

Did you know?

All A.C.W. Monies—Affiliation Fees, Fellowship of the Least Coin, Newsette Subscriptions, Offertories for Special Days and Donations to be sent to the

TREASURER: Mrs Helen Richardson
33 Lynwood Avenue, Dee WHY NSW 2099
Phone: 9971 0278

However, **please note**

- For safety reasons **DO NOT** include the word “Treasurer” when addressing envelopes.
- **ALL CHEQUES** to be made payable to “Australian Church Women NSW Unit Inc.” and NOT to any individual person.

FEES from AFFILIATED GROUPS

Denominational Groups: \$25 per annum
A.C.W. Local Branches: \$15 per annum
Organisations: \$15.00 per annum

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES \$15 per annum
(this includes subscription to Newsette)

For further details contact Jennifer Peffer (9874 4056)

Newsette is the journal of the NSW State Unit of Australian Church Women Inc. and is published four times a year—in February, May, August and November.

The Annual Subscription is \$10.00.

Contributions to *Newsette* are requested from readers and should be sent to the Editor:

Mrs Jennifer Peffer

3 Meadowbank Lane, West Ryde NSW 2114
Phone: 9874 4056 Email: rjpeffer@optusnet.com.au

Changes of Address should be sent to the
Newsette Manager/Sub Editor:

Mrs Brenda Dickinson,
3/53 Kurrajong Street, Sutherland 2232
Phone 9542 6507 Email: Brendad2@optusnet.com.au



Newsette
AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NSW STATE UNIT INC.

ACW Website: www.acw.org.au

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.

Mission Statement:

Australian Church Women believe that there is one God-Father, Son and Holy Spirit; one God, Three-in-One. We believe that Scripture teaches that salvation is only through faith in the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's only Son.

President: Mrs Nola Dickson Phone 9869 2559

Email: nmdicksn@tpg.com.au

Number 130

February 2012

President's Message

My first duty for 2012, or maybe my last for 2011, was to arrange the flowers in the church for Sunday worship. As I do not have a key to our church, nor do I know the code for the alarm, I arranged for someone to meet me at the door to let me in. I was early, so I sat on the steps outside waiting. If I had knocked on the door, or called out, no one would have answered because no one was inside.

Holman Hunt's painting depicts Revelation 3:20: "Behold I stand at the door and knock: if anyone hears my voice and answers me, I will come in and sup with him." The Good News Bible says "have a meal with him." Imagine sitting with Jesus, sharing a meal!

Jesus is at the door of the heart of every human being. Not everyone knocks or calls, or even hears him, either their heart is empty of love or their heart's desires drown the knocking or calling.

I don't know if God rejoices on this day that we celebrate his birth. He knew what lay in store for him, his rejection, humiliation and suffering. But he would have rejoiced in the obedience of his only Son to save us from a life in hell. It was the only way we could be saved, there was no other alternative.

I wish you all blessings and joy for 2012. May our resolve for this New Year be to serve and honour our Lord every day that is left to us here on this earth.

Nola Dickson



NOTICE BOARD

Australian Church Women Inc. has a new website. We can now be found at www.acw.org.au

Please type the new address into your search engine (including the www's) and save it to your Favourites or your desktop. Thank you. The events links will be coming soon. (Brenda Dickinson, NSW State Unit Website Manager)

The updating of our Records and Mailing List continues.

Thank You to those who have already responded and renewed their Subscriptions for *Newsette* or paid Affiliation Fees. Some will notice a reminder with this copy of *Newsette* that their Subscriptions may have expired. Please, could you complete the form and send with your cheque to our Treasurer, Helen Richardson.

If you no longer wish to receive the publication then indicate in the appropriate place on the Reminder Form or return the front of the *Newsette* envelope containing your name/address together with the comment "delete from Mailing List" and mail to Brenda Dickinson, *Newsette* Manager.

Contact details for both of these ladies is on the back page of this issue of *Newsette*

KEEPING IN TOUCH



We were sorry to learn that just two days before Christmas Judith Cayzer's mother was called home. The Thanksgiving Service was held in the Carramar Church of Christ, her home Church.

Please continue to pray for our dear friend Shirley Wells. She does appreciate the notes and cards sent by members of ACW.



Olive Edmondstone
PASTORAL CARE CONVENOR

Reports are to hand from the World Community Day 2011.

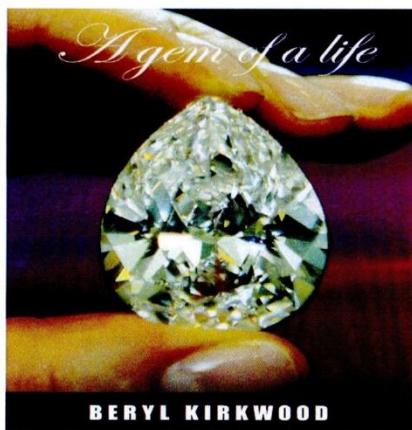
More than 20 groups [totalling 850 persons] met to explore the theme *Reflecting the Light of Christ*, as prepared by the State Unit in South Australia.

Word has come from the National Executive that the Fellowship Day Order of Service 2012, is being prepared by the Queensland State Unit. From the overall theme for 2011-2013, *Our Choice is Love*, it has been decided that this service will be arranged under the title, *Love Stands the Test*, based on the scripture in 1 Kings 3 v 16-28.

Later in the year, we look forward to the World Community Day service as arranged by Tasmanian State Unit, under the heading of, *Love in Action*, with focus on the report of Mary washing the feet of Jesus.

Praying God's blessing on you in all your endeavours in bringing people together for these days,

Pamela Freeman,
SPECIAL DAYS CONVENOR



Beryl Kirkwood is a long time Baptist Council Member of our State Unit of ACW.

Her recently published book is the story which gives glimpses into the life of a shy young girl and the roles she later fulfilled as daughter, friend, nurse, wife, mother, missionary and ministry colleague.

It inspires the reader to live with the discipline that arises from faith, hope and love.

Copies are available for \$15 (\$20 posted)
Phone 02 9626 9600

BE THANKFUL.....

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire, If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something. For it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations. Because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be Thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary. Because it means you've made a difference.

It is easy to be thankful for the good things. A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are also thankful for the setbacks.

GRATITUDE can turn a negative into a positive. Find a way to be thankful for your troubles and they can become your blessings. Author Unknown

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

There is always a wealth of information about the scholarship recipients, past and present, and our Convenor, Judith Cayzer is to be congratulated for the way she maintains ongoing contact with these women and shares news so that we can pray appropriately. **ED.**



Once again Christmas Greetings were sent by Card and email and it was great to have response from these women who lead such busy lives in Ministry.

- Doreen Tie (1990 Sarawak) sharing verses Joshua 1:9 and Psalm 46:1
- Mary Au (Hong Kong) - sends love in Christ
- Leinamau (2007 Vanuatu) Happy New Year to all
- Tonu (2010 Fiji) Apologies for infrequent contact, things there seem to be a bit smoother. Greetings for the New Year

The National WKS Convenor has advised that pamphlet preparation for the three new scholars for 2012 is well under way. Be in prayer for:

SARAH DINGLE from Edwardstown, South Australia with the Baptist Church. She is a student doing her Bachelor of Theology at the Australian Lutheran College in Adelaide.

KYOUNGHEE CHO. Born in Korea. A member of Mosman (NSW) Uniting Church and Mosman/Neutral Bay Inter-Church Council. She has many degrees in Theology.

She will attend 2 Conferences: Social of Asian Biblical Studies, Sabah, Malaysia and International Meeting of Society of Biblical Literature, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

DENISE CAMPION from the Uniting Church. Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, South Australia. She lives in Salisbury Heights, S.A. And will study at Yalga Binbi Institute doing a Diploma in Christian Ministry and Theology.

Judith Cayzer
CONVENOR

Excerpts from the Report by Edith Ridge

Representative to PPSEAWA for Australian Church Women NSW Inc.

.....There are always interesting meetings with good speakers. We heard **Alan Byrnes**, husband of a PPSEAWA member, and a Salvation Army Minister for 35 years with a lot of experience. Following his retirement he had the opportunity to become part of the Chaplaincy Team at Sydney International Airport—he is also honorary Chaplain to the Airport Police.

His 'working' day begins at 7am and he is at the Airport until 5pm, visits every counter on the land side and speaks to staff and passengers, then visits every departure gate.

On his way home he visits any who may be in hospital, as his ministry is not only at the airport but he follows up with families of staff etc. It is a ministry that he enjoys even though he never knows when he leaves home in the morning what the day will bring.

Also heard recently from **Meliana Siuhengalu**, wife of the Uniting Church Minister at Kingsgrove. Meliana spoke of the changes that have come to Tonga, her birthplace—now a very different country from the one she grew up in.

There is 98% literacy in Tonga as the people are passionate about education and the church (most of them are Methodists).

One change is that husbands don't have work in Tonga and often rely on aid from overseas, mainly from Australia and New Zealand. She delighted in showing the beautiful Tongan handcrafts from her own collection.

Presidents of Corporate Bodies were invited to the October meeting where the speaker was **Dr Grace Warren** who shared about her on-going work with lepers and the Leprosy Mission.

Dr Warren has perfected surgical techniques in reconstructive surgery on hands, feet and faces. These techniques she used in her work with leprosy patients and when lecturing paramedics and doctors on subjects related to the treatment of nerve damage brought about by leprosy or similar diseases such as diabetes or as the result of accidents.

Reconstructive surgery has achieved much to ensure the affected part is made whole but also to overcome the stigma that the disease brings. Segregation is gradually being phased out.

Turning things around can be helpful in probing our attitudes -
Enjoy it—but ponder it too

The devil's beatitudes

Imagine what it would be like if the devil were to write his beatitudes.

They would probably go something like this -

Blessed are those who are too tired, too busy too distracted to spend an hour once a week with their fellow Christians—they are my best workers

Blessed are those Christians who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked—I can use them

Blessed are the touchy who stop going to church—they are my Missionaries

*Blessed are the troublemakers—they shall be called my children
Blessed are the complainers—I'm all ears to them.*

Blessed are those who get bored with the minister's mannerisms and mistakes—for they get nothing out of his sermons

Blessed is the church member who expects to be invited to his own church—for he is part of the problem instead of the solution.

Blessed are those who gossip, for they shall cause strife and divisions—that pleases me.

Blessed are those who are easily offended—for they will soon get angry and quit

Blessed are those who do not give their offering to carry on God's work—they are my helpers

Blessed is he who professes to love God but hates his brother and sister—for he shall be with me forever

Blessed are you, who when you read this, think it is about other people and not yourself—I've got you too!



ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Greetings and a Happy New Year to all our Readers. We start the New Year with new prayer partners within the ACWC fellowship. For the next four years Australia's prayer partners are Mongolia and East Timor. I encourage you to add these countries, particularly the women of these countries, to your prayer list and to prayerfully follow reports and news items concerning these countries.

One of my Christmas gifts this year was the purchase of some seeds on my behalf for a community in East Timor. Communities in mountainous areas in East Timor are often faced with landslides, land erosion and limited water resources. The roots of the fruit trees that grow from these *gifted* seeds help keep soil firmly in place, protecting villages from such hazards. The planting of trees also prevents valuable water resources from drying up. Plus, farmers can generate an income from their crops so that they can provide for their families.

One farmer writes: *I have planted two hectares with coffee trees which will produce coffee within three years which I plan to sell in order to pay for my children to go to university in the future.*

Here is a good prayer point to begin our prayer partnership with East Timor – that projects such as the gift of seeds will grow a prosperous future for the East Timorese.

A Most Important Announcement.

THE ACWC MULTICULTURAL CONCERT OF PRAISE FOR 2012 will take place on Sunday 21st October, 2.30 pm at Manly Catholic Church, 50 Whistler Street, just a short walk from the Manly Wharf. Plan now for a pleasant spring Sunday afternoon on the harbour as you make your way by ferry to our venue. Bus and ferry timetables will be made available closer to the event. Let us pray for this event that it will be a God glorifying occasion.

This is our Lord's will... that our prayer and our trust be, alike, large.-- Julian of Norwich

Every blessing!

Lyn Middleton,
ACWC CONVENOR

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN



Greetings to you in this new year.

I pray that as your meetings begin for this year, you will still be able to continue to support Fellowship of the Least Coin, and the amazing work being done around the world. It is a humbling reminder that people around the world give of their least coins as we do in Australia. It is a connecting experience worldwide, not a competing one. May God help us to be faithful in our praying and giving.

I want to remind you that I have the new edition of the Circle of Prayer booklets, which cost \$3 each. Please contact me if you would like to purchase a copy.

Thanks again for all you are doing. May God bless you in your endeavours.

Lillian Hodges (Major), STATE CONVENOR

SOCIAL ISSUES

Politicians have been doing a lot of talking about Aged-Care reform.. The time has now come —as Treasurer Swan begins the process of preparing the Federal Budget for 2012-13. The Report "Caring for Older Australians" (August 2011) calls for fundamental reform in the Aged Sector and Child Care Reform. Stable and affordable child care is critical to help all families to balance work and life responsibilities.

Safe Guarding Human Life includes Safe Elections in countries such as Burma, the Middle East and Africa in 2012. Religiously motivated Terrorism, Restrictions on Religious Freedom and the issue of Abortion continue to dominate the News reports.

The need of our prayers for these matters is ongoing.

Holidays seem to fly by, don't they? The joys, successes and happiness are now behind us. With God's help may we be prepared for the responsibilities of 2012 be they family, Church or Community.

God bless you all.

Carmel Keys, STATE CONVENOR



Sharing something from the past
 Are you old enough to remember making an
 Apron in
 Home Economics at School ?

**THE
 HISTORY
 OF
 'APRONS'**

**Many of our Children and
 Grandchildren might not know what
 an APRON is**

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, because she only had a few, it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and they used less material, but along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears...

From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven...

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids.

And when the weather was cold grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove...

Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.

In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the menfolk knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes

Dates for your 2012 Diary



1st Executive—February 13

1st Council Meeting—February 20

Friday, March 2 Plan to support your
 local World Day of Prayer Service

Monday, April 16 ACW NSW—Annual General Meeting

Monday, May 21 ACW NSW Presidential Installation
 of Isabel Hewitt at Carrington Avenue Uniting Church,
 Strathfield

JULYACW Fellowship Day Services

Topic: "Love stands the Test" based on 1 Kings 3:16-28

September 17 State Day Conference

Sunday, 21st October—ACWC

MULTICULTURAL CONCERT OF PRAISE
 at Manly Catholic Church—2.30pm

OCTOBER ACW World Community Day Services

Topic: "Love in Action" based on
 Mary washing the feet of Jesus



A Friendly Reminder— It is time to

- Renew your Newsette Subscription
- Pay Associate Membership Fees
- Affiliation Fees for Denominations, Organisations and Branches are also due

Thank You to all who completed the forms included with the November issue of *Newsette*. This has been a great help in updating our mailing list.

If you are someone who needed this reminder to be financial for 2012 completing the form with this magazine and forwarding it to Mrs Helen Richardson would be most appreciated.

Mailing Details are on the back cover

