

Dates for your Diary . . .

April 20: Annual General Meeting/Election of Officers

May 18: Service of Dedication

EASTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

11am

MONDAY 18 MAY 2009

ALL WELCOME - BRING YOUR FRIENDS

July 20: Spiritual Enrichment Day

July: Fellowship Day – “Our God is ever Faithful”

September: National Conference Hosted by ACT Unit

October 18: ACWC Pleasant Sunday Afternoon
at Church of Christ Northside Community Church

October: World Community Day —
”Faith – Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow”



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC



Australian Church Women

22nd National Conference

Canberra ACT

21–25 September 2009

Theme: “Faith in the Future”

Full-time and Day Visitors Welcome

Venue: Heritage Hotel, Narrabundah, ACT

Some special events:

Bible Studies Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

Ecumenical service (speaker Rev Prof Jaimes Haire) Tuesday 11am

Outings to Floriade, War Memorial etc Wednesday

Conference dinner, Thursday evening. Lady’s Mantle, a cappella choir

Enquiries: ACW National Secretary, PO Box 487, Curtin, ACT 2605



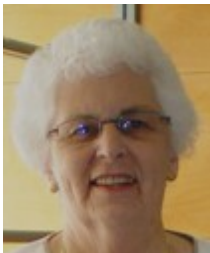
46th ANNUAL REPORT

April 2009

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jennifer Peffer

My first full year as President is drawing to a close and I have found it exciting, challenging, amusing (at times) and very uplifting as I have come to know the women in ACW not just through the Executive and Council Meetings but also through opportunities to speak at the various branch gatherings for Fellowship Day, World Community Day and at the wonderful ACWC Annual Pleasant Sunday afternoon.



The Theme for my Installation and our Dedication Day was "Walk as Daughters of the Light" and it has been a privilege to observe how each of the ladies is seeking to carry this out in her local church and denomination.

The BIG EVENT for 2008 was the celebration of the 70th Birthday of the New South Wales Unit of ACW. This was held in Scots Church in the city and quite a crowd attended, but we did miss those faithful ones from the Executive who could not join us due to overseas commitments. We even had a magnificent Birthday Cake!



The Theme: **LOOKING BACK FOR INSPIRATION, MOVING FORWARD WITH EXPECTATION** was embraced wholeheartedly by all who took part. Edith Ridge and Joan Tong, who disguised themselves as angels, brilliantly took us back through the 70 years of history with many a laugh but causing us to give thanks to God for those women who really worked hard and were inspired to get ACW up and running and then maintain the work and witness through the 70 years.

Our Visiting Speaker, Ms Pru Goward MP, ably covered the topic of "Moving Forward with Expectation". She shared how women of faith had influenced her life and such women were still needed to give the role models and support for coming generations. The standards set by those in ACW and the churches they represent could make a lasting impact in our community and especially young people today.

Our final speaker, Major Lyn Middleton, really challenged us all for the future as "without a vision the people perish".

PPSEAWA

Sr. Joan Bird and Edith Ridge are pleased to present this report of the meetings and activities of PPSEAWA of Australia - NSW Group. Speakers at the 10 meetings March 08—February 09 were informative, interesting, and challenging.

* Robyn Gaspari, President of Australian Women's Alliance, spoke about "Problem Solving" in her talk "Conflict Resolution from a Woman's Perspective". She also told us about Australian Women's Coalition and its current work.

* Mignonne Murray of "Tribes and Nations" told of her involvement with Fair Trade. In 2000, 30% of goods sold were considered to be covered under the Fair Trade logo. Now there are a few outlets in Australia selling Fair Trade goods. For more information go to www.fairtrade.com.au

- Liz Wynn of "Share Life" spoke about organ donation. "Share Life" is an organisation developed to 'pull together' the various transplant groups and to ensure better coordination. www.sharelifeaustralia.com.au
- Chinese food was a highlight at the Winter Luncheon in June. Karen Miller spoke on the work of the Benevolent Society.
- "Chinese Relationships, Heritage and Tourism" was Daphne Lowe Kelley's subject. Her main emphasis is on Peace of the World.
- Jocelyn Morton CPA, told of her career in Accountancy. She recommended accountancy as a worthwhile career for our daughters and granddaughters.
- A previous President of Mothers Union, Natalie McLeod, gave a brief history of MU and told of its current work in Australia.
- The Spring Luncheon was held in October, when Jennifer Burn, Director of UTS Anti-slavery Project (a part of the Faculty of Law at UTS) was the speaker. In the 21st Century, human trafficking, the modern day slave trade is one of the world's most lucrative crimes.
- To conclude 2008, members had lunch together and enjoyed some Christmas quizzes.

Other projects of PPSEAWA supported by members are International Day of Peace service in September, and International Women's Day Luncheon in March. A successful venture in 2008 was the production and sale of recipe books 'Platters for Peace'. *Seeds for Hope Outreach* collected goods suitable for children and these were dispatched to Swaziland.

Looking ahead to 2009 there was discussion about how PPSEAWA can work on its commitment to Millennium Goal 3 "Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women". In February 2009 Ana Scarf was the speaker. Each year she visits the women of rural China with her husband who is a doctor working for the World Health Organisation.

Readers can see that we have enjoyed another great year at PPSEAWA. We thank you for nominating us to be your representatives.

ACW REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Shirley Wells

At the NCW (NSW) Annual General Meeting, Mrs Sari Brown concluded her term as President and Mrs Doreen Todd was elected and welcomed into this position. Doreen, a retired Physiotherapist, has been a delegate to NCW of Soroptimist International since 2003. She has held many executive positions in her Organisation. We look forward to her leadership.

We were all saddened to learn of the death of Nancy Bird Walton in January. Nancy has been a great supporter of National Council over the years and we were privileged to have such an extraordinary lady as one of our members.

Meetings have been interesting and encouraging, when we have learnt of the involvement and work of so many women's organisations, and we have been stimulated by the guest speakers who have covered a wide range of topics and interests.

NCW's three Annual Luncheons in Parliament House continue to be occasions when awards and tributes are presented to postgraduate students and to ladies 90 years of age and over, who have worked for the community over many years.

The final Council Meeting for 2008 included the presentation of our Youth Awards to the successful students for their essays on "What I want to do in the Future". Forty-nine essays were received and the judging committee commented on how difficult it had been to decide on the awardees.

Mrs Helen Richardson and I have been privileged to represent ACW at these meetings.

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Pamela Freeman

The NSW Ecumenical Council continues to work towards promoting peace and dialogue within the various branches of the Christian Church in NSW. Projects supported by the council include the House of Welcome which particularly ministers to the needs of refugees, and the Housing Project for disadvantaged people.

It has been encouraging to note younger people becoming interested in the Ecumenical movement. During the World Youth Day as sponsored by the Catholic faith, there were many opportunities to involve young people in the theme of Unity across the churches, and to introduce them to the Taizé prayer movement. In October the Wellspring Community sponsored an urban pilgrimage in the western suburbs of Sydney, engaging people from across the spectrum of Christian faith.

It has been noted that Rev Tara Curlewis of the Uniting Church who is at present the President of the NSW Ecumenical Council, has now been appointed as the General Secretary of the National Council of Churches (NCCA).



Jennifer Peffer, Carmel Keys and Lyn Middleton at 70th Anniversary

Now that we are into 2009 and the 71st year we have to move on.... The speaker at our Annual Service of Dedication will direct our thoughts on this added dimension to the theme:

‘LOOKING BACK FOR INSPIRATION BUT THE FUTURE IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY’

We may have to embrace change in the way we do things, we must be open to fresh challenges and be aware of the social issues that need to have our support if ACW is to continue and grow and gain appeal to younger women to carry it on in the future.

This responsibility is ours and we must pray for open hearts and minds to God's leading for us as individuals and as an organisation.

Pray for me and for the Executive as we seek to lead the organisation. We continually need God's light to guide us.

If you have any ideas, comments you would like us to consider, please do not hesitate to speak with us or send a letter or email.

I commend our Spiritual Enrichment Day in July to you and to those in our branches. We trust it will indeed be a time of information, uplift and challenge to seek a closer walk with our Lord and Saviour.

I attended my first National Conference in 2007 and found this a great way to understand the wider work of ACW and enjoy fellowship. This year Canberra will be the venue and it is hoped that many from NSW will attend and experience this pleasure for themselves.

Continue to "Walk in the Light" and show forth God's love in your family, your community and in your churches.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Isabel Hewitt

Reflecting on the year just past brings to mind the many gifts for which we are thankful. We acknowledge the smooth passage of the role of President as Mrs Jennifer Peffer took over from Mrs Carmel Keys. We thank Carmel who served us well as President, and now fulfils ongoing commitment as Past President and Social Issues Convener.

Attendances over the year have continued at an average of 39 at Council with 12 apologies. At the Council Meeting in August Robyn Gaspari from Australian Women's Coalition and Eastwood Christian Community Aid gave an insight into many issues of relevance to women. Her talk reinforced the notion that there is no shortage of causes requiring our support, both in our churches and our communities.

Jennifer was in the 'hot seat' for organising the celebration of our 70 Year Anniversary, and she carried this out with great skill. It was a great occasion that stimulates us to move forward, and other reports give more detail of this event. A powerpoint presentation on the NSW Unit from 1938 onwards gave some insight into the activities, achievements and people associated with the NSW Women's Interchurch Council and Australian Church Women NSW State Unit. We acknowledge the fine legacy on which we build. The booklet that was prepared for the day, 'Celebrating 70 Years 1938-2008', included an updated history of the Unit and a short version of the 'Profiles of Past Presidents'. The full profiles are held by the Unit.

The reports which make up this Annual Report summarise briefly the work of the women who make up the Executive. Some have very 'public' roles, while others work diligently 'behind the scenes' to ensure the smooth running of the Unit. As you read their reports I encourage you to support their efforts in any way you can.

My thanks for the continuing support I have received as Secretary.



BIBLE SOCIETY

Julie Bryant

Bible Societies' Mission is to achieve the widest possible, effective and meaningful distribution of the Holy Scriptures, by providing the Word of God to people in a language they can understand, in a format they can use, and at a price they can afford, and helping people to interact with the Word of God.

The 145 Bible Societies making up the global fellowship of United Bible Societies in more than 200 countries have always set great store by prayer. We believe that the primary source of our mission's energy and vision lies not in our capacities, skills, expertise, planning and diligence in themselves, but rather in our dependence on God and his assurance that in calling us into Bible work, he will provide all we need to do the work. The fellowship is held together by prayer, countries are opened to the Bible through prayer, and the funds to translate, print and distribute Scriptures come through prayer. So we know we need to thank God for his provision of the past and his promise for the future. We are grateful for your prayers and we ask God that all who pray for the spread of the Gospel may be blessed by it themselves.

As I coordinate "Women for the Word" a ministry of Bible Society NSW, I am so encouraged by the women around our state who are supporters and lovers of the Word. As I attend churches, conferences, committees and other events I see women who are so excited to hear of the work Bible Society is doing around the world in countries like China, The Middle East, PNG, Sri Lanka, India, Philippines, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Rwanda, Ivory Coast, South Africa, South Pacific and South East Asia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Burma. Not forgetting for a moment our work in our own country among the indigenous people, defense forces and during natural disasters.

This year is a big year in NSW as we are running a program called Jesus. All about Life (JAAL). It is a four to six week prime time media campaign aimed at reaching 90% of our state with at least ten impressions of the advertising message (TV, print, billboard, radio or banner).

The JAAL campaign seeks to use the media marketplace to create opportunities for the gospel message and mobilise local churches to get involved in evangelistic ministry. The project, developed by Bible Society NSW has run in Adelaide, Canberra, Tasmania and Western Australia. It is planned to run in NSW/ACT over September and October 09. Has your church signed up for this amazing opportunity to reach our country for Jesus, who is all about life? If you would like to have more details I am happy to send more or talk with you, your group or your church. I would be delighted for you to call me (0410 492 020).

ACW NSW STATE UNIT INC—EXECUTIVE 2009-2010

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| PRESIDENT | Mrs Jennifer Pepper | 9874 4056 |
| PAST PRESIDENT | Mrs Carmel Keys | 9977 5156 |
| TREASURER | Mrs Helen Richardson | 9971 0278 |
| SECRETARY | Mrs Isabel Hewitt | 4969 6336 |
| MEMBERSHIP | Mrs Martha Noel | 9642 0493 |
| PASTORAL CARE | Mrs Olive Edmondstone | 9887 1846 |
| FLC CONVENER | | |
| WKS CONVENER | Mrs Judith Cayzer | 9896 3758 |
| SPECIAL DAYS | Mrs Pamela Freeman | 9873 1701 |
| NEWSETTE EDITOR | Mrs Beryl McLaughlin | 9744 8609 |
| SOCIAL ISSUES | Mrs Carmel Keys | 9977 5156 |
| PUBLICITY | Major Nancy McLaren | 9555 2628 |
| | | (w) 9266 9880 |
| ACWC CONVENER | Major Lyn Middleton | 9529 6744 |

NATIONAL WEBSITE: www.acwnational.org.au

AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

GIRLS' BRIGADE

Ruth Dickenson

2008 has been a very mixed year for Girls' Brigade NSW. We were unable to fill our Field Worker position, however we were able to employ a new Secretary. Rochelle Fussell has joined the team and very capably taken on the position. More staff changes are afoot with our Training Coordinator resigning after having been in that position for 15 years.

All of our Companies have enjoyed using the new Program in 2008. They have found it easy to use as it gives lots of possible activities for Leaders to use to teach the variety of topics offered. It also suggests many resources to use. This has helped Leaders in our organisation who work full or part time and are therefore unable to put as much time as they would like into programming each week. They have found this Program very flexible, suiting the wide range of girls who come each week.


Perhaps the highlight of 2008 was the trip offered to all Companies to attend our bi-annual State event. This year it was a weekend at Port Stephens and all who attended enjoyed meeting together and seeing the sights of Port Stephens. The highlight of the weekend was the Worship time on Sunday morning where 40 girls gave their lives to Jesus or rededicated themselves. We also had the joy of leading girls to the Lord at our Junior camp held at Morisset in the April school holidays. We are so pleased to see that God is at work in our Companies. So often it can become discouraging as we see decreasing membership, but there are many hard working ladies who faithfully work to fulfil our Aim – "to help girls to become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ . . . " What a joy it is to be involved in this ministry and we thank ACW for their continued interest in Girls' Brigade.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC. STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2008

| RECEIPTS | | PAYMENTS | |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Administration | 1417.15 | Administration | 1067.14 |
| Interest | 299.84 | Newsette | 830.00 |
| ACWC Bulletins | 84.00 | Travel Fund | 450.00 |
| Newsette | 450.00 | Fellowship of the Least Coin | 12869.88 |
| Travel Fund | 582.25 | Winifred Kiek Scholarship | 183.29 |
| Fellowship of the Least Coin | 14193.59 | Fellowship Day | 3958.64 |
| Winifred Kiek Scholarship | 194.00 | World Community Day | 3785.99 |
| Fellowship Day | 4150.25 | Asian Church Womens Conference | 855.70 |
| World Community Day | 3875.10 | 70th Anniversary | 2880.86 |
| Asian Church Womens Confer. | 1072.20 | | |
| 'Winifred' | 300.00 | ACWC Bulletins | 108.00 |
| 70th Anniversary | 2510.00 | | |
| Balance 1/1/2008 | <u>851.79</u> | Balance 31/12/2008 | <u>2990.67</u> |
| | 29980.17 | | 29980.17 |

AUDITORS REPORT:

I have examined the Books, Documents and Accounts of Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc. for the year ended 31 December 2008 and find that, in my opinion, the attached Statements of Receipts and Payments and Capital Funds give a fair view of the affairs of Australian Church Women NSW Inc. as at the 31 December, 2008.

Signature:  Date: 29/1/2009

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC.
SPECIAL FUNDS ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 2008**

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

| | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Brought forward 1/1/08 | 539.90 | |
| Received to year ended 30 November 2008 | <u>13007.34</u> | |
| | 13547.24 | |
| Less expenses: Postage, etc. | 50.00 | |
| 5% to ACW NSW | 677.36 | |
| Paid to ACW National | 12819.88 | <u>13547.24</u> |
| Receipts to 31 December 2008 carried forward | | 1186.25 |

FELLOWSHIP DAY SERVICE

| | | |
|--|---------|----------------|
| Receipts for year ended 30 November 2008 | | 4150.25 |
| Less expenses: Printing and postage | 318.00 | |
| 5% to ACW NSW | 191.61 | |
| Paid to ACW National | 3640.64 | <u>4150.25</u> |

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY SERVICE

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Brought forward 1.1.08 | 115.90 | |
| Receipts to 30 November 2008 | <u>3838.65</u> | |
| | 3954.55 | |
| Less expenses: Printing and postage | 583.35 | |
| 5% to ACW NSW | 168.56 | |
| Paid to ACW National | 3202.64 | <u>3954.55</u> |
| Receipts to 31 December 2008 | | 36.45 |

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Brought forward 1/1/08 | 50.00 | |
| Receipts to 30 November 2008 | <u>139.00</u> | |
| | 189.00 | |
| Printing expenses | 74.65 | |
| 5 % to ACW NSW | 5.71 | |
| Paid to ACW National | 108.64 | <u>189.00</u> |
| Receipts to 31 December 2008 | | 55.00 |

BURWOOD CONCORD BRANCH

Bonnie Lyons, Secretary

At the Annual Meeting in February 2008 the 2007 office bearers were re-elected unopposed. The annual Fellowship Day Service was held on Friday 25 July at St Andrew's Anglican Church, Strathfield. Our guest speaker was Mrs Jan Harrison who presented a challenging message on the theme 'Growing in Faith' which was greatly appreciated, as was the solo sung by Mrs Rita Zammit. Following the service the St Andrew's ladies served a delicious luncheon, which, along with the fellowship shared by those attending, was thoroughly enjoyed.

The World Community Day Service was held on Friday 31 October at St Joseph's Catholic Church Enfield. On this occasion the guest speaker was Sister Shirley King, whose message on the theme "Great is Thy Faithfulness" was inspiring and thought-provoking. Violinist Elsa da Silva provided a delightful musical item and accompanied the hymns sung, adding to the spirit of love and fellowship which was evident. A happy time of sharing over luncheon which was served by the St Joseph's ladies was much enjoyed.

We are grateful to the Parish Priest at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Enfield, for allowing us to use their small meeting room for our meetings. Although the number attending meetings is small, a great spirit of co-operation and friendship is enjoyed as we share in planning services. Attendances at Special Services have been quite satisfactory, indicating support from member churches. We give thanks and praise to God who brings us together and gives us a continuing sense of belonging to His universal family.

Available to purchase



Winifred

By Margaret Knauerhase

available at a cost of \$15

Order your copy from:
Mrs Helen Richardson
33 Lynwood Avenue
DEE WHY NSW 2099

SUTHERLAND SHIRE BRANCH Brenda Dickinson, Branch Secretary

Wonderful opportunities for fellowship were provided during our Special Days this year. The congregations and participants came from six different denominations and a fellowship lunch was enjoyed after the Services.

Fellowship Day Service (supporting the Winifred Kiek Scholarship) was held at St Andrew's Anglican Church Cronulla, and the Rev. Richard Humphrey made us very welcome. The Theme "Growing in Faith" was ably demonstrated by our Speaker, Mrs Marion Gabbott, giving a moving account of the faith of a Christian woman from Myanmar who looked after 40 orphaned children in her one-roomed house, with God's provision being her only supply. Marion reminded us of our need to keep growing in faith, to read the scriptures and apply them to our lives. The Order of Service itself highlighted the faith of Winifred Kiek. The offering came to \$533.15.

The Rev. Stephan Bull welcomed us to St Philips Anglican Church, Caringbah for World Community Day (supporting The Fellowship of the Least Coin, Asian Church Women's Conference and a Special Project), the theme of the Service being: "Great is Your Faithfulness". Australian Church Women NSW State President, Mrs Jennifer Pepper's message was very well received. We could all relate to her testimony of God's great faithfulness throughout her life. The Fellowship of the Least Coin offerings amounted to \$848.45 and the General Offering was \$385.70.

Services have been well attended and we have been very blessed by the experience of coming together to celebrate our faith. Many positive comments have been received after the Services. Thank you to the churches and the faithful Sutherland Shire ladies who continue to give their support to our Special Days.

STRATHFIELD/HOMEBUSH BRANCH

Beryl McLaughlin, Branch Treasurer

We are currently having discussion with Burwood/Concord Branch with a view to amalgamating, as both groups have experienced reduced numbers at the Special Days Services, and the ageing of those involved has created difficulties in arranging the Services. In 2008, World Day of Prayer was held in March at St Thomas' Anglican Church, Enfield, Fellowship Day in July was at Strathfield Uniting Church, and World Community Day in October was at St Anne's Anglican Church, Strathfield. In spite of the reduced numbers compared with some years ago, we gave thanks for the generosity expressed in the offertories, which were over \$200 at each Service, with a similar amount also given for Fellowship of the Least Coin, a good result from about 30 people.

| AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW STATE UNIT INC. CAPITAL FUNDS STATEMENT 31 DECEMBER 2008 | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| BALANCES | | FUNDS | | |
| Commonwealth Bank Account 06 2146 1000 7297 | 2990.67 | ORGANISATION A/c | | 18231.32 |
| Glebe Administration Board At Call Account 100024S1 | 1500.00 | NEWSETTE | | |
| 100024S1.1 | 3000.00 4500.00 | B/fwd 1/1/2008 | 907.01 | |
| | | Subscriptions | <u>450.00</u> | |
| | | | 1357.01 | |
| Uniting Financial Services At Call Account 2201520S10 | 536.34 | Less Costs | <u>830.00</u> | 527.01 |
| Churches of Christ At Call Account 106940 | <u>13509.53</u> 21536.54 | TRAVEL FUND | | |
| | | B/fwd 1/1/2008 | 87.13 | |
| | | Add receipts | <u>582.25</u> | |
| | | | 669.38 | |
| | | Paid to ACW National | <u>450.00</u> | 219.38 |
| | | STATE CONFERENCE | | |
| | | B/fwd 1/1/2008 | 276.99 | |
| | | Add receipts | <u>2510.00</u> | |
| | | | 2786.99 | |
| | | Less costs | <u>2880.96</u> | (93.97) |
| | | ACWC PARTNERS | | |
| | | B/fwd 1/1/2008 | 1158.60 | |
| | | Receipts | <u>1072.20</u> | |
| | | | 2230.80 | |
| | | Less Costs | 55.70 | |
| | | Paid to ACW National | <u>800.00</u> | 1375.10 |
| | | WORLD COMMUNITY DAY | | 36.45 |
| | | WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP | | 55.00 |
| | | F/SHIP OF THE LEAST COIN | <u>1186.25</u> | |
| | | | 21536.54 | |

PUBLICITY

Nancy McLaren

“Blessings, blessings, blessings and ten thousand beside” - how can we number all the blessings as we shared together in all the special events and days throughout 2008/2009? What a great year 2008 was for ACW. I pray that you were really blessed as you mixed with fellow Christians to celebrate the many aspects that ACW is involved in.

May: 2008 seems so long ago but Eastwood Baptist church was the venue for our Installation Service of Mrs Jennifer Peffer and the Dedication of Council members. The setting was lovely and Jennifer’s message was very challenging and encouraging. Using an acrostic of **LIGHT** Jennifer referred to Jesus as the Light of the World. **L**ife, **I**nsight, **G**uidance, **H**indsight, **T**enacity Thanks were expressed to Sister Jean Bird *fmm*, and Miss Heather Reid for their time of service on Executive.

July: Fellowship Day, “Growing in Faith” prepared by the ACT Unit was in keeping with the theme for 2008/2009 FAITH IN THE FUTURE which is the theme chosen by the National Executive (ACT Unit). Special emphasis was on the faith exhibited by Winifred Kiek and the prayers for the day were specifically for the recipients of the scholarship.

September: Special celebrations as NSW Unit (Inc) remembered back over the last 70 years. A warm spring day emphasised this joyous occasion as the ladies gathered to celebrate these 70 years. *Looking back for Inspiration – Moving Forward with Expectation*, what great titles to reflect on and to be inspired with as we look forward to many more years of serving the community together and within our own denominations.

October: Our annual Multicultural Service, which celebrates ACW’s affiliation as one of the 19 member countries of ACWC was held at The Salvation Army Parramatta and brought great blessings as we shared with our Asian Christian friends. Thank you Major Lyn Middleton for organising this afternoon for us.

World Community Day with the theme of *Great is Your Faithfulness* again challenged us to remember our utter dependence on God and reminds us to look forward to the future and all that it will bring in and through the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

See back page for what is being organised for this year so you can plan ahead.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMENS CONFERENCE

Lyn Middleton

In May 2008 the General Committee and Executive Committee meetings were held in Taiwan. Highlights included:-

- The launching of the ACWC <http://www.acwc.blogspot.com>. The words of welcome to this website states the premise on which ACWC stands. I quote: *As an advocate of women's rights and welfare, work beyond the boundaries of culture and creed, colour and race so that a stronger regional network of women leaders and organizations may emerge and achieve a greater role and responsibility in the family, society and the church.*
- ACWC celebrated its 50th Jubilee. This was a joint program with the Bridge-builders International, the theme being: The Role of Woman in Upholding the Dignity and Integrity of All God's Creation.
- Preparations began for the 14th Quadrennial General Assembly to be held 07-12 October 2010, Indonesia. The theme will be **Asian Women Moving Forward**.

ACWC is excited to announce that on 15th November 2008 the initial meeting of ACWC Nepal was held. It is not easy to start a new committee in a new member country so let us support them with our prayers.



Shu-Wen (Exc. Sec.) with two of the Nepalese committee members

In January 2009 Shu-Wen met with the ACWC members of Myanmar to discuss the progress of the aid being given to women affected by cyclone *Nargis*. A final report on this project is expected to be published in next *Newsletter*.

Donna Bryan and Pat Walker both advised the ACWC Secretariat of the fire and flood disasters which have devastated Australia and its people this year. Shu-Wen writes: *My dear sisters, when I read the mail which Donna named is “Australia's heartbreak”, I also have a heavy heart. Please list the urgent request for prayer in your prayers.* Let us give thanks for this fellowship of prayer with our ACWC sisters.

The annual ACWC *Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Multicultural Concert of Praise* was celebrated on Sunday 21st September 2008 at The Salvation Army Parramatta. It was most encouraging to see over 230 in attendance. Praise and glory was given to God through musical items by group and individual artists from Chinese, Korean, Fijian Indian and Australian cultures. The joy of worship was expressed by the congregation as they followed the lead of the worship ensemble of the host church and lifted their voices in glorious hymns of praise. Over \$1,070 was given for the work of ACWC. A lovely time of fellowship was shared at afternoon tea following the concert.

Let us continue to remember South Korea, our prayer partner, taking a prayerful interest in this land and its people.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

Judith Cayzer

With greater availability of computers and use of email, we have had more news coming through of past and present scholars. It's really helped keep the interest up. Leinamau (2007) in Vanuatu is doing well, very busy and enjoying her ministry, putting to use many skills she gained whilst here.

Siok Cheng (2005) also emails now. Good news that she gained her Masters Degree in Education (Special Education). Her work is busy.

Past scholar of 2008, Imelda Aquino, has been very good in updating us and has finished her Masters in Divinity Course. Her Graduation is set for April 2. She asks for continued prayer for funding to be able to attend and for ongoing language course to be able to fulfil her calling to minister to women in Dubai. She hopes to do this course in one year instead of two.

Letters and Christmas cards have kept us in touch with past scholars: Mary Au (1980), Doreen Tie (1990), Rachel (McManus) Otto (1997), and Nighat Gulzar (1994) sent placemats Easter and Christmas. The two gold mats from Easter were placed under our 70th Anniversary Cake in September. On that day National President, Jean, and Constance, National WKS Convener, were present and a photo taken and sent to Nighat in appreciation of her gift. Thanks to Constance for her role in keeping us up to date with information. She has done well learning computer to help with this, along with letters by post, and phone calls.

2009 Scholars: Christine Ferguson who returned to Melbourne to do her one year Graduate Diploma in Divinity at the Bible College of Victoria. She is preparing for a long term Cross Cultural Mission so she can share the Gospel with the people she will live and work with in a developing country.

Inese Foiakau (Sydney) will do a Graduate Diploma of Theology through Charles Sturt University in partnership with the Uniting College, Parramatta. This will equip her further to serve in her church where she is with her husband (a leader there). She has two daughters aged twelve and six.

More news on these young women as our email contact progresses.

All past and present scholars often refer to their thankfulness to God and to ACW for support and continued prayer. They are usually trying to balance work, family and often more studies.

Soon application forms will be available for 2010 scholars. Trustees in South Australia need prayers in this. Still for sale are copies of the book *Winifred*. It's inspiring. I repeat her favourite Benediction: "Now may the hope of a better world, a worthier life, a holier morrow and a sweeter thanksgiving inspire us all with patient continuance in well-doing, and may grace, mercy and peace from the Father, Son and Holy Spirit remain with us now and always".

Thank you from the girls and myself, for your support.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Janet Lang

It is with pleasure that I report on the Fellowship of the Least Coin for 2008-2009.

I haven't been around much this past year, leaving for Shetland in March 2008 and returning in September 2008, however I was able to catch up with many people and branches on my return. I can't thank you enough for your continued generosity to this Fellowship, an ecumenical movement of prayer, peace and reconciliation, which began in 1956. It is now 53 years since Mrs Shanti Solomon was given the vision of forming the Fellowship of the Least Coin and as you all know it operates on every continent and in eighty countries and continues to spread.

Thank you to Helen Richardson and others who have filled in for me during 2008 and are still filling in for me this year, as I am once again away; this time in the very far north east of Scotland, with my husband until September this year.

Thank you for your continued support.

NEWSETTE

Beryl McLaughlin, Editor

Our news magazine has continued to be published four times per year in February, May, August and November. It keeps ACW members informed about the two projects which ACW supports - Fellowship of the Least Coin and the Winifred Kiek Scholarship. Details of forthcoming events and special days are also included. I trust this is of interest not only to city members, who are able to attend and who share regular fellowship with one another, but also to country readers, who can support these activities with their prayers, even though unable to share in them.

It has been interesting, because of the advance of technology, to be able to include photos and other illustrations from time to time. I do once again express appreciation for Brenda Dickinson who maintains the mailing list and prints the labels for each issue, and to Heather Badgery who assists Brenda and me with the collating, enveloping and mailing.

The email address is on the back of each copy of Newsette and I am very happy to receive items of interest from members or branches about any special activities.

PASTORAL CARE

Olive Edmondstone

There have been several times through this past year that we have had the privilege as a Council of praying for fellow council members. Many of our members have had to face very difficult situations this year, some with the loss of close family members and others who have personally faced and are still facing serious illness.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Mrs. Joan Curtin, who died in October. Joan was instrumental in having our Catholic women included in the membership of ACW. Her vital contribution was recognised in 1987 when she was made a life member of the NSW unit.

In November Mrs. Keasi Kupu was also called home. Keasi was a delegate for the Uniting Church for a number of years. ACW was represented at her funeral service by Mrs Edith Ridge and Past President, Mrs Carmel Keys who was invited to pay tribute to her.

We are all grateful to God for the pastoral care of our President and past Presidents.

SPECIAL DAYS

Pamela Freeman

During 2008/09, the theme from National Executive has been *Faith in the Future*. Fellowship Day looked at the theme of *Growing in Faith*, whilst World Community Day considered the topic, *Great is Your Faithfulness*.

The Branch at Forster has resigned from the NSW ACW, and will not be celebrating the Special Days. Lucelle King had been very involved in this branch.

On the other hand it has been encouraging to note that the Parramatta branch has revived and is supporting the World Community Day.

Thank you to those at branch level who continue to work to make these gatherings possible. Your prayerful support is an encouragement to others.

As we come into 2009, we continue to follow the theme of Faith, with Fellowship Day entitled, *Our God is Ever Faithful*, and the World Community Day celebrating *Faith – Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow*.

SOCIAL ISSUES REPORT

Carmel Keys

There have been a lot of “days” celebrating awareness of social issues:

13 February—1st Anniversary of “Sorry” day

20 February—World Day of Social Justice, celebrated first time 2009

8 March—International Women’s Day

The fundamental values of Social Justice, equality, and equity for all citizens underpin a society that respects and promotes human rights, freedom and social well-being, and justice for all. The principle of the Common Good is one to which every aspect of social life must be related if it is to attain its fullest meaning, and from it stems the dignity, unity and equality of all people.

The Office of Women encourages all women to share their views of Human Rights. The Consultation questions are:

Which Human Rights and responsibilities should be protected and promoted ?

Are Human Rights sufficiently protected and promoted ?

How could Australia better protect and promote Human Rights ?

Email responses can be sent to humanrightsconsultation@ag.gov.au

Among the many other issues calling for consideration and action are:

Paid Parental / and Maternity Leave

Bullying which leads to violence and gaol terms

Global Financial Crisis and its effects on the marginalized—

Government must ensure jobs and income to protect

(1) those living in Poverty already so they are not forgotten and

(2) those pushed out of the labour market so they are not left to fend for themselves.

And it is even more important now to provide for Aged Care.

People Trafficking Guidelines have been established for NGOs

Internet Filtering Trials are to be commenced

UN is being lobbied to form a “Gender” Office

As Christian Women we should be doing our bit to bring about the common good by action – letters to Community, Government leaders, and by Prayer. God Bless