



NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

(N.S.W. State Unit)

No. 20

May, 1983

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Throughout the past year I have been very conscious of the prayers and support of so many people and for this I am very grateful. For me it has been a year of learning and adjustment, meeting new people as I have attended functions and services in the city, suburbs and country areas and renewing friendships. It has been a very busy time for us all and very rewarding for which we offer our thanks to God for His guidance and care.

There has been a steady growth of interest in the Australian Church Women by those previously concerned or involved and this, in itself, has been most heartening. I believe this is the result of the dedication of the Executive and council Members as they enthusiastically promote A.C.W. in so many diverse ways.

As more and more women pray together or in the privacy of their homes for reconciliation and peace, the dream of Shanti Solomon comes closer to fruition.

As each young Asian woman is assisted by scholarship and training, Winifred Kiek's concern for those whose academic potential is restricted by her country's poverty or restricted by culture, is helping to promote Christian awareness in many areas of our Third World neighbours.

Each new branch formed brings yet another group of women, representing various denominations together for prayer and fellowship resulting in a much deeper understanding and interest in each other's expression of faith. It is with thanks to God that we have been able to participate and to share in the preparation of the two special days which has established a bond between women of varying talents and concerns, and as we worship in each other's Churches there is a deeper awareness of different, yet similar, points of view.

Our concern and prayers for Burma and the visit of the New Zealand group of Christian women have helped to widen our horizons.

It has been an exciting year - a year of FAITH, HOPE and LOVE. Let us face this coming year working together, united with each other in Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

YVONNE DAVIS
PRESIDENT

Two members of the executive did not seek election this year, Miss Doris Mitchell, Treasurer, and Mrs. Dorothy Woodhouse, Fellowship of the Least Coin Convener.

Both of these ladies have given years of unstinting service to the N.S.W. Unit, which has been appreciated by all members of the Council.

Mrs. Woodhouse nominated Miss Mitchell to become a Life Member of this Unit for her service during the past ten years as president, secretary, secretary to the National Working Committee and then as treasurer. Miss Mitchell graciously accepted the suggestion to be honoured in this way.

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The next Council Meeting to be held on June 20, will be the last to be held at 139 Castlereagh Street, City. Special speaker, Mrs. Eileen Tarrant, Director of The Salvation Army's Missing Persons Department.

REPORT OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. UNIT 1982-1983

The Annual Service of A.C.W. for 1982 took place in the Lakemba Presbyterian Church, and was the occasion of installing Mrs. Yvonne Davis as president for 1982-1984. The Church was filled to capacity with representatives of the seven denominations associated with A.C.W. During the time of fellowship which followed the service, the Presbyterian ladies served a light luncheon.

Another interesting event during the year was the visit of New Zealanders who were representatives of the Women's Committee of the New Zealand Council of Churches. Mrs. Heather Stevens was responsible for arranging the tour of these Christian women who endeared themselves to us all. Council members billeted and supplied transport during the three days they spent in Sydney. An opportunity for all members to meet the visitors was made possible at the reception arranged on 1st September.

As a mark of appreciation a cheque was presented to the president at the reception for A.C.W. funds from our Kiwi sisters. One member of the group, Mrs. Barton, became seriously ill and was hospitalised whilst in Sydney. She was given loving care and attention by Mr. and Mrs. Stanhope and other members until her relatives arrived to take her home.

The Council meetings for the year proved to be as interesting and as varied as the people who willingly presented us with their aspects of Christian service.

In March three representatives of the Churches, Rev. Bern Stevens, Canon Alan Langdon and Rev. Carol Grew, who had been invited by the Minister for Education to consider the place of religious education in schools enlightened us by giving a brief outline of the report submitted to the government. Interestingly enough the Religious Education Act was introduced by Governor Bourke who had come from Ireland in 1836.

The General Secretary of the Australian Council of Churches, Miss Jean Skuse took us on a journey to China as she told of the experiences of the group from Australian Churches when visiting that country. They discovered that many Christians had survived as part of an underground Church for the past thirty years.

A different topic was dealt with by the Rev. Fred Wandmaker, who made us aware of the feeling Aborigines had for the land, and their attitude toward European settlement.

Christina Richards presented an array of goods from Trading Partners. In an interesting and charming manner Christina enlightened us with regard to the dire poverty of the Asian women whose goods she was selling without profit for their benefit.

Thumbnail sketches by three of our members who had been on overseas visits: Deaconess M. Andrews, who was a representative to the International Conference of Women's World Day of Prayer, and Miss D. Mitchell of her contacts in the U.S.A. with members of Church Women United. Our representative to the Asian Church Women's Conference held in Bali, Mrs. Marie McCann informed us of the inspiring personalities which made this gathering of Christian women so outstanding.

A representative of the Bible Society, Miss Jean Anderson, introduced us to another service of that society, the translation of the Bible into Braille. This work of dedication and skill has brought Good News into hands of blind Papuans and Indonesians.

Apart from our special days we made time to pause for prayer on behalf of our prayer partners, the women of Burma who bravely witness despite political barriers.

Women's prayers, women's devotion, the skill of their hands has been linked throughout the year from Burma to Bali, from Australia to America and from China to Christchurch.

MABEL WARD
HON. SECRETARY

*He prayeth best who loveth best
All things both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all.*

Coleridge.

A.C.W. PROMOTION AND SPECIAL DAYS REPORT

The Promotion's Sub-committee decided to ask for publicity from the denominational Church women's organisations. As a result of the cooperation which has been achieved, there has been an increase in the numbers attending our two Special Days.

There has been a wide distribution of the promotion kits. These have assisted in the formation of new groups which are now holding Special Days. It is heartening to report on the formation of the following new centres: Balranald, Neutral Bay/Mosman, Gladesville, Goodwin Village, Weeroona Village and Concord/Burwood. Wellington is in the initial stage preparing to hold Fellowship Day.

The themes for Fellowship Day, Co-Workers in Christ for Renewal, and World Community Day, Women Dare, Women Care, Women Act, were very challenging, and most centres appreciated the excellent Orders of Service and the speakers who brought them a message. All reports indicated that the worthwhile fellowship and the variety of denominations attending, created a very warm feeling in Christian love. Thirty six centres held these days and the numbers attending are approximately two thousand and five hundred.

Thank you to the Sub-committee which has done packing and posting and taken speaking engagements. Also thanks to our president who promotes as she travels for her own Church, and to all who have planted a seed for A.C.W.

MARIE McCANN
CONVENER

*Those who put their faith in things beyond the strength
of man, wait with quiet confidence the working of His plan.*

(Patience Strong)

*Faith is the mind at its best, its bravest and its fiercest.
Faith is thought become poetry and absorbing into itself the
soul's passions. Faith is intellect carried up to its
transfiguration.*

(Charles H. Parkhurst)

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

N.S.W. STATE UNIT

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - 1st March, 1982 - 28th Februar

1.3.82 Credit Bank Balance 655.8

ADD RECEIPTS:

Organisation A/c:

Affiliation Fees	92.00	
Collections & Donations	326.55	
Bank Interest	360.73	
'Asian Church Woman' Subs	<u>40.00</u>	819.28
'Newsette' Subs		356.50
Overseas Travel Fund		283.80
Stock A/c - Sales		127.40

Special Funds:

Fellowship of the Least Coin	5565.14	
Winifred Kiek Sch'ship Fund	201.22	
Fellowship Day	1766.03	
World Community Day	<u>1653.63</u>	9186.02

From Savings Investment A/c	5500.00	
By transfer from Special Funds	<u>930.27</u>	<u>17203.2</u>
		17859.1

LESS PAYMENTS:

Organisation A/c:

Printing, postage,		
Stationery, telephone:	208.51	
President, Honorarium	30.00	
Use of Meeting Room	50.00	
Subs to other organisations	30.00	
Nat. Working Ctee Literature	50.00	
'Asian Church Woman' subs	40.00	
Sundries	<u>7.00</u>	415.51
'Newsette' expenses		257.16
Overseas Travel Fund		100.00
Stock A/c - Purchases		95.54

Special Funds:

To National Committee	7650.00	
Exps. printing & postage	483.85	
To Savings Investment A/c	7000.00	
By transfer to Organisation A/c	<u>930.27</u>	<u>16932.3</u>

28.2.83

Credit Bank Balance \$926.8

Doris MacIntyre

Hon. Treasurer 18.3.8

Auditor's Report

I have examined the books of account and records of Australian Church Wom N.S.W. State Unit for the year ended 28th February, 1983. In my opinion Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 28th February, 1983 the Statement of Funds as at 28th February, 1983 show a true and correct of the result for that year and of the state of affairs as at 28th Februa

J.P. Bragg

J.P. Bragg, A.C.A.

Hon. Auditor 12.4.83

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN ANNUAL REPORT

Since the Silver Jubilee in 1981 there is more interest in this world-wide prayer movement and information has circulated across the State. About four hundred Silver Jubilee Circle of Prayer books have been distributed, and I express my thanks to those groups who faithfully maintain the reading of this book of meditations in their meetings with the Least Coin offerings. These Least Coins, dedicated at World Community Day Services, or sent to the State Unit direct, all swell the total amount. This year exceeding last year's record.

A complete list of grants given for 1983 is available on request and will be printed in the State Unit's paper, Newsette. This year Australia received grants for projects for handicapped children in Queensland, for research in Victoria for isolated handicapped children in the outback. Vietnamese refugees in Northern Territory also were assisted. As well, block grants are given to various groups for administration and bringing women together in ecumenical fellowship across the world. The world fund is administered by a committee associated with the Asian Church Women's Conference which held it's four yearly meeting in October in 1982 in Bali.

The F.L.C. Audio Visual was sent and used at Coulburn, and speaking engagements have been fulfilled at Narraweena, North Ryde, Gladesville, Parramatta, Neutral Bay and Mosman by the Convener, who acknowledges the assistance of those who are asked to speak and who also promote F.L.C. especially the President in her travels.

It has been a privilege to have served in this role for the past two years. May F.L.C. continue to spread throughout all our denominations, and we ask God's blessing in this movement of prayer in the future as we strive for reconciliation and peace in the heart, in the home and in the world.

DOROTHY WOODHOUSE
F.L.C. CONVENER

THE WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

Christian women in Australian continue to gain inspiration and challenge from involvement in the Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

The Purpose of the Scholarship is to provide supplementary training for Christian women from Asian, Pacific and Indian areas who have already completed their basic training and who, it is hoped, will return to their own countries to give leadership in Church and community. It is available for one academic year and covers fares, accommodation and tuition fees.

Miss Maline Weeresinghe, the 1981 W.K.S. from Colombo, Sri Lanka, is finding the training helpful which she received while at Deaconess House and the Board of Religious Education. She is busy training Sunday School teachers.

Miss Dien Sumiyatingsih studied Pastoral Counselling on W.K.S. and then was offered two years further training by different organisations before she returned to Indonesia this year.

The tutor sister at the Holy Family Hospital in Karachi, Pakistan, Sister Barkat Das is rejoicing in answered prayer for healing and for a former student of hers, Sister Jendubash, who has been baptised and is witnessing for Christ in the large Aga Khan Hospital where she is tutor sister.

The 1982 Scholar, Deaconess Salaseini Kanavakaca, has completed an academic year at Alcorn College, Brisbane. The College Principal reports 'Sala has shown outstanding ability to cope with the course prescribed for her and has shared with me that she has grown in many ways both spiritually and in the area of her personality. She has been most grateful to the Scholarship Committee for this opportunity.'

It is clear that Sala will be returning home with a new dimension to her ministry and with much greater self-confidence.

Sister Catherine Min from Pusan, Korea, was chosen by the Working Committee for 1983. She is to do a theological course at St. Barnabas College, Adelaide.

It is important that all Winifred Kiek Scholars are remembered regularly in our prayers in their ongoing work and studies for we are members one of another and to seek as the Holy Spirit enables in order to bring each one into God's presence as a mature individual in union with Christ.

MARY ANDREWS
N.S.W. STATE CONVENER FOR W.K.S.

REPORT FROM N.S.W. COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN'S FILMS & T.V.

This committee has held a number of Film making workshops for children providing opportunities to make films, developing an idea, writing a script, acting and filming and editing under the guidance of a paid tutor.

During the holidays screenings of the committee's films have been held at Macquarie Shopping Centre, Willoughby and in Hyde Park during the Festival of Sydney.

Leaflets have been printed to advertise the films and hiring service of the N.S.W.C.C.F.T.

A video cassette Children's T.V. Distribution Centre loans cassettes to Children's wards in hospitals to provide suitable children's films when T.V. programmes are not suitable for children.

The Television Sub-committee works to improve children's T.V. and endeavours to see that channels keep the guidelines and regulations for children's viewing. These are being renewed and the committee has sent their recommendations for changes into the Tribunal.

Papers on advertising of alcohol on T.V. and violence in T.V. have been discussed and the views of the committee have been made known.

Monitoring sheets and a survey on children's viewing are being prepared to help improve the standard of children's television programmes.

PAM BYLES
A.C.W. REPRESENTATIVE

PUBLICITY REPORT FOR 1983

Good publicity by local papers, radio 2CH and enthusiastic members helped make the Annual Service of Dedication and the Installation of the incoming president, Mrs. Yvonne Davis, a very memorable occasion. A report was sent and published in the national paper, Women at Work, of Australian Church Women.

Soon after her installation, Mrs. Davis was interviewed by the Rev. Roger Bush on 2CH.

Radio station 2CH kindly gave details of the reception given in the Uniting Church rooms by the N.S.W. Unit to welcome a New Zealand group of Christian women hosted by Sydney members. This proved to be a valuable and enjoyable time.

Lists of venues, times and dates for both Community Day and Fellowship Day were sent to the secretaries of the women's auxiliaries of the different denominations and affiliated groups. These details were also given for the City and Parramatta services over radio 2CH and in local papers.

The best publicity is your own personal enthusiasm as you talk to friends and contacts about the work of Australian Church Women.

MARJORY BAKER
PUBLICITY CONVENER

PRAYER: O Lord, grant us the vision of Your purpose for our nation, a share of Your love for people, and a faith that will not be discouraged by difficulty or lack of response. Help us to believe that if we first seek Your kingdom and Your righteousness we shall receive sufficient grace for the doing of Your will. We ask this in the name of Him who suffered for us on the Cross and rose again to reign with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever. AMEN.

SI SI KYAW THAN
BURMA

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
N.S.W. STATE UNIT

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1983-1984

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Y. Davis, 1003 Canterbury Road, Lakemba, 2195. 759 1364

PAST PRESIDENT

Mrs. G. West, 8 Stewart Street, Artarmon, 2064. 419 8654

HON. SECRETARY

Brigadier M. Ward, 10/3, 79 Robertson Road, Bass Hill,
2197. 644 9472

HON. TREASURER

Mrs. E. Walker, 19 Ontario Avenue, Roseville, 2069. 46 2176

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Miss E. Blackwell, 14 Callicoma Road, Seaforth, 2092. 94 4705

CONVENERS

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Mrs. G. West, 8 Stewart Street, Artarmon, 2064. 419 8654

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

Deaconess M. Andrews, L/8 250 Jersey Road, Woollahra,
2025. 32 2023

PROMOTION

Mrs. M. McCann, 14 Daymar Place, Castlecove, 2069. 406 4044

PUBLICITY

Mrs. M. Baker, 79 Wongala Crescent, Beecroft, 2119. 84 3046

LIFE MEMBERS

Deaconess M. Andrews, A.M. Mrs. G.H. Briggs,
Mrs. W. Dougherty, Mrs. J.B. Montgomerie, Mrs. L. Perriam,
Mrs. M. Stanhope, Mrs. W. Stolz, Mrs. W. Wyper,
Miss D. Mitchell.