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However....

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

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A.C.W. Local Branches: \$15 per annum
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ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES \$15 per annum

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For further details contact Jennifer Peffer (9874 4056)

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Changes of Address & Contributions to Newsette
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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

Number 149

November 2016

PRESIDENT: Mrs Pamela Freeman

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Phone: 02 9873 1707

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I value this opportunity to greet you each through this magazine. Since last in contact with you, several things have occurred; the Concert of Praise encouraging participation from those from countries included in the Asian Church Women's Conference [ACWC], and the State Day Conference considering the working of Grace in our lives. Reports are included in this bulletin.

By the time you are reading these words, World Community Day, with the theme – '*Empowered by the Spirit*' – will be another memory to treasure. This years' service has challenged us each, especially as we have acknowledged the movement of the Fellowship of the Least Coin and recalled Mrs Shanti Solomon as one empowered by the Spirit and inspired to encourage women around the world to join together in prayer and supporting justice and reconciliation 60 years ago. Were you able to support such a gathering?

We fast approach the beginning of the Liturgical Calendar with the Advent Season commencing at the end of November. May we experience a new revelation of all that it means for us in that Christ came crashing into our existence all for the reason that God loves us. How

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difficult it is for us to make sense of this amazing event. Let us strive to find ways to introduce people to this astonishing story that needs to be told again and again.

As we leave 2016 and travel into 2017, may you continue to know God's grace, love and mercy as the undergirding reality in your life.

Thank you for all that you do to bring Christian women together in your area. God bless you,

Pamela Freeman
President NSW State Unit Inc.

SPECIAL DAYS

It has been a thrill to read the reports as they have come in of your celebration of Fellowship Day this year with its theme of *Change Starts From Within*. It is most encouraging to know that you continue to meet in your ecumenical groups to worship, pray and study the word together. My sincere thanks to all those who accepted the invitation to speak at a service. The reports of the blessings received from the messages have been most uplifting.

World Community Day will have been celebrated by the time you receive this Newsette. It was an inspiring theme – *Empowered By The Spirit*. I pray that the blessings from the readings, prayers and message received at this service will have encouraged you in your own service for the Lord, reassured that we go forth, not in our own strength but, *empowered by the Spirit*.

God bless you all.

Lyn Middleton, Special Days Convenor

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WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP REPORT



Your prayers would be appreciated

As the year comes to a close, the **WKS Trustees** will be looking at Applications from Asia for the 2017 Scholarship ..

-**Yane** [2015/Humpty Doo/NT] Her nephew, Riel aged 15 in Indonesia, with a brain tumour He was very ill through 5 weeks of radiotherapy. Latest news is that he is showing signs of improvement but was to meet with specialists concerning MRI results about the time this edition of Newsette will be published. This family crisis has affected the family and Yane's studies which she is continuing this semester with 2 subjects.

-**Leinamau** [Vanuatu /2007/Bible College in Fiji] Studies with assignments continue along with College responsibilities .

-**Christy Ferguson** [Melbourne / 2009] Returned from Short Term Mission Trip in SE Asia. All went well. She gives thanks to God for the positive time and evidence seen of His work there. There is increased need for stronger discipleship of new believers. Christy visited her family in NZ on the way home. She is settling back into new accommodation in Melbourne, nursing, and needs prayer for wisdom as to the way forward.

- **Esline Toamavute** [Vanuatu / 2016] Plans are progressing for Esline's attendance January 12-15, 2017, at World Churches of Christ Conference, now at Damoh / India.

Esline will be a Speaker in the Afternoon Sessions of Global Women Connecting [Women's Ministries / Christian Women's Fellowship]. Her topic will be "Reaching the Unreached". As this is a WKS funded trip, we will eventually receive a report on her experience.

ACW National Life Member, Mrs. Marj Dredge ,also SA ACW WKS Convenor , knows Esline and Marj will " look after her " with travel and at the Conference . Marj is involved with the Board organizing the Conference. Esline will travel to India via Sydney and Singapore January 8-9.

Prayers will be much appreciated as Esline also fulfils her role as Vanuatu Churches of Christ Conference General Secretary /President.

Thank you for your partnership with these women.

Judith Cayzer, Convenor

CONCERT OF PRAISE
In Aid of Asian Church Women's Conference

In celebration of our oneness as Christians and our diversity as a multi-cultural society, Australian Church Women in New South Wales hosted a Concert of Praise in Epping Baptist Church in August. The proceeds from the offering are a donation to the work of Asian Church Women's Assembly, given generously as a response to hearing of how ACWC funds are used.

Groups and individuals from local church congregations who performed were representative of Korea, China, Burma, Japan, India, the Philippines, and Australia.

The items included band music, choirs, solos, duet, contemporary gospel dance and timbrel playing, and all combined to give a wonderful afternoon's entertainment.

The standard of performance was extremely high and we are indebted to the artists for their willingness to be part of the experience.

Congregational singing was joyful, accompanied by the Korean Band of The Salvation Army. The scripture reading was read in various languages, helping to extend the inclusiveness of the program. Many young people took part.

Following the presentations all were invited to share in afternoon tea. The informal atmosphere encouraged a sharing in fellowship where performers could be thanked individually and audience members could reflect on the enjoyment they had experienced. Wasn't it good to be there!

Sydney Chinese Sacred Music Choir



Bethel Mar Thomas Church Group



Salvation Army Keiko & Kay Hughson
 Timbrellists



Chinese Contemporary Gospel Dance



Filipino Chaplaincy Chatswood Church Choir



Burmese Church Choir

STATE CONFERENCE - SEPTEMBER 2016



The theme for Conference Day was "God's Grace Within". A variety of testimonies spoke to us all as we heard how disaster had turned to a deepening of faith, and how lives have been turned around.

The Bushfires on the Blue Mountains left many with nothing as regards their belongings, while some found themselves surrounded by charred and vacant blocks where their neighbours had once lived. Margaret told of her Bible – damaged but readable – and the message of hope it brought her.

Prison chaplaincy and Kairos work are invaluable assets to the three women we listened to. From the chaplain's and volunteer's perspective a message of deep commitment came through loud and clear. The experience of grace received was shared by a former prison inmate. And we were reminded that there is a thin line between freedom and incarceration.

Bible Study with Colonel Geanette Seymour was intense in the best kind of way. Based on biblical examples she had us look at who were our forebears in faith, suggested it was a good exercise to see how far back we could go. A bit like any genealogical search, some families can trace back a long way, while others may be stand-alone Christians. The 60th Anniversary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin was celebrated with a cake, cut by Major Lillian Hodges after she had reminded us of the great work FLC has enabled in those 60 years.

The intricacies of working the Middle East were another facet of the day. We learnt that there are times when the utmost diplomacy is required if we are to fulfil our calling as we witness to others our love of God. WE were all blessed by the formal words spoken, and the sharing over refreshments. It was a good day and one I am glad I had not missed.

Isabel Hewitt, ACW National Life Member

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

By the time you read this Newsette report you will have held your World Community Day service. If you were able to attend a service, I pray that you were blessed as you shared with other women across the denominations.

This year Fellowship of the Least Coin prayer movement is sixty years old. Corazon Tabing-Reyes the ICFLC Executive Secretary says to us, "Let us commemorate, celebrate and commit ourselves to the vision of Shanti Solomon and the mission of FLC".



Shanti says afresh to us in 2016

"Women are a power for change. Let us use this power for promoting peace and reconciliation in our times."

I include more of the projects which have received an FLC Grant.

Africa, 5 grants: Sustainable Sources of Income for widows left from the Ebola Virus left to care for their families; reducing violence against women and children; Dairy Farming; Young Women as Agents of Peace Building.

Asia with 7 projects: Sanitation and Hygiene Program; Food Radiation Measurement; Women Ministers' Development Program; Project Formation and Vitalization of ACWC; Overcoming Violence against women and children; Children's Nature Park; Feminist Theological Consultation.

During our recent ACW State Conference, I was given the opportunity to share a little about FLC and the vision of Mrs Shanti Solomon, after which we celebrated the 60th anniversary with a cake. As State Convenor for FLC, I was given the privilege of cutting the cake, which we all then enjoyed as part of our lunch together.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Lillian Hodges, Convenor

*I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day.
I'd rather one would walk with me than just tell me the way;
My eye's a better student and more willing than my ear,
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear;
The best of all the preachers are the women, who live their creeds,
For to see good in action is what everybody needs.
I soon can learn to do it if you'll let me see it done,
I can watch your hands in action, your tongue too fast may run;
The lectures you deliver may be very wise and true,
But I'd rather get lessons by watching what you do;
I may not understand the good advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live."
(Author Unknown)*

PASTORAL CARE



There is ongoing need of prayer for those who have been caring for sick family members, those recovering from illness or dealing with bereavements.

At the State Conference Day we heard from women who had been through troubled times but found help in God's grace and guided in a better way ahead.

Weather extremes in recent weeks have affected many and we especially remember our farmers and people who have experienced flood damage. SES works and all our volunteers continue to work tirelessly to assist in times of such need.

With Christmas fast approaching I ask for God's richest blessings on all and may 2017 is a happy, holy and healthy year.

June Kay, Convenor

SOCIAL ISSUES

Our letters to and contacts with Government authorities continue on. Most of them are focussed on suggested changes, but we also encourage and congratulate.

Thus we wrote recently in regard to a special grant made to mental health programs for older people and another concerning the sentencing of someone involved in female genital mutilation.

We have also over recent months been vocal over reports that only 5% of fashion companies know the source of their raw materials thus running the risk of using goods in which child labour has been involved; and conveyed our repugnance about the appalling treatment of greyhounds in their racing industry

Rae Goth, Convenor

REMINDERS..... 2017 Dates
February 20—Council Meeting
Dedication Day—May at
10.30am
at Eastwood Baptist Church