

Even before the establishment of A.C.W. the NSW Council tried repeatedly to coordinate its work with that in other States, especially Victoria. It tried to arrange a common date and subject for its Community Day observance

13 Findlay Avenue,
Roseville,
New South Wales,
Australia.

Mrs James D. Wyker,
c/o United Missionary Society,
222 South Downey Avenue,
Indianapolis, U. S. A.

Dear Mrs Downey,

You may remember that when in Australia some years ago you met some of the members of the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council. As recently appointed Hon. Secretary of the Council I am writing to ask if you could help us.

For some years we have been accustomed to hold a Community Day in September when our thoughts go out to the wider Christian fellowship of all the world. We know that there was an organization which suggested a topic for such community days, but owing to the resignation or removal of some of our older members we have quite lost touch with it.

Our members thought that you would probably know how we could once more establish contact. I should be so glad if you could tell me anything about this organization and how we can find out the programme for next year. Enquiries in other states of Australia have been fruitless.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Mrs E. D. Briggs,

Hon. Sec

13 Findlay Avenue,
Roseville, N.S.W.
6th August 1957.

The Honorary Secretary,
Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council.

Dear Madam,

Having recently undertaken the position of Hon. Sec. to the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council I have been very anxious to get in touch with you. We hear that your Council is very active and is doing fine work, but have not been able to get more precise information.

There is one matter in particular in which we feel that you could probably help us just now. For some years we have held a Community Day on the last Friday in September. This I understand is part of a world wide observance, but because some of our older members have recently left Sydney, this year we have no record of the programme laid down for that day. Nor have I any record of the address of the organization, which I understand is in America, which each year arranges this programme.

Our members feel that if it can reasonably be done it would be good to join with women in other parts of the world in observing that day. I should very much like to know whether you hold Community Day at that time, what the programme of your day is, and what body arranges the observance so that we can be better prepared next year.

I hope that through the kindness of friends to whom I am forwarding it this letter will ultimately reach you and that you will not find my queries troublesome.

With best wishes for the success of your work,

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. E.D. Briggs,

Hon. Sec. N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church
Council.

Mrs. James D. Wyker
Green Valley--Route 2
Mt. Vernon, Ohio
Tel. Ex 2-8185

Serving as
Minister-at-Large
Dept. of Social Welfare
United Christian Missionary Society

January 1, 1958

Mrs. E. D. Briggs, Hon. Secretary
New South Wales Women's Inter-Church Council
13 Findlay Avenue,
Roseville, New South Wales, Australia

Dear Mrs. Briggs:

I was delighted to get your lovely letter telling me about your recent appointment as Honorable Secretary of your Council. I certainly remember my experiences in Australia with warm appreciation.

I am glad to know you are thinking of holding world Community Day again. I am sending your letter on to Mrs. Esther Hymer, United Church women, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York, who is head of the Department of Christian World Relations under whom this day is observed. I know she will be glad to write you and send you materials. She is one of the best leaders I have ever known in this field and it would be wise to keep contacts with her and work under her advisement.

With very best wishes to you personally and greetings to the organization which you represent, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Messie Allison Wyker
Mrs. James D. Wyker

MAW:rnr

EXTRACT from "Women's Inter-Church Council
of Victoria. 1950-1956."

World Community Day. - This is now the "highlight" of each year. It began with a Conference called by the Women's Inter-Church Council of representatives of the Young Women's Christian Association, the Women's World Day of Prayer Committee, and the Women's Christian Temperance Union in response to an appeal from the United Council of church women in U.S.A. As a result of this Conference, a united gathering of church women has been held each year, with attendances growing, and interest being quickened. Splendid addresses have been given, discussions taken place, and much benefit has resulted from these public gatherings.

The Council has shared in the publication of "The Price of an Enduring Peace," and this theme has been continued through the years, now under the heading "Concern for Peace."

Interest in World Community Day has steadily increased, assisted by the forwarding of programmes to the World Day of Prayer groups throughout the State, and meetings are held in some country centres. A summary of each Community Day Conference has been published and widely circulated as a basis for Study Groups.

It is the desire of the Council that these interests and this friendly co-operation should extend to the various churches in the suburban and country areas, and to encourage this a "Fellowship Day Conference," in July, has been planned on themes of local interest, e.g., "The Pre-School Child," "The Christian Home," etc. At your request programmes and further information will be forwarded.

13 Findlay Avenue,
Roseville,
N.S.W.
11. 10. 1958.

Mrs Colonel H.W.Saunders,
President, Women's Inter-church Council of Victoria,
794 Canterbury Road, Box Hill.

Dear Mrs Saunders,

We were very glad to receive your letter and the order of service for your World Community Day. As I explained in my earlier letter we did not know when other organizations were holding Community Day so we arranged ours for September 26th. I enclose the notice and as you will see ours was rather in the form of a day of study. We had three excellent addresses and some useful discussion and all felt it a helpful day. I also enclose a copy of our annual report for your information,

The members of the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council have asked me to send greetings and good wishes for your meeting on 14th November and for your work in the coming year.

We are very glad to know that you will be in Sydney in December. Mrs Vines, our President, and I are trying to keep the mornings of Friday 5th and Monday 8th free and hope that it will be possible to arrange for us to have morning tea or lunch together on one of those days. We should be interested in the history of the Victorian Council which you mentioned in your letter. When your plans are made we should be glad to know what time will suit you best.

With Christian greetings,

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Sec. N.S.W. Women's

Inter-Church Council

Women's Inter-church Council of Victoria

PRESIDENT:

Mrs Col. H Saunders.

17 April 1959.

Joint Secretaries:

MRS. COLONEL H. W. SAUNDERS,
794 Canterbury Road,
Box Hill, E.11.
Tel.: WX 2568.

MRS. F. J. PELL,
18 Gordon Avenue,
Kew, E.4.
Tel.: WM 6923.

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Joint Treasurers:

MRS. D. H. PEART,
16 Baker Parade,
Ashburton, S.E.11.
Tel.: BL 4109 or MB 1024.

MRS. T. GRIEVE,
19 Elmie Street,
Auburn, E.2.
Tel.: WA 2781

Dear Mrs. Briggs.

Mrs. Saunders asked me some weeks ago if I ^{would} forward you a copy of our Constitution, & I did intend to do this at the time, but have been rather busy with my daughter's wedding. I gather that you & Mrs. Saunders had quite a little Conference about Inter-church work when you met recently, & were able to exchange ideas. I am happy to enc. a copy of our Constitution, & if there is anything further you would like any information about please let me know.

With kindest regards.

Yours in Christian Fellowship
Lera H. Pell.

Hon. Sec.

13 Findlay Avenue,
Roseville, N.S.W.
11. 6. 1959

Mrs F.J.Pell,
18 Gordon Avenue, Kew.

Dear Mrs Pell,

I should have replied to your letter of 17 April before this but was unwell for a time and then left it in case some other matter arose which should be mentioned.

We were very glad to have the copy of your constitution and the brief history of your Council; it will be useful to have that in our files. We are very much looking forward to having Mrs Col. Saunders with us at our Annual Rally on the 17th. A copy of the order of service is enclosed and many of our members have indicated pleasure at the thought of a closer link with your Council.

There is one matter on which I should greatly appreciate some information. Our members are not wholly satisfied with our recent arrangements for Community Day. We have a meeting which is interesting and helpful, but it lacks the feeling which is such a tremendous strength to the Women's World Day of Prayer service, i.e. the sense of being part of a wider whole. Do you think your Council would object if we held our service on the same day and with the same theme as yours? It may not, of course, be possible for us to do this but I know our members would like to consider it if we knew the date and subject of your day.

We will doubtless speak of this with Mrs Col. Saunders when she is in Sydney. Our whole organisation is much smaller than yours, partly because the Church of England here has never been willing to join..

We are hoping that within a short time that weakness will be overcome and we look forward to a more useful future.

Our Annual Report should be ready in a few days and I will send a copy for your information.

With best wishes for the work of your Council,

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Sec.

Women's Inter-church Council of Victoria

PRESIDENT:

Mrs. R. V. Amos

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MRS. COLONEL H. W. SAUNDERS,
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Box Hill, E.11.
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19 Elmie Street,
Auburn, E.2.
Tel.: WA 2781

18 Gordon Av.
Kew.
Melbourne.
21. 10. 59.

Dear Mrs. Carpenter

Mrs. Briggs wrote to me earlier this year regarding our Community Day. There has been a little delay this year in getting out programmes, we found at the last minute the first Friday (i.e. the 6th.) for which we had planned clashed with another Church m'tg. Perhaps another year we may be able to coincide with your m'tgs & arrange similar programmes, but I thought you would be interested in our Order of Service.

With kindest regards.

Yours in Christian
Fellowship.

F. J. Pell

New South Wales Women's Inter-Church Council

President.
Mrs A. Foss
25 Nicholson St
Burnwood NSW.

23 Fraser St
Dulwich Hill
N. S.W.

Dear Mrs Bell,

We were very pleased to receive your letter of October 21st ^{order of service for} the programme of your Community Day. This was passed around the Council when we met last Friday week & everyone was very interested & I have been asked to send you our greetings & best wishes for your Community Day.

I enclose the printing we used for our Community Day this year. As you can see we do not plan a programme as you do for Community Day. Our Rally, which is always held on the last Friday in June, is planned more along the lines of your Community Day.

^{We} I do hope that next year we can plan to hold our Community Days on the same day ^{& have the same programme} - we did consider November 6th or 13th - but found that there were several Church events arranged that would clash. The food Neighbour State Conference was held in October this year, so we decided to hold our Community Day in September as usual.

We pray that your Community Day, will be full of blessing & spiritual challenge. We shall be remembering you. Mrs Foss & members of the Council send you Christian greetings.

Kind regards

Yrs. Sly - &

55 Burns Road,
WAHROONGA, N. S. W.

14th November, 1962.

Mrs. Giezendanner,
16 Durack Street,
MOOROOKA, BRISBANE.

Dear Mrs. Giezendanner,

You may have already heard from Rev. Harvey Perkins, General Secretary, Australian Council of Churches, but I thought I should like to write also.

You will remember that our Mrs. Millar phoned you when she was in Brisbane recently and she mentioned that our Council was planning to contact the Women's Inter-Church Councils of the other States with a ^{view} to bringing Church Women's work on to a national level.

In our ~~own~~ Council we have felt the necessity for this development to promote better and more convenient inter-national relationships. You may have heard that our Council was recently invited to nominate a lady to represent Australian Church Women at an Asian Church Women's Conference to be held in Thailand. This we were happy to do, but there was a good deal of delay in the appointment because of the fact that there is no Women's Inter-Church Council at the national level.

You will learn from Rev. Perkins of a meeting which was called in Sydney last Friday, November 9. This meeting included 6 representatives from the W. I. C. C., 3 representatives from the Women's World Day of Prayer Committee, members of a committee set up by the Australian Council of Churches to investigate women's work and one representative from each denomination (e.g. Mrs. Bell, President C. W. F. represented the women of the Churches of Christ). The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the desirability of a National Church Women's organization.

We are hoping that you will have an opportunity of having similar discussions with your Council and the Church women of Brisbane.

Rev. Perkins will supply full records of our discussions, which will be a guide for you.

We shall be anxious to hear what the reactions of the Queensland women are to such a proposal.

If there is any further information you would like, please write and ask me or our

or our secretary, Mrs. Brigadier Baker, 23 Fraser Street, Dulwich Hill, N.S.W..

Yours in Christian Fellowship,

Raymond J. Decco

55 Burns Road,
WAHROONGA, N. S. W.

14th November, 1962.

Mrs. F. J. Pell,
Secretary,
W. I. C. C. of Victoria,
18 Gordon Ave.,
KEW, VICTORIA.

Dear Mrs. Pell,

I am writing to thank you and the members of your Council for making it possible for your President, Mrs. Faichney, to attend the special meeting of church women held in Sydney last Friday, November 9.

Mrs. Faichney will be able to give you a full report of the discussions which took place. Mrs. Faichney was able to contribute most valuably to these discussions and we greatly appreciated her presence.

Over the past months the N. S. W. W. I. C. C. has felt the need for bringing church women's work on to a national level. This, we feel, would promote better and more convenient inter-national relationships. It would also broaden the vision of our church women and enable us to share our experiences in the organization of women's work.

Personally speaking, I was very happy to have the opportunity of spending a couple of hours with Mrs. Faichney and learning something of your organization. I shall ask our Secretary, Mrs. Brigadier Baker, to forward a copy of our constitution to you, as I thought you would be interested. We are at the point of revising our constitution, but have delayed doing so in view of this possible national development.

Yours sincerely,

Mary J. Verco.

President.