

NEW SOUTH WALES WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL
(State Unit of Australian Church Women)

ANNUAL REPORT 1969/70

What a valuable tradition it is in the life of organisations that, at least once a year, requires them to reflect on a year spent in some particular involvement and the effectiveness of service there.

In May, Head Deaconess Mary Andrews, became our President in a service of dedication led by Mrs. Joyce Gilbert, retiring President. The RALLY was held in the historic old church of St. Phillip and we were indeed indebted to Mrs. Hulme-Moir who, in the address, inspired us to begin our year with very real and personal soul searching. Miss Doris Mitchell (National Council of Women) and Mrs. Maude Hunter (Women's World Day of Prayer Committee) participated in the service and women from many sections of community life were represented. It was also our real pleasure to have Mrs. Ashton, President of Australian Church Women, with us - and to bring us greetings.

THE LOCALE of our Council Meetings was changed during the year from Bible House to Pilgrim Hall, Pitt Street. We were reluctant to sever such a long association with Bible House, but increasing traffic noises made meetings there difficult in the extreme. We express appreciation to the Deacons of the Pitt Street Congregational Church who have made Pilgrim Hall available to us.

A NEW METHOD OF VOTING at the Annual Meeting was tried with success and this enables the self-involvement of a much wider number of floor members of Council.

All of us are very well acquainted with the exquisite story of Martha and Mary as told by St. Luke. This year many times we have begun to see ourselves as identifying with Martha whilst longing for the serene and listening spirit of Mary. We have found that it IS possible to be distracted with much serving - and that it is the DISTRACTION that is the sin which makes our service ineffective. Sometimes we have found ourselves forced to attend to "Household Chores" when our heart was with our women in the life of the churches across the State. What a comfort it has been, then, to read in the words of St. John "Now Jesus loved Martha.."

WYBALENA: The use of the Wybalena monies has been very much on our hearts and minds over the past three years since the sale of the property. Many ways in which the money could be used have been suggested, explored by the Committee Council appointed to do just this, and in all but two instances discarded as not falling properly within the concept of the Trust Deed. The two projects selected were the Dunmore Lang College, University of Macquarie, to provide residential accommodation for university students only; and the Y.W.C.A. "Tremayne" Hostel, Kirribilli, where an additional floor is being added to provide residential accommodation for students and/or business girls. The money is to be an outright gift to the project selected and in each case the name "Wybalena" to be perpetuated.

Legal opinion was sought as to accepted methods of voting. Following the unanimous decision of September 1969 Council Meeting and each member having had one month's written notice of intention, a vote of Council was taken by secret ballot on November 28th, 1969. This indicated by 46 votes to 8, of a total of 54 recorded, that Council desired the Wybalena monies to be used for the Y.W.C.A. "Tremayne" Hostel project, feeling that it more nearly fulfilled the original concept for which the Wybalena Hostel was established, and the Deed of Trust.

Deep appreciation and thanks were expressed by Deaconess Andrews to MRS. MARY MILLAR for all her work, her dedication and her zeal whilst chairman of the Wybalena Hostel Committee and this was warmly and enthusiastically supported by Council.

The three Trustees were officially advised of the wishes of Council in the matter of the use of Wybalena monies and the result of the vote. Mr. E. A. Hunt (a Trustee) advised Council in February 1970 that, as two of the Trustees did not agree with the third that the Council has the right to determine the use of the monies, the appropriate course would be to place the matter before the Equity Court for decision. Members of the Executive and the February Council meeting felt this to be the most acceptable and desirable means of finally resolving the matter.

Money is not the root of all evil, but, had the Spirit of Christ not bound us together in love this year, enthusiasms, temperaments and just plain personal preferences could have blinded any of us to the need to fulfil the trust we hold on behalf of the women of our State. We can only say - even with litigation through the Equity Court still to come - GOD CAN and DOES guide us IF we make ourselves available to Him.

WHAT A LOSS we sustained on July 10th in the sudden passing of our much loved and esteemed LT. COL. HAZEL CROSS. Not only having served this Council over many years as a valued member and a President; Hazel Cross was also the first official secretary of Australian Church Women; and, indeed, attended the consultation which was one of the steps in bringing that organisation into being. A Council Minute was prepared paying tribute to the life and work of Colonel Cross, on whom Life Membership had been conferred only a few days before her sudden death.

We pause here, too, to remember with gratitude the life of another of our members, MISS GERTRUDE LAMBERT, a member of the Society of Friends, who died in July, 1969.

NEW LINKS. ROMAN CATHOLIC AND LUTHERAN participation this year has given us a feeling of more joyous completeness. For many years we have had a representative of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and, indeed, Mrs. C.W. Stolz, honoured with Life Membership, has held many offices on Council. This year we were delighted to welcome Mrs. Langley and Mrs. McIlwain, two young and enthusiastic members of the recently formed Lutheran Women of Australia (N.S.W. Unit) as Observers.

The value of Special Day Services cannot be estimated, for it was at a Fellowship Day Service at Lane Cove/Longueville last July that one of our well-known T.V. and Radiopersonalities, MARY ROSSI, went along with a Roman

Catholic friend - became tremendously moved by the service and discussion; became enthusiastic at its outreach; became excited at the thought of full Roman Catholic participation through their women. Being Mary Rossi and a member of the Archdiocesan Commission for Ecumenism of the Roman Catholic Church, her interest became action; the Bishop approved; the Commission wrote seeking information, and then permission to send Observers to W.I.C.C. Now we have as Observers the friend who introduced Mary Rossi to Fellowship Day (Mrs. Joan Curtin) and Sister Helen Herlihy of the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Rose Bay.

What can one woman do? What INDEED can one woman do!!

The National Committee Meeting of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN was held at St. Hilda's College, Melbourne University, in February, N.S.W. being represented by the President and Secretary and two observers, Mesdames Stanhope and Jessup, while Mesdames Ralph and Badger represented the A.C.C. The State Inter-Church Councils of Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales and A.C.T. participated, together with the Federal Presidents of member denominational women's groups and invited observers. These meetings are vital sharing experiences and must be invaluable to the ongoing work among our women.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship Holder for this year is MISS VERONICA KAFA of the British Solomon Islands who will be visiting Sydney later this year. Of the 26 languages spoken in the Solomons, English is the only one common to all, and Miss Kafa is presently in Victoria receiving special training in the teaching of English as a foreign language and the new mathematics.

SPECIAL DAYS. FELLOWSHIP DAY services were held in 1 city, 11 suburban and some 10 country centres; whilst the number of services on WORLD COMMUNITY DAY were approximately the same. WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER in which all our members are locally involved, receives the full support of Council and our President and several other members were privileged to give the address at some of these services.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN continues to spread throughout the State and we are indeed indebted to our Convener, Mrs. Clarice Butler, for her dedication in this work.

FRANCHES' DAY: Particular welcome to this open meeting was given to Mrs. Fratoon of the Armenian Church, and to Mrs. J. Bryant, wife of the President of the Congregational Union of Australia.

In discussion and by contributions we shared the achievements and the problems experienced in the local groups. We learned from the work of the Killara/Lindfield/Roseville ladies of their Wednesday coffee mornings with women from the Bradfield Migrant Centre; their monthly discussions; and their interest in hospital visitation. Of particular interest was the contact the Strathfield/Homebush group has established and maintained with the White Russian community. We heard of their desire to communicate more adequately having led several members to begin a course in Russian.

NEW AREAS OF INVOLVEMENT have led us to participate as a Council in the Liquor Reform Campaign Meetings to keep hotels closed on Sundays; to look at the various projects and outreach of Inter-Church Aid, stabbing us to new

awareness of our responsibilities to our neighbours; consultant status on the State Council of the Australian Council of Churches under its new constitution; participation in the Annual Reception given by the National Council of Jewish Women; and participation in Segment 18 of the Captain Cook Bi-Centenary Celebrations, with the wonderful feeling of unity experience that the meetings of this segment afforded Christian and Jewish women alike.

WE HAVE TRAVELLED FAR this year - Bathurst, Newcastle, Northbridge, Kiama, Wollongong, Lindfield - and the interesting realisation from our visits with the women is that, after 38 years of trying to look down from the Council to the pew, our pew members are shouting to us loudly "Come, join us and help us out here where we are united!" In area after area, the pew members themselves, feeling the urgent need for greater fellowship and communion, have come together as inter-church groups and only then have they felt the need to link themselves with other similar groups throughout the State through this Council. Even as this report is being typed we have news of the formation of the Hurstville group, and to them we give greetings and welcome.

AND SO, at the end of this very varied year, we pause to give praise and glory to God that church women are finding within themselves a very definite need one for the other, no matter what their denomination, as they seek for greater understanding and avenues of service.

WE HAVE INDEED BEEN PRIVILEGED in the leadership of our Council over the years, and this year would pay tribute to our President, Head Deaconess Mary Andrews, a woman of wisdom and Christian grace, who in her lifetime has known both the joy of being a Christian and the price many in our land and overseas must be prepared to pay to keep it. We express gratitude too for her gift of time which is precious in the life of one so busy.

To our incoming President, Mrs. Stanhope, we pledge our prayers and our support as she assumes office on behalf of the women of the Churches of Christ in this State.

At the conclusion of a very busy year, a long report, and my term as Secretary, may I express my thanks for all things done for me in these three years in the paraphrase on Psalms 133 and 134:

"O GOD, how precious it is for us and how pleasing it must be to You when Your sons and servants learn how to live and work together in unity!

It is in the measure that we do this that we begin to resemble You And to carry out most effectively Your purposes in our disjointed and discordant world.

COME, let us together bless His Name, rejoice in His loving concern for us, declare His worth to all creatures, and walk in obedience to His will. It is the same God who made heaven and earth and all of us who dwell therein. Let us worship and serve Him together."

W. D. DOUGHERTY,
Secretary

ADDENDUM. This report would be incomplete without reference to the invaluable service rendered by Mrs. Dougherty over the past three years, during which time we have seen exciting developments in the work of the W.I.C.C. as well as having had to face some very exacting situations. We feel inadequate to express to her our appreciation for all that she has done. Mary M. Andrews

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STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FROM 1 APRIL 1969 TO 31 MARCH 1970

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>GENERAL ACCOUNT</u>	<u>Payments</u>	
Opening Balance at 1.4.69	\$252.26	Aust. Church Women - Levy	\$4.00
Collection at Rally	35.50	Literature	60.00
Sale of Literature & Pens	160.95	Pens	107.60
Affiliation Fees	47.30	A.C.C. for Literature	57.50
Bank Interest	13.43	Promotion Expenses	47.55
30% Transferred from Project		Fares to National Committee	69.40
Fund - Fellowship Day	69.13	Legal Opinion R.Henderson QC	75.00
World Community Day	65.52	Treasurer's Expenses	4.00
Donation	75.00	F.Least Coin Expenses	5.00
Refund from A.C.W. for fares to		Affil.Fees: Nat.Oncl.Wm.	10.00
National Committee Meeting	34.70	Child.Films TV	8.40
		W.C.T.U.	1.00
		Donations: B.&F.E.S. use hall	5.00
		C.M.Miss. use room	3.00
		Closing Balance at 31.3.70	296.34
	<u>\$753.79</u>		<u>\$753.79</u>

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN ACCOUNT

Opening Balance at 1.4.69	\$111.79	Australian Church Women	\$665.92
Receipts	644.13	Balance in hand 31.3.70	90.00
	<u>\$755.92</u>		<u>\$755.92</u>

PROJECT FUND ACCOUNT

Opening Balance at 1.4.69	\$22.01	A.C.W. Fellowship Day Material	\$75.00
Fellowship Day Collections	303.45	70% Collections	161.32
W.Community Day	279.51	W.C.Day Material	62.50
		70% Collections	152.88
		30% Trans. to General A/c	
		from Fellowship Day Coll.	69.13
		World Community D."	65.52
		Balance at 31.3.70	
		Fellowship Day	\$3.00
		W.C.Day	15.62
	<u>\$604.97</u>		<u>18.62</u>
			<u>\$604.97</u>

Summary of Funds in Hand

General Fund	\$296.34
Fellowship of Least Coin	90.00
Project Fund: F.Day	3.00
W.C.Day	15.62
	<u>18.62</u>
	<u>\$404.96</u>

I. PEPRIAM
Hon. Treasurer

J. A. SHANNON A.A.S.A.
Hon. Auditor 4th May, 1970

N.S.W. WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL
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OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 1970/71

Executive

President	Mrs. R.W. Stanhope, 36 Dettman Ave. Longueville 2066	42 6078
Past President	H/Deaconess M. Andrews, 28 Carillon Av. Newtown 2042	51 1172
President Elect	Mrs. Lt. Col. G. Carpenter, 529 Homer St. Earlwood 2206	78 8507
Vice Presidents	Mrs. G.H. Briggs, 13 Findlay Ave. Roseville 2069	41 7785
	Mrs. C.W. Stolz, 97 Bayview Ave. Earlwood 2206	55 1532
	Mrs. H.T. Wells, 15 Russell St. Eastwood 2122	85 2869
	Mrs. C.A. Perriam, 6/37 Ormond St. Ashfield 2131	798 6481
Hon. Secretary		
Asst. Secretary	Mrs. R.H. Dougherty, 56 Mabel St. Willoughby 2068	412 2453
Membership Sec.	Mrs. R.A. Jessup, 36 Boomerang St. Turramurra 2074	44 4016
Hon. Treasurer	Mrs. F.W. Allan, 25 Welby St. Eastwood 2122	85 7143
F'ship Least Coin	Mrs. R.W. Butler, 17 Woonona Rd. Northbridge 2063	95 2985
Also Conveners and Secretaries of Sub-Committees		

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Promotion Committee - Mesdames Down, Gilbert, Wells, Carpenter, Curtin and Robertson with power to co-opt.
W.Kiek Scholarship Cttee - Head Deaconess Andrews, Mesdames Verco & Beveridge

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Representatives to:

National Council of Women	Mrs. G. Walker, Major R. Smith
W. Christian Temperance Union	Mrs. A. Hall
W. World Day Prayer Committee	Head Deaconess Andrews, Lt. Col. M. Osborne, Mesdames Wells, Ralph and Perriam
NSW Children's Films & TV	Mesdames Palmer & Gammie
Good Neighbour Council	Mesdames Gammie & Humble
A.C.C. State Council	Mrs. Lt. Col. G. Carpenter

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Life Members: Mesdames Millar, Pearson, Walker, Knight, Wyper, Hall and Stolz and Miss Roseby

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MEETINGS

Council: 10.30 a.m. on fourth Friday of March, April, June, August, September, and November in Pilgrim Hall, 264 Pitt Street, (first floor).

Annual Rally: Fourth Friday of May (for 1970 the fifth Friday)

Special Days: Fourth Friday of July (FELLOWSHIP DAY) & October (WORLD COMMUNITY DAY) or date near that, observed in city and various centres.

Executive Meetings: Third Friday of the month (excluding December, January) in No. 2 Committee Room, 2nd Floor, 139 Castlereagh St. Sydney at 1 p.m.