

We were challenged this year to look at ourselves as an organisation by addressing what our tasks should be, how well we had fulfilled those tasks and what changes we should make to be a more effective organisation. Much time has been spent in discussion about establishing goals and the foundation for a mission statement. We would like to see church women involved in those issues which we know are having a detrimental effect on our society. For example child abuse, violence, pornography and the economic situation. We have a wonderful 'platform' from where to start - 'The Church' - let's make use of it and not be afraid to speak out and act on what we know is alien to us as Christians. Regional Church Women United groups in some New Zealand areas have become involved in issues affecting their areas.

All of us on the Executive appreciate the opportunity to reach out ecumenically in friendship, fellowship and understanding to women of other Christian denominations. At our Christmas programme we celebrated our diversity in unity with Christmas devotional contributions from each denomination.

FLC Report: Shirin Samuel, International Secretary, wrote to me saying, "I would like to acknowledge with gratitude your participation and contribution in FLC. Each year there are more and more projects coming. I hope you will take up the challenge to involve more women in FLC so there are more prayers and coins for the needy."

Together with Shirin I would like to see FLC grow - grow so that more NZ women are aware of the simple but committed way that they may share in this international work. To me the simplest yet most effective way is reaching out in a practical manner to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Anne Brown - CWU Secretary, New Zealand



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

ACW News

We seek: to write Australian Women in their allegiance to their Lord & Saviour, Jesus Christ; to help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life & mission of the church.

THE PRESIDENT'S DIARY SEPT./OCT., 1992

Since our last ACW News, Betty Brown (WKS Convenor) and I have been to Adelaide for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Selection meeting.

Following that meeting, the Winifred Kiek Trustees, Betty and I met with the Rev. Bernie Clarke, Consultant on Aboriginal Ministry, in the Uniting Church South Australian Synod.

We wished to seek advice regarding the best approach to take in awarding the scholarship to an aboriginal woman as proposed at the 1991 Conference.

Bernie outlined his suggestion for the way to approach this matter, "For too long we Europeans have imposed our ideas on aborigines. Why don't we ask them what would help them?"

He believes it would be beneficial to set up a small national consultation group, bringing aboriginal and white women together. The wisest thing, he believes, would be to ask them to set their own agenda and then find ways to assist them with it.

If we can get about 15 aboriginal women to meet with 12 Europeans in a venue suitable for them - probably Alice Springs - we can then explore what would best help them using their own opinions. We believe the aborigines should have a higher

proportion of representatives so that they dominate the discussion.

We were given a list of names of mostly Christian women, leaders in their own area of various denominations, tribes and outback and urban areas. These are suggestions with which to start.

To hold a meeting of this type, we would need to provide travelling expenses for delegates. The WKS Trustees found that they have large amounts accrued in the WK Fellowship Fund due to the high interest rates in the 1980s.

A full report of this meeting will go out to all State Units and we would like you to consider whether it would be proper for part, e.g. \$10,000 of these accrued funds of well over \$20,000 to be used to arrange this proposed meeting to try and get our aboriginal assistance onto a firm footing. This would enable our aboriginal Australians to be involved in the decision making process and be made to feel useful.

Please think this through, discuss it, pray about it and let us know your thoughts. The final decision will be made at the next National Conference. It is quite a change of direction.

Please excuse my lengthy newsletter.

Lorraine Davis - National President

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! Ps. 133:1 (NIV)

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Shirin Samuel, Secretary of FLC reports to all 'Partners in Prayer' on Latin America:

1. Elsy Carvalaho has with much enthusiasm accepted the concept of FLC and its promotion. She has committed herself to speak to women's groups during her travels in Latin America.

2. Clara Valenzuela has translated FLC material



in Spanish to reach women at all levels in her country.

3. Maritza Crespo from Valenzuela has sent FLC material to her friends.

Anyone who has heard of the many atrocities that occur to Christians in that part of the world, would appreciate what it means to spread any Christian information in that country. This is part of our privilege and Christian responsibility to uphold these brave and loving women as they proceed with this commitment.

Join with all other readers and remember them in your prayers.

Juanita Miller - National FLC Convenor

The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. Ps. 103:6 (NIV)

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PRAYER for MOTHERS and UNBORN BABIES

At 10.00 a.m. each Thursday in one of Moonah's five Churches, the Human Life Protection Society has twenty minutes of ecumenical prayer. This prayer is for mothers and unborn babies.

Over forty people from different religious traditions join in prayer together in a spirit of hope and joy.

This spirit is reflected in the following extracts from the 'Pro-Life Creed' that is part of the prayer:

"We believe that more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

"We believe that the protection of human life is mainly a spiritual issue that will best be helped by prayer."

The prayer includes hymns, scripture readings, pro-life creed, intercessions, spontaneous prayer, quiet prayer and the Lord's prayer.



It is believed that this ecumenical prayer in Moonah, Tasmania, will bring about the closing of the Moonah Abortion Clinic.

The Human Life Protection Society

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.
John 14: 13-14 (NIV)

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WINIFRED KIEK REPORT

It is with pleasure and some excitement that I announce that Miss Malai Mahamaneerat of St Louis Hospital in Bangkok, has been chosen as the 1993 Scholar.

Malai is a twenty six year old Catholic nurse. This is exciting as Malai will be our first Catholic Scholar. The Hospital Board who nominated her has asked for her to be given the opportunity to further her training and experience in Counselling in Australia. Then she will be able to return and contribute in terms of being a counsellor herself and also able to train others at the hospital in the art and science of counselling.

At the present time I don't know when Malai will come to Australia as I am waiting to hear from the Hospital Board as to what they require.

Another exciting aspect of this scholar is the fact that the Board has nominated Malai and has suggested she comes to Australia two months before her course commences to enable her to gain further knowledge in English and become accustomed to our culture. Malai may visit Units during this two months training period. The Board has only asked for a three month training course for her.

I look forward to having further news of Malai

in the next ACW News.

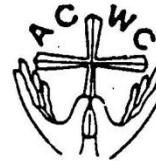
I would like to thank all Units and those who looked after Ana during her time in Australia. She has now returned to Tonga after spending an extra week in Queensland with relatives at no extra cost to ACW.

As I write this report I realise that this time next year we will be assembling in Tasmania.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Betty Brown - Winifred Kiek Convenor

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ACWC NEWS

'ECONOMIC INJUSTICE TO WOMEN' is the theme for the Asian Church Women's Consultation which will be held in Kuala Lumpur from 10-13 October, 1992. As I have been preparing my report to present at the Consultation, I have become very conscious of the many improvements in the rights of women in Australia over the last few years.

The information I have received as background reading, paints a very different picture in most of the Asian countries. I'm sure there will be many stories told of economic injustices in our neighbouring countries but I feel that the Australian contribution will be encouraging to them as they tackle many issues relating to women.

With Bible studies and input from speakers from Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines, I'm sure there will be a great deal of discussion and soul searching on the Christian perspective and also discourse on what each of us can do in our small way to overcome some of these injustices.

Prior to the Consultation, the Executive and General Committees will meet for four days to discuss ACWC

issues. One of the main items on the agenda will be planning for the Assembly to be held in 1994.

The local committee in Kuala Lumpur seem most enthusiastic and are working closely with Eunice to finalise arrangements.

Joan Tong and I will be representing Australia at the meetings and at the Consultation. I would ask that you pray for us and the members as they travel to the Consultation and for all the participants over the time of the meetings. It is anticipated that about 40 people will attend the Consultation.



Sincerely in Fellowship,
Margaret Napier - ACWC Representative

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Statement on Women and the Environment
(Excerpt from report)

The launch took place in the Women's Tent at the Global Forum and, as Mrs Kelly said, "It is important that women in all cultures are able to use their skills to influence outcomes on many of the issues we are debating here in the Agenda 21 context. Combating poverty, changing consumption patterns, protecting and promoting human health, ensuring that human settlement patterns are sustainable and integrating environment and development in decision-making: these are all areas which particularly affect women."

Copies are available from OSW. Contact Margaret Bailey (06) 271 5750

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I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."
M.L.Haskins.

W.A. UNIT NEWS

The title of our Forum this year was 'Children and the Media.' The panel of speakers consisted of Miss Beryl Grant, a retired member of the Children's Court; Mrs Beryl Van Luyn of the National Viewer's and Listener's Association and Rev. Wes Hartley from the Christian Television Association. The speakers were excellent, giving us a varied insight into what were the good and bad effects of the various media on children. After question time, a soup/sandwich/slice luncheon was served.

'Fellowship Day' was held this year in the city at Wesley Church, which drew a good crowd, at All Saints Church, Floreat and also at several country centres. As the Service was written by our Unit, we were especially pleased to see it received well. At the city service the Salvation Army 'Fortress Singers' provided the choral item and we were fortunate in having Miss Evelyn Thompson at the pipe organ and, as our Guest Speaker, the Rev. Judith Peterkin, one of the newly ordained Anglican women. She spoke very feelingly on the theme 'Christ our Example'

Although we only had Ana with us for a week, she was kept busy by several of the Unit members who organised visits and trips for her. Marjorie Maughn took her to the YWCA where she spent the morning being shown the work that was done there, including the computers and printers. During the week Carmen Savunda (FLC Convenor) took her at various times to: the UC Synod Office; the David Brown Centre for cerebral palsy's Open Day; King's park to have a picnic lunch to meet Unit members; a musical afternoon at Subiaco UC; the film, 'City of God' at night and a day trip to Yanchep where she saw dolphins, koalas, kangaroos and other wild life in natural surroundings.

Ana saw the University. Then on Friday morning she was off again on the plane for her return flight. A busy week!

Barbara Bounhill - W.A. Publicity Officer