

# AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

## WOMEN AT WORK



**SEEKS:**

- 1) To unite Australian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ;
- 2) To help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life & mission of the Church.

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MAY, 1978

"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love".

It is appropriate that I should have been asked to bring you a greeting at this time, when we are looking forward to the meeting in Australia of the Executive Committee of the Asian Church Women's Conference. This will be the first time such a meeting has been held in Australia and the movement first began 20 years ago.

My first contact with the A.C.W.C was in 1966 when I went to Japan to the third A.C.W.C Assembly; the Rev. Winifred Kiek from South Australia came as an observer and endeared herself to all the delegates present.

It was there in Tokyo, I first had the pleasure of meeting Shanti Solomon, the founder of the Fellowship of the Least Coin; many of you will remember hearing the tape recording of the message that Shanti made for me to bring back to Australia to promote the F.L.C and some years later, of meeting and hearing Shanti on her promotional tour to Australia and P.N.G.

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This great Fellowship will celebrate its Silver Jubilee in 1980 and Shanti, with a representative committee is busy preparing material for this celebration, a devotional booklet on the theme, "Prayer, Partnership & Peace".

I hope that our Asia sisters will feel the same warmth and love of our welcome to Australia, as I felt when I arrived in Tokyo 12 years ago.

With warmest Christian greetings. Love & Peace.

Olga Badger.

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#### PROFILES OF OUR WORKING COMMITTEE.

##### Mrs. Olga Badger.

First Australian delegate to the Assembly of A.C.W.C in Japan in 1966, in Indonesia 1970, unable to attend Bangkok 1974; elected for two terms to the Working Committee and attended Bangkok 1968, Jakarta 1970, Hong Kong 1972, Bangkok 1973, Manilla 1974; attended Christian Conference of Asia Bangkok 1968, Singapore 1973; Past President of NSW Women's Inter-Church Council; President of the Ladies Auxiliary Dept. of Christian Education; President Reserve Bank Wives group; Secretary of Chester Street Uniting Church Women's Group.

##### Mrs. Connie Groat.

Elective member of Presbyterian Women's Assn; Past Vice President (3 years) served as Federal Secretary of PWA of Australia for three years when Executive was in NSW; currently representative of P.W.A of A, on World Alliance of Reformed Church. Representative to W.W.D.P Central Committee. Worked for Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union on Executive and Standing Committee.

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#### WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARS.

Miss Tapati Das, our first 1978 W.K. Scholar has completed her observation tour of the Philippines, Taipei, Hong Kong and India, studying the production and marketing of YWCA handicrafts.

She writes: "It was undoubtedly a rich experience for me I have found that my observation and training experience in India was much more helpful than any of the other countries, because there are lots of things which are similar to our country. Their way of work, their problems are in many ways similar . . . I really do not know how I should thank you. I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity. It helped me a lot to gain experience in handicrafts as well as in different programmes in the YWCA. I am sure I will be able to implement many of their ideas in my own situation. Remember me in your prayers . . ."

Sister Barkat Dass, our second W.K. Scholar has arrived from Pakistan, and is well into her Theological Studies. Because of her late arrival, Barkat is doing a correspondence course of three terms, and her first term exams take place 12th-15th May, after finishing a 12-weeks course in six weeks!

In mid-May, concurrent with the second term of Theological Studies, Barkat commences her Mid-wifery Course at the Nepean Hospital,

Sister Barkat is a charming woman and an interesting speaker. She applies herself to her work. Our prayers are with her and we wish her well in her examinations and studies.

It is hoped she will be able to visit Queensland in the second term vacation, and Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia en route to her home after third term is completed.

Betty Davis  
W.K. Scholar Convenor.

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The cross is the sign of the Father's love for men. We need to recall that the endless love to which we aspire is simply a reflection of the love we have received from the Father.

David Walker

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER CHANGES PEOPLE'S LIVES.

Deaconess Mary Andrews gave a most interesting talk at the A.C.W (NSW State Unit) March Council meeting, reporting on the work of Kalpana Airan, recipient of the 1973 Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

Deaconess Andrews had a lengthy and glowing report on Kalpana's work by Mr. A/ Gray of the Adult Education Department of Sydney University under whom Kalpana studied.

Mr. Gray visited her Family Education Centre in Satara in the mountains 185 miles from Bombay, where she had established a parent-child education centre. These participants, previous to her efforts were too ashamed of themselves to even look up and had no skills at all. Now these women are at ease in manner and can enjoy being part of a group where a meaningful and useful routine has been established, including crafts, sewing and hobbies on the five week-days, for three hours in the afternoon.

A.C.W members are happy to have assisted Kalpana to obtain the knowledge to help her people and to be sharing in prayers for the success of her work.

Marie McCann  
Publicity Officer.  
ACW (NSW State Unit)

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SUGGESTED READING.

Gift from the Sea, Anne Morrow Lindbergh. A book for those who are mature, who value solitude, a book that looks inward. It is a book which recognises the spiritual poverty of many lives today when so much that was creative and valuable has been lost. She chooses to think that they have been mislaid, and that we must learn to be alone to discover them again. It is surprising how many excuses are acceptable; but if one were to say, 'I cannot come because that is my hour to be alone', it would be considered rude or eccentric. Certain roots are tapped only when we are alone, inner stillness

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developed. This book centres round the quiet time alone  
contemplation, prayer, music, a centering line of thought  
or reading, of study or work.

Great Words. of Our Time: Selected by Dee Danner Barwick.

A book to keep handy while one  
is "waiting" .. waiting for the peas to cook, waiting for  
the members of the family to come to the table, waiting  
till the phone is free. It consists of a wide selection  
of sayings by great people, wise, cynical, amusing. It  
will divert, amuse, edify or inspire, and can cause much  
discussion when read at the dinner table and shared with  
the family and watch reactions.

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PROPOSED PROJECT FOR WORLD COMMUNITY DAY IN OCTOBER.

THE NARMADA EDUCATION ACADEMY, SATARA, INDIA.

The Principal of the Academy, Miss Kalpana Airan, writes  
from Satara:

" I am very happy to inform you that the con-  
struction of the Project Building which was begun in  
January, 1977 is now complete and the building will be  
formally opened at 5 p.m on Saturday, 29th April, 1978.  
We cordially invite you to this function. I know you  
cannot come because of the distance but I am sure you  
will be thinking of us, of our school and the Project  
during that time. The Collectos of Satara will preside.  
Mrs. Patel (Terre Des Hommes) will open the building,  
Professor W. L. Kulkarni, formerly head of the Marathi  
Dept., University of Bombay and a very well known writer  
will deliver the main address. Our school children will  
have various roles to play in the variety entertainment  
programme. It will be a colourful occasion. We will  
take pictures and if they come out all right, we will  
send you some..."

This Project which is proceeding in  
Satara is causing a great deal of attention, and import-  
and people are watching developments with interest. It  
is being asked why no one thought of this method of  
integrating people before, and why politicians had not  
automatically seen its value for the nation of tomorrow.

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At the College in Bombay where they are training people in the development of family education in villages and towns, students have been sent on this long journey of 185 miles to see the project and other groups have been sent to study it so that they can try it in their own area. So the work is spreading fast and God has allowed us to share in something that is going to benefit the peoples of India, not just in dozens of women and children as Kalpana is doing, but hundreds and thousands and even millions of people.

It is a wonderful way of integrating people and helping whole communities to accept each other; to grow and develop as individuals and become people who have respectability and acceptance in the whole of the community, with gifts and talents that can be used.

But Kalpana is ready to take the next step forward. It has been suggested that she should have a Social Worker who would go into the villages and encourage the women and children to come into the project, develop their own initiatives, and so be able to start up similar ones, without having to come into the school. She needs more teachers and considerably more work books.

Kalpana also hopes to start a school for boys to be brought in and educated in a proper set up; as well as a hobby centre, so that those who live nearby could be taught various crafts.

Without doubt, the Narmada Education Academy is unique and will initiate a process of integration which may well extend right throughout India.

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When nothing seems to help, I go and look at a stonecutter hammering away at a rock perhaps a hundred times, without as much as a crack showing in it.

Yet at the hundred and first blow it will split in two, and I know it is not that blow that did it -- but all that had gone before.

Jacob Riis.

W.K. SCHOLAR SPEAKS FOR HERSELF .

April

Sister Barkat Kishan Dass to Council members, Meeting.

"It is a great pleasure to be here today. It took two months to achieve this after very many difficulties.

My name is Barkat Kishan Dass, a name many people find difficult to pronounce. "Barkat" means "Blessings". I would prefer the word 'Sister' to be gone and just to be called 'Barkat', because that gives me more feeling of being at home.

I was brought up in a nominal Christian family, and for years was not really active, not a committed Christian. In 1959 when I was in College that was the time when I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour and that was through my teacher. I am a teacher and knowing that I was brought to the Lord Jesus Christ by my teacher, I feel a responsibility to my students, not only for their physical and mental growth, but for their spiritual growth as well.

I am a nurse and received training from a Mission Hospital. For eight years I was a theatre sister. Then I was working in a hospital run by the Bible Medical Missionary Fellowship, from 1965 to 1971, and during that time I was nursing superintendent I found I was lacking in the basic principles of administration, and I asked to be sent to College. I went to College and passed with distinction and was selected for the next year when I became a qualified teacher.

In time I became attached to the Holy Family Full of Mercy at Karachi, where I was Tutor Sister. And here I would like to share how the Lord provided a meaning among all the destruction and violence. We had to evacuate the hospital- I could not go home 100 miles away or to the hospital; so I went to an Institution where I knew some people and could take shelter. The School Principal asked if I would like to be on the staff and after nine months, they asked me to be in charge of the school, and since 1972 I have been working there as Principal of the School of Nursing.

While I was there we started prayer meetings twice a week, and I was much involved with Campus Christian

Campaigns. With the students, it was a great joy to see daily an increase of their understanding and faith and commitment to Jesus, not just nominally but really accepting Him as their Lord and Saviour.

So I see myself fitting into something I never expected. Even this Scholarship has been a miracle and with all the difficulties I was strengthened because where there was a disappointment there was a hope and through this tribulation, I have had much comfort and have come closer to God.

Now I am here I hope to become better equipped theoretically, practically and spiritually.

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* "WOMEN AT WORK" is a Forum for the
* interchange of ideas, news and
* happenings in all the State Units
* around Australia. Are you over-
* looking events that could be shared
* and perhaps adopted by others? We
* would be delighted to hear from you
* and so make "Women at Work" truly a
* national newsheet.
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Address all correspondence to the appropriate Convenor:  
 AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN,  
 P. O. BOX C-199, CLARENCE STREET, NSW.2000