



# NEWSLETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN -- N.S.W. UNIT

A.C.W. seeks:

- ... to unite Australian churchwomen in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;
- ... to provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together.

President: Mrs. Marjory Baker (Tel: 99.3764)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jeremiah 29:11

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

As we draw close to the end of another wonderful year, it is good to look back and see how God has kept us safely in His care. I thank Him for the privilege of attending the National Conference in Perth and the safe travelling of all who attended, under such difficult circumstances. God truly has all things under His control. As we give our lives to Him and trust Him, we experience the wealth of things He has in store.

May God richly bless you and your loved ones over Christmas and the New Year.

Lovingly,  
Marjory Baker.

Isaiah 9:6

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders; and he will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

### A.C.W. RECEIVES F.L.C. GRANT:

On 12th July last, a Reception was held at the meeting-room of the Uniting Church Offices in Sydney, to welcome two special visitors from Perth. The National President of Australian Church Women, the Rev. Lee Edwards introduced Mrs. Muriel Olsson, an Aboriginal woman. The International Committee of the Fellowship of The Least Coin had given a Grant for two women, one black, one white, to travel to all Australian States, to be a witness of solidarity and growth, as "travelling fellows" in "Operation Understanding."

All who attended were very impressed with Muriel's talk. Although her aboriginal forbears had been in this land for 40,000 years and white people for only 200, we don't want hate and vengeance for the mistakes of the past. The aboriginal folk lived close to the earth, gathered food, moved as necessary, made their history-story in cave paintings and by ritual repetition made oral messages. Every person was important and had his or her place in the family and the tribe. Aborigines want the right to have a way of life of their own choosing and to work together alongside whites. Every society has something good to offer if we sit and listen and understand. Muriel said God will work, if we are patient; there is no going back in history - we must go forward for the sake of our young.

Upon questioning, Muriel revealed that her mother was a full-blood aborigine, her father a white trader, whose route followed the same paths in north-west South Australia and into Western Australia, as the nomadic tribe in their hunting and gathering. She shared a happy family life with her parents, brothers and sisters for her first 5-6 years. Then, in 1936, according to government policy of that time, because she was 'half-caste' she was taken by force, with 2 sisters and 3 cousins, from her home and family, to an inter-denominational Mission, many hundreds of miles away. The tribe moved on by foot, following the waterholes, and her mother thought she was dead. She did not see her mother again for 30 years! Muriel spoke of the loving care given by the folk in charge of the Mission; she was brought up and educated as a European and became a Christian. Later, when it was allowed for aborigines to do such training, she qualified as a double-certificated nurse. She married a Swede and has three adult children.

Muriel has been working as the Sister in charge of the Health Centre in her own tribal area, but now at 58, feels that she must give up this 'authority' position, and just stay there, and sit and listen and learn all that she missed of their culture and ways because of

growing up in a white society. She finished her talk by saying:  
 "There is a way by prayer to change attitudes."

On July 13th two carloads of ladies went with Muriel and Lee for a trip to show them our beautiful Blue Mountains, which they very much enjoyed. Highlights were photographing the bright mountain birds, including Rozellas and King Parrots, at Echo Point; a ride down and up the Scenic Railway and across the valley in the Skyway Cable Car, with a wonderful view of Katoomba Falls; hospitality in the home of Helen Stutchbery and lunch shared with an ecumenical group meeting at Katoomba Uniting Church.

Having already visited Brisbane before coming to us, Lee and Muriel continued on their tour to spend some 3 days in other capital cities.  
 Dorothy Woodhouse.

#### FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

I now have plenty of copies of Volume 11 "Circle Of Prayer" Booklet. It was decided at the last A.C.W. Council Meeting that the charge for these would be \$2.00 each, plus 50¢ for postage.

I am a member of the National Committee of Australian Catholic Relief, which is the Catholic Church's official overseas development and relief agency. In November, I will travel to Tanzania, to represent Australian Catholic Relief at a meeting of its partner church agencies from East and Southern Africa. My visit there will give me the opportunity to visit rural areas, to see development projects being carried out by Caritas Tanzania.

*Romans 15: 13 (R.S.V.)*

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."*

Pat Burke,  
F.L.C. Convenor.

#### REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDANCES by President Marjory:

July 26th	City Branch A.C.W. Fellowship Day
July 28th	Dee Why A.C.W. Branch Fellowship Day
July 31st	World Day Of Prayer Annual General Meeting
Aug. 16th	A.C.W. Packing Day
Sept 11th - 15th	A.C.W. National Conference in Perth
Sept 20th	Baptist Women's Fellowship Conference & Luncheon
Sept 22nd	W.C.T.U. Opening of new offices.
Sept 27th	Anglican A.B.M. Women's Auxiliary Reception.



## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NATIONAL CONFERENCE!

The Theme of the Conference held in Perth from 11-15 September 1989 was "Come Holy Spirit, Come." That this had been the prayer of the people organising the Conference as well as those who were planning to attend became obvious as soon as it began. The Perth 1989 National Conference will go down in history as one that was beset with unexpected and incredible problems. The most serious of these was the airlines strike which made it difficult for most people to get there and prevented some from going at all. The stories of many travellers, those from the eastern states in particular would make an article in themselves.

The National Secretary, Margaret Napier was in Darwin, not really hopeful of getting back to Perth; the President was recovering from major surgery but the Executive had no option but to continue with the Conference in spite of these difficulties. The power of prayer prevailed and the Lord triumphed! Lee Edwards was able to attend and to chair most meetings; Margaret Napier arrived from Darwin and all the Units were represented, even A.C.T. at the last minute. Some of us had great difficulty in getting back home, but that too, is another story!

Thirteen women attended from N.S.W. Mina Whybourne stepped in to replace Dorothy Lumb as our second Observer, with Joan Tong, and the President and Secretary went as Delegates. Two attended as visitors and six of the new National Executive were there also; Deaconess Andrews attended as a National Life Member.

Our accommodation was at Kingswood College in the University of W.A. and the business sessions were held there also. Business took up most of our time but there was ample time for Bible study and fellowship. The major theme was divided into sub-themes and the times of devotions, Bible Studies and Forums followed these themes.

Monday's theme 'Come In Love' was the theme for the Opening Service at St. Thomas More Chapel, when State Units paraded their banners and the Julian Singers helped to inspire us with their beautiful singing. Miss Beryl Grant gave the occasional address and her words were much appreciated by the large congregation of members of Conference and people from the churches of Perth. During a time of fellowship over supper we were able to talk to many of these folk.

National Vice President Major Lyn Green had written a lovely theme song for us and this set the right atmosphere at the beginning of each session.

6.

'Come In Peace' was Tuesday's theme and few of us will forget the Bible Study on that. N.S.W. presented the evening devotions after a Forum Discussion which had given us much food for thought.

'Come in Relationships' was a good theme for Wednesday. After another thoughtful and challenging Bible Study we left for the Civic Reception hosted by the Acting Lord Mayor of Perth. What wonderful views of the river we enjoyed at that function! Back in the bus, we travelled to one of Perth's northern beaches, where we were able to look at the Indian Ocean and do a bit of shopping. Back at the College, we did another session of business and were more than ready for the delightful 'night off' at the Hollywood Village where we enjoyed a multi-cultural Concert. A highlight of this evening was the interview with our W.K.S. Scholar Failautusi Teb'ati, whom we had got to know during breaks in the business sessions. What a delightful lady she is!

By Thursday, we knew we were approaching the end of Conference, with the logical theme 'Come In Service.' This is surely the end result of the progression of thought on the Holy Spirit, so we were challenged at the Focus on Services Session when social workers and counsellors from four agencies in Perth came to tell us their stories.

So we came to Friday with mixed emotions. We were tired - Conferences are very tiring; we were apprehensive about the return journey (some had to stay till the following Tuesday before there was a flight); we were sorry to leave friends from the other States; some were looking forward to a short holiday and re-union with husbands and families; we were challenged and uplifted by the things we had heard and experienced; but the N.S.W. women were PROUD!

We were privileged to be at the Closing Service and Commissioning of the Incoming National Executive - our friends from N.S.W. It was good to be in that service where Marie and her team were commissioned for two years' service for A.C.W. It really was a thrill for us to see them standing there with their new badges of office and we thought too of the people who were not there but who will be part of the team also. Another highlight was the allocating of Prayer Partners. As each 'pair' was called they moved to the front and greeted one another; a little book-mark shaped like a hand is our reminder of our promise to pray for our Prayer Partner; mine is on my frig door, so Barbara Bourhill is in my thoughts several times a day!

Your Delegates and Observers thank you for sending us to Perth; it was a privilege to represent the Unit and a wonderful experience for us.

Edith Ridge, Secretary (for  
Marj Baker, Joan Tong, & Mina Whybourne)

ANNOUNCING .....

President-Elect, Major Joan Tong accepted the appointment by the National Committee as official representative from National A.C.W. to the Executive meetings of the Australian Council of Churches; the former representative, Edith Ridge, will be proxy for Joan.

Secretary, Edith Ridge, was re-appointed as Archivist for the National Committee. The filing cabinet where our archival material is kept has always been in Sydney. Edith will be happy to receive any items that members have which they think might be usefully kept for future members of A.C.W. to look back on.

Our congratulations to both these ladies.

TRADING PARTNERS AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

The National Executive arranged for 'Trading Partners' to bring a big selection of their beautiful handicrafts to the Conference. What an orgy of looking and spending followed this announcement! Not a few grandchildren will find some interesting gifts tucked in their Christmas parcels (if they haven't already received them as "What did you bring me from Perth, Grandma?" presents!)

So you didn't go to Perth? Never mind - Trading Partners in Sydney have just the same beautiful things and they would love it if you rang to arrange a demonstration and sale of their goods at your home or church group; or take a trip to 101 Young Street, Annandale and look for yourself - you won't be able to resist buying something! And, you'll be helping women in Third World countries as well. The telephone number for Trading Partners is 569.3666.

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OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES .....

*A small child, who was learning to read, and to make words from letters, said with excitement to her mother, "I can make two words out of the word 'good' -- 'go' and 'do.'*

This story was told at the National Conference. The person who used it as an illustration reminded us that our 'goodness' is always better when it sends us to 'go and do.' In this way, we "work out our salvation."

\*\* INFORMATION PAGE \*\*

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CONTRIBUTIONS to Newsette are requested from A.C.W. members and should be sent to the Editor:

Mrs. Beryl McLaughlin,  
31/78 Albert Road,  
Strathfield. 2135.  
(Tel: 764.2625/267.3711)

in the first week of the month prior to publication month.

**\*\*\* PLEASE TAKE PARTICULAR NOTE:**

ALL OTHER A.C.W. MONIES, such as Affiliation Fees, Subscriptions to A.C.W.C. Bulletins, General Donations, Contributions to the Fellowship Of The Least Coin (please DO NOT send these to F.L.C. Convenor) should be sent to the Treasurer:

Mrs. Dorothy Lumb,  
69 Myall Street,  
Concord West. 2138.  
(Tel: 73.3360)

AFFILIATION FEES become due on 1st March each year, as follows:

Denominational Groups -- State Level:	\$ 15.00 per annum
Local A.C.W. Branches:	\$ 5.00 per annum
Special Interest Groups e.g. YWCA, WCTU, Girls,' Brigade:	\$ 5.00 per annum

ALL CHEQUES should be made payable to 'AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN'

*"Love the things you do ... and you will keep doing  
bigger and better things."*