITOR'S REPORT:

i have examined the Books, Documents and Accounts of Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc. for the year ended 31 December 2009 and find that, in my opinion, the attached Statements of Receipts and Payments and Capital Funds give a fair view of the affairs of Australian Church Women NSW Inc. as at 31 December 2009.

Signature:  Date: 5/1/2010

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC.
SPECIAL FUNDS ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 2009**

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN			
Brought forward 1.1.09		1,186.25	
Received to year ended 30 November 2009		<u>13,506.38</u>	
		14,692.63	
Less expenses: Postage, etc.	155.00		
5% to ACW NSW	726.88		
Paid to ACW National	<u>13,810.75</u>	14,692.63	
Receipts to 31 December 2009 carried forward			1,051.35
FELLOWSHIP DAY SERVICE			
Receipts for year ended 30 November 2009		3,677.40	
Less expenses: Printing and postage	376.35		
5% to ACW NSW	165.05		
Paid to ACW National	<u>3,136.00</u>	3,677.40	
WORLD COMMUNITY DAY SERVICE			
Brought forward 1.1.09		36.45	
Receipts to 30 November 2009		<u>4,916.75</u>	
		4,953.20	
Less expenses: Printing and postage	360.00		
5% to ACW NSW	229.66		
Paid to ACW National	3,679.54		
Owing to ACW National	<u>684.00</u>	4,953.20	684.00
WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP			
Brought forward 1.1.09		55.00	
Receipts to 30 November 2009		<u>385.00</u>	
		440.00	
Less expenses: 5% to ACW NSW	22.00		
Paid to ACW National	<u>418.00</u>	440.00	
Receipts to 31 December 2009			50.00

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC.
CAPITAL FUNDS STATEMENT 31 DECEMBER 2009**

BALANCES		FUNDS	
Commonwealth Bank		ORGANISATION A/c	17,100.40
Account 06 2146 1000 7297	1,940.71		
Glebe Administration Board		NEWSLETTE	
At Call Account 100024S1	1,500.00	B/fwd 1.1.09	527.01
100024S1.1	<u>3,000.00</u>	Subscriptions	<u>950.45</u>
	4,500.00		1,477.46
Uniting Financial Services		Less Costs	<u>687.71</u>
At call Account 2201520S10	604.13		789.75
Churches of Christ		TRAVEL FUND	
At Call Account 106940	<u>14,230.20</u>	B/fwd 1.1.2009	219.38
	21,275.04	Add receipts	<u>542.45</u>
			761.83
		Paid to ACW Nat.	<u>450.00</u>
			311.83
		STATE CONFERENCE	
		B/fwd 1.1.09	(93.97)
		ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE	
		B/fwd 1.1.2009	1,375.10
		Receipts	<u>732.80</u>
			2,107.90
		Less Costs	26.22
		Paid to ACW Nat.	<u>700.00</u>
			1,381.68
		WORLD COMMUNITY DAY	684.00
		WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP	50.00
		F/SHIP OF LEAST COIN	<u>1,051.35</u>
			<u>21,275.04</u>



FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Lillian Hodges

It is a pleasure to present the annual report for Fellowship of the Least Coin. I would like to say thank you for your support of the Fellowship during the last year. Your prayers have been added to those from many countries, with Mongolia being the last country to join the Fellowship.

From NSW we have been able to send \$13,965.75 to the National Treasurer. This amount will be added to the Least Coins given from the other Australian States and Territories and will be sent to the International Treasurer.

World Community Day in October was a time to renew our faith with the service prepared by the Western Australia Unit of ACW. The theme was "Faith – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." I was the speaker at the service at Kincumber on the Central Coast and at Jannali in Southern Sydney. The General Offering from the services was divided between Asian Church Women's Conference and the 2009 Special Project which was "Kairos Outside". This was a support weekend for women who may have had a loved one in prison or been in prison themselves. Support is provided in a safe environment with Christian people.

It was a pleasure for those who attended the National Conference at Canberra in September, to meet the Executive Secretary of the International Committee of Fellowship of the Least Coin. Corazon Tabing-Reyes is very dedicated to her role and enjoys meeting people and sharing her story and that of the FLC.

I have the new Edition of the Circle of Prayer Booklets, which became available at the National Conference last year. They are available to you for the cost of \$2 per copy or \$3 posted.

Fellowship of the Least Coin offers us a prayer partnership, which knows no boundaries or barriers. Remember that we are connecting with other women around the world, not competing with them. God can work through women who can be prayerful, and He will take our Least Coins and use them to help others. We are all God's children and equal in His sight. May we all be found faithful as we pray for peace, justice and reconciliation.

NEWSETTE

Beryl McLaughlin

I have enjoyed continuing as Editor of Newsette, published in February, May, August and November. Members of Council and readers in Branches around our State receive informative reports of our projects, such as FLC and WKS, and news of upcoming events.

It has been good, with modern technology, to be able to include photos of some of the choirs and musicians performing at our Multi-Cultural Concert, which annually celebrates our affiliation with Asian Church Women's Conference. Once again I record my appreciation of Brenda Dickinson's work in maintaining the address list, printing the address labels, and her assistance, along with that of Heather Badgery, with the collating and mailing of each issue.



WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

Judith Cayzer

News continues to stream through on past students via email and some by post. It is good to be able to share in prayer with the women and their needs. We had a change-over of National WKS Convenor, and express thanks to Constance Aronsen (ACT). We now we have Maureen Clark (SA) who was the previous Chairman of the WKS Trustees.

About 12 Christmas cards have been sent with 3 replies.

- Long time past students still in touch are: Mary Au [1980] who is the only female Director of the Hong Kong Chinese Christian Church Union. Very busy, also has her 97 year old mother living with her.
- Nighat Gulzar [1994] is living in Philadelphia USA. Always sends cards and gifts, but no news .
- Rachel (McManus) Otto [1997] keeps in touch with Mina Whybourne. She works 2 days a week with Scripture Union as School Chaplain in Miles, Qld. Her mother sadly passed away in January, a sympathy card was sent to Rachel.
- Susan Liersch [2003] Her husband is now in charge of Gundagai Anglican Parish. The family are still in transition with schooling and work changes in the new area.
- Monique Crabtree [2003] is in WA and works as Registrar at Tabor College Perth for two days a week.
- Leinamau [2007] is in Vanuatu, always island hopping, ministering to and with women and children, and has been writing up studies and resources. She is working out funds and plans to get her own home this year.
- Imelda Aquino [2008] is back in the Philippines to raise awareness of world mission and funds for her return to the Middle East ministry.

2009: Inese (NSW) had a very busy year with studies, work and family.

Christine (Victoria) has been over in the UK for a course and her brother's wedding, and now back to find some work and complete her application for long term placement with Interserve.

2010 Scholars, Ruth (PNG) and Tonu (Fiji) are in their homelands doing the first half year of studies by internet, then for the second half they will be here in Sydney at the Alan Walker College of Evangelism. Their course will include Preaching, Evangelism, Peace Building, Christian Counselling and Women's Empowerment. Pray for connections over the year.

Applications are now being taken for the 2011 WKS with recipients to be in the Asian Region.

All these women are often busy balancing family, ministry, work and studies.

Have you bought a copy of the book "Winifred" yet? It is still available and very good reading for further understanding to the background of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship. Thank you for your continued prayerful support .

SPECIAL DAYS

Pamela Freeman

In 2009, Taree was able to again celebrate the World Community Day, and the Paramatta Branch is functioning again with World Community Day. The means of communication with the branches is enhanced by the fact that many are able to make contact through the email. This has been a boon for those times when information needs to be sent quickly. Sometimes there has been a dialogue through this modern medium.

During 2010 and 2011, the theme set by National executive, *Turning Darkness into Light*, will be explored. NSW State Unit was requested to prepare the Order of Service for the Fellowship Day for 2010. We look forward to distributing these together with an 'ideas' sheet with materials that may be used in the local scene to enhance the service. *Let there be Light* is the topic.

Branches are being encouraged to propose a project for consideration for the Special Project as supported by offerings in the World Community Day in October.

The feed back from the participating branches shows that people are uplifted by the services that are prepared and most find ways that will enrich the gathering within the availability of the local talent.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for every effort made to bring people together in celebration of our faith and to honour Jesus and to meet as the Body of Christ within each local area.

PASTORAL CARE

Olive Edmondstone

Several of our members have had a difficult year. There have been those who have lost much loved family members, have faced acute and chronic illness themselves and in members of their families. It has been our privilege to offer prayerful support at these times.

It was with very real sorrow that we learnt that one of our Life Members, Lucelle King went to be with her Lord in November. Our President presented an appropriate tribute to her ministry through Australian Church Women at the Thanksgiving Service.

But there have been those who have experienced happy times, additions to their family, travel, weddings and some of the surprises of God and we have rejoiced with these members.



ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Lyn Middleton

Throughout the 2009/10 year of special prayer concern has been the civil war between the Sri Lankan Government Army and the Tamil Tiger rebels, the people of Orissa, India, and the Filipino people in Metro Manila and neighbouring provinces. Our ACWC sister countries were also in prayer for the people of Australia so severely affected by fire and flood, sending a generous donation to replace church property in the worst affected areas.

Projects accepted for 2009 of US\$1,000 each are as follows:

Bangladesh—Safe drinking water for hill tract people

Cambodia—Health education training

Nepal—Trauma awareness training

Humanitarian services to the internally displaced persons of the north and east of Sri Lanka due to the civil war has been accepted as the emergency fund. The projects for 2010 are still to be announced.

The 14th Quadrennial General Assembly is to be held 15-20 October 2010, in Indonesia. The theme will be *Asian Women Moving Forward*. At the ACW National Conference held in Canberra, Major Laurel Pearce of the Western Australian Unit and Mrs Fran Moss of the Queensland Unit were elected as official ACW delegates to the Assembly. Major Donna Bryan remains the Australian delegate to ACWC for the next four years having been elected to the Executive Committee. Mrs Pat Walker concludes her term with ACWC after the Quadrennial Assembly next year.

Our ACWC celebrations for 2009 took place on Sunday 18th October at the Northside Community Church (Churches of Christ) Crows Nest. Approximately 120 people attended the Multicultural Concert of Praise which was a variety packed afternoon of rich blessing from soloists, choirs, pianist, timbrellists, flutist, violinist. The congregation responded warmly to each item as it was presented and the guest speaker Major Kwan-ki Kim gave a challenging insight into the rapid rise of Christianity in South Korea and its modern day missionary thrust. Through the generosity of the congregation over \$730 was given for the work of ACWC. A lovely time of fellowship was shared at afternoon tea following the concert.

Continue to remember South Korea, our prayer partner, taking a prayerful interest in this land and its people. We will be allocated a new prayer partner following the Quadrennial Assembly.

SOCIAL ISSUES

Carmel Keys

The pinnacle of our aims as Christian women is a just society, one that respects and promotes human rights, freedom, social well-being, and justice for all citizens.

During this last year we have considered many aspects of the common good:

- Human Rights---Is our Government accepting its responsibilities under the United Nations Convention?
- Is a Bill of Rights the way to go to protect our people?
This is distinct from Human Rights
- Violence against Women and Children.
Trafficking in Children eg.Haiti
- FaceBook—be alert of the dangers to your grandchildren
- Bullying which leads to violence and suicide
- Sexualization of Children, as in sexual advertising of young and not so young children

To combat this, CHOICEZ MEDIA www.choicez.com.au could be an answer to your queries. It upholds primacy of marriage and focus on personal dignity and worth. Living Arts at Belrose (Northern Beaches) has opened a new school teaching Ballet, Jazz, and Music Theatre for families keen to avoid overtly adult dance moves. It is one answer, and already has 50 students between 3-16. It champions modesty and fun.

Have you expressed your opinion on the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras? Who pays? Who gives permission to hold it Should government bodies be taking part in uniform and using departmental vehicles?

Looking back at reports over many years it is sad to see that the same issues are recurring-

LOCAL: Homelessness, aged care, accommodation for young disabled and elderly between leaving their homes and needing full care.

NATIONAL: Asylum Seekers, Boat People, Indigenous people

GLOBAL: Education / Food and Water / Malaria and AIDS

As Christian Women we must do our share to bring about the common good by action as well as prayer. Keep up your letters to community and Government Leaders. Make letters personal and connected. Congratulate where appropriate. Letters do work, as in the case of Cadbury's Chocolate, and David Jones continue to include a Nativity Scene in their Christmas windows. Our culture is shaped by our Christian belief that it is important to care for the weak and those in need.

What will we leave for the next generation? Will it be a Society that serves all? Pray that we will look after God's Creation with Love and Compassion.

Grateful thanks to Jennifer and Isabel who have supported us so ably, and we wish them well as they complete their terms of office. GOD BLESS

BURWOOD-STRATHFIELD-CONCORD BRANCH

Bonnie Lyons

Early in 2009 it was mutually agreed by Strathfield-Homebush and Burwood-Concord Branches of ACW that the World Day of Prayer Service would be combined at Strathfield Uniting Church. This proved very successful with a good attendance and participation from members of both ACW Branches. A meeting of both Committees was held in April 2009 to consider combining for the two ACW Services in that year. All attending the meeting agreed on this recommendation and it was unanimously approved.

It was decided that the Branch should be called Burwood-Strathfield-Concord Branch, and officers were elected from both Branches. The Fellowship Day Service was held 23 July at Concord Uniting Church and the World Community Day Service 6 November at St Thomas' Anglican Church Enfield, with excellent attendances, inspiring speakers and a real spirit of fellowship shared by all.

We are grateful to God for bringing us together, enabling us to enjoy belonging to His universal family.

COOTAMUNDRA BRANCH

Elaine Berryman

On behalf of the Cootamundra Branch I would just like to say that we had very special times with the World Day of Prayer, Fellowship Day and World Community Day and to finish it off we had a combined Church Christmas Party. I was blessed to be given the opportunity to organise the events on behalf of The Foursquare Church Cootamundra. It was quite evident that God had his plan in place and I was his vessel along with my Christian brothers and sisters in putting it all together. We had some awesome speakers who touched the hearts of many that attended. The worship was amazing and again I believe it touched the hearts of many.

God's presence was felt through all the events and I believe broke down strongholds, hearts were warm and loving. Children, men and women were involved in parts of the service.

DEE WHY BRANCH

Helen Richardson

In 2009 we celebrated the 28th year of holding Fellowship Day and World Community Day Services in Dee Why. During that time we have had wonderful people from the different denominations as our speakers. Some have been members of the NSW Executive, others have been invited because of some other connection to Australian Church Women or to ecumenism. Each has brought their own special contribution to our services. The orders of service have been thoughtfully prepared on the chosen theme and these have made our services very special. The comment is often heard, 'That was a lovely service.' I think this is because, as our theme song says, 'We being many are one in the Lord.'

KINCUMBER AREA BRANCH

Bev Elliott

It is pleasing to report that this branch held two successful days throughout the year which were well attended by members of all the churches in Kincumber and the Umina Peninsula. We also had visitors from Terrigal and Avoca.

On Fellowship Day we had a wonderful service at the Kincumber Uniting Church with 70 folk in attendance and Mrs Nola Dickson, President Elect, was the guest speaker. Nola was very well received and gave a lovely address on the theme "Our God is Ever Faithful." Special guest was Mrs Dorothy Woodhouse, accompanied by her son David. The new President of the branch, Rev Miriam Cotton, retired Uniting Church Minister, was warmly welcomed. A very happy day!

In October we enjoyed the warm hospitality of St Andrew's Anglican Church, Umina. Our speaker was Major Lillian Hodges, FLC Convener. This was a very successful and interesting day, also well attended by 72 very enthusiastic folk who love supporting the FLC. Prepared copies of the FLC payments were given out and a short précis of ACW and *Kairos Outside* was read before the collection. A record amount was forwarded to the Treasurer from the two collections. A lovely solo, 'God is Just the Same' was rendered by a gentleman from Kincumber Uniting which was a most enjoyable surprise for all in attendance. A successful trading table was held to offset expenses. We continue to give thanks to God for his wonderful provision to all who support Australian Church Women in this place.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE BRANCH

Brenda Dickinson

The newly refurbished Salvation Army Miranda was the setting for Australian Church Women (Sutherland Shire Branch) Fellowship Day held on 31st July, 2009, which supported the Winifred Kiek Scholarship. Sixty people from various churches around the shire came together to participate in the Service and hear Major Lyn Middleton speak to the Theme: "Our God is Ever Faithful". Her message, relating to the Scripture passage from 2 Kings 4:1-7 brought home to us again that God will supply all our needs for as long as we are ready to receive his grace. We can trust that our God is ever faithful. Mrs Mina Whybourne spoke about the Winifred Kiek Scholarship and her involvement with the scholars over the past 25 years. A hymn written especially for the day by Winifred Kiek's daughter, Margaret Knauerhase, was an added delight, as was the final prayer and blessing, loved best by Winifred Kiek. Pianist June Midgley was accompanied by Captain Anthony Rees on the cornet. A highlight was hearing June and Anthony combine to play a solo item. After the Service, fellowship over morning tea/lunch was very much enjoyed by all.

World Community Day, supporting Fellowship of the Least Coin, was held at Jan-nali Anglican Church on 30th October, 2009. Approximately 80 people attended this service and were appreciative of Guest Speaker, Major Lillian Hodges' reminder that whatever we are experiencing, God holds us in the palm of his hand. Lesley Marks provided a beautiful rendition of "His eye is on the sparrow", which reinforced the message. Fellowship and lovely morning tea/lunch followed.

Churches in the Sutherland Shire continue to support ACW events by their willing participation and their generous giving of monetary gifts at Special Days' Services.

Winifred

By Margaret Knauerhase

available at a cost of \$15



Order your copy from:
Mrs Helen Richardson
33 Lynwood Avenue
DEE WHY NSW 2099
Phone 02 9971 0278



GIRLS' BRIGADE NSW

Changes in staffing at Brigade House. Staff assists the organisation to stay focussed and achieve our goals of service to our volunteers who work with the girls in the various Companies. During 2009 we had major changes to staffing as Hazel Allison retired after being with us for 15 years.

✦ NEW – Training Coordinator and Shop Manager

We prayed for guidance and wisdom and we learned a number of lessons.

Our Development Worker stayed with us for 12 months but being young decided to take on other challenges – we praise God we have a new young person to take on this position.

We have a new Duke of Edinburgh coordinator who is keen to develop this area of our work and give more opportunities for our girls to complete this worthwhile award.

We had six girls receive their Queens Award. It is a wonderful opportunity for girls to meet the Governor of NSW. She is such an inspiration for these girls.

National Conference was held in ACT in October 2009. Every state was represented and we had the opportunity to meet the Governor General. It was a great opportunity to showcase our Girls' Brigade to our Head of the Nation. At the Conference decisions were made to set in place a Strategic Review Committee to seek how best for GB Australia to move forward.

The work of the Lord is always at the forefront of our planning and within our State we make every opportunity to teach girls about the Love of Jesus. At the recent State GB/BB Jamberoo Camp it was encouraging to see 120 Campers participate in an outdoor church service at Easts Beach, Kiama. On the Saturday we had more than 350 Brigaders enjoy a day of fun activities.

Prayer Points

- ✦ Upcoming elections of State positions at our State Conference in May
- ✦ Planning for our State GB event to be held at Luna Park in September
- ✦ That we continue to lead girls to become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

BIBLE SOCIETY

We record that Julie Bryant who was Coordinator for Women for the Word proactively shared the work of the Bible Society with the ACW ladies and promoted the various projects. We were disappointed that her position which focused on work with women was discontinued at the end of 2009. After making contact with the Bible Society we learnt that there is now no representative appointed to our organisation.



PAN-PACIFIC AND SOUTH EAST ASIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Your representatives to PPSEAWA continue to enjoy the meetings and to learn a lot. We are happy to share with you a report of the activities during 2009. The A.G.M. of PPSEAWA was held in March, 2009. All officers were returned to office except one Vice-President. The new Vice-President is ACW Treasurer, Helen Richardson. ACW was the Corporate Member Spot in March and our short report on ACW was received with interest.

Speakers throughout the year on a wide range of topics have been:

- Norma Ingram, a Wiradjuri woman whose whole life's work has been with Aboriginal people spoke of her current life and work in Redfern.
- Jenny Stanger works with victims of human trafficking in Australia with the Salvation Army through Samaritan Accommodation. A donation was sent to this project.
- Lyn Braico who went to the USA as a representative of Country Women's Association of Australia to CWA groups in America. (Winter luncheon)
- Robyn Hanstock on organisations currently available to women in Australia.
- June Cameron AM, a member of Asia Pacific region of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. Through her travels she has become aware of the issues affecting the lives of women and girls in Cambodia and Thailand.
- Dr Bronwyn Gould's interest is in working with children who have had a raw deal, with research into child death and assisting homeless women. Members responded to her appeal for toilet goods etc. for these women. It was resolved that money from the profits of the October Luncheon be donated to Bronwyn's work.
- Dianne Madden, founder of Camp Kookaburra, a program offering free weekend camps/activity days to children 8-16 years living in families affected by mental illness.
- Biljana Milosevic spoke on the Jannawi Family Programme at Lakemba. (The Presidents' Luncheon).
- Major Eva Morton and her daughter Jocelyn told of Eva's experiences following a trip back to Africa where the Mortons had worked for the Salvation Army over a period of years from 1948.
- Dr. Reginald Zahiruddin of Pakistan.

Other activities of PPSEAWA during the year under review were :

- * International Women's Day Luncheon in March
 - * International Day of Peace Service in September—13 faiths were represented.
 - * Money from "Platters for Peace" was given to the International Young Women's Fund, a PPSEAWA International project.
- PPSEAWA President Joan Egan attended the ACW National Conference for one day as a visitor.

We are grateful to the Editor of Newsette for including our reports, enabling us to share the experiences we enjoy as members of PPSEAWA.



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Helen Richardson & Dorothy Kenning

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. in The Sydney Mechanics School of Arts in Pitt Street. They finish before 8 p.m. so travelling home is not a problem as there are many people still around the streets at this time.

There is usually a speaker on some topical subject with the opportunity to ask questions. NCW NSW is affiliated with NCW Australia Inc and the International Council of Women. Besides the regular meetings, four luncheons are held each year. In January we 'Celebrate Being Australian' with lunch at Parliament House, when awards are made to young women who have completed tertiary studies, to enable them to continue their education. These awards are made possible by support from other organisations. The President's Lunch in March is a more low keyed event to help celebrate Women's History Month. The Jean Arnot Lunch in May is an opportunity to acknowledge Jean Arnot's dedication to the advancement of women through her work for Equal Pay for Equal Work and also to honour other women in their 90th year who have also worked in and for their communities over many years. The Foundation Day Lunch in August is another opportunity to meet and enjoy lunch at Parliament House. Dorothy Kenning and I have been your representatives for many years so it is time for a change. If you are interested in the welfare of women this meeting is for you.

ACW NSW Members National Conference Canberra, September 2009



Back: Lyn Middleton, Nancy McLaren, Pamela Freeman, Shirley Wells,
Jan Harrison, Denise Secomb, Edith Ridge, Lillian Hodges, Beatrice Kay
Front: Isabel Hewitt, Jennifer Pepper, Heather Badgery, Helen Richardson,
Nola Dickson, Carmel Keys, Marie McCann



NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

**Pamela Freeman
Isabel Hewitt**

During 2009, the ACW NSW State Unit Inc has been represented at the two meetings of the Council, held this year in Sydney and Newcastle. Pamela Freeman attended the AGM of the Council, held in June at the Salvation Army Chatswood, which received two new member churches, the NSW District of the Lutheran Church and the Maronite Catholics. The new President, Major Paul Kinder was installed and highlights included speakers on “New ways of communicating the Gospel in today’s world,” the promotion of a study booklet on Prayer, about to be published by the Theological Reflection commission, and details of the continuing service of the House of Welcome for asylum seekers.

Isabel Hewitt attended the half yearly meeting in November which was held at Newcastle in an attempt to emphasise that it is a Council for the whole of NSW, not just for Sydney. The Rev Dr Gerard Kelly from the Catholic Institute spoke on ‘Receptive Ecumenism’. Although formal divisions remain between churches, he spoke of situations where many church people find a new energy when they come together with fellow Christians from other churches. He suggested we should be self-critical and open to change, considering what we might learn from others, looking at what we do and seeing how others do some things better.

Doug Hewitt spoke of a visit by ten Australians to Israel/Palestine, meeting with both Palestinians and Israelis, observing the ways in which the members of three faiths, Jewish, Christian and Muslim are working for peace, and exploring the ways in which justice might prevail in that strife-torn country. Other speakers from Newcastle and the Hunter region told of initiatives on the local level to promote ecumenical activity. These included coming together in a suburb for the great Christian festivals of Easter and Christmas, and combined services when there is a fifth Sunday in a month. Another successful venture was the offering of the use of church properties to allow the revival of a community jazz festival which had lapsed because insurance had made costs excessive.

The participation of ACW in the work of the Council is being encouraged, and in return we are pleased to have Council staff attend our various functions. There has been an invitation for representation from ACW NSW State Unit Inc on one of the committees of the Ecumenical Council, which idea is being explored.

Dates for your Diary . . .

April 19: Annual General Meeting/Election of Officers

May 17: Service of Installation & Dedication
EPPING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10.30am MONDAY 17 MAY 2010
ALL WELCOME - BRING YOUR FRIENDS

July: Fellowship Day – *Let there be Light*

September 20: State Conference Day
Scots Church Margaret Street

October 31: ACWC Multicultural Concert of Praise
2.30 pm at The Salvation Army
23 Anglo Road, Campsie



October: World Community Day

ACW NSW STATE UNIT INC—EXECUTIVE 2010-2011

PRESIDENT	Mrs Nola Dickson	9869 2559
PAST PRESIDENT	Mrs Jennifer Peffer	9874 4056
TREASURER	Mrs Helen Richardson	9971 0278
SECRETARY		
MEMBERSHIP	Mrs Martha Noel	9642 0493
PASTORAL CARE	Mrs Olive Edmondstone	9887 1846
FLC CONVENER	Major Lillian Hodges	9533 6082
WKS CONVENER	Mrs Judith Cayzer	9896 3758
SPECIAL DAYS	Mrs Pamela Freeman	9873 1701
NEWSETTE EDITOR	Mrs Beryl McLaughlin	9744 8609
SOCIAL ISSUES	Mrs Carmel Keys	9977 5156
PUBLICITY		
ACWC CONVENER	Major Lyn Middleton	9529 6744

NATIONAL WEBSITE: www.acwnational.org.au