



Australian Church Women

WOMEN AT WORK

NEWS OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

From Joan G. Coates, Publicity Officer, Australian Church Women.

DEATH OF MISS JEAN ROBERTS

There can be few women in the Australian Church scene who have done more good with less fanfare than Miss Jean Roberts, who died on the 11th November, 1969. All those who knew her will remember her with affection, and honour her memory for the imaginative and generous way in which she gave to hospitals, the Red Cross, a newsboys' club, a free kindergarten, the Australian Council of Churches, schools and colleges and a succession of young scholarship holders. When the Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women planned its first publication, "Eve Where Art Thou?", it was Miss Roberts who quietly paid the bill. A succession of generous gifts to St Hilda's College, University of Melbourne, were ear-marked for the Chapel, and her name is interwoven with the history of the College. As the Rev. R.J. Philp said at the memorial service at the Surrey Hills Methodist Church, her life was marked by the three things that make life worthwhile, an open heart, an open mind and an open hand.

THREE NATIONAL EXECUTIVES MEET

It was an historic occasion when exploratory talks took place at the Methodist Centre, Little Collins Street, Melbourne on 20th August, 1969, between the members of the National Executives Committees of the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia, the Australasian Federation of Methodist Women, and the Congregational Women's Fellowship of Australia.

After opening worship led by Mrs A.W. Pederick, President of the A.F.M.W. and welcomes and introductions, the morning session was spent in sharing information about denominational women's groups, the probable timetable of steps towards union of the three denominations and a brief survey of united work already going on. The afternoon session revolved around the discussion of these two questions:

"How best do we use the time between now and proposed union?"
 "What is our responsibility as National Committees?"

It was decided that a statement should be prepared by the three National Presidents:

Mrs A. Yule (P.W.A.)
 Mrs A.W. Pederick (A.F.M.W.)
 Mrs D.W. Baily (C.W.F.A.)

and the elected Secretary for the meeting, Mrs E.A. Bache.

Representatives present agreed that a further meeting should be held on Monday, 9th February, 1970.

GRANT TO PRAHRAN

News has been received of allocations for 1969-1970 from the Fellowship of the Least Coin, including a grant of US\$1000 to the Prahran Methodist Mission and Christian Community Centre for its work amongst those in need irrespective of denominational affiliation. Need not creed is the motto of their work. This is the fourth grant to Australia. The others have been for work among Aboriginal girls, for work among migrant youth (through the European-Australian Christian Fellowship) and for a scholarship in marriage and family counselling through the A.C.C. Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society, to a man or woman from an Asian country. An

November, 1969

application has been received from Ceylon and it is hoped to make an announcement soon.

If you know of a project of service and reconciliation which might qualify for a grant from the Fellowship of the Least Coin, please pass it on to the Secretary of Australian Church Women,

Mrs G.I. Duke,
38 Argyle Street,
EAST BENTLEIGH, 3165.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin appeals to thousands of women throughout Australia who pray for the world-wide work of the Christian Church in service and reconciliation and set aside the least coin of their country once a month in token of their prayer. The booklet, Circle of Prayer, contains suitable prayers written by women of many countries.

The Treasurer of A.C.W., Mrs E. Stephens, reported to the Working Committee that the amount received for the Fellowship of the Least Coin from October 10 to November 19 was \$1087.86. This money is forwarded to the W.C.C. Geneva, where it is held for distribution by a committee of the East Asia Christian Conference.

HALL OF RESIDENCE IN NEW GUINEA

There is a great need for resident accommodation for women at the University of Papua and New Guinea, where present facilities are cramped and inadequate. The Working Committee of Australian Church Women commends the Appeal for \$200,000 to build a Hall of Residence for Women.

Mrs J.G. Norris, President of the Australian National Council of Women, has called on women's organizations throughout Australia to form an Appeal Committee, on which A.C.W. is represented by Mrs F.R. Ashton the President, and Mrs H.T. Rogers.

ARE THERE 100,000 WOMEN IN AUSTRALIA WHO WILL GIVE \$2?
ARE YOU ONE?

The Committee is very grateful for donations already received from church women round Australia. Donations for this purpose may be sent to:

Mrs H. Stephens,
Hon. Treasurer, Australian Church Women,
78 Champion Street,
BRIGHTON, 3186.

Cheques should be made payable to University of Papua / New Guinea Hall of Residence for Women Fund.

VICE-REGAL PATRON

The Appeal was officially opened on November 24th, 1969 by her Excellency Lady Hasluck, the wife of the Governor-General, at a function in the Great Hall National Gallery of Victoria. Lady Hasluck, who has consented to be the Patron of the Appeal, spoke challengingly of the great need for education of women in the Territory. She spoke of her interest in tertiary education for women in Australia, in which her own family was closely interested, and of her concern for women in Papua-New Guinea, a concern which dates to the first time when she went there in 1951 with her husband, then Minister for Territories.

The Appeal was supported by Dr J.T. Gunther, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Papua and New Guinea, who told of the problems facing the young university. In a year when we are thinking of our responsibility for world development, this project deserves our sympathetic consideration.

JEWISH WOMEN

The Women's Inter-Church Council of Victoria is planning its first meeting with Jewish women over morning coffee at the Independent Church Hall on 3rd December, 1969. A special interest in Jewish women is brought to the Council by Sister Shirley Bedawie of Our Lady of Sion Convent, Box Hill.

The purpose of her Order is to work for the reconciliation of Christians with Jews, "the people of the old covenant". Sister Shirley, known until recently as Sister Callistus, was one of the first Catholic members of the Women's Inter-Church Council of Victoria and is now Convener of their Publicity Committee.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN W.A. UNIT

Mrs Norman Faichney, wife of the Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia reported to the November meeting of the Working Committee on her visit to Perth. She spoke of the growth of joint action there by groups from all the different churches, and in particular of the keen and lively group who make up the West Australian Unit of Australian Church Women. Mrs Peg Eaton, the President, called together a special meeting of the Executive, and after the session they entertained Mrs Faichney to lunch.

WOMEN IN THE NORTH

Mrs Faichney also reported that new churches are being built in the North at Francis Creek and Nhulunbuy where Mrs Betty Matthews will be going with her husband, the Rev. A.J.S. Matthews who has been stationed at Ringwood East, a Methodist-Presbyterian parish. Mrs Matthews has been President of the Presbyterian Women's Association, Victoria Unit. Good wishes, Betty, in this new sphere.

Mrs Faichney's special responsibility on the Working Committee is to keep in touch with isolated groups of women in the Centre, North and North West of Australia, and her journeys with her husband have given her a chance to make personal contact. Invitations are being sent to the United Churches in the North to send observers to the National Committee in February.

1970 WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

Eighteen excellent applications have been received for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship for 1970, making selection a heart-breaking business for Mrs A.W. Burton and her Committee. This remarkable response underlines the importance of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship. Is it too much to hope that we might offer more than one Scholarship?
WATCH FOR NEWS.

CEYLON

Mrs Raneee Eliezer, the sister of Mrs Rathie Selvaratnam, is taking her eldest daughter, Christine, to Ceylon in December to be married. Best wishes go with them from the Working Committee and Australian Church Women.

WOMEN ORDAINED

Two women made history this year in the Methodist Church of Australasia. The Rev. Margaret Sanders in Perth on Sunday 19th October, and the Rev. Coralie Ling in Melbourne on Thursday, 23rd October were the first women to be ordained to the ministry of word and sacrament under regulations passed at the Methodist General Conference in Perth 1966. It has been possible previously for Methodist women to be ordained in other parts of the world, but this is the first time for Australia.

ANGLICAN WOMEN

Deaconess Mary Andrews, in her Report for the National Committee of Australian Church Women says that 1969 has marked a growing together of Anglican women throughout Australia. A secretariat has now been formed which can fulfil such functions as issue an annual newssheet, appoint an appropriate person to represent Anglican women at a national level and to call an informed meeting at the time of the next General Synod.

The members of the Secretariat are

Mrs J. Hausden New castle

Mrs D. Garnsey Gippsland

and Mrs K. Leslie Bathurst

Deaconess Mary concludes "We rejoice that a way has been found to co-ordinate Anglican Women on a National level, and we trust that A.C.W. news will be better distributed to Anglican Women's groups in the future".

TWO BIRDS WITH THE ONE STONE

If you live within reach of Melbourne remember that the National Committee of A.C.W. is meeting there, 3rd-6th February, 1970, at St Hilda's College, University of Melbourne. The College itself is well worth seeing, with its beautiful Library, Common Room and Chapel, and it is of interest as a joint venture backed by the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. Opened to students in 1964 it has three times been selected as the venue for Australian Church Women's National Committee. So come to see the College, and attend the open meetings of the Committee.

Tuesday, 3rd Feb. 7:15 p.m. Reports from State Units
Federal Denominational Groups
United Churches
Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Wednesday, 4th 9:45 a.m. Introduction of Theme 'Christian Concern - Dr Una B. Porter
11:00 a.m. Christian Concern - Alcohol - Professor Basil Hetzel.
7:30 p.m. Christian Concern - Drugs - Dr D. Oldmeadow
Thursday, 5th 11:00 a.m. Committee on Co-operation Session- Christian Concern - For Young Children Dr Isla Stamp
7:30 p.m. Christian Concern for Developing Countries and Inter-Church Aid.

NOTE TO READERS

If you have news which would be of interest in this newssheet, I would be very glad to hear from you. Post your items to

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